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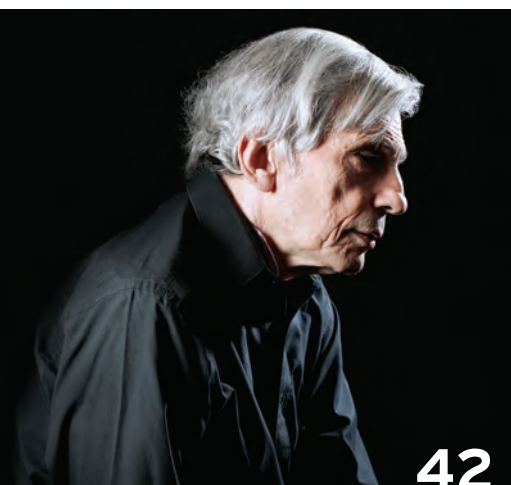
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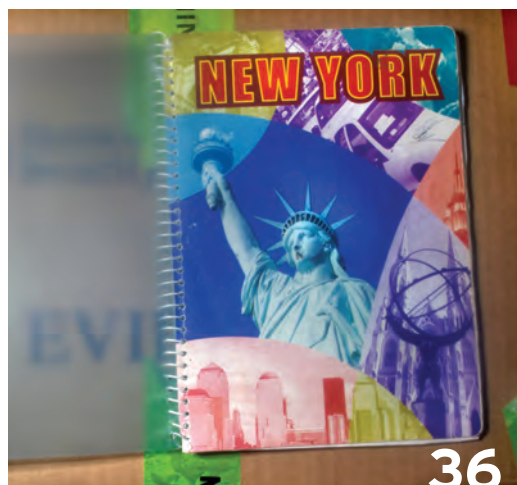
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42



36



22

DEPARTMENTS

3 Letters

6 Primary Sources

A new section of the magazine offers assorted snippets from books, lectures, and exhibits.

8 College Walk

A brain in the hand . . . Chocolate's dark side . . . After Fukushima . . . The boy in the band . . . Poetry

50 News

Jonathan D. Schiller to lead Trustees . . . Jed Foundation assesses mental-health programming on campuses . . . J-school panel weighs Edward Snowden's leaks . . . Columbia launches entrepreneurship initiative . . . Men's hoopsters have best season since 1968

54 Newsmakers

55 Explorations

56 Reviews

63 Classifieds

64 Finals



14

FEATURES

14 Breaking Through

By Paul Hond

What will cannabis legalization mean for public health? Columbia researchers attempt to clear the air.

22 Going Places

Columbia insiders tell us how the University managed to raise a record-setting \$6.1 billion for its capital campaign — and where that money is going.

28 The Evolving University

President Lee C. Bollinger discusses the Columbia Campaign and why great institutions need to grow.

36 Object Lessons

By Nina Berman

What is photojournalism's role in the age of the iPhone? A journalism professor shows that the camera can tell stories in surprising new ways.

42 The Blue Unholies

By Paul Hond

The moody, masterly writer Jerome Charyn sings a presidential lament.

46 Define Intervention

By Jean-Marie Guéhenno

A SIPA professor and former diplomat calls for rethinking the way we approach geopolitical crises.

IN THIS ISSUE



Nina Berman '85JRN is an associate professor at the Graduate School of Journalism. Her documentary photography has appeared in two monographs, many of the world's leading magazines, and major museum exhibitions. More of her work can be found at ninaberman.com. >> **Page 36**



Jean-Marie Guéhenno is the director of Columbia's Center for International Conflict Resolution. He is a former French diplomat and was the United Nations undersecretary-general for peacekeeping operations from 2000 to 2008. >> **Page 46**



Margaret Haney is a professor of clinical neurobiology at the Columbia University Medical Center, where she is the director of the Marijuana Research Laboratory and the codirector of the Substance Use Research Center. >> **Page 14**



Carl Hart is an associate professor in the Departments of Psychology and Psychiatry at Columbia and a research scientist in the Division on Substance Abuse at the New York State Psychiatric Institute. He is the author of the memoir *High Price*. >> **Page 14**



Michael I. Sovern '53CC, '55LAW is the Chancellor Kent Professor of Law. He was president of Columbia from 1980 to 1993. >> **Page 60**

COLUMBIA

MAGAZINE

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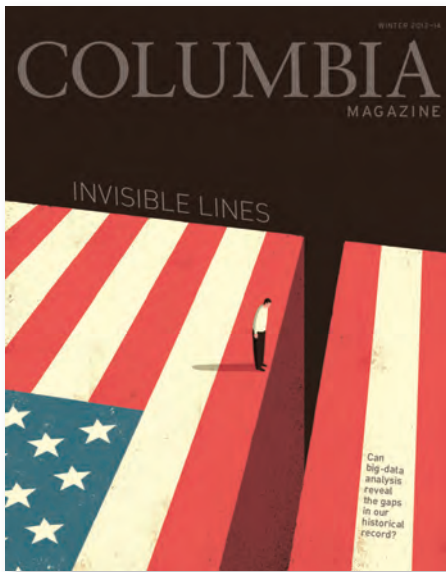
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Columbia Magazine is published for
alumni and friends of Columbia by the
Office of Alumni and Development.

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letters

HEALING POWER

I am writing to express my gratitude for “The Wages of Health,” by Paul Hond (Winter 2013–14). I work at Columbia and studied at the School of Continuing Education, so I am always interested in the University’s initiatives and news. I read every issue of *Columbia Magazine* from cover to cover, never failing to learn about fascinating research and scholarship.

“The Wages of Health” moved me deeply. Just reading in the news about the attack on Prabhjot Singh soon after it occurred was disturbing, but now having had the chance to learn more about his story, I realize just how tragic that event was. The work that Prabhjot Singh and his wife, Manmeet Kaur, do to harness the healing power of communities and fix the health-care system is phenomenal and urgently needed. I wish some of the youngsters who were ignorant enough to attack Singh would one day learn about the importance of the work of the man whom they might have killed in their brutal stupidity, if not for the intervention of passersby. Singh’s and Kaur’s generosity of spirit and dedication to bettering the lives of others are remarkable, and I find their story most inspiring. They truly are the treasures of Harlem and of the world.

This expands my appreciation for all the ways in which Columbians are making the

world a better place. Thank you for putting together such an enjoyable and stimulating resource.

Kate Townsend ’11SCE
New York, NY

What’s required to maintain health is education. Kaur and Singh may feel good about their work, but it robs the “served” population of control over their own lives. Ladies Bountiful are destructive, despite all their good intentions. Everyone knows with what the road to hell is paved.

Dolores Dembus Bittleman ’52GS
New York, NY

TEAM SPIRIT

It was good to see Mamadou Diouf’s reflections in the Winter issue on the life and work of Nelson Mandela (“Bigger than South Africa”). It is important for the world to remember the accomplishments of Mandela and the African National Congress, and learn to apply those lessons to the pursuit of peace in the rest of the world.

There is one statement that needs correction. Professor Diouf writes, “While most people predicted bloodshed, Mandela single-handedly ensured that South Africa would not go through a racial civil war.” While the contribution of Mandela to the

relatively peaceful South African transition was an enormous contribution, he did not do it single-handedly. The ANC, with Nelson Mandela playing a key role, had been working diligently since the adoption of the Freedom Charter in 1955 to ensure that the transition would be peaceful. In fact, even while Mandela was in prison, the ANC was working for peace in every place where they were organized, including in the USA.

I was somewhat active in the anti-apartheid movement in the USA in the 1980s, and I had occasion to meet some of the exiled members of the Southern California chapter of the ANC, who were working to line up American support for their efforts to establish a legitimate, elected government in South Africa. They made it clear that they were strongly in favor of peace between people of different races, and that they were as much opposed to black oppression of whites as they were to white oppression of blacks. So when Mandela came out of prison advocating for peace and reconciliation, he was not just speaking for himself; he was speaking for the ANC.

The success of any revolution against heavy-handed oppression has to be a team effort, and Mandela was a team player.

Carl Jakobsson ’62CC, ’63SEAS
Bremerton, WA

LETTERS

THE GREAT DIVIDE

The irony must be lost on whoever wrote the headline, “Bill de Blasio rallied the five boroughs with his message of two New Yorks. He wasn’t the first Columbian to bring the city together” (“Tales of One City,” Winter 2013–14). If progressives like de Blasio think that they can bring people or cities together by raging in populist fashion about us versus them, and that such agitprop leads to economic development, then it’s time for educational institutions like Columbia to reconsider their curricula. Rather than advocate for a political and economic climate that champions new opportunity, we seem to be in an age in which the mantra of politicians is take rather than earn, and on top of it all, we call this fairness or social justice. I wish good luck to de Blasio as he watches his tax base flee the city.

Paul J. Hauptman ’83CC
St. Louis, MO

I read the feature in the last *Columbia Magazine* about the newly elected mayor of New York City, Bill de Blasio. It’s quite an accomplishment and a great story.

I’m curious why the magazine has not yet run a feature on the alum who got elected governor of Montana in 2012. Steve Bullock, a Columbia Law graduate, is a Democrat who won the governor’s seat in a red state. Bullock has been in the news quite a bit recently because he appointed his lieutenant governor, John Walsh, to fill Senator Max Baucus’s recently vacated seat.

I know Montana is typically not on *Columbia Magazine*’s radar, but there are many Columbia alumni outside of New York City who warrant some recognition.

Larry Loo ’91PH
San Francisco, CA

STRIKING A CHORD

I just started reading the Winter issue and was bowled over by “Get Happy,” the College Walk article about the jazz pianist Dick Hyman. So cute, so well written, and from such a clever perspective. My kudos to the author, Paul Hond. I have never

(ever) seen anything this well written in an alumni publication. I would have been happy to read this in the *New Yorker*. My best regards for a job more than well done.

Lisa Halliday ’83BUS
Tracy, CA

BALD LANGUAGE

I am disappointed to see the juvenile writing that escaped your editorial oversight in the Winter 2013–14 issue of *Columbia Magazine*. In the College Walk article “Drone Onward,” Douglas Quenqua writes, “The crowd included several current and former members of the US military (bald heads and broad shoulders abounded).”

Surely you are aware that women, as well as men, are now regular members of the US military. But more importantly, you have permitted a stereotype of a kind that is generally considered unacceptable nowadays; would you have failed to edit an article that described middle-aged women in terms of their complexions and the size of their hips? Are you trying to discourage members of the military from participating in Columbia’s seminars, by disparaging those who participate?

Edward Tabor ’73PS
Bethesda, MD

AGE APPROPRIATE

I was interested to read about advances in prostate-cancer detection and the progress being made in differentiating between more and less aggressive forms of the disease (“Gene test could inform prostate-cancer treatment,” Explorations, Winter 2013–14). Unfortunately, a phrase in the second paragraph is misleading: “Since the disease strikes men late in life . . .”

While it is true that 60 percent of prostate cancers are diagnosed in men over the age of sixty-five, the disease does strike younger men (note that 40 percent are age sixty-five and under), and while rare, cases in men under the age of forty are not unheard of. To lump every prostate-cancer sufferer into the “old men” category, with the implication that they’re going to die

soon anyway, marginalizes both those who suffer from the disease and the importance of the research being done to address it.

Roger Cunningham ’82BUS
Longwood, FL

WAR WISDOM

I was disturbed by the letters in the Winter issue written in response to the piece by veteran Michael Christman (“Shades of Green,” Fall 2013). Many of us have good reasons to oppose this country’s wars.

An Ivy League education is supposed to teach us to think and to question. Revelations about the Vietnam War and the Iraq War have shown that those who opposed these wars were correct in being suspicious of their validity. Wars, no matter how small or “surgical,” invariably result in the maiming and death of thousands of soldiers and civilians, as well as the displacement of large populations. Roughly six thousand US soldiers have died in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and more than fifty thousand have come back wounded. That does not count those returning with traumatic brain injury and hearing loss. In Iraq alone, civilian casualties are more than one hundred thousand, with estimates of three to five million Iraqis being displaced because of violence and the destruction of basic utilities like plumbing and electricity. The cost to the United States of the Iraq War alone has been more than two trillion dollars. It is irresponsible to ignore these consequences and to blindly support every call to war solely to conform to a phony but popularized version of patriotism. To my mind, it shows the utmost respect for military personnel when one makes sure that they are sent into harm’s way only for legitimate reasons.

Louis Erlanger ’73CC
Brattleboro, VT

Michael Christman’s report from Afghanistan was highly interesting, but the answer to his question about why so few other elite youths were there to share America’s “burden” is relatively simple. Most educated youths are too sensible to risk their lives as part of an occupying force in exchange for a

decent salary and the promise of educational benefits. What is disheartening about Christman's testosterone-charged e-mails is that a very similar account could have been written by a German soldier from occupied Poland, a Japanese soldier from Manchuria in World War II, or a British or Russian soldier in Afghanistan in earlier days. Sadly, American (and Afghan) lives are being wasted in a similar doomed effort to extend the American sphere of influence and redefine "defense." The Peace Corps was founded to give young people like Christman significant experience without either killing or being killed, maimed, or psychologically damaged.

Charles Alverson '64JRN
Belgrade, Serbia

SCIENCE, NOT FICTION

The 40 percent increase in greenhouse-gas concentrations in the atmosphere from the combustion of fossil fuels since the Industrial Revolution is well documented (Letters, Winter 2013–14). Analysis of this fact with tools developed by use of basic laws and principles of physics, chemistry, and thermodynamics tells me that this rapid increase is cause for extreme concern.

Keep publishing facts and analysis based on science. Do not let pressure from those who form opinions based on their political ideology, religious beliefs, or economic interests stop you from publishing rational analysis of fact-based science. Keep up the good work.

David E. Bruderly '71SEAS
Jacksonville, FL

MISSILE SWAP

Gary D. Chance writes a detailed and interesting letter chiding President Kennedy for keeping secret the swap he negotiated behind the scenes to prevent nuclear war: trading our Turkish missiles for Khrushchev's Cuban ones (Winter 2013–14).

But we should remember that American chauvinism at the time held that making deals with commie dictators was an outrage, and this feeling could well have killed the deal. The entire Joint Chiefs of Staff and Vice President Lyndon Johnson were adamant that the presi-

dent invade Cuba. Apparently only JFK and his brother Robert understood that in Moscow, Khrushchev's advisers were equally adamant and divided. Why else would there have been two messages from the Soviet leader, the first friendly, the next combative? Robert Kennedy suggested they ignore the second and answer the first. This and the exchange of missiles saved the day. After all, Khrushchev had to be given something to show his own people that he hadn't been weak.

I am, for the most part, against government secrecy. In this case I make an exception. Was this secrecy a "huge mistake," as Chance says? Well, look at it this way: without it, I might not be here writing this letter.

Leon Arden '52GS
London, England

Gary Chance's letter is only partly correct. An astute news reader in 1962 knew that the Kennedy administration had agreed to

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swap our missiles in Turkey for the Soviets' in Cuba, though the White House floated several cover stories.

Chance swallows one of them by describing the Jupiter missiles as "aging." How old could they have been in 1962? And who's to say that the wily Khrushchev didn't introduce them into Cuba just to force such a swap? If he did, it was a major win for the Soviets.

Richard A. Cody '61LAW
Marstons Mills, MA

HOFSTADTER REDUX

Could Paul Hond write an updated version of his article "Politics for Grown-Ups: Revisiting Richard Hofstadter's 'Paranoid Style' in the Age of Obama" (Winter 2008–09)? It's needed now that the dreadful Tea Party and Republicans have almost completely destroyed government and democracy.

Marie G. Ludwig '78NRS
Armed Forces Europe



CRANES RISING by Anna Hyatt Huntington, whose work was exhibited this winter at Columbia's Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery in *Goddess, Heroine, Beast: Anna Hyatt Huntington's New York Sculpture, 1902-1936*.

PHOTO BY MARK OSTRANDER

American Studies

*By Padma Desai, a Columbia professor of economics, from her 2013 memoir **Breaking Out: An Indian Woman's American Journey** (MIT Press).*

Year after year for almost three decades, as I presented the yin and yang of the rigors and the magic of the economics discipline to a diverse class of over two hundred Columbia University freshmen, I realized that they represented America to the fullest in its infinite variety and its ever changing makeup; its youth and impatience; its energy and purposefulness marked by occasional slackening or running afoul; its contagious dream of moneymaking; its insatiable craving to be entertained; and, sadly, its declining interest in math and the sciences!

Each time I lectured well and managed to animate my audience with vibrant communication, I felt joyful. In the Columbia auditorium, as I spelled out the challenging and occasionally damning features of an exacting discipline, I connected with my young listeners and gave them a few memories to remember me by. Without my realizing it, I was getting assimilated as I dealt with their struggles and aspirations, their diversions and commitments, their hopes and frustrations. I learned to talk like them, felt alive in their sunny friendliness, even enjoyed their occasional swagger, and discovered a land I could call my own.

Honk for Free Speech

*By Tim Wu, a Columbia Law School professor, from the May 2013 issue of the **University of Pennsylvania Law Review**.*

The question of “rights for robots,” if once limited to science fiction, has now entered the public debate. In recent years, firms like Verizon and Google have relied on First Amendment defenses against common-law and regulatory claims by arguing that some aspect of an automated process is speech protected by the Constitution. These questions will only grow in importance as computers become involved in more areas of human decisionmaking.

A simple approach, favored by some commentators, says that the First Amendment presumptively covers algorithmic output so long as the program seeks to communicate some message or opinion to its audience. But while simplicity is attractive, so is being right. In practice, the approach yields results both absurd and disruptive; the example of the car alarm shows why. The modern car alarm is a sophisticated computer program that uses an algorithm to decide when to communicate its opinions, and when it does it seeks to send a particularized message well understood by its audience. It meets all the qualifications stated: yet clearly something is wrong with a standard that grants Constitutional protection to an electronic annoyance device. Something is missing.



COURTESY OF RACHEL UFFNER GALLERY

GOLDIE I AND II by Sara Greenberger Rafferty '05SOA, whose work is featured in the 2014 Whitney Biennial, on display in New York City through May 25.

Opportunity Calls

From remarks by University Trustee Ben Horowitz '88CC at Low Library on March 4. Horowitz is the author of The Hard Thing about Hard Things: Building a Business When There Are No Easy Answers (HarperBusiness).

Because I'm a venture capitalist, people often ask me why big companies have trouble innovating while individuals and small companies don't. The answer is pretty simple. Innovation always starts out looking like a bad idea. Big companies have plenty of great ideas, but they don't innovate because they need a whole hierarchy of people to agree that a new idea is good in order to pursue it. If one person figures out something that's wrong with an idea — often to show off or to consolidate power — that's usually enough to kill it. My favorite example of this is the telephone. Western Union actually had the opportunity to buy the telephone from Alexander Graham Bell — patents and everything — for \$100,000. They passed. Their internal committee declined. Why would they want to invest in something that transmitted a weak, indistinct speaking voice? They'd already perfected the clearest, most technologically advanced form of communication: the telegraph.

Dangerous Liaisons

From Gay Propaganda (OR Books), a new collection of stories and testimonials documenting the struggles of LGBT Russians, edited by Masha Gessen and Joseph Huff-Hannon '09JRN.

IRINA: I was born in a small town in Siberia. I never went to art school, but I'd always wanted to be an artist, even though my parents told me, "You'll never be an artist." When I was 19, I decided that if I couldn't be an artist, I would study to become something else close to my heart. I chose literature. I went to Leningrad to apply to the philology faculty of the university. It turned out that I needed to take a history exam, so I tore off a flier for preparatory history classes.

One day — it was June 1991 — I was walking down Ligovsky Prospekt, going to the address from the flier, when suddenly, it happened.

Ahead of me, I saw a pink dress. It seemed insane: the pink against the grey backdrop of the Soviet Union. I only saw her silhouette, delicate and distinct. Everything was grey except the sun and this pink dress. I walked along and thought, "Where is she going?" I needed to do something, but I didn't know what, so I just followed her.

It turned out we were going to the same place, to the same class. We found ourselves in the foyer of an old St. Petersburg building with a grand staircase. I remember how, as she was going up the stairs, she turned around and looked at me. At that moment, I knew that I would never lose her.

Go behind the Primary Sources.
www.magazine.columbia.edu/sources





MARK STEELE

Brainchildren

Chloe, age five, pulls a pair of blue latex gloves onto her hands. She's probably the only little girl in New York with two brains: one between her ears and one in her tiny palms.

Other kids, and adults, too, are gathered in front of the table in the Kolb Annex at the New York State Psychiatric Institute on Columbia's medical campus. Here at the Brain Expo — part of the Brain Month festivities sponsored by the Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute at Columbia — members of Columbia Uni-

versity Neuroscience Outreach (CUNO) have set up booths and invited the public to explore the mysteries of the most complex object in the known universe.

Beyond the wide floor-to-ceiling window lies the gray matter of a rainy March day: the steel cables and towers of the George Washington Bridge to the right, a boiler-room sky, the flinty ribbon of the New Jersey Palisades, and the sheet metal of the Hudson River, fractured into leaden shades.

Inside, behind the brain table, Cyndel Vollmer, a PhD candidate in biomedical

sciences at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, fields questions. *Is this from a real person?* Yes. *Whoa!* Next to Vollmer is second-year postdoc Anita Devineni, who studies the olfactory and taste centers of the brains of fruit flies. "The human brain is a big stretch for me," Devineni says. She got into brains as an undergrad at Stanford, captured by this "physical structure made up of cells — the thing that controls everything we do and everything we are." The CUNO members explain that the color of a live human brain is pink-

ish gray (from blood vessels), and divided into gray matter (the neuronal cell bodies in the overlying cerebral cortex) and white matter (the myelin-coated tracts underneath the cortex, which carry information from one area to another). These two brains here, plastinated like the human parts in *Bodies: The Exhibition*, are the moribund beige of well-chewed Wrigley's Doublemint gum.

CUNO is a student-run organization that visits area schools to "get people to think more about how they think," says Vollmer. The program was the brainchild of Kelley Remole '04CC, '12GSAS, who, during her first year of grad school, started a student outreach group that soon grew into CUNO. Now she's the director of neuroscience outreach at the Zuckerman Institute, where she creates and runs the institute's public programs.

The average human brain weighs about three pounds, a miracle of lightness and compactness for such a prodigious engine, though given the infinitesimal weight of a single neuron, of which there are estimated to be one hundred billion in the brain, this mass feels frightfully substantial, almost fetal in its consequence. It *looks* fetal, a suggestion of a tucked head and flippers, though Vollmer more often hears "baseball mitt." Aside from the brain in Chloe's hands, the two halves of another brain rest on the table, having been split along the deep furrow (the medial longitudinal fissure) that divides the two hemispheres, so that you can see the cross-sectioned parts. Snap comparisons to the topography of a cleaved cabbage or cauliflower are not without justice. *Why is the brain wrinkled like that?* Vollmer explains that the cortex (site of such higher faculties as abstract thought, problem solving, and language comprehension) is folded to permit more surface area in the skull for information-processing neurons.

While the Brain Expo is aimed at children, the Morningside campus hosted a similar showcase earlier in the week.

There, outside, at the Sundial, members of the undergraduate Columbia Neuroscience Society, dressed in black T-shirts that said "I [picture of hot-pink brain] NY," displayed brains in their gloved hands. Students, mostly women, were crowded three deep, keen to glimpse the object, which even in its preserved state held an aura of the ultimate. The spectacle of a human being holding a human brain in contemplation seemed the very portrait of the consummation of consciousness. "It can't be Kim Kardashian's brain," quipped a dandified grad student passing by, "because you're holding it."

Back at Kolb Annex, child-enticing bonbons and bright colors have been marshaled along with the brains. At one booth, you are asked to hold your nose and chew a jellybean — a simple exercise highlighting the role of smell in detecting flavor. At another booth, candy-colored pipe cleaners have been twisted into the shape of neurons: a round body (soma); a long, electric-impulse-conducting extension (axon); and the branch-like dendrites that protrude from the soma to receive information in the form of electricity or chemicals. The brain is said to contain one hundred trillion neural connectors, or synapses.

There are activities here, too: you can try to hit a target with a beanbag from ten feet away while wearing light-bending prism goggles that shift everything to the right or left so that the beanbag goes astray of the target, causing you to have to compensate and adjust your aim *away* from the target in order to hit it. Ideally, your neurons will adapt to the change in the environment and you'll figure out where to toss the beanbag (some will figure it out faster than others). In the same mode, and even more vexing, is the trace-a-five-pointed-star-while-watching-your-hand-in-the-mirror game, which reduced at least one grown adult to a tense bundle of concentrated feebleness as his pen kept tracing the same line, back and forth, over and over, unable to find the way out, the sputter of electrical charges from neuron

to muscle practically audible over the din. The two presiding CUNO members, Carmen Matos and Kristin Politi, make the reassuring point that improvement can occur through practice, alluding to the unusual case of Henry Molaison, known before his death in 2008 as H. M. In 1953, surgeons, in a Hail Mary to cure H. M.'s epilepsy, removed parts of his brain — including much of his hippocampus on both sides (the hippocampi are seahorse-shaped structures under the cerebral cortex, now known to be responsible for forming memories). Molaison lost the ability to make new memories, living always in the present, yet was able to get better at tasks related to muscle memory.

Meanwhile, at the brain station, under the eyes of Vollmer and Devineni, little Chloe relinquishes the brain. In school, Chloe had learned about Alexa Canady, the first female African-American neurosurgeon, and had gone home and told her mother about the lesson, saying, "I want to be a neuroscientist."

Now, with her mother nearby, Chloe reports that the brain "wasn't that squishy. It was hard." (Live brains are often described as having the consistency of soft tofu.)

When Vollmer was in second grade, her father, a bioengineer, brought her to his lab, in Montreal. "I fell in love — the bright lights, the benches, the chemicals; the magic of engineering and biology together," she says. Chloe seems to be undergoing a similar initiation. For Kelley Remole, standing near the beanbag booth, that's a big win.

In starting CUNO, for which she's still an adviser, Remole had put a lot of effort into figuring out how to engage with schoolchildren. Ideally, the brain wasn't something you just walked up to.

"We took fifteen minutes with questions like, 'What are scientists?' and 'What is the brain?'" says Remole, who did her doctoral work on the anatomy and physiology of the hippocampus in animal models of schizophrenia. "By asking these questions, you have more time to introduce the brain, and to let the children know that this is a

privilege — that few people get to see a real human brain.”

As the Expo ends, a colleague comes over to Remole, having noticed, for the first time, a nascent convexity at Remole’s midsection. She’s five months in, and people are just now catching on. Or rather, the visual information is being transmitted via

electrochemical signals from their eyes to the occipital lobe at the back of the brain, leading to neuronal sparks in the cortex, followed by complex activations of the speech motor-control system, which generate the utterance, “Congratulations!”

At the brain table, Devineni and Vollmer put the brains back into their plastic con-

tainers. It’s a little mind-bending to think that in this roomful of brains, a new one is taking root. In fact, every thought and emotion, every movement in this space, speaks to Remole’s motto. “There’s no more personal science than neuroscience,” she says. “It’s about who we are.”

— Paul Hond

Cocoa Power

To drink a chocolaty mocha is “to gulp down the entire history of the New World,” the essayist Sarah Vowell observed. “The more history I learn,” she wrote, “the more the world fills up with stories.”

On the Wednesday after Valentine’s Day, when the Duane Reades of upper Broadway were offering their heart-shaped boxes half-price and pinning their hopes on chocolate bunnies, Domna Stanton ’69GSAS, a distinguished professor of French at the CUNY Graduate Center, gave a rich and bittersweet lesson in chocolate history at Columbia’s Maison Française.

Stanton presented “Enslaved to Chocolate: Culture, Commerce, and Gender in Seventeenth-Century France” to a full gallery of students and faculty. Apparently, research in the field of chocolate draws a crowd. Stanton began with some ancient gossip: that Marie-Thérèse, Louis XIV’s Spanish-born wife and the queen of France, liked to drink chocolate when the king was not around. Her predecessor, Anne of Austria, who arrived in 1615 as the fourteen-year-old Spanish infanta, had likely brought the first chocolate to France as a present for her fiancé, Louis XIII. By the time Marie-Thérèse came around, chocolate had already been linked to the suspect foreignness of the Spanish queens in France. But despite this nationalist suspicion, chocolate also benefited from its

association with the ruling class, and soon the hottest invitation in France was to drink chocolate with the queen.

The child bride of Louis XIII was not the only one to bring chocolate into France. Iberian Jewish refugees brought chocolate along with them when they fled to Bayonne; Jesuits of New Spain exported it from the American colonies; and Amerindians (Stanton’s word) introduced the earliest known chocolate to the conquistadors. This is not to mention the slaves. Stanton recounted that, once chocolate became popular in France, its trade was built on the slave labor of Africans. In keeping with the new globalization, French merchants traveled first to Africa, then with their human cargo to the French Antilles, where slaves worked plantations of cacao, sugar, and other valued crops. A ship filled with chocolate completed the triangle.

In the century of its introduction into France (its Spanish introduction came earlier), chocolate was a controversial luxury. The French spilled a great deal of ink recording its trade, extolling its medicinal virtues, and railing against its dangers. Chocolate had a whiff of black magic, and could be specifically linked with Amerindian women who were “great mistresses of sorcery.” Extending in part from its association with foreign queens, chocolate in seventeenth-century French writings is “gendered” feminine, said Stanton (though

le chocolat is masculine). According to texts from the Medical Faculty of Paris, chocolate “excites the fervor of Venus,” and once accounted for seven children born to an infertile woman. And the compulsive letter writer Madame de Sévigné sent a cautionary epistle to her daughter saying that a pregnant woman drank too much chocolate and gave birth to a baby “black like the devil.”

But while the French sometimes seemed eager to distance themselves from chocolate’s exotic powers, they also took steps to claim it as their own. The treatises that Stanton had analyzed erased Indian recipes for chocolate that included ingredients like chili and maize. They “sacrilized” European additions to chocolate, like sugar and vanilla, and insisted it be served hot rather than cold. They severed ties to chocolate’s indigenous origins and denied those enslaved by it, addressing only those enslaved to it.

Stanton concluded her talk with a sobering contemporary fact. “Slave labor still exists,” she said, “in some cocoa plantations in West Africa, particularly in the Ivory Coast and Ghana, a fact that we deny or ignore.”

Given chocolate’s history, there are some things we simply cannot afford to swallow as we gulp down the history of the New World.

— Phoebe Magee

Nuclear Reactions

As the news of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster seeped out over those weeks in March 2011, I was in the middle of participating in a documentary about nuclear energy called *The Atomic States of America*. The film was based on my book, *Welcome to Shirley: A Memoir from an Atomic Town*, in which I chronicle the experience of living in a blue-collar Long Island town adjacent to a federal nuclear laboratory. Under cover of the Pine Barrens, three nuclear reactors were built, and all three leaked. The lab became a Superfund site in 1989, about the time I was entering high school, and the story traces my coming of age in a broken place filled with natural beauty and unnatural risk, where working-class lives are weighed against Nobel Prizes and too often come up short. The filmmakers planned to use the story of my town as a launching pad to visit other reactor communities across the country.

For six months, 9.14 Pictures had been filming top-level government officials and advocates on both sides of the nuclear debate. Eerily, during multiple interviews, people had said that “something big” would have to happen to change people’s minds about the nuclear renaissance, which had President Obama ’83CC primed to start approving new reactor projects for the first time in thirty-three years. As the film team and I watched the natural disaster in Japan bloom into a nuclear crisis, we wondered, *Is this the something big?* We had a difficult time imagining something bigger than three nuclear reactors in full meltdown, except, of course, if those reactors were in, say, Georgia or Vermont or New York.

We quickly realized that Fukushima would change everything — for our project, for our country’s nuclear future, and for the world. Almost as quickly, and certainly by the time the film premiered at Sundance in January 2012, we realized the disaster would change nothing.

For these reasons, I was intrigued by the announcement of a talk at Columbia called “Nuclear after Fukushima: Policies, Practices, and Problems,” hosted by SIPA’s Center on Global Energy Policy. The speaker was Lady Barbara Judge, a former lawyer turned policymaker who was recently appointed by the Tokyo Electric Power Company as the deputy chairman of its nuclear-reform monitoring committee, charged with reshaping the discussion of safety and self-regulation in the industry.

I hoped to learn more about changes in the larger landscape of nuclear technologies and safeguards — maybe a set of international standards for new reactors. In the short

to grapple with these questions in a deeper way, and to be comforted by whatever sea change the ripples of the Fukushima disaster had set in motion.

Judge, a walking Victorian portrait, with sharp cheekbones, a severe blond chignon, and a taste for high, frilly white collars and slim, dark skirt suits, opened her talk with statistics, setting the stage for the post-Fukushima international nuclear field. Before Fukushima, there were 443 operating reactors in the world; now there are 434. Before, there were 156 nuclear reactors planned across the world; now there are 173. But the story has shifted toward China, Vietnam, India,



time between the meltdowns at Fukushima and the release of our film, I would come to understand how briefly such disasters linger in the public consciousness in today’s twenty-four-hour news cycle. I was looking toward the aspiring engineers and economists and policymakers in the room

and Russia, with developing countries and new-money governments in the race for investment. America’s role was dismissed; our energy consumption is declining as factories leave the country, and we are cash-strapped, so we can’t be part of the big plays in developing countries.

This comparative inaction displeased Judge; she felt the industry should be plowing ahead. There are obstacles, however, and she listed them: burdensome regulation, skill shortage, high cost, negative press, and restrictive zoning. On this last subject, Judge said, “People who live around power plants love it. They just don’t know that until it happens.”

Judge sits on the international board that advises the United Arab Emirates on nuclear development, and she used Abu Dhabi as a model of progressive nuclear thought, calling the country “the right place with enlightened leadership.” Although an oil-rich country in the middle of the desert may seem contrary to the image of the world’s new nuclear future, Judge explained that certain barriers in places like the US and Europe simply don’t exist in Abu Dhabi. “Will the press write a bad article about the sheikh? I don’t think so. If the sheikh decides you need money? Here,” Judge said, holding out a handful of invisible cash.

Although there were some huffs of indignation in the crowd at her description

of Abu Dhabi’s leadership as “enlightened,” for the most part the crowd was rapt. In the discussion on waste, one of the most important aspects of the nuclear question, Judge described the methods that have been used to deal with nuclear waste thus far: “We threw it in the air; it came back down. We buried it in the ocean; it came back up.” She shrugged, explaining that she felt confident in the estimate that our current practices will keep the waste safe for a thousand years, equating this unimaginably long period of time with the UK’s ninety-nine-year lease on Hong Kong. Judge has faith that the scientific community will come up with some other way to manage the waste before those thousand years are up.

The talk portrayed Fukushima as an isolated event that was now over. But nearly three years after the disaster, Fukushima is far from over: a few weeks after Judge’s talk, the plant was in the news again after the discovery of a spill of one hundred metric tons of radioactive water, due to a pair of valves left open by mistake.

Even if there are no more unexpected leaks or mishaps, the decommissioning process will cost more than \$100 billion. And removing all the molten fuel rods requires technology we do not yet have on hand to deal with radioactive materials that won’t be safe for humans for hundreds of thousands of years.

Though I disagree with Judge on many points, we both feel that women could be the key to determining the world’s nuclear future. Judge noted that in studies, most educated women say they are against nuclear power. She said she didn’t understand this, although she had some theories that she did not disclose. Later, she said she hoped women would ultimately become ambassadors of pro-nuclear sentiment: “Women should be telling women, because they are teachers and nurses and not in the nuclear industry.” She shook her head as if in disbelief that a woman could look at her facts and not be moved. And in the audience, as a woman and a teacher, I shook mine.

— Kelly McMasters ’05SOA

Kiss Me

Jaeseop Kim must be having a so-so hair day — his head is hidden under a rakishly tilted newspaper boy’s cap. He sits at a sleek silver table on the quiet upper levels of Lerner Hall, sipping a bubble tea from Lerner’s Café East. He wears paint-splattered jeans and a plaid sweater peeking out from under a denim jacket.

“This is dandy style,” he explains in a slightly British-accented voice. He has a quiet manner, but it’s hard to say how much of this guardedness is his natural personality and how much has been learned over years of being interviewed.

Kim is a member of an “idol group,” what Koreans call pop boy bands and

girl groups. His seven-member group, U-KISS (Ubiquitous Korean International Idol Super Star) is fresh off a three-city US tour and media blitz that included *Good Morning America* and the *New York Post*. U-KISS has sold a quarter of a million albums and singles worldwide. Kim, at twenty-two, is an international pop star.

The U-KISS style and sound fall under the rubric of K-pop, the term for South Korean pop music, which was briefly brought into the American mainstream with Psy’s 2012 hit single “Gangnam Style.” Psy is a solo artist, but K-pop is better known for its large, carefully groomed idol groups.

Kim, who goes by the stage name AJ, describes what the world audience expects from K-pop: “synchronized idol groups singing and dancing.” A typical U-KISS video is heavy on flashing lights, matching clothes — tight pants, plenty of bling, color-coordinated suits — and lingering close-ups.

It’s a mix that captivates teenage girls from many countries, most of whom got their first glimpses of U-KISS on YouTube. Since forming in 2008, U-KISS has traveled around Asia, Europe, and South America, performing its mix of hip-hop, pop, dance, and R&B for thousands of adoring fans. A U-KISS fan is known as a Kiss Me. When the Kiss Mes can’t see U-KISS in the flesh,

they congregate online, sharing gossip and opinions on Tumblr and Facebook and retweeting and favoriting on Twitter, where AJ has almost two hundred thousand followers.

To be able to flawlessly execute the synchronized dancing and singing that thrill the Kiss Me crowd, Kim and his bandmates spend hours upon hours rehearsing before tours. Much of their young lives have already been spent nailing down moves and memorizing lyrics. Kim quit school in the seventh grade to devote himself full-time to his first idol band, Paran, for which he auditioned at the suggestion of his sister. She thought he had the look, even though he'd never sung or danced.

While training and touring with Paran, Kim wanted to keep up with his education, so he hired tutors. Still, it was hard to find time to study. Finding any time alone is difficult in a band. Bandmates share plane rides and hotel rooms, and spend every meal together. "I always have to be with the six members. But all people have certain moments when they want to be

alone." Then there are the temptations of the rock-star life. "If you want to get a lot of girls, you can, of course; if you want a fast life, yes, you can. But I'm not really that outgoing. I'm not choosing that life."

While negotiating his contract with U-KISS, which he joined in 2011, Kim insisted that the management company let him pursue college. Drawn to Columbia for its reputation and location, Kim was admitted to the School of General Studies in 2012. He's had to take time off to fulfill his U-KISS obligations, and hopes to graduate in 2020.

He keeps music in his life during school by composing and writing lyrics, often inspired by favorite artists like Pharrell Williams and Timbaland. He's especially interested in free-style hip-hop, which is largely outside the purview of U-KISS. He intends to major in psychology, which he sees as a springboard to a different sort of future.

"When I am in my thirties, I want to do my own business, based on culture," he says. "I want to make cultural content that can easily touch people's minds —

music, movies, whatever people are fond of." His ultimate goal is to be a minister in the South Korean ministry of culture, which oversees the National Museum, the National Theater, and Korean cultural centers around the world.

Kim often chooses not to share his U-KISS identity with his classmates, wary that they'll treat him differently. When people know about U-KISS, he says, "It feels like they watch how they act in front of me."

Their potential reactions are just one more thing to manage in his careful balancing act of two lives, pop star and student. Kim gets it done, sometimes with big moves like taking semesters off to go on tour, and sometimes by taking care of the details, like his hair. It's naturally curly, but he straightens it for U-KISS and prefers it that way. Not a problem when he has easy access to the U-KISS hair stylist, which he doesn't while at school. But Kim came up with a solution. "Before I got here, I got a haircut, really short, like a military hair style, in order to focus on studying."

— Maya Rock

Suddenly, I see . . .

Suddenly, I see I've
Read it *too* many times —
That poem I love.

Lines I recited for years,
Thinking them a path
I joyfully followed —

Today, they seem a rut
I've worn deep as a ditch
With my dutiful feet.

Time to find another:
A new route by which
To reach the beloved.

— Gregory Orr

Gregory Orr '72SOA is the author of eleven collections of poetry, including River Inside the River, published in 2013. He is professor of English at the University of Virginia.

“I don’t think it is more dangerous than alcohol,” President Barack Obama ’83CC told the *New Yorker* in a profile published in January. In the seventy-seven-year history of the federal prohibition of cannabis, this was the least antagonistic remark about the substance ever to issue from the White House. Not that Obama was out on a political limb: a 2013 Gallup poll showed that 58 percent of Americans support legalization. The government estimates that 110 million Americans have tried cannabis, and that nineteen million people use it regularly.

Though Obama, a partaker in his Hawaiian youth, also called pot smoking a “vice” and “not something I encourage,” he said it was important for legalization to go forward in Colorado and Washington, citing the racial disparities in punishment that have always been a feature of US drug enforcement. African-Americans, despite having a cannabis usage rate about the same as whites, are nearly four times as likely to be arrested for possession.

But while most people can agree that liberalized laws will alleviate certain injustices, another set of questions looms in the fog: What are the harms to individuals from using cannabis? Will legalization lead to more use? Will the roads be less safe? And what about the kids?

To get answers, *Columbia Magazine* went uptown to the medical campus, stopped by the New York State Psychiatric Institute and the Mailman School of Public Health, and knocked on some doors.

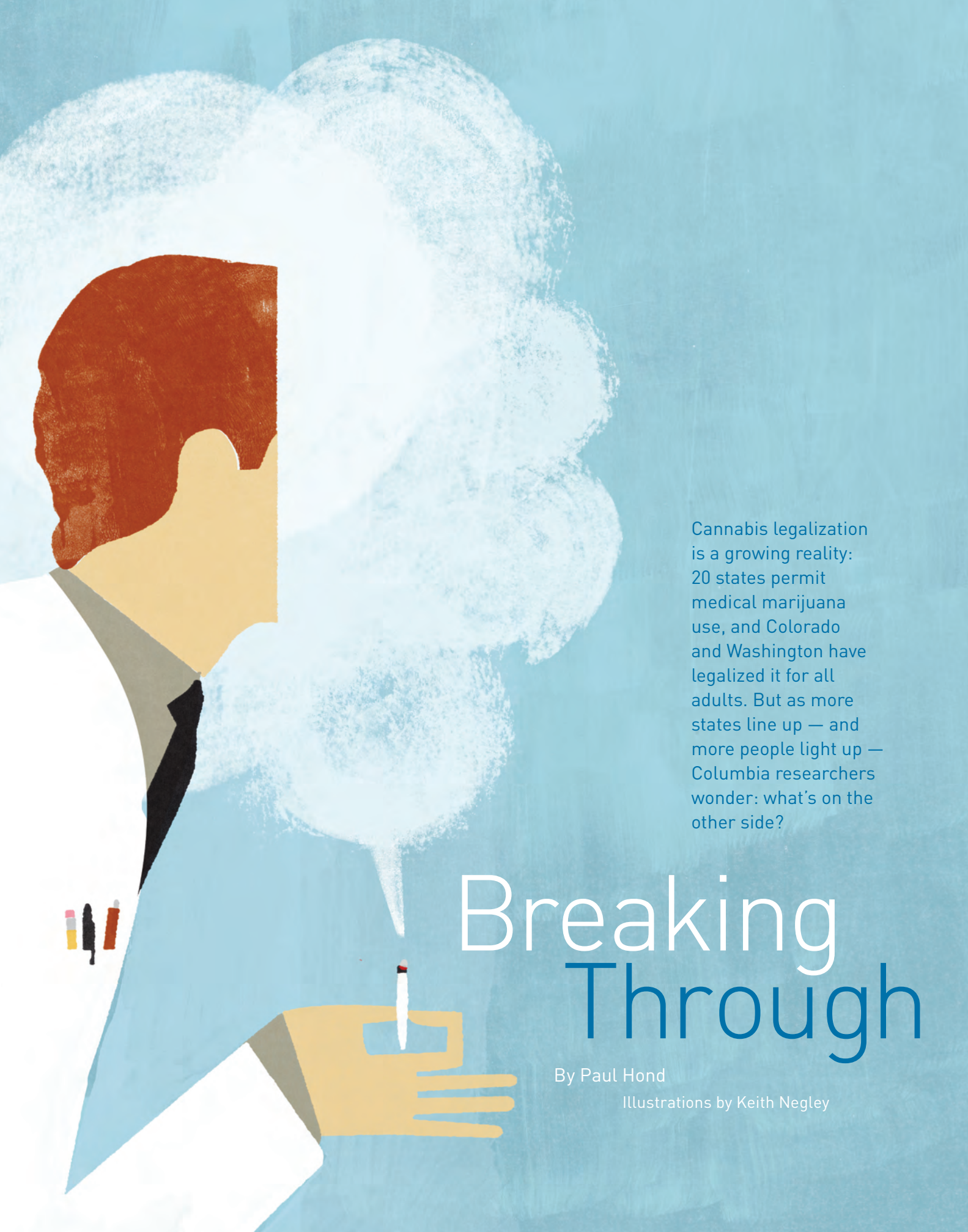
Smoking for Uncle Sam

Is cannabis addictive? The question has long been a point of contention in the how-harmful-is-it debate. One key criterion would be the presence of a withdrawal syndrome.

Margaret Haney, a professor of clinical neurobiology, is the director of Columbia’s Marijuana Research Laboratory. Every other month, she brings in four chronic users to live for a nine-to-sixteen-day period in the lab’s tiny bedrooms and common space (couch, chairs, DVD-only flat-screen, board games, washer/dryer, books, no clock, no radio, no phone, no windows, no Internet) and has them smoke weed. The product is grown at the government’s pot farm at the University of Mississippi; funding comes from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. “We don’t have a hard time finding volunteers,” Haney says.

Haney has headed the lab since 1999. That year, she and her team conducted an experiment: over a span of twenty-one days, they gave their willingly captive subjects an alternating course of active marijuana and placebos. Then they monitored behavior on closed-circuit TVs: sleep patterns, food intake, shifts in mood.

What they found was compelling. “Sleep disruption is one of the most robust withdrawal symptoms,” Haney says. “The smokers had trouble falling asleep. They woke up in the night. They woke up early. Their mood, too, reflected classic drug-withdrawal symptoms: irritability, anxiety, restlessness. Food intake dropped precipitously. The first two days, they consumed up to a thousand calories less than they did under



Cannabis legalization is a growing reality: 20 states permit medical marijuana use, and Colorado and Washington have legalized it for all adults. But as more states line up — and more people light up — Columbia researchers wonder: what's on the other side?

Breaking Through

By Paul Hond

Illustrations by Keith Negley

baseline conditions. That recovered fairly quickly, but the disruption in mood and sleep lasted for a week to ten days.”

It was the first empirical demonstration of a withdrawal syndrome for cannabis.

“The consequences of dependence are not as severe as with alcohol, cocaine, and other things,” Haney says. “However, once you’re a daily smoker, your ability to stop becomes as poor as cocaine users’: only 15 to 37 percent are able to maintain abstinence.” The physical withdrawal symptoms don’t compare to those of heroin (diarrhea, sweating, nausea), but to Haney, it’s the psychological part — the anxiety, the craving — that really drives relapse. “These withdrawal symptoms for marijuana are significant,” she says. “They play a role in maintaining heavy drug use.”

It’s that heavy use that concerns Haney. One thing she feels she isn’t hearing much about in the legalization discussion is the consequences of smoking an intoxicant every day.

“There’s going to be a cost for teenagers doing that,” she says. “I do worry about the developing brain and the effect of heavy marijuana use on the brain’s cannabinoid receptors. The CB-1 cannabinoid receptor, where THC binds, is virtually everywhere in our brain, in areas involved with mood and memory and stress response.” (THC is the main psychoactive compound in cannabis.)

“What is the effect on a fifteen-year-old, whose brain is developing, of smoking marijuana every day? What are the long-term consequences?”

Are the Kids All Right?

With Haney’s questions in mind, we drop in on Deborah Hasin ’80SW, ’86PH, an epidemiologist at the Mailman School. In the haze of such data as a 2012 New Zealand study tying adolescent pot smoking to lowered IQ, Hasin wants to know if liberalized cannabis laws will lead to an increase in use among teenagers.

In 2011, she and her colleagues, with funding from the National Institutes of Health, took a national data set and compared rates of adult marijuana use and prevalence of “use disorders” in states with medical-marijuana laws and states without them. According to the American Psychiatric Association, “cannabis use disorder” includes standard addiction signs like “important social, occupational, or recreational activities are given up or reduced” and “a failure to fulfill major role obligations at work, school, or home,” and afflicts 9 percent of pot smokers.

Predictably, Hasin found a higher rate of use in states with medical marijuana, and a higher rate of disorders, too. “You could interpret that in different ways,” she says. “You could say, these laws are causing people to use more and be at higher risk. Or you could say, the laws are just reflecting what’s going on in the states: the states with more permissive attitudes have higher use.”

That was for adults. Next, Hasin wanted to learn about kids. Using another data set, she and her team did an analysis of twelve-to-seventeen-year-olds in medical-marijuana states. There, too, the

data showed a higher level of use — though again, it didn’t say what came first, the elevated rate or the law. To figure *that* out, Hasin is now studying a larger sample — a yearly survey of 45,000 eighth, tenth, and twelfth graders from 1991 to the present. She wants to see what was going on in states before and after they passed a medical-marijuana law, and compare that to trends in states without any law. (California was the first to legalize medical marijuana, in 1996.)

“There are many variables that we need to incorporate before we can understand the results,” Hasin says. “There are differences in laws, in how states handle dispensaries, and in attitudes within a state. How risky do people think it is? How OK is it to use? We built those variables into the analysis, because we wanted to see: does passing a law result in a change in attitudes as well as a change in use?”

“Medical marijuana aside, marijuana use has been creeping up in adolescents and adults since 2007. The proportion of the population that sees it as risky has been going down. There is a debate about cannabis: on the one hand, market forces are perking up at legalization. On the other, there is a public-health perspective. In the two states that have legalized marijuana, we’re seeing that the systems they’re implementing aren’t taking public health into account the way they could.

“Not every user is harmed,” says Hasin, “but there are harms from using cannabis. And it seems likely that legalization will increase the amount of harm.”

Czar Power

What are those harms, exactly?

Let’s visit Herbert Kleber, the director of the Division on Substance Abuse at Columbia’s College of Physicians and Surgeons and the New York State Psychiatric Institute. From 1989 to 1992, Kleber, now seventy-nine, was deputy drug czar under President George H. W. Bush. His official title was deputy director for demand reduction. He’s a treatment guy, a mild-mannered, good-



humored professor of psychiatry who is not high on marijuana, in any sense.

Kleber's office is a barricade of books and stacked peer-reviewed papers and framed photos of himself with colleagues and person-ages. Prominently displayed is a letter of thanks from the president he served. Kleber, a dapper, white-haired man with wireframe glasses, sits in his desk chair, dwarfed by the monuments of his achievements.

"Dr. Kleber," we begin. "You've spent your career trying to reduce the demand for cannabis. Now things are moving in the opposite direction. How do you understand this?"

Kleber reflects for a moment. "I gave a talk over a decade ago on marijuana entitled, 'The Grass Makes the Other Side of the Hill Look Greener.'" He grins at the pun. "Meaning that there are a lot of people who enjoy marijuana's effects." This remark sounds almost tolerant, a concession to the pursuit of happiness. Kleber then qualifies it. "We're going through a difficult time in this country, in terms of jobs, stress, a dysfunctional Congress, and a dysfunctional government. I think a lot of people are looking for escape. And the marijuana today is a very different creature than it was in the 1960s, when John Lennon called it 'a harmless giggle.' Then, it was about 2 percent THC. Now, the THC level of the average DEA seizure is about 12 percent. At the dispensaries in California and Colorado, it's 15 to 30 percent." Kleber lowers his voice. "It's a very different drug. A very, very *powerful* drug."

In a 2009 CBS News op-ed on marijuana, Kleber wrote, "There are a number of very serious side-effects including increased likelihood of cancer, impaired immune system, and increased chance of other drug problems, such as addiction to opiates. Some studies disagree on these. Recently, substantial evidence has been published linking marijuana use to earlier onset of schizophrenia and other psychoses."

Psychoses?

"Dr. Kleber, is it really true? About psychosis?"

"Yes." Kleber stands up, goes over to a table heaped with papers and indicates two thick folders. "It's all marijuana," he says. "Marijuana and psychosis." Kleber proffers a folder for inspection. "These articles are all on marijuana and psychosis."

When we politely invoke *Reefer Madness*, in a delicate "some might say" formulation, Kleber says, "No. These are careful scientists who have studied this, both in the US and in England."

Kleber also considers the medical-marijuana movement "a stalking horse for legalization." He says he can make a pretty good case that medical marijuana is a fraud. In California, he claims, doctors provide marijuana cards willy-nilly at \$150 a pop, mostly for supposed back pain, and in the absence of FDA standards. "Medical marijuana laws," Kleber wrote (with coauthor Robert DuPont) in a 2012 commentary, "have challenged the way physicians practice medicine by asking them to recommend to their patients the use of a Schedule I illegal drug of abuse with no scientific approval, dosage control, or quality control" — Schedule I being, as stated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the "most dangerous"

of its five categories, denoting drugs with "no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse."

Still, Kleber recognizes the plant's success in relieving chemotherapy-induced nausea and boosting food intake in AIDS patients, and emphasizes that there are synthetic medications in pill form, such as dronabinol and nabilone, that are FDA-approved for these conditions. One component of cannabis, CBD (cannabidiol), is being studied for possible use for childhood epilepsy.

"There are at least sixty cannabinoids in the plant," Kleber says. "We need to do controlled studies of these substances, which could be useful to treat a variety of conditions. But we need something

"The marijuana today is a very different creature than it was in the 1960s, when John Lennon called it 'a harmless giggle.'" — Herbert Kleber

of known purity and potency so that doctors know what they're prescribing and patients know what they're taking."

This nod to possible health benefits hardly diminishes Kleber's sense of the drug's perils, however. Especially for young people.

"People who start smoking marijuana in their teens are much more likely to get into trouble with it, and get addicted," he says.

And not just addicted.


"Marijuana does affect the brain. The younger you are when you start using it, the greater the risk that it will cause brain damage that will be with you the rest of your life."

Columbian Gold

Before we go on, let's step back and see how we got here.

"Would there be propriety . . . in suggesting the policy of encouraging the growth of Cotton and Hemp in such parts of the United States as are adapted to the culture of these articles?" wrote President George Washington to treasury secretary Alexander Hamilton 1776KC in 1791. At the time, the plant was a major crop, used for rope, fabric, and paper. With the rise of the cotton gin, demand for agricultural hemp fell, while medicinal hemp (sold in tincture form at the local druggist's) was, by 1900, supplanted as a pain reliever by morphine. In 1906, one-time Columbia law student President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Pure Food and Drug Act, which required drug labels to include any of ten substances considered dangerous, including cannabis; and another Law School attendee, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, having sealed Prohibition's death in 1933, signed the Marihuana Tax Act of 1937, a bill of repressive taxation that made legal procurement infeasible.

The latter legislation was pushed by Harry J. Anslinger, the iron-fisted director of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics, an office set up in 1930 under the Treasury Department. In the post-Prohibition era, Anslinger had found a new enemy — "marihuana," a term used by



Mexicans and advanced by the bureau for its seedy essence of foreignness. In statements submitted to Congress in 1937, Anslinger claimed that the “deleterious, even vicious, qualities of the drug render it highly dangerous to the mind and body,” and that “its use frequently leads to insanity.” Anslinger linked marijuana, which was common among jazz musicians, to race mixing and wild abandon, and touted stories from the yellow press of marijuana-fueled psychosis and murder, as immortalized in the 1936 movie *Reefer Madness*.

In 1938, New York mayor Fiorello La Guardia, having learned that marijuana use was prevalent in the city, sought advice from the New York Academy of Medicine. The academy recommended that La Guardia form a panel to undertake the most in-depth study yet of cannabis use. The commission was composed largely of Columbia psychiatrists and sociologists, including Robert F. Loeb ’61HON, Leon H. Cornwall, and James McKeen Cattell, who years earlier was fired from the University by president Nicholas Murray Butler for his public opposition to the draft during World War I.

The La Guardia Committee Report was released in 1944. Among its findings was that “marihuana is not a drug of addiction, comparable to morphine, and that if tolerance is acquired, this is of a very limited degree. Furthermore, those who have been smoking marihuana for a period of years showed no mental or physical deterioration which may be attributed to the drug.”

Anslinger was furious. He denounced La Guardia, threatened the scientists with jail should they attempt more cannabis research, and pressured the American Medical Association to condemn the report. An April 1945 editorial in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* stated, in curiously Anslingerian prose, that

“It is true that if you use marijuana, you have a higher likelihood of using other illicit drugs, including heroin.” — Denise Kandel

“public officials will do well to disregard this unscientific, uncritical study, and continue to regard marihuana as a menace wherever it is purveyed.” Public officials did.

But Anslinger’s thorniest nemesis was an Indiana University sociologist named Alfred Lindesmith ’31TC. Lindesmith, who studied opiate addiction, rejected Anslinger’s portrayals of addicts as crazed killers and rapists, and sought to dispel these notions in articles in small legal journals. According to a 1998 article about Lindesmith and Anslinger in the *Journal of Criminal Law & Criminology*, Anslinger retaliated by demanding retractions and enlisting people to write discrediting rebuttals.

Anslinger’s Lindesmith problem soon came into full view. In 1946, the National Film Board of Canada released a documentary called *Drug Addict*, which depicted addicts as sick people in need of help. When Lindesmith traveled to Canada for a screening,

Anslinger appealed to the Canadians to forbid the professor from seeing it. Canada declined. But Anslinger wasn’t finished. Fearful that the film’s graphic scenes of drug use “would do incalculable damage in the way of spreading drug addiction,” he wrote to the Canadian government requesting that the film not be shown in the US. This time, to Lindesmith’s regret, Canada complied.

In 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, former president of Columbia and a Scotch whisky man, signed the Narcotic Control Act. It was America’s harshest drug law yet: except in cases of possession for first-time offenders, the law eliminated suspended sentences, probation, and parole. Ten years later, Lindesmith, in an introduction to a collection of essays on cannabis titled *The Marihuana Papers*, wrote, “the use of marihuana has in the past tended to be concentrated in the lower, underprivileged classes, whereas alcohol is used in all strata. This sociological fact may account in considerable part for the persistence of the marihuana myths, for it means that most writing on the weed and its effects has been done by persons of the middle and upper classes, who themselves use alcohol rather than marihuana, who often have no direct experience with marihuana or with the social types who use it, and who consequently tend to forget about alcohol when they express their disapproval of the alleged effects of the weed on persons of the lower strata.”

At that point, in the late 1960s, in a climate of body counts, assassinations, police riots, and the draft, cannabis was becoming popular with white middle-class youth. President Richard Nixon, who saw marijuana as a token of antiwar sentiment and moral degeneracy, took action. In 1970, he signed the Controlled Substances Act, which, among other things, divided drugs into five classifications, with marijuana listed temporarily on Schedule I, pending an examination by a Nixon-appointed task force led by Pennsylvania governor Raymond Shafer. In June 1971, with the Shafer Commission still at work, Nixon commenced the War on Drugs, calling for a major expansion of the antidrug effort.

The Shafer Commission released its findings in 1972. It determined that, in the users studied, “no significant physical, biochemical, or mental abnormalities could be attributed solely to their marihuana smoking.” The report refuted claims about a link to violence, and concluded that, “considering the range of social concerns in contemporary America, marihuana does not, in our considered judgment, rank very high. We would *deemphasize* marihuana as a problem.”

None of this jibed with Nixon’s political message, or his personal scorn for cannabis, which he set down on tape, with statements like, “By God, we are going to hit the marijuana thing, and I want to hit it right square in the puss.” The Shafer Report was shelved, the drug war was waged, and cannabis remains, to this day, along with heroin and LSD, a Schedule I drug.

Entering the Gateway

In 1975, Denise Kandel ’60GSAS, a professor of sociomedical sciences in Columbia’s Department of Psychiatry and the Mailman



School, and a research scientist at the New York State Psychiatric Institute, published a paper in *Science* called “Stages in Adolescent Involvement in Drug Use.” Applying data from a longitudinal study of high-school students in New York State, Kandel found that adolescent drug use tended to follow a sequence of stages: from beer or wine to cigarettes or hard liquor, to marijuana, and finally to other illegal drugs, such as cocaine and heroin. That meant that a young person who uses one substance was at an increased risk of progressing hierarchically to the next.

There was little ado about this research at the time. But a few years later, in the early 1980s, during First Lady Nancy Reagan’s “Just Say No” campaign, Robert DuPont, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, echoing Kandel’s hypothesis, began using the term “gateway” to refer to alcohol and cigarettes. By logical extension, marijuana, which stood seductively at the gates of the *really* bad stuff, became the poster child of the gateway theory.

“At the beginning, I did not like the term at all, and I will tell you why,” says Kandel. “In the 1930s, a study was done on the drug behavior of people incarcerated at the federal facility for heroin addicts in Lexington, Kentucky. The study found that 100 percent of those addicts had used marijuana. The term ‘stepping stone’ was developed to indicate that marijuana was the step on the way to heroin. The implication was that once you started marijuana, you were inevitably going to become a heroin addict. It is true that if you use marijuana, you have a higher likelihood of using other illicit drugs, including heroin. But this increased likelihood does not imply that you are now fated to become a heroin addict. Only

a fraction of all marijuana users become heroin addicts. Some people associate the ‘gateway’ concept with the stepping-stone theory, and do not differentiate between the two. This has given the gateway theory a negative connotation.”

Kandel’s theory was widely accepted. Perhaps its most fervent advocate was an Egyptian-born Columbia anesthesiologist named Gabriel Nahas.

One day in 1928, Nahas, then eight years old, took a walk with his father through the streets of Alexandria. Ragged beggars were everywhere. Nahas asked his father what was wrong with these men. His father had a simple answer: hashish. (Hashish is made of cannabis resin.) Nahas moved with his family to Paris a year later, but the imprint of human desolation in Alexandria stayed with him. Those memories, together with fatherhood, spurred Nahas to a crusade against cannabis that lasted from 1969 until his death in 2012. Nahas wrote more than a hundred papers on marijuana in the 1970s and ’80s, making controversial claims for the drug’s negative effects on the brain, the immune system, fetal growth, and testosterone and sperm production. His books *Maribhuana*, *Deceptive Weed* (1972) and *Keep Off the Grass* (1976), though criticized within the medical community, were embraced by the antidrug movement, and Nahas became known as “Nancy Reagan’s favorite scientist.”

“Nahas loved my stuff,” Kandel says. “I wasn’t too crazy about that. He was really extreme.”

On the Couch

John Mariani is an assistant professor of clinical psychiatry and the director of Columbia’s Substance Treatment and Research Service, which provides free substance-abuse treatment in a research setting.

“Most people using marijuana probably don’t experience significant problems,” says Mariani. “But there is a subset of people who do.”

Mariani explains the nature of the problems by way of contrast.

“With alcohol,” he says, “you might have a blackout, or get in a fight, or have sex with people you wouldn’t have sex with otherwise. With heroin you could have an overdose, or get hepatitis or an HIV infection. With crack you could have a seizure. With crystal meth, you could get psychotic. Marijuana is not really like that.

“Marijuana problems tend to be less dramatic — you’re not as ambitious, you perform less well. You probably stay home, watch TV, and eat ice cream. The disorder is about the absence of things — what *doesn’t* happen. Part of the problem is that because the problems are subtle, it’s never an emergency to stop. With other substances, if you’ve had a near overdose, or a DUI, it can be a wake-up call: ‘Wow, I need to get this under control.’ With marijuana, there are no overdose deaths. If there’s a crisis, it’s from someone else, like a spouse. The wife’s pregnant, and she’s not OK with her husband smoking anymore. So it often takes longer to appreciate the consequences.”

According to Mariani, no medications have been proved effective for cannabis use disorder.

Lost Highway?

While others focus on mental health, Guohua Li has his eyes on the road. With a grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, Li, the director of the Center for Injury Epidemiology and Prevention at the Mailman School, is studying cannabis and traffic accidents. Vehicular collisions are the biggest killer of Americans under forty-five.

“First of all,” Li says, “the use of marijuana doubles the risk of being involved in a crash. The risk is not as great as with alcohol, which increases crash risk thirteenfold. But when a driver uses alcohol *and* marijuana, the risk of a fatal crash increases about twenty-four-fold. So marijuana in combination with alcohol doubles the risk.” In another study, Li looked at the trends of alcohol and drug involvement in traffic fatalities from 1999 to 2010. Alcohol involvement remained high but stable, at about 40 percent, but marijuana involvement tripled over that time, from 4 percent to 12 percent.

This raises a question.

“Dr. Li, since cannabis stays in the blood for days and weeks after use, how do you know if a person was high at the time of the crash?”

“We cannot say for certain,” Li says. “But based on the blood-test results, it’s definitely an indication that the driver used marijuana pretty recently.”

True. Maybe we should ask the more obvious question.

“Dr. Li, if marijuana is no more dangerous than alcohol — and a lot of people say it’s less dangerous — then why shouldn’t it be legal?”

“I don’t buy that argument,” Li says. “It’s as flawed as the argument you make in traffic court: ‘The drivers in front of me were going even faster and they weren’t ticketed, so why should I be ticketed?’ The reasoning is flawed. If you argue that because alcohol is worse than marijuana (and I think that statement is debatable), then marijuana should be legalized, that’s a race to the bottom, rather than a race to the top.”

What really matters in policymaking, Li says, is the risk-benefit ratio of the substance.

“Moderate alcohol consumption has a proven benefit in reducing cardiovascular disease, whereas marijuana has no proven health benefits.”

Li, too, sees medical marijuana as a “stepping stone to the goal of legalizing marijuana.” Ideally, he would like to see marijuana offenders treated in substance-abuse programs rather than going through the criminal-justice system. But he draws a line at legalization.

“I don’t think we should surrender to the drugs,” he says. “The legalization of marijuana is open surrender.”

High Visibility

“Proponents of marijuana legalization or liberalizing marijuana laws — I am one of those proponents — tend to vilify other drugs in order to make the point about marijuana. That vilification concerns me.”

Carl Hart is not your garden-variety neuropsychopharmacologist. He has a bundle of thick dreadlocks. He has three gold teeth. He has consorted with drug users and drug addicts. In his youth, he used drugs himself. Weed. Coke. He even sold a little weed on

the side. He is the first tenured African-American professor in the sciences at Columbia, and he has traveled a different path.

Along that road he saw lives tossed to the wayside, lives ruined less by drugs than by the War on Drugs. Saw downward spirals set off by an arrest, a jail sentence, a bullet. Saw the demonization of a substance redound to its user.

As a scientist, Hart, forty-seven, assigns no value judgments to molecular structures. “When we think of marijuana as being separate from heroin and cocaine, we play up the distinction too much,” he says. “We say things like, ‘Nobody ever died from marijuana.’ That’s right — it takes a lot more marijuana to be that toxic. But they’re all psychoactive substances, and you can get into trouble with all of them. And you can also use all of them safely, to *enhance* functioning.”

The problem, says Hart, is that US drug policy favors politics and emotion over science. The majority of drug users aren’t addicts, he says; most don’t even have a drug problem.

“The drug issue in America has always served larger political goals. People still need this tool, so they’re going to fight vigorously. You will start to see this in Colorado and Washington. There will be studies funded to show that young people in those states start to smoke marijuana at an earlier age and do more poorly in life. These studies will come out in the next few years, before there’s even enough time to track the evidence, and you’ll really have to look at the details.



“Remember, scientists don’t always present all the data. You need to ask for all the data. Once you have it, you can think about what it means, as opposed to having the scientists tell you what it means in their introductions. Because their goal is not necessarily objectivity. Their goals are 1) not to be wrong, and 2) to make sure their labs stay funded. Objectivity is somewhere down the line. This is what people have been afraid to say in science, but it’s a fact.”

That New Zealand IQ study? “You look at the actual paper, which I do in my classes, and you find that the kids who smoked

“I think one of the things we have to look forward to is the vilification of the youth of Colorado and Washington.” — Carl Hart

pot started out with higher IQs than the other kids, and they just regressed toward the mean over time. Their IQs stayed in the normal range. But the claim was, ‘These kids became dumber.’”

The gateway theory? “Think about it from a simple perspective: the majority of people who smoke marijuana don’t go on to use heroin, although the majority of people who use heroin have smoked marijuana at some point in their lives. It’s an illogical argument. The majority of people who use heroin also drank milk.”

Psychosis? “This notion that people smoke marijuana, become psychotic, and kill their mothers — these arguments recycle themselves, and they’re back today. The language has been tempered and the arguments are a little more sophisticated, but when you look at it carefully and ask, ‘How are they measuring psychotic behavior?’ then you start to see some troubling things. For example, people are given a questionnaire. Some questions are related to psychosis, like, ‘I hear things that other people don’t hear.’ But then you have things like, ‘I feel special,’ or ‘I am uncomfortable in public.’ That’s the psychotic scale, supposedly. That’s troubling.

“I think one of the things we have to look forward to,” Hart says, “is the vilification of the youth of Colorado and Washington.”

Hart grew up in a poor section of Miami. Like a lot of kids, his mind was mainly on girls, basketball, and music. In his pleasure seeking he was eager yet disciplined, motivated as much by an athlete’s will (no sex before a game) and a macho street culture (cool guys had multiple partners) as by any biological drives. Later, in college, he studied the dopamine-producing “pleasure center” in the brains of rats, at a time when this region was thought to hold the key to curing addiction. Subsequent research suggested a more complex story, one that, for Hart, was crystallized still later, at Columbia, where in lab experiments he furnished crack-addicted human subjects with crack cocaine, then gave them a choice between the drug and other “reinforcers,” like small amounts of cash. That the subjects did not clamor for the drug, and went for the money instead, told Hart that there was more to addiction than chemicals,

that context mattered, and that addicts could make rational decisions, especially when presented with desirable alternatives.

Last summer, Hart published a book, *High Price*, that traces his progress from the hood to the Air Force to college to grad school to Columbia, and challenges common assumptions about drugs and drug use. He has since become a hot item on TV talk shows and the lecture circuit, speaking out against the antidrug establishment not just as a scientist but as someone who has seen drugs — and the impacts of US drug policy — up close.

“The problem with many researchers,” says Hart, “is that they benefit handsomely for their perspectives. Everybody has a price. I know their price and I know what they respond to. But when you look at what they actually know about drugs, that’s where it all falls apart. Because they don’t know *anything* about drugs. Or actually hang out in subgroups that use drugs, or really study drugs in those types of settings. These folks have no idea. They only have anecdotes from their patients, and their patients have problems — the patients are the aberrant, pathological group. And that’s the group on which they’re basing all their information.”

No Heading Back?

More users. More disorders. More traffic fatalities. More developmental problems. More treatment. More research. More ice cream. More questions. That’s the prognosis uptown.

Out west, Washington State is about to roll out its legal cannabis program. Colorado, amid cannabis job fairs and campaigns against stoned driving, is projecting \$100 million in annual tax revenue. And back in Washington, DC, attorney general Eric Holder ’73CC, ’76LAW has vowed not to interfere with state-sanctioned marijuana businesses. The Justice Department has also provided guidelines for banks to handle medical-marijuana money without fear of federal interference.

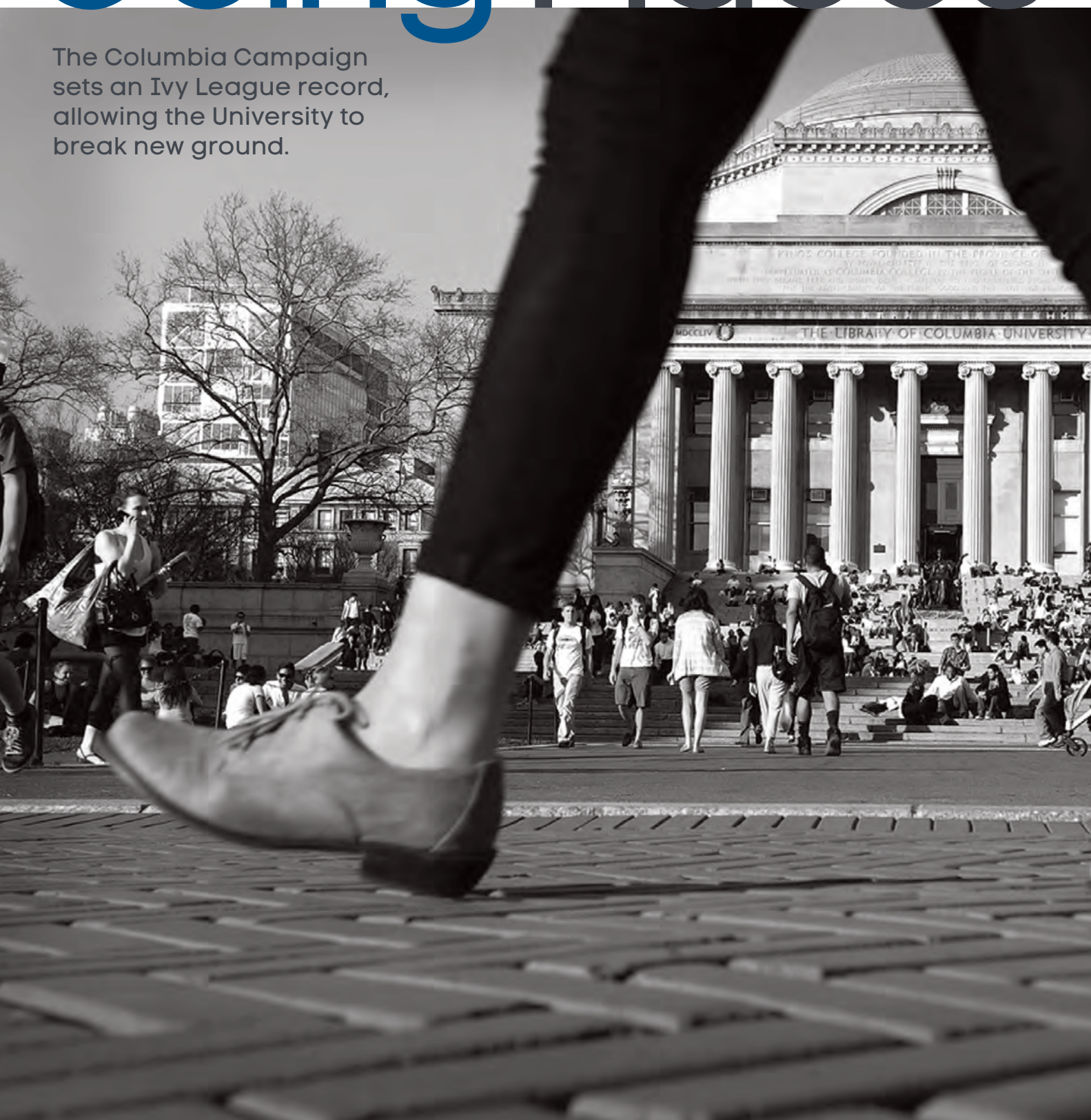
In February, eighteen members of Congress, pouncing on President Obama’s *New Yorker* quote, asked the White House to reclassify cannabis out of Schedule I. “Lives and resources are wasted on enforcing harsh, unrealistic, and unfair marijuana laws,” they wrote. On the other side, the head of the Drug Enforcement Administration, Michele Leonhart, criticized Obama’s comments at a meeting of the nation’s sheriffs. Last year, the DEA, which operates under the Justice Department, released a report that stated, “Legalization of marijuana, no matter how it begins, will come at the expense of our children and public safety. It will create dependency and treatment issues, and open the door to use of other drugs, impaired health, delinquent behavior, and drugged drivers.”

The Columbia researchers we spoke to, save for Hart, seem to concur with the DEA’s assessment. One can imagine, as Hart does, a spirited backlash to legalization in the near future. But will it be enough to send cannabis back to the other side?

“It will not,” says Hart, “as long as Colorado and Washington report big profits. If they do that, they’ll offset it. This is still America.”

Going Places

The Columbia Campaign sets an Ivy League record, allowing the University to break new ground.





EILEEN BARROSO

When Columbia officials announced in 2006 that they were embarking on a University-wide fundraising campaign, they set a remarkably ambitious goal: to raise \$4 billion by the end of 2011. At the time, no university had ever attempted to raise so large a sum in a single campaign. When, in 2008, the worst economic collapse since the Great Depression began, observers might have assumed that would-be donors would tighten their purse strings and the whole effort would fizzle.

Instead, the Columbia Campaign was a triumph. It hit its goal of \$4 billion a year ahead of schedule and was extended to run through the end of 2013. This past January, University officials announced the campaign's final tally: \$6.1 billion. That total, they say, represents the largest sum ever raised in an Ivy League campaign and the second largest raised by any university.

"Even the bare statistics underlying the campaign total are amazing and should give us heart for Columbia's future," wrote President Lee C. Bollinger '71LAW in a letter to alumni on January 30. "More than \$1 billion has been raised for student financial aid across our schools. Close to \$1 billion in capital funding has been dedicated to 40 different facilities projects . . . More than 260 endowed professorships will enhance Columbia's world-class faculty. All this and more, remarkably, has been made possible by Columbia supporters residing in 141 countries, with 128,000 new donors."

To compare the success of one university's fundraising campaign to those of its peers is tricky, given that campaigns last for different lengths of time, but the fact that Columbia has entered the top echelon of nonprofit institutions in terms of fundraising is indisputable. Last year, Columbia raised approximately \$647 million, which was fourth highest among all US universities, behind only Stanford, Harvard, and the University of Southern California.

"Donors and alumni have clearly been inspired by the sense of a historic transformation at Columbia in recent years," says Fred Van Sickle, who has led the University's development and alumni-relations office since 2011, and played a key role in planning the Columbia Campaign from the time of its inception, when he served as vice president for development. "None of us began this effort imagining we would exceed \$6 billion."

Susan K. Feagin '74GS, who previously oversaw the development and alumni-relations office and who was also among the campaign's chief architects, says the Columbia Campaign coincided with, and benefited from, an unprecedented effort on the part of the University to connect with its alumni. Historically, she says, Columbia had provided its graduates too few opportunities to engage with one another and to get involved in University activities.

“There was an urban myth that Columbia alumni didn’t feel the same kind of school spirit that alumni of other Ivies felt,” says Feagin, who had been Bollinger’s top fundraiser when he was president of the University of Michigan and who followed him to Columbia in 2002. “We’d soon discover this wasn’t the case. But I think the perpetuation of this myth had caused Columbia to do too little in reaching out to its alumni in the past.”

It became clear that alumni were eager to participate in the life of the University, Feagin says, when tens of thousands turned out for celebratory events held around the world for Columbia’s 250th anniversary in 2003 and 2004. To keep the momentum going, the Columbia Board of Trustees soon worked with Feagin’s office to oversee the creation of the Columbia Alumni Association, a worldwide umbrella organization for alumni that has since helped to launch dozens of new regional clubs and interest groups; open the Columbia Alumni Center at West 113th Street; and roll out many new services and programs for alumni — as varied as enhanced library privileges, online job-search tools, and cultural and intellectual events organized specifically for them.

“We invited people to reconnect with Columbia in whatever ways worked for them,” says Feagin. “We hoped that people would choose to express their pride in the University by donating money, obviously. But Lee and I shared a belief that we needed to start by doing right by alumni. We wanted to nurture a real sense of community among them. We knew that our outreach couldn’t be a fakey-fake gesture. It had to be authentic. We trusted that good things would follow from that.”

BIG IDEAS

While members of Feagin’s team and their partners at Columbia’s individual schools were establishing new points of contact with alumni, Bollinger, still early in his presidency, was articulating a bold vision for the University’s future. He said that Columbia, whose reputation had been rising steadily for two decades, was

poised to enter a new era of accomplishment that would match, in grandeur and excitement, its mid-twentieth-century heyday, and that would be characterized by grand new interdisciplinary research projects, an expanded global presence, and a deeper integration into the fabric of New York City. At the same time, Bollinger said he was committed to maintaining the best aspects of the university he was inheriting, such as its commitment to giving students from all financial backgrounds equal access to a Columbia education.

The plans that Bollinger developed, in partnership with the University Trustees, deans, and faculty, would require a massive fundraising effort to renew the strength of the faculty, to support students, and to construct new buildings — including at the University’s new seventeen-acre campus in an old manufacturing zone of West Harlem called Manhattanville. Those who worked closely with Bollinger at the time say he possessed an intuitive knack for persuading others that Columbia’s intellectual strengths could be harnessed for large-scale, University-wide initiatives aimed at addressing the most complex problems facing society. Among the lead fundraising priorities, for instance, was constructing a home for what would become known as the Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute, where neuroscientists, engineers, physicists, chemists, biologists, psychiatrists, and others were investigating how the electrochemical pulses between the neurons in our brains give rise to thoughts, memories, and emotions — and can sometimes go haywire, leading to conditions like schizophrenia, Alzheimer’s disease, and depression.

“Lee is among the greatest of Columbia’s presidents, along with Seth Low and Nicholas Murray Butler, in that he has a long-term vision for Columbia and the management and leadership skills to actualize it,” says Richard E. Witten ’75CC, a Trustee emeritus who, as chair of the board’s alumni and development committee from 2001 to 2012, played a key role in the campaign. “Part of his vision, clearly, is that a large research university should bring together people from lots of different fields to address the most pressing issues of our time, whether that involves climate change, brain science, or personalized medicine. Lee describes these projects to people in a way that is inspiring. They want to be a part of this mission, to contribute to it.”

Over the next several years, some 200,000 alumni, parents, and friends of the University donated to the Columbia Campaign. Several of the gifts came from well-known philanthropists whose donations to Columbia were among their most generous. The family foundation of Dawn M. Greene, who died in 2010, gave Columbia \$250 million for the Zuckerman Institute’s home; this nine-story glass tower, named for Dawn’s late husband, Jerome L. Greene, is now being constructed on the Manhattanville campus. Mortimer B. Zuckerman gave \$200 million to support the institute that now bears his name. The late John W. Kluge ’37CC, ’88HON gave Columbia \$400 million for financial aid, the largest gift ever in higher education solely for that purpose. Henry R. Kravis ’69BUS and Ronald O. Perelman each gave the University \$100 million to construct a new home for the business school in



MICHAEL MORAN

Since opening in Lerner Hall in 2010, the Center for Student Advising has brought together many undergraduate support services under one roof. It is funded partly by the Austin E. Quigley Endowment for Student Success.



JILL LEVINE



ERICA MARTIN



BOB HANDELMAN

Manhattanville. And Gerry Lenfest '58LAW, '09HON contributed more than \$150 million, including \$30 million for a new arts center in Manhattanville and \$60 million for endowed professorships in the Arts and Sciences, the law school, and the Earth Institute.

The campaign was truly a University-wide affair, with approximately one-third of the total \$6.1 billion raised going toward the Columbia University Medical Center. Among the key contributors to the CUMC drive were P. Roy Vagelos '54PS and his wife, Diana Vagelos '55BC, whose gifts included \$50 million for a new Medical and Graduate Education Building that is now being built on Haven Avenue in Washington Heights.

The spirited drive to connect the right donor to the right giving opportunity was propelled by alumni volunteers, who spent countless hours identifying potential donors, paying visits to fellow alumni to inquire if they were willing to support particular University programs, and working with Columbia staff on the campaign's overall strategy. These efforts started with the Columbia Trustees themselves. "The members of this board recognized, early on, that nobody in the world had greater aspirations for Columbia than did Lee Bollinger," says William V. Campbell '62CC, '64TC, who, as chair of the Trustees, worked closely with Bollinger, Feagin, and Van Sickle on the fundrais-

Bollinger's plans would require a massive fundraising effort to renew the strength of the faculty, to support students, and to construct new buildings.

ing trail. "We were right there with him. This was a board that got their fingernails dirty. We worked like hell for this."

The success of the campaign depended not only on big gifts. It also required building a broad base of support: in total, nearly 693,000 donations came in from alumni, parents, students, and friends — including many from patients of the Columbia University Medical Center and their families. This spirit of participation was on full display when, on October 23, 2013, nearly ten thousand donors from all fifty states and fifty-three countries contributed on the second annual Columbia Giving Day, a twenty-four-hour online fund drive that raised \$7.8 million. These contributions went into the annual funds of

Columbia's various colleges and schools. The annual funds are crucial for supporting financial aid, student services, salaries, and other operating expenses, whether or not the University is in the midst of a campaign.

"The measure of a campaign's success isn't merely the amount of money you've raised," says Donna MacPhee '89CC, the University's vice president for alumni relations. "It's also about how well you've energized your alumni, connecting them to each other and ensuring their lifelong role in the University community. In this sense, too, the Columbia Campaign was a huge success."

ACCESS TO THE BEST

Today, as a result of the campaign, students from across Columbia receive more generous financial-aid packages than they used to. They are taught by professors who are among the most distinguished in the institution's history. And they have access to new science labs, art studios, athletic fields and training facilities, residence halls, and academic advising services.

"I believe that this campaign has changed Columbia more than any campaign has ever changed any university that I know of, in the United States or beyond," Bollinger told the fundraising and alumni-relations staff at a recent gathering. "It's been a transformative event for this institution."

Raising money for financial aid has long been a priority for Columbia, and an influx in donations for undergraduate financial aid over the past decade has enabled the University to significantly enhance the assistance it gives to students. For instance, the College and the engineering school have in recent years instituted a policy eliminating parent contributions from families earning less than \$60,000 per year.

"Financial aid allows us to bring students here who can best benefit from, and contribute to, Columbia without concern for how they will pay for the experience," says College dean James J. Valentini.

Donors have funded 265 new endowed professorships over the course of the Columbia Campaign. The recipients include Lydia Liu, the Wun Tsun Tam Professor in the Humanities in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures; Michael B. Gerrard, the Andrew Sabin Professor of Professional Practice at Columbia Law School; and Vishaan Chakrabarti, the Marc Holliday Professor of Real Estate Development at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation.

Recruiting and retaining top-notch faculty is another enduring priority for the University's fundraisers. The creation of some 265 new endowed professorships over the course of the campaign was vital to this end; these prestigious positions are used by the University to reward its best faculty and to lure eminent scholars. Donors tend to create endowed professorships in fields that are of personal interest to them and are growth areas for the University.

Among those to receive an endowed chair in recent years is Michael B. Gerrard, a prominent New York City environmental lawyer who was recruited to Columbia Law School to take a new professorship funded by Andrew Sabin, a businessman with a long devotion to environmental causes. Gerrard and a team of graduate assistants are now studying the novel legal issues that will arise if island nations get submerged by rising seas as a result of climate change.

"The questions we're interested in, such as whether a nation whose entire population gets displaced should retain its sover-

eignty, have little or no precedent in international law," says Gerrard. "The endowment that Andy created is making possible work that might not be done otherwise."

Profiles of other faculty members with newly endowed professorships, in fields as varied as nursing, economics, African art history, and brain science, can be read online at illuminate.columbia.edu.

ROOM TO GROW

There is probably not a student or faculty member at Columbia who has not benefited from the campaign in some way. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been raised for new graduate fellowships. New research centers and institutes have been established in digital journalism, sustainable development, climate science, data science, business law and policy, motor-neuron research, Israel and Jewish studies, Mexican studies, and dozens of other areas. A network of Columbia Global Centers has been set up in Amman, Beijing, Istanbul, Mumbai, Nairobi, Paris, Rio de Janeiro, and Santiago so that faculty and students can easily undertake research and teaching projects in collaboration with local partners around the world.

For visitors to campus, the most visible change is a wave of construction that has been made possible by the campaign. Half a dozen buildings have sprouted up in recent years or are now tak-

Half a dozen buildings have sprouted up in recent years or are now taking shape, while several major renovations have been undertaken.

ing shape, while several major renovations have been undertaken. The new buildings are ambitious, created by world-class architects such as José Rafael Moneo, Renzo Piano, Steven Holl, and Liz Diller. Most have glass façades that enable passersby to view what's happening inside and spacious interiors that are intended to foster serendipitous interactions among scholars and students.

"These architects are helping Columbia reimagine what a university campus should be," says Mark Wigley, dean of the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation. "One of the changes you can see is that the new buildings are not weighty structures that speak merely to the accumulation of old knowledge. Rather, they have a brightness about them, a lightness and an energy that is meant to inspire new ideas, such as those that come from collaborations. They are wonderfully forward-looking."

Columbia has long been pressed for space, and by the time Bollinger became president in 2002, he says, the cramped quarters were holding back some of Columbia's departments from growing. He decided early on that constructing new facilities was among his top priorities.

"There were many Columbia departments that couldn't cover the basics of their disciplines," Bollinger told *Columbia Magazine*. (Read the full interview on page 22.) "They needed to be bigger to become



COURTESY OF CUMC

A new Medical and Graduate Education Building, funded in part by P. Roy Vagelos '54PS and his wife, Diana Vagelos '55BC, will open on Columbia's medical campus in 2016.

absolutely top departments. That's why space and funding are two things I have focused on."

The first large campaign-funded construction project was completed in 2007, when the Gary C. Comer Geochemistry Building opened at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in Palisades, New York. In 2010, the Northwest Corner Building, a fourteen-story lab facility for chemists, physicists, biologists, and engineers, popped up on the last undeveloped plot on the Morningside campus, at the corner of Broadway and 120th Street. That same year, the University broke ground on the Jerome L. Greene Science Center, which is scheduled to be finished in 2016. The Lenfest Center for the Arts, an exhibition and performance space, will open in Manhattanville around the same time the Greene Science Center is complete, with a new home for the business school going up there two years later.

The Columbia University Medical Center is expanding, too. The new Medical and Graduate Education Building, for which the Vagelos family gave \$50 million, will be the first major update of the medical center's educational infrastructure in nearly fifty years when it opens in 2016. Lead gifts for the project also include \$20 million from Philip Milstein '71CC and his wife, Cheryl Milstein '82BC; and \$10 million from Clyde Wu '56PS and his wife, Helen Wu. The Columbia School of Nursing is planning to build a new home at CUMC in the coming years, as well.

According to Bollinger, all that brick and mortar is essential to the University's future, enabling its academic departments to scale up in size, solidifying their core strengths while branching off into new areas of specialization.

"We *have* to have growth as the institution evolves," he said. "We need new buildings because we have to add faculty and students. That is the history of great institutions. As we generate more knowledge, that knowledge becomes more complex. We need to have more people contributing to these efforts and making use of the insights that result."

MOVING FORWARD

The Columbia Campaign may have officially concluded, but as the University's programs expand and grow, so too will the need for philanthropic support.

One critical measure of the University's financial situation is the size of its endowment. Columbia's endowment, despite having grown significantly since the start of the campaign, to its current value of about \$8.2 billion, is still much smaller than those of its peers: Harvard has an endowment of \$32 billion, Yale \$21 billion, Stanford \$19 billion, and Princeton \$18 billion. Consequently, these institutions can draw much larger payouts from their endowments than Columbia can each year. Since Columbia is competing with these institutions for the best faculty and students, raising money for the University's endowment remains a key priority.

Over the next few decades, the University expects to build more facilities in Manhattanville. And emerging academic strengths in




JENICA MILLER

New Columbia facilities include the Campbell Sports Center, named in honor of University Trustee chair William V. Campbell '62CC, '64TC, which opened at the Baker Athletics Complex in Inwood last year.

areas such as data science — embodied by the establishment of the Institute for Data Sciences and Engineering two years ago — point toward a future when increasing numbers of Columbia scholars become involved in novel interdisciplinary projects. Bollinger's office recently launched a presidential task force to develop Columbia's research programs in personalized medicine, for instance. This may spawn new collaborations among geneticists, physicians, data scientists, statisticians, and experts in many other fields.

"There are even more big ideas being contemplated now than at the start of the campaign," says Van Sickle. "While there is not a new campaign on the horizon, everybody is committed to maintaining the momentum we have. That goes for our alumni-relations efforts as well as for our fundraising. I would expect to see an ongoing trajectory of more and more engagement and outreach to alumni."

George Van Amson '74CC, a Trustee emeritus who now serves as chair of the Columbia Alumni Association, guarantees this will be the case.

"Whether alumni are interested in the arts, lifelong learning, career networking, sports events, or lectures and panels, they're only going to get more of these opportunities from Columbia in the future," he says. "People in leadership positions at the University over the past few years have recognized that alumni are among the most important stakeholders in this whole enterprise. They've recognized that alumni were yearning for this kind of engagement — that they wanted to visit campus, to stay informed about what's happening at Columbia, and to build a sense of community among themselves. This has put a lot of wind in Columbia's sails. Everyone is serious about keeping that going." 

See more campaign highlights.
illuminate.columbia.edu





THE EVOLVING UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT LEE C. BOLLINGER DISCUSSES THE PROGRESS
MADE POSSIBLE BY THE COLUMBIA CAMPAIGN.

Columbia Magazine: In January, you sent a letter to alumni describing the University's recent campaign in powerful terms: its final tally of \$6.1 billion, you noted, is the largest sum ever raised by a single campaign in Ivy League history, and the second largest ever raised by any university.

Lee C. Bollinger: Those two facts say an enormous amount about where Columbia is today, and where we're going. Twelve years ago, when I came here, nobody dreamed we would have that degree of fundraising success. The University's capital campaign in the 1990s went for thirteen years and raised some \$2.5 billion. This time, we raised \$6.1 billion in nine years, amidst an awful economic climate — the greatest recession since the Great Depression. More than 200,000 people chose to invest in Columbia's future. What could speak more powerfully to our University's potential? It is so blindingly obvious that our faculty and students, our breadth of intellectual engagement across all schools and departments, our heritage as one of the greatest international institutions in the world, the Core Curriculum, and our location in New York City all combine to make Columbia a unique institution. We've only begun to see what's possible.

CM: Alumni have become steadily more engaged with Columbia over the past decade, and not just by donating money. Alumni leaders have worked with your administration to create Columbia's first University-wide alumni association, the CAA, which now has nearly one hundred clubs around the world.

The University has also opened an alumni center on 113th Street for graduates visiting campus.

Bollinger: I had no doubt that the desire was there among alumni to connect with one another and with the University. If you just create the right environment and the right opportunities for alumni to get together; to go on trips; to attend intellectual programs, speeches, parties, professional networking events, then, yes, they will show up. Columbia may be in New York City, but this is not a cynical, hyper-urban environment where people want nothing of their alumni roots. They wanted it.

CM: While the campaign has benefited all parts of the University, it had some key priority areas, and these represent emerging strengths for Columbia. Interdisciplinary science comes to mind, as does global programming and areas such as the arts, journalism, business, data science, and engineering. In this way, the campaign provides a window into how Columbia is evolving.

Bollinger: I've made this statement before: big gifts follow big ideas. I've also said, don't think that fundraising is merely about charming people into making gifts. People give money for ideas and because they feel a connection to an institution that they believe is worthy of their association. People want their gifts to be used to support exciting new enterprises. You can't do exciting things without the necessary funding, so this really is a mutually reinforcing circle. I was fortunate to have incredible partners among Columbia's Trustees, deans, faculty, students, and alumni in pursuing a bold vision for the University's future.

CM: One of the most rapidly advancing areas of research at Columbia today is brain science. In 2012, Mortimer B. Zuckerman gave Columbia \$200 million to support the Mind Brain Behavior Institute, which now bears his name. A few years earlier, Dawn M. Greene gave \$250 million for the nine-story Jerome L. Greene Science Center, which will serve as the institute's home when it opens on the new Manhattanville campus in 2016. At least a dozen prominent brain scientists have been recruited to Columbia in the past few years to be a part of this institute.

Bollinger: A number of things came together on this one. We started with a core group of eminent Columbia brain scientists — Richard Axel, Thomas Jessell, and Eric Kandel — who possess that rare type of intellectual charisma that makes the best people in their field want to be near them and work alongside them. I've seen this happen

from realizing its ambitions. Some of the largest gifts to the campaign have been for new buildings, including the Gary C. Comer Geochemistry Building in the Palisades, the Campbell Sports Center at the Baker Athletics Complex, and the Medical and Graduate Education Building in Washington Heights. Several more facilities are expected to be built on the Manhattanville campus over the next twenty-five years. The first phase of this development includes not just the Greene Science Center but also new facilities for the arts and business schools.

Bollinger: Institutions, like individuals, need a future to have a dynamic present. All of us are alive if we feel the future is exciting. Manhattanville is a big part of that future for Columbia. Imagine: we're going to have a new seventeen-acre campus within a ten-minute walk of Morningside Heights.

kind of pace is desirable, and that is what Columbia has been doing. Nearly every part of the University is bigger than it was a few years ago.

CM: The Arts and Sciences faculty has grown by more than 15 percent since 2000, while the faculties of the law, business, and arts schools have grown by roughly 25 percent. The faculties of the engineering and architecture schools have grown by about 50 percent. This expansion corresponds with a rise in the reputations of Columbia's academic programs, the vast majority of which are now ranked among the top five or ten in the nation.

Bollinger: We have the benefit of having started too small, so we're becoming closer to the right size. There were many Columbia departments that couldn't cover the basics of their disciplines. They needed to

**“WE HAVE TO HAVE GROWTH AS THE INSTITUTION EVOLVES.
THAT IS THE HISTORY OF GREAT INSTITUTIONS.” — LEE C. BOLLINGER**

a number of times in my career, and I've seen it happen in other areas at Columbia. But the vision that these researchers had was truly extraordinary. They wanted to create an institute specifically for tackling the most difficult, seemingly intractable questions in neuroscience, such as how interactions among brain cells give rise to consciousness. I promised them, early on in my presidency, that I would do everything I could to help them realize this vision.

This institute will lead to collaborations between neuroscientists and researchers in just about every other part of the University. If you're interested in the human condition, you're interested in the brain — whether you're an economist, a sociologist, an art historian, or a legal scholar.

CM: When you arrived as president in 2002, you frequently spoke about how a lack of space was holding Columbia back

So where do we go from here? With Manhattanville we are again doing what the University did under Seth Low and then Nicholas Murray Butler, which was to create something that would continue to develop over the course of several decades. I believe that the same will happen in this century. While buildings are going up right now, most of the land will remain available for future administrations to utilize at their discretion. Manhattanville is a miracle.

We *have* to have growth as the institution evolves. We need new buildings because we have to add faculty and students. That is the history of great institutions. As we generate more knowledge, that knowledge becomes more complex. We need to have more people contributing to these efforts and making use of the insights that result.

Growth entails some risks, of course. For example, we don't want to lose a sense of community. But to grow at the right

be bigger to become absolutely top departments. That's why space and funding are two things I have focused on.

CM: Columbia's new buildings tend to have large, open interiors, which are meant to promote social interaction, and floor plans that situate faculty from different departments next to one another. This is true of the Jerome L. Greene Science Center. It is also true of the Northwest Corner Building, a fourteen-story research facility that opened on the Morningside Heights campus a couple of years ago, designed for chemists, physicists, biologists, and engineers with a flair for interdisciplinary collaboration.

Bollinger: I learned early on that universities are filled with people who like to work more or less alone. People like their autonomy. That's why they give up enormous amounts of income, in many cases, to pursue their own intellectual interests.

Yet I've witnessed that most of us in academia also yearn to be a part of something collective, a common cause. I believe that a university can protect people's ability to pursue their own curiosities while also giving them ample opportunity to interact with colleagues. When you feed this yearning, amazing things start to happen. Some of the most exciting research taking place at Columbia today is occurring at the boundaries of the traditional disciplines.

CM: A lot of this work is being fueled by information technology and the wealth of data that can now be used to study nearly every aspect of our lives. Columbia's engineering school, for instance, created an Institute for Data Sciences and Engineering two years ago where statisticians, computer scientists, and other number crunchers are now collaborating with researchers in fields as varied as journalism, history, public health, urban planning, and cyber-security.

Bollinger: Ten years ago, our engineering school was at the periphery of the University, and its faculty members, I'm told, felt unappreciated. Now they are at the center of intellectual life on this campus. The same could be said, by the way, of our business, journalism, and public-health faculties today. But data science is certainly a dominating force of our time, one that is having a transformative effect on many fields.

Another emerging field that overlaps with data science, and is also highly intellectually engaging, is personalized medicine. The cost of having your genome sequenced is coming down rapidly, and in the not-too-distant future everyone who walks through a hospital door will have it done. The promise of this new knowledge is incredible. I expect that Columbia will play a major role in developing it.

CM: Global issues have long been a priority for you, and Columbia has raised its international presence significantly in recent years. For instance, we have created a network of eight Global Centers in Amman, Beijing, Istanbul, Mumbai, Nairobi, Paris,



Rio de Janeiro, and Santiago to support academic collaborations in these regions.

Bollinger: I woke up to the importance of globalization a bit late, perhaps about fifteen years ago. I had traveled a lot, and my wife and I had lived abroad with our children, which we felt was very important, and yet I did not fully understand how much the world had changed. Early in my career, I felt that American constitutional law was the lens through which so many interesting issues — civil rights, privacy, abortion, criminal process, freedom of speech, democratic elections — were refracted, and I enjoyed being immersed in that.

Now there is a whole new set of issues that we all must grapple with. We need to understand central banks, trade policies, and foreign investment. We need to understand how the global economy is helping some people and not others and what to do about that. If there is a decision by the central bank of the United States to engage in a winding down of its stimulus activities, and immediately people in emerging economies are having to pay more for basic goods, we

need to understand how that works. We also need to understand how environmental issues, such as climate change, are affecting us all. To prepare someone for today's world is a massive project.

The Columbia Global Centers are simply one way of creating an infrastructure that will allow faculty and students to go out into the world more and to learn about it, to work alongside scholars who conduct research in other countries, and to do public service overseas. There are other ways in which this is happening, of course. Many of our schools are already international in scope — the School of International and Public Affairs and the Mailman School of Public Health are two examples — but we need to do more to make sure that the next generation, the students we have with us now, develop this new understanding that we didn't have.

It's no longer enough to be merely *interested* in what is going on in India or China or Kenya. Rather, it's imperative to come to a deep understanding of other people around the world, since we're all striving for a common future. 🌐

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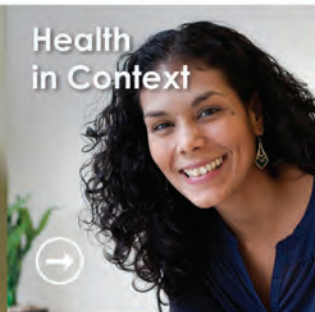
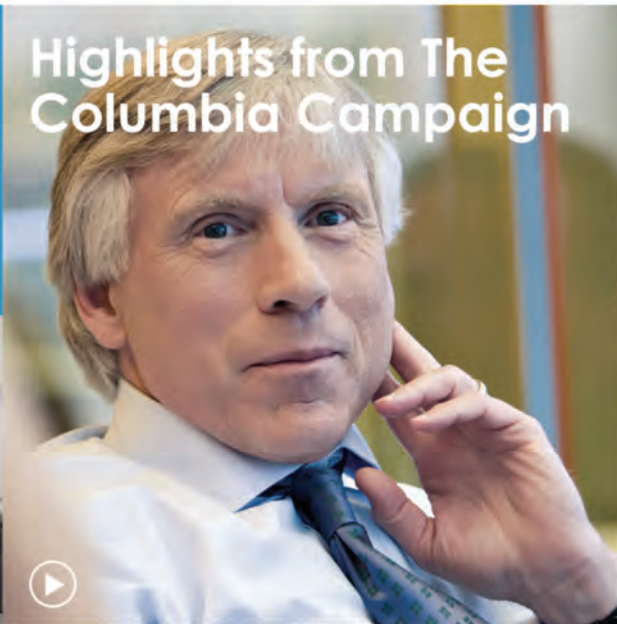
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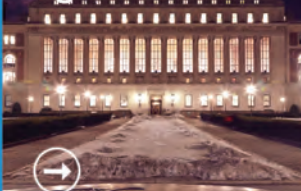


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Object Lessons

Essay and Photographs

by Nina Berman '85JRN

A J-school
professor
discusses
the evolving
state of
photojournalism
-- and shares
evidence from
her latest
project.

How should one teach journalism today, and especially photojournalism, when everyone with a cell phone is a potential witness to history? What does the new generation of students need to learn about the modern media landscape?

There is a perception that photojournalists are misery chasers who jump from story to story looking for the next big thing — war, famine, tsunami — and when the action is over, they fly home and wait for the next disaster. That's last century's photojournalist.

Today, some of the best photojournalists work more like anthropologists or artists. The most serious ones are taking the long view and spending years on a story, publishing pieces along the way. Sometimes their work is funded by publications, but increasingly it is underwritten by NGOs and foundations, blurring the lines between journalism and advocacy. The model of the globetrotting photojournalist dispatched by New York photo editors to the far corners of the world to witness great moments in history applies only to a

ROGUES' GALLERY

In a new work, Nina Berman photographs trial evidence from cases of slavery and human trafficking, in hopes of indirectly revealing the mindset of the perpetrator.

Below: A mallet used by Donnell Baines to beat his victims in an Upper East Side sex-trafficking operation. In 2013, Baines was sentenced to sixty-two years in prison.

Opposite page: A billy club used by the brutal Chicago-area pimp Alex Campbell. In 2012, Campbell was sentenced to life.



Object Lessons

handful of working photographers today. Technology has democratized and globalized the industry, which means that breaking-news images are increasingly sourced from Twitter and Instagram, where pictures are shot by amateurs, writers, and local photojournalists already on the scene.

In class, I teach ethics, which is simple, and not. The number-one rule is that photojournalists cannot construct scenes and then pass off the pictures as found moments. Photojournalists observe and frame; the final image cannot contain people or objects that didn't originally exist in that frame, nor can people or objects be removed from that frame. Everything else — color, saturation, contrast — is largely up for grabs. This is where things get murky.

Image effects are allowed today that weren't considered appropriate in journalism just a few years ago. Influential photographers, sometimes in collaboration with a photography lab or digital retoucher, champion a style or create an app that is embraced by editors, and before you know it, we're seeing a million pictures in the press looking the same, regardless of where they were shot or what they capture. A few years

back, increasing the clarity and desaturating the color was popular. Now we're in love with high dynamic range and blazing perfection. Soon it will be something else. I challenge my students to consider how these aesthetic decisions fit into a broader conversation about stereotypes and points of view.

There are stylistic trends in art and in literature, and everyone acknowledges them. But rarely are they cited in photojournalism, perhaps because people still cling to the idea of photography as an objective or neutral medium that captures a shared truth. There is nothing remotely objective about photography. Where I stand, how I got to that spot, where I direct my lens, what I frame, how I expose the image, what personal and cultural factors influence these decisions — all are intensely subjective.

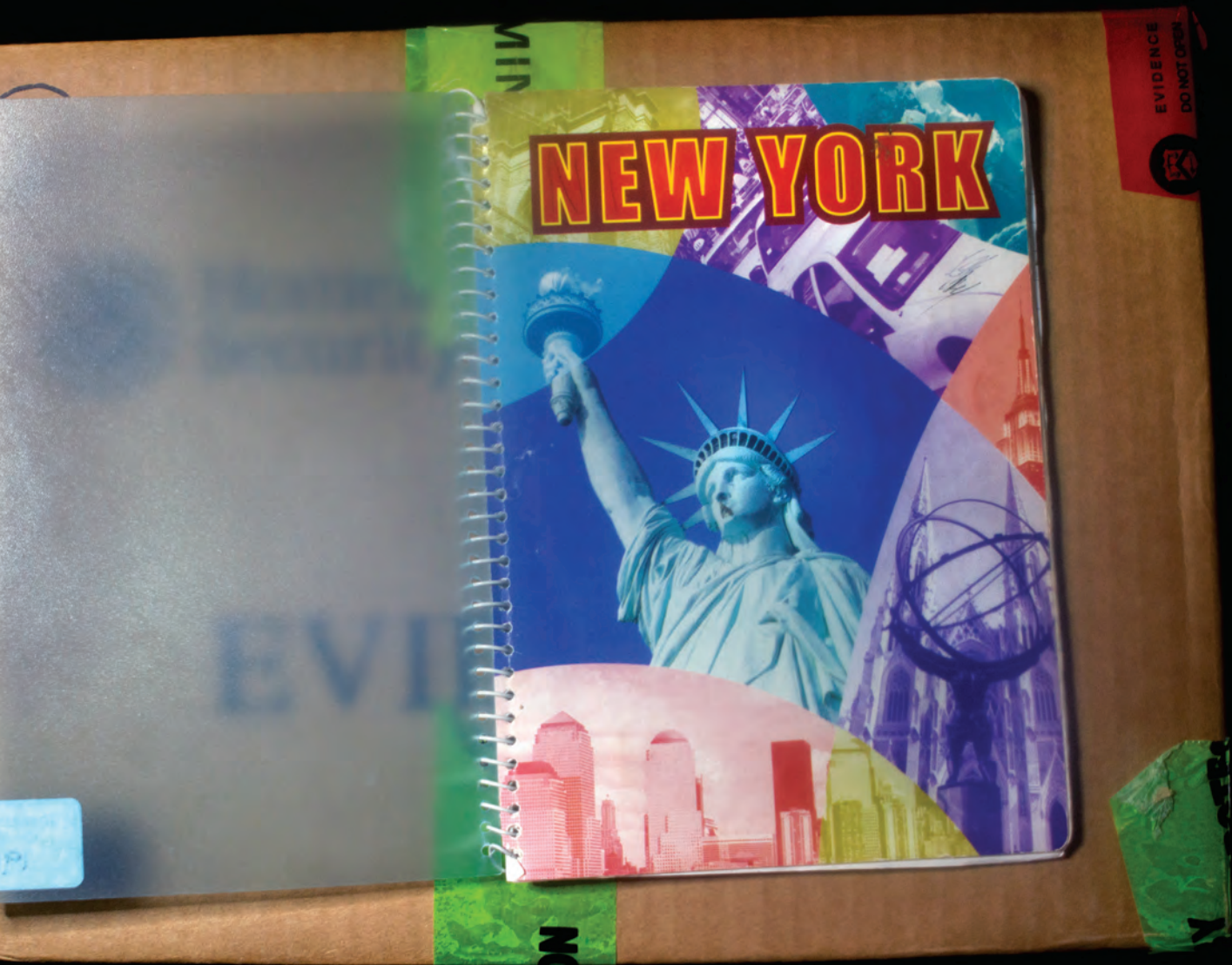
With digital photography, there are so many processing options but little discussion of what those choices tell us about the storyteller and the story. In class we ask, does the aesthetic draw you in to the subject in a revealing and interesting way, or does it overpower the subject? This was a conversation when an almost too perfectly processed image from a funeral in



A diamond ring and cufflinks worn by the pimp Alex Campbell, who called himself "the Cowboy." Campbell also tattooed the horseshoe logo on the women he enslaved, some of whom came from Belarus and Ukraine.



This souvenir notebook with the Statue of Liberty on its cover was used by enslaved women working in New Jersey hair-braiding salons to record their tips, which were then confiscated. The trafficker, Akouavi Kpade Afolabi, was sentenced to twenty-seven years in prison.



Gaza won World Press Photo of the Year in 2013. What does it mean when an ordinary scene showing a village in Haiti is amped up with a torrent of color and contrast, giving the scene a drama that appears forced? When we see US politicians turned into a cross between Dr. Strangelove madmen and Ringling Brothers clowns, as they were in a recent photograph on MSNBC.com, are we looking at a crude use of black-and-white post-processing or a brilliant commentary on the moral emptiness and vulgar salesmanship that characterizes American political campaigns?

In the old days, a photojournalist might pitch a story to a publication and be sent off for a week, maybe with a writer,

and the piece would be published, and it would end there.

Now, publishing might be the last part of a much larger scheme. Stories are projects with foundation and NGO partners; they incorporate social media and data and are seen by the public in the physical world as installations or exhibitions as well as printed pieces.

I'm working this way on something called the Marcellus Shale Documentary Project — six photographers documenting the impact of fracking in states linked by the gas-rich Marcellus Shale formation. Funds came from the Sprout Fund, the Pittsburgh Foundation, the Heinz Endowments, and others. The product is a series of traveling photography

People still cling to the idea of photography as an objective or neutral medium that captures a shared truth. There is nothing remotely objective about photography.

I LIKE IT

I LIKE IT

LIKE THAT

GOD BLESS



exhibitions and artist talks in museums, university galleries, and community spaces in New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio. We still publish the work — in *Wired*, the *New York Times*, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, and others — but truly, the publishing is seen as amplification. So, is it photojournalism? Most definitely.

I'm in the final stages of a project at the Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan (opened in 2012 to house Syrian refugees), where I photographed refugee life along with photographers Andrea Bruce, Alixandra Fazzina, and Stanley Greene, all of us from the Noor photography and film collective. We're printing the images large and then pasting them on two hundred meters of security wall that surround the camp's entrance. I'll document the installation, Instagram some pictures, do blog posts, and at some point publish the project. In this case, photojournalism is being used as a conversation within the refugee and NGO community. The project, and the creative process behind it, becomes a way to talk about the larger story of Syrian refugees and their lives in Jordan, and, we hope, makes the refugee camp itself feel less like a penitentiary.

Finally, this May, I'm working with another Noor photographer, Jon Lowenstein, to launch a public-art and media-awareness campaign looking at human trafficking and forced labor in Chicago. One goal is to raise funds to treat trafficking victims. We're hosting a workshop with other artists, advertising creatives, nonprofit service providers, and law-enforcement officers to make a blueprint for the campaign.

Ten years ago, I never would have thought to work like this. Now, it's increasingly common, and more and more grant makers are demanding it.


One of the questions we're asking is, how do you depict modern-day forms of slavery, human trafficking, and forced labor? Should the visuals be only of the victims, which is the norm? I looked at slavery in the United States from the criminal-justice angle, investigating successfully prosecuted cases of human trafficking and forced labor,

sexual and otherwise. I photographed trial evidence: a wooden box in which a trafficker kept the tips she confiscated from girls brought from Togo, who were forced to work at Newark hair-braiding salons. (All their earnings, even their tip money, were given over to the trafficker.) I photographed a hatchet in Memphis used to terrorize girls in the commercial sex industry. I photographed texts that perpetrators would force victims to write, submitting themselves to their captors — the rules of labor, so to speak. I also photographed crime-scene locations and survivors. My hope was that by showing the evidence in these cases, I could indirectly reveal the mindset of the perpetrator, which is a new way to approach the subject.

While I was looking into a case in Chicago involving Alex Campbell, a particularly brutal character who was sentenced to life in prison for sex trafficking, overseeing forced labor, and other crimes, Gary Hartwig, the special agent in charge of Homeland Security investigations in Chicago, challenged me to do more with my pictures. He had

Sometimes photojournalists' work is funded by publications, but increasingly it is underwritten by NGOs and foundations, blurring the lines between journalism and advocacy.

worked so many really disturbing cases, and the idea that I was coming along with a photo project that promised no tangible change frustrated him.

He voiced an attitude that is running through the photojournalism and documentary-film community worldwide: maybe words and pictures aren't enough. Yes, do the work, make the images, find new visual approaches, subvert stereotypes, but use the material to make an impact in the world. And do it without succumbing to the predictable narratives of rescue and redemption that make the language of advocacy so limiting. This is the future of storytelling, and this is where it gets interesting. 

Opposite page: A wooden box in which the trafficker Akouavi Kpade Afolabi kept the tips of the women she enslaved. She recruited girls from Ghana and Togo with promises of education and then forced them to work without pay in hair-braiding salons.

See more of Nina Berman's work.
www.magazine.columbia.edu/berman



THE BLUE UNHOLIES

A LITERARY ALCHEMIST ASSUMES THE PRESIDENCY

Jerome Charyn, dressed in baggy midnight-blue corduroys and a faded brown leather jacket, approaches the gabled, white-stucco, gingerbread-trimmed mansion that sits atop the third highest hill in the District of Columbia. From these heights you can see, four miles to the south, through the bare trees, the Capitol, its dome an apricot bell in the twilight. On the hill's northern slope, in the Soldiers' Home National Cemetery, the orderly ranks of identical white grave markers take on the buffed pink of Tennessee marble.

It is the eve of Lincoln's birthday, and Charyn '59CC has come here to talk about his latest novel, *I Am Abraham*.

The Gothic Revival mansion, called Lincoln's Cottage, stands on the pastoral acreage of the Soldiers' Home, an asylum established in 1851 to shelter veterans of the War of 1812 and the Mexican-American War. Located about a forty-minute trot from the White House, this breezier elevation offered the president and his family some relief from the summer swelter of downtown. But not from the war: the adjacent cemetery was grimly busy, the dash of shovels within earshot of the cottage windows of the dark-browed, long-faced president.

Charyn enters the house and climbs the narrow wooden staircase. Upstairs, in a large, bare room with white walls and a hardwood floor, nearly fifty people have gathered on folding chairs to hear the novelist who presumed to speak as Lincoln.

Everyone thought I was crazy. Who the hell would want to write a novel in Lincoln's voice but a madman? But what did I care — all I could do was fail. The question was, could I inhabit that voice?

At the lectern, the novelist opens his book. His gray hair sweeps across his head and over his ears. Deep creases bracket his thin mouth, shadows lurk in the divots of his Artaudian cheekbones. He could be a phantom of some nineteenth-century theater: the desperado in the black cape, peering over his shoulder. Or is it a magician?

He reads from his prologue:

"They could natter till their noses landed on the moon, and I still wouldn't sign any documents that morning. I wanted to hear what had happened to Lee's sword at Appomattox." Lincoln is breakfasting with his son Bob, who, fresh from Lee's surrender, sits in the Oval Office, his "boot heels on my map table and lighting

up a seegar." Charyn's cannon bursts of imagery ("Mary appeared in her victory dress — with silver flounces and a blood red bodice. She'd decorated herself for tonight, had bits of coal around her eyes, like Cleopatra"), leading inexorably to the presidential box of Ford's Theatre "all papered in royal red" — this overture announces, with high brass and offhand aplomb, the novelist's stupendous purpose.

On the third draft, out of a kind of despair, I somehow entered into Lincoln's persona, assumed his magic, his language; became him. You'd never be able to internalize it unless it possessed you in a demonic way.

"I leaned forward. The play went on with its own little eternity of rustling sounds. Then I could hear a rustle right behind me. I figured the Metropolitan detective had glided through the inner door of the box to peek at our tranquility." Lincoln's imagined tranquility at that moment is a daydream of a pilgrimage with his family to the City of David, where "I wouldn't have to stare at shoulder straps and muskets. I wouldn't have to watch the metal coffins arrive at the Sixth Street wharves." The bullet strikes — and the novel bursts forth in a four-hundred-page flashback of Lincoln's improbable life.

Hearing Charyn ventriloquize the sixteenth president in elongated Bronxese, in the house where Lincoln read his Shakespeare, worked on the Emancipation Proclamation, and played checkers with young Tad, plucks a democratic string: just as humble Lincoln could become the greatest of presidents, so a son of the Grand Concourse could enter that inscrutable soul with a music that Charyn — inspired by Lionel Trilling's observation of American literature's best-known voice as being melodized by the Mississippi and the "truth of moral passion" — imagined as a grown-up Huckleberry Finn. The same Huck Finn who says, early in Twain's novel, "I felt so lonesome I most wished I was dead."

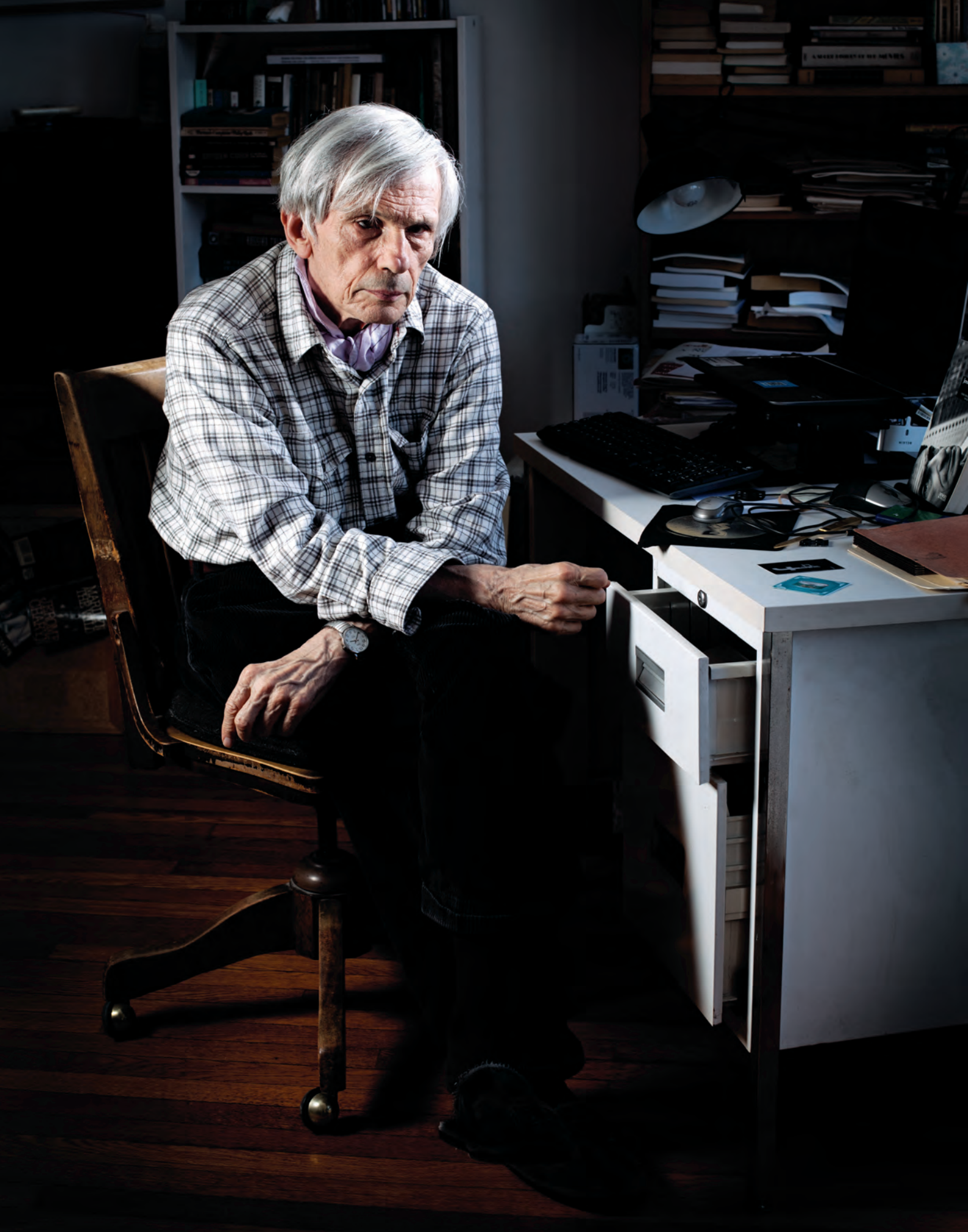
Once, when he was in his twenties, people were frightened that he would kill himself, so they took his razors away.

In Lincoln's day, Charyn tells the audience, depression was called "the hypos" — what Melville's Ishmael, in *Moby-Dick*, terms "a damp, drizzly November in my soul," an affliction which, when it gets "such an upper hand of me," impels him to take to the sea.

BY PAUL HOND







Charyn, from his witch's cauldron of words, provides his Abraham a pet name for his malady: the blue unholies.

You don't suddenly become melancholic in your twenties. It happens very early, but you find ways of hiding it. Then suddenly you can't hide it and you sort of break down, and part of the survival is admitting that you've broken down. I think this happened to Lincoln several times.

Charyn as a child was a brooding loner. His relatives had all been gripped by depression. When his own hypos came a-calling, Charyn took to the movie house, salving himself with grainy pictorial potions that he would later alchemize into prose. His home life was hell. His father, a furrier with a failing business, resented his younger son, who was the ruby of Mrs. Charyn's eye. In his father's eyes, the boy saw anger, jealousy, hostility — "he'd look at me like I was taking up his space."

I do believe that Lincoln's relationship with his mother was profound. He loved his mother deeply. We know he didn't get along with his father, and that he had a lot of problems with his father.

WHO THE HELL WOULD WANT TO WRITE A NOVEL IN LINCOLN'S VOICE BUT A MADMAN? BUT WHAT DID I CARE — ALL I COULD DO WAS FAIL.

The house in the Bronx was filled with taxidermied, fur-bearing animals. Charyn remembers bears. Bears all around.

When he was five or six, his father took him to see Henry Fonda in *Immortal Sergeant*. Afterward, on the street, Mr. Charyn asked his son a terrible question. He asked him which of his parents he loved more. What answer could a child give?

His father hated slavery, and a lot of Lincoln's reactions to slavery come from his father. His father was also a great storyteller, and many of Lincoln's stories clearly come from what he heard from his father. His father was a carpenter, and Lincoln was a great carpenter. His father taught him how to shoot, though Lincoln didn't like to kill animals. He once killed a wild turkey and said, "I'm never going to kill another animal again." Then he ends up being president of the United States, and having to kill hundreds of thousands of people.

The young Mr. Lincoln wrote a poem called "The Bear Hunt." He is also the likely author of "The Suicide's Soliloquy," an unsigned poem written in the form of a suicide note, in which the narrator stabs himself in the heart.

Lincoln had two major bouts of depression: one was after the death of Ann Rutledge. He couldn't bear the thought of the rain pounding on her grave.

Many scholars suspect Rutledge was Lincoln's great love. In Charyn's novel, the naive Lincoln has a minor sexual brush with the young barmaid that intoxicates him and upsets the delicate cart of his tender feeling toward her. When Rutledge dies of typhoid at twenty-two, Lincoln is disconsolate.

The second major attack, Charyn says, came when Lincoln broke off his engagement to Mary Todd, beside whose aristocratic

majesty Lincoln felt like a rawboned yokel. Charyn doesn't buy the notion of Mary as a hellcat who only terrorized her poor husband. To the novelist, Mary is the force behind Lincoln's rise to office, a woman of brilliance and ambition who, as First Lady, is reduced, maddeningly, to the role of White House decorator.

I think he deeply loved Mary. I think he fell in love with her right away.

At forty, Charyn went through a breakup that fairly crushed him. Anguished and guilt-stricken, the novelist lay helplessly in bed for a month, in the cold clasp of the blue unholies.

Writing a novel is a literal dying. It's a kind of death. Because it occupies you in an absolute, total, visceral way. It's everything or it's nothing; there's no in-between.

(Charyn has died approximately thirty-four times. His first novel, *Once Upon a Droszky*, was published fifty years ago.)

After the talk, Charyn moves to an adjoining room and sits at a long table to sign books. A bitter night has fallen on the cottage and

on the cemetery at the foot of the hill, its stones lit bone-white under a nearly full moon. Behind Charyn, a large wooden checkerboard rests on a small stand, the pieces the size of hockey pucks.

A signature seeker opens a copy of *I Am Abraham* and asks the author about Lincoln's literary interests.

"Lincoln read the Bible, Euclid, Shakespeare, probably Bunyan," Charyn says, and scratches his name on the title page. "He knew Shakespeare's plays, saw them in Washington. *Macbeth* was his favorite. In the Spielberg movie, he quotes *Hamlet*: 'I could be bounded in a nutshell and count myself a king of infinite space, were it not that I have bad dreams.' I love *Hamlet*. It's really the source of everything for me. You take this murderer and turn him into a prince. He's a murderer! He hears a ghost, he brings down a kingdom, he's in love with his mother, he drives a girl to suicide — all out of hearing what he thinks is the voice of his father."

It appears, says the signature seeker, that the poet of the Emancipation Proclamation and the Gettysburg Address — and "The Bear Hunt" — had read the right authors: for Melville, too, with his damp Novembers, had read Shakespeare and the Bible.

"Melville may have read Shakespeare and the Bible," Charyn says. "But his language really comes from the sea."

The holy blue. Of course. The truth of it seems self-evident.

But what, then, of Lincoln? What was *his* sea?

Charyn considers.

"Lincoln's poetry was deepened by the war," he says. "His sea is the dying of the soldiers. Once the soldiers begin to die, his language deepens, and everything becomes a kind of dirge. He's in perpetual mourning." 🏰

DEFINE



INTERVENTION

With US and NATO operations in Afghanistan slowly coming to an unsettling end, and the gap between rhetoric and action in Syria as wide as ever, the Western public has had enough of foreign interventions. The first decade of the twenty-first century may appear in hindsight as a peak of international activism that is unlikely to be matched. And yet there has been no precipitous decline in UN peacekeeping, as there was in the second half of the 1990s after the disasters of Rwanda, Somalia, and Yugoslavia. The international community may doubt the effectiveness of interventions, but is nonintervention an option? To many it seems callous, and it may well be strategically unwise.

Responsibility to Protect

"We are prepared to take collective action, in a timely and decisive manner, through the Security Council . . . should peaceful means be inadequate and national authorities manifestly fail to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity."

These words, unanimously adopted at the 2005 United Nations World Summit, ring hollow today. The principle they describe, called the "responsibility to protect," or "R2P," emerged

from the failures of governments to safeguard their own populations in such places as Rwanda and Bosnia, and spelled out the responsibility of the international community to step in when sovereign governments do not. Although the UN statement is qualified by a reference to the Security Council, whose authorization conditions any use of force, the declaration's strong language gave hope that the council would feel obliged to act when the situation warranted. It has not acted. The divisions among the council's permanent members run deep, especially as an increasingly assertive Russia annexes Crimea with one hand and bolsters the Bashar al-Assad regime in Syria with the other.

But the political divisions of the international community are not the only, and maybe not even the foremost, impediment to international action. General skepticism about intervention has been growing since the end of the George W. Bush administration. The time is gone when the international community, pushed by liberal interventionists, would be ready to endorse a responsibility to protect.

These qualms have been borne out not only by the combined experience of Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya, but by a decade and a half of

In the wake of ill-fated military engagements around the globe, how should the international community approach new geopolitical crises? A SIPA professor and diplomat speaks his piece.

By Jean-Marie Guéhenno

DEFINE INTERVENTION

UN peacekeeping, which has reached unprecedented levels — there are more than one hundred thousand uniformed and civilian personnel stationed around the world. Much of the doubt stems from a simple question: do we know what we are doing? A decade ago, the Bush administration was intent on transforming the Middle East into a zone of peace and liberal democracy. This strategy now looks naive. Removing dictators, as in Iraq or Libya, is clearly not enough to ensure that a peaceful and harmonious society will emerge afterward; the most difficult phase, of course, is the one that follows an overthrow. Some countries have failed to recognize the vast regional implications of interventions: Iraq is now closer politically to Iran than to the United States, and the whole Sahel region of Africa, stretching from east to west across the northern part of the continent, has been destabilized by the flow of weapons from Libya.

Blessed Are the Peacekeepers?

The UN's record is better than that of the US, but only by a little. Some countries in which peacekeeping forces were deployed in the last twenty-five years have stabilized over time. Namibia, Mozambique, Cambodia, and El Salvador are undoubtedly in better shape than they were before the UN interventions. Nepal has made a transition from a very nasty conflict, thanks in part to the UN's mission there between 2007 and 2011, though the country remains fragile. Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Timor-Leste have made genuine, although not irreversible, progress. Even the Balkans, with the help of NATO and the European Union, have entered a more peaceful phase of their history.

But what about the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which after a decade and a half of UN engagement remains precarious, with extremely weak state structures? What about South Sudan,

Nothing is worse than creating high expectations, only to pull away when our goals prove too hard to reach. Better to commit less but stay on course.

whose creation was supported by the United Nations but is now on the brink of civil war? The state-building enterprise, which has led to increasingly ambitious and comprehensive mandates for the United Nations, has proved more complicated and costly than many had anticipated.

Acting Alone

If intervention seems desperately needed and consensus cannot be found in the Security Council, should an outside state take unilateral action? The charter of the United Nations is clear: states may use force in only two cases. First, if a state is attacked, it can respond with force, though it needs to inform the Security Council.

Second, the Security Council itself can make the decision to use force — barring a veto from one of the five permanent members. Force may not be used in any other situation.

Of course, many countries have gotten around this. They can ignore the UN, or they can enlist puppet states for help. That's what's worrying about Ukraine. So long as Russia continues to say Viktor Yanukovich is the legitimate leader of Ukraine, it has a way to use force without demonstrating the need for self-defense. The prescriptions of the UN Charter have been flouted in the past, and they will be in the future.

Should the UN establish a doctrine that to prevent mass atrocities an outside state has the right to use unilateral force? This would unravel the legal order that was built in 1945, and that is a dangerous game; no doubt the doctrine would quickly be abused. We should stick to the UN's original principles, keeping in mind that if ever another Hitler arises and no agreement can be found in the Security Council, someone will act nevertheless.

But we need to be careful. Saddam Hussein, awful as he was, was no Hitler. Bashar al-Assad isn't, either. In Syria today, there are victims on both sides, although there are obviously more victims of the regime than there are of the opposition groups.

What if the UN Charter had been respected and there had been no Iraq War? The war ended an abominable regime, but look at the condition of Iraq today. What if the UN hadn't intervened in Libya in 2011? Muammar al-Gaddafi's regime was already a spent force, and the intervention unleashed a chain of violence. In time, biology would have taken care of both Saddam Hussein and Muammar al-Gaddafi.

When to Go In

Syria's civil war has produced 2.5 million refugees and at least one hundred thousand deaths. How could this humanitarian disaster have been prevented?

Much more coordinated political pressure should have been brought to bear after the conflict began but before the demonstrators began calling for Bashar al-Assad's departure. More should have been done to convince Assad to open up, as other dictators have done. But this would have required concerted political pressure from the international community, and frustratingly, when there's no real violence, there is very little appetite for engaging at that early stage, when things can be fixed by lighter means.

Today, because so much blood has been spilled and there is deep hatred and fear on both sides, a negotiated solution is much harder to find. Assad is in a stronger position now than he was in 2012. Unless overwhelming force is used, as it was in Iraq, he won't be removed. And if overwhelming force *were* used — which it won't be, because there's no support for it — it would be a leap into the unknown.

The least bad outcome at this stage is a negotiated settlement for a decentralized Syria. Assad, though stronger than the opposition, cannot regain control over the whole country, and the opposition



UN peacekeeper
in Haiti, 2009

cannot unseat him. Even if more weapons were given to the opposition, it would just prolong the fighting and raise the stakes. No sane person, and certainly not the Russians or the Iranians, wants a complete collapse of the regime.

If the international community commits to charting a course, it has to be Syrian-informed, but not Syrian-negotiated. Lakhdar Brahimi, who is the envoy of the UN secretary-general, or his successor needs to have the full support of the Security Council to consult quietly with the parties and shape a path to de-escalation and peace. That requires agreement among Russia, the US, and the other Western powers. This approach would allow the regime and the opposition to negotiate with the Security Council, which is easier than negotiating with each other. But this assumes an improvement in relations between the US and Russia, which is not as likely as it would have been a year ago.

A Defining Moment

Over the last two decades, the US and the UN have tested different types of engagement — from the purely diplomatic, as in Syria, where we have tried to give a nudge to the situation and have so far failed, to full military involvement. In between, there has been a range of integrated UN missions, which include both a military component and a development and humanitarian component. The lighter the footprint, the less leverage you have, but the heavier the footprint, the greater the commitment and risk.

We should tailor our ambitions to the long-term commitment we know we are prepared to make. Difficult situations require persistent and lasting efforts, yet too often we over-promise and under-deliver. Nothing is worse than creating high expectations, only to pull away when our goals prove too hard to reach. Better to commit less but stay on course.

We not only have limited political will, we also have limited knowledge, and we should be honest about this. We should not aim to re-engineer societies that we do not fully understand; there is a moral hazard in attempting to fundamentally alter the future of a society we do not know, while not having to suffer the consequences if we get it wrong. It's like creating an earthquake that reshuffles and disorganizes everything.

The implication of this new pragmatism, based on a realistic assessment of our political will as well as our real capacities, would be a more focused and more limited agenda of international activism. The blunt instrument of force should not be excluded, but it should always be a last resort, because the chain reaction that it triggers will often surprise us. Limited goals, focused on ending deadly conflict and enabling distressed people to build peace on their own terms, have a better chance of gaining international legitimacy, building domestic support, and ultimately making a lasting difference for the people we want to help, and for the world we want to stabilize. If we do not want to fail, we may have to redefine what we call success. [↗](#)

NEWS

Jonathan D. Schiller poised to lead University Trustees

Jonathan D. Schiller '69CC, '73LAW, a prominent New York City attorney who has served as a University Trustee since 2009, has been elected co-chair of the board alongside William V. Campbell '62CC, '64TC, the board's chair for the past nine years. Campbell's twelve-year term as a Trustee ends in 2015, but he will be stepping down as chair this summer; Schiller will succeed him.

"This is going to be a smooth transition," says Campbell, a former Lions football coach who is the chairman and former CEO of the California-based software company Intuit. "Jonathan is enormously respected and capable in every way."

Schiller is a managing partner and cofounder of Boies, Schiller & Flexner, a firm that specializes in complex litigation and arbitration. Since its establishment in 1997, the firm has handled many high-profile, high-stakes cases. Schiller represented Napster in the music-sharing site's dispute with the Recording Industry Association of America; he was co-lead counsel for plaintiffs in a class-action suit, *In re Vitamins*, that exposed illegal price fixing by top vitamin producers around the world; and he is currently leading Barclay's defense in

twenty class actions and numerous individual lawsuits in New York related to the bank's alleged manipulation of the London Interbank Offered Rate, or LIBOR.

As exciting as his day job is, Schiller says that his work as a University Trustee is a distinct pleasure.

"I truly enjoy everything that being a Trustee entails: helping to shape University policy, providing a sounding board for President Lee Bollinger and his management team, contributing to the ideas and programs that faculty, deans, and students are developing," says Schiller, who has led the board's committee on education policy for the past two years. "It's a very interactive and collaborative process — and one that is intellectually stimulating. I can't tell you how much I look forward to our meetings."

A high-school basketball star, Schiller attended Columbia in part because he thought he'd get playing time here. He did, and to glorious result: he was a member of the 1967–68 basketball team that won the Ivy League Championship and was inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame in 2006. It was Schil-

Jed Foundation: Preventing mental illness on campus is everybody's job

College is stressful. For many students, the pressure to get good grades, plan a career, and make new friends, all while living on their own for the first time, can be too much to take. A study conducted last year by the American College Health Association found that more than half of all college students in the US had felt "overwhelming anxiety" at some point in the previous year, while one in three had felt "so depressed that it was difficult to function." One in twelve had seriously contemplated suicide.

In order to help students before they hit their breaking point, some colleges and universities — Columbia among them — have in recent years begun to train more employees to recognize signs of emotional distress. Sports coaches, librarians, dining-hall workers, financial-aid officers, professors, and clergy — just about anybody who has frequent contact with students — are now being encouraged to reach out

to young people who appear distraught and help them get the clinical services they need, such as by referring them to a campus counseling center, or, in more urgent situations, by contacting the center directly on a student's behalf.

This past winter, the Jed Foundation, a nonprofit whose mission is to prevent mental illness, substance abuse, and suicide among college students, announced a major initiative to promote this community-based approach to mental-health care on campuses. Founded in 2000 by Phillip Satow '63CC and Donna Satow '65GS in memory of their son Jed, who died by suicide as a freshman at the University of Arizona, the Jed Foundation has joined with the Clinton Foundation to create what they say is the first independent program for evaluating whether colleges and universities are doing a good job identifying and helping troubled students.

The backbone of the JedCampus program, as it's called, is a survey that college administrators can complete about their institutions' mental-health awareness



John MacPhee '89CC, '12PH, the executive director of the Jed Foundation, says that colleges and universities must train more employees to recognize signs of psychiatric distress among students.

ler's academic experience, though, that inspired a lifelong devotion to Columbia University.

"I loved this place from the first time I strolled down College Walk," says Schiller, whose three sons all attended Columbia. "I loved the architecture, the great faculty, and the wonderfully attentive students. I still remember my first Lit Hum class. I loved the energy of the place. It's still like that each time I come back."

Schiller, who also serves on the Columbia Law School dean's council, has funded a scholarship at the College and fellowships in international human-rights law at Columbia Law School. He has received the College's two highest honors for alumni: the John Jay and Alexander Hamilton awards.

"Jonathan Schiller is deeply dedicated to Columbia and brings both great personal insight about the institution and admired professional experience to this important new role," says President Lee Bollinger. "He is highly familiar with the initiatives that are essential to Columbia's future, both here in New York and around the globe, and we look forward to benefiting from his leadership,



EILEEN BARROSO

Jonathan D. Schiller '69CC, '73LAW accepts the Alexander Hamilton Medal at an awards dinner in 2012.

together with that of Bill Campbell, who, in his distinguished service on this board over the past decade, has been an extraordinary resource to this University and a close friend to me personally."

efforts. Upon submitting the survey, the administrators receive a confidential report from the Jed Foundation describing how their outreach programs compare to best practices in the field, along with recommendations for improvements. One key attribute the Jed Foundation looks for is routine communication between a university's student-health unit and other departments. A college with an especially progressive approach might, for instance, periodically send school psychiatrists into faculty meetings so that professors can easily get advice on handling worrisome situations.

"The most effective way to prevent mental illness and just about any other negative consequence of psychiatric distress is to recognize the signs of trouble early on and to reach out," says John MacPhee '89CC, '12PH, the executive director of the Jed Foundation. "The challenge is that we all lead hectic professional lives, and unless you're a student

counselor, you probably don't consider this a key part of your job. But counselors can't be everywhere on campus. Everyone needs to be invested in this effort."

The recommendations that colleges receive from the Jed Foundation are confidential. However, the foundation is publicly recognizing those institutions whose mental-health outreach it judges to be exemplary, in hopes of inspiring other schools to follow their lead. The foundation recently gave a JedCampus seal of approval to thirty US colleges and universities, based on an initial round of surveys completed last year. Columbia University was among those to receive the seal; MacPhee says Columbia's training and referral networks are "among the best-integrated we have seen."

"Our evaluation program is not punitive, in that we're not revealing the names of schools that choose to be reviewed but

don't earn the seal," says MacPhee. "On the other hand, we want the public to know which schools are doing this right. We hope that families will consider this as part of the college-selection process and that as more and more schools earn the seal, this will put a positive pressure on the leaders of other schools to improve their programming."

Richard Eichler, the director of counseling and psychological services at Columbia, says the Jed Foundation is performing a valuable service simply by raising public awareness of mental-health issues among young people.

"This is an underappreciated problem, in part because it's still discussed in hushed tones," he says. "There is less stigma surrounding mental illness now than there used to be, but we still have progress to make. The Jed Foundation is helping to normalize the conversation."

>> Visit jedfoundation.org.

In brief

From books to business

For many aspiring Mark Zuckerbergs, attending Columbia is an opportunity to cultivate connections that will benefit their fledgling businesses. Helping them along is Columbia Entrepreneurship, a new initiative out of President Lee Bollinger's office dedicated to supporting ventures run by alumni, students, and faculty.

This spring, Columbia Entrepreneurship brought to campus speakers like social-media branding expert Gary Vaynerchuk and venture capitalist Ben Horowitz '88CC, a University Trustee and author of a recent book of business advice, *The Hard Thing about Hard Things*.

At the time *Columbia Magazine* went to press, the initiative was preparing to host an all-day entrepreneurship festival on April 11 that would feature the founders of major startups like Dropbox and the Harlem Children's Zone, as well as a \$50,000 business-plan competition. Columbia Entrepreneurship has also announced the establishment of the Columbia Startup Lab, a coworking space that will open in SoHo this summer. The 5,100-square-foot facility will house seventy-one recent graduates.

>> Visit entrepreneurship.columbia.edu.

Big year for men's hoops

The men's basketball team had one of the best seasons in its history this school year, finishing with a 21–13 record and a spot in the CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament, which marked the Lions' first postseason appearance since 1968.

Led by junior forward Alex Rosenberg, who averaged 16 points per game and was named first-team All-Ivy League, and sophomore guard Maodo Lo, who averaged 14.7 points and made second-team All-Ivy League, the Lions progressed to the quarterfinals in the CollegeInsider tournament, finally succumbing to Yale 72–69 on March 26.

"We were all excited to play in the postseason, so there was no feeling of, 'Ah, the

season's stretching,'" Lo told the *Columbia Daily Spectator* after the Yale game. "We had an exciting win in the first round of the tournament, and then we had a solid win against Eastern Michigan, so it was a great feeling and a great atmosphere within the team."

Ayala takes helm at Double Discovery

Joseph Ayala '94CC has been named executive director of the Double Discovery Center, a Columbia College program that provides academic support and counseling to low-income college-bound teens and young adults in New York City.

Ayala, who grew up in the Bronx, has twenty years of experience teaching and counseling underserved youth, dating back to his time as a Columbia College student, when he coordinated childcare for the Harlem Restoration Project.

What does it mean to age?

Columbia recently established an interdisciplinary research center for studying the aging process and the implications for society of aging populations.

The Robert N. Butler Columbia Aging Center, which is based at the Mailman School of Public Health, is expected to involve faculty and students from across the University. It is named for the late founding director of the National Institute on Aging — a physician, gerontologist, psychiatrist, and Pulitzer Prize-winning author who graduated from Columbia College and the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

The center's inaugural director is Ursula M. Staudinger, who previously served as founding dean of the Jacobs Center on Lifelong Learning and Institutional Development at Jacobs University in Bremen, Germany.

Pulitzer administrator to retire

Sig Gissler, who has administered the Pulitzer Prizes at Columbia's journalism school since 2002, has announced that he will retire from that position this summer.

Gissler, who is seventy-eight, edited the *Milwaukee Journal* before joining Columbia as a journalism professor in 1994. He is credited with moving the Pulitzers into the digital age, opening the competition to online-only news organizations and encouraging video entries.

The Pulitzer Prize Board has formed a committee to find Gissler's successor.

Ten top teachers

The University recently presented ten Arts and Sciences professors with Distinguished Columbia Faculty Awards, which honor excellence in teaching. The awards include stipends of \$25,000 per year for three years; they are funded by Trustee emeritus Gerry Lenfest '58LAW, '09HON.

The recipients are historian Elizabeth Blackmar, political scientist Virginia Page Fortna, Romantic and Victorian poetry expert Erik Gray, earth scientist Peter Kelemen, archaeologist Ioannis Mylonopoulos, historian Christine Philiou, psychologist Valerie Purdie-Vaughns, French-philosophy scholar Joanna Stalnaker, biochemist Brent Stockwell, and neuroscientist Rafael Yuste.

>> Visit news.columbia.edu/oncampus/3381.

Zuckerman Institute gets its first executive director

The Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute, the interdisciplinary neuroscience initiative to be housed in the nine-story Jerome L. Greene Science Center now being constructed in Manhattanville, has named David M. Greenberg as its first executive director.

Greenberg, formerly vice president and chief administrative officer of finance and administration at Columbia Facilities, has worked at the University since 2006.

He will now manage the Zuckerman Institute's administrative infrastructure, working closely with Richard Axel, Thomas Jessell, Eric Kandel, and Charles Zuker, the neuroscientists who are developing the institute's scientific mission.

A big scoop, and then a chill

To many journalists, Edward Snowden's bombshell revelations last year about the National Security Agency's surveillance activities carried troubling implications for their own work. Now knowing that the US government routinely collects data about its citizens' e-mails and phone calls, won't government employees be less likely to disclose newsworthy secrets, for fear that their private communications with reporters will be picked up in a dragnet?

That question framed a conversation among prominent journalists and lawyers at Columbia's journalism school on January 30. The panel, hosted by the school's Tow Center for Digital Journalism and moderated by center director Emily Bell, was part of a yearlong series of programs organized by the Tow Center under the title Journalism after Snowden, which will feature additional public events as well as original research projects.

One of the panelists, Jill Abramson, the executive editor of the *New York Times*, said that Snowden's revelations about NSA spying, together with the US government's recent aggressiveness in pursuing criminal charges against leakers, has created "a real freeze" in the relationships between government sources and journalists.

David Schulz, an outside counsel for the *Guardian*, said the government's surveillance capabilities are now so advanced that



EILEEN BARROSO

Emily Bell, the director of the Tow Center for Digital Journalism, at left, moderates a discussion between Guardian US editor in chief Janine Gibson, *New York Times* executive editor Jill Abramson, *Guardian* outside counsel David Schulz, and Harvard law professor Cass Sunstein.

whistleblowers can no longer expect to remain anonymous. "There's an ability to find out who gave out any information," he said. "And we should all be very concerned about that. If we don't have a mechanism that allows for whistleblowers, our whole society is going to suffer."

>> Visit towcenter.org/journalism-after-snowden.



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NEWSMAKERS

Fortune Calls

Fortune magazine included **Ursula Burns** '82SEAS and **Nancy McKinstry** '84BUS on its annual list of the 50 Most Powerful Women in Business. Burns is the chairman



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Ursula Burns '82SEAS

and CEO of Xerox, where she has spent her entire career. McKinstry is the chairman and CEO of the Dutch publisher and information-services company Wolters Kluwer.

Arts and Sciences and Letters

Thomas Jessell, a professor of neuroscience, biochemistry, and molecular biophysics at Columbia, won the 2014 Vilcek Foundation Prize in Biomedical Science. The \$100,000 award honors immigrant contributions to American arts and sciences. The British-born Jessell, who is codirector of Columbia's Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute, was selected for his work with the vertebrate central nervous system . . . Maison Française director **Shanny Peer** was awarded the Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters by the French government in recognition of her commitment to intellectual and cultural exchange between France and the United States . . . Theater producer

Marla Rubin '85CC won a South Bank Sky Arts Award, which recognizes British cultural achievement, for her London stage production of *Let the Right One In*.

City Hall Bound

New York City mayor **Bill de Blasio** '87SIPA appointed fellow Columbians to posts in his administration. **Mary Bassett** '79PS, a professor at the Mailman School of Public Health, will serve as the commissioner of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Bassett previously served as New York's deputy commissioner of health promotion and disease prevention. **Alicia Glen** '93LAW was appointed deputy mayor for housing and economic development. Glen has been the head of the urban investment group at Goldman Sachs for twelve years.

Freeze-Frame

Two Columbians took home Oscars this year, and two others were nominated for them. **Jennifer Lee** '05SOA won in the best animated feature category for *Frozen*, which she cowrote and directed, and **Dede Gardner** '90CC was honored for co-producing *12 Years a Slave*, which was named best picture. Producer **Albert Berger** '83SOA was nominated



Jennifer Lee '05SOA

for *Nebraska*, a contender for best picture, and **Judy Becker** '82GSAS was nominated for production design on *American Hustle*.

Big Data

Applied-mathematics professor **Chris Wiggins** '93CC was named chief data scientist for the *New York Times*. Wiggins,



Chris Wiggins '93CC

who is a founding member of Columbia's Center for Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, will help the newspaper analyze user data generated by its website . . . **Robert Wolven**, the associate university librarian for bibliographic services and collection development, won the 2014 Melvil Dewey Medal, given to one person annually for excellence in library and information sciences. Wolven was recognized for his work with digital content, such as making e-books more accessible to public-library users.

Clerks

Three Columbia Law alums were awarded US Supreme Court clerkships. **Jennifer B. Sokoler** '10LAW will clerk for Justice Sonia Sotomayor, **Mark Musico** '11LAW for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg '59LAW, and **James W. Crooks** '13LAW for Justice Anthony Kennedy.

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EXPLORATIONS



REUTERS / MOHAMED NURELDIN ABDALLAH

Dust storms like this one in Sudan appear to be making people vulnerable to meningitis.

Dusty air contributing to disease in Africa

Among the hardships wrought by the dry season in sub-Saharan Africa, which lasts from November to May, are outbreaks of bacterial meningitis. In a bad year, this disease, which attacks the thin lining of the brain and spinal cord, can affect tens of thousands of people in a semiarid section of Africa that covers large parts of Sudan, Chad, Niger, Nigeria, and Mali.

Until now, scientists weren't sure why the disease is seasonal. Columbia climate scientists led by Carlos Pérez García-Pando

say they've found an answer. By studying twenty years' worth of climate data and health records in Niger, they have concluded that a good predictor of meningitis rates is the amount of dust kicked up by winds.

The scientists suspect that people who breathe in lots of dust are vulnerable to meningitis because they have tiny abrasions in their throats. They say that African officials ought to adjust where they distribute vaccines each year, based partly on wind conditions, so that they can respond faster to outbreaks.

Spotting strokes

Here's a video game that parents will want their kids to play: *Stroke Hero*, which teaches children to recognize when an adult is having a stroke and to summon help.

Stroke Hero was developed by Olajide Williams '04PH, a neurologist at Columbia University Medical Center and the founding president of Hip Hop Public Health, a nonprofit that uses music, videos, and games to promote healthful living.

Williams collaborated with rapper Artie Green to create *Stroke Hero*, in which

players learn to spot signs of trouble, such as slurred speech or temporary blindness — and then race to find help.

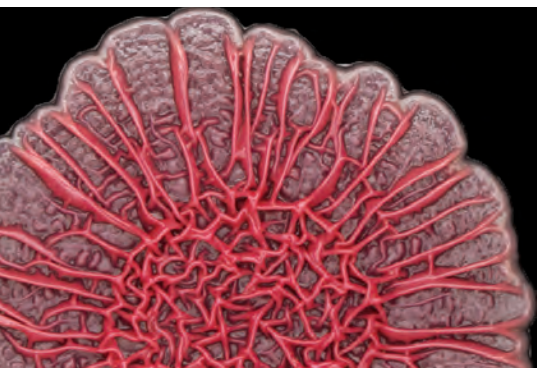
"Empowering every potential witness with the knowledge and skills to make that lifesaving decision if they witness a stroke is critical," says Williams, who points out that his game is especially appropriate for children being raised by grandparents.

Stroke Hero is available for anyone to play in the games section of the website hiphoppublichealth.org.



COURTESY OF HIP HOP PUBLIC HEALTH

Olajide Williams '04PH



HASSAN SAKHTAH

Columbia researchers have learned to monitor communications between bacterial cells, shown here in ribbon-like colonies.

Psst, bacteria: we can hear you!

Using a novel combination of biology and electronics, Columbia researchers led by engineer Kenneth Shepard have developed a new way to monitor how bacterial cells communicate with one another. The breakthrough, published in the February issue of *Nature Communications*, replaces microscopes with electronic circuits similar to those found in computers and smartphones. These circuits, when placed beneath a film covered in bacterial cells, can detect the electrochemical signals the cells transmit to their neighbors.

The Columbia researchers say their technique could yield insights about how to disrupt the growth of bacterial colonies. "Usually, when you think about bacteria, you think about them as single cells, but they often come together in very intricate communities called biofilms," says Lars Dietrich, an associate professor of biological sciences who is one of the paper's authors. "These biofilms are difficult to destroy and can lead to antibiotic-resistant infections. That's a huge problem we want to fight."

REVIEWS



COURTESY OF ARTIS HENDERSON

Artis Henderson and her husband, Miles, on the day he was deployed to Iraq in 2006.

Spiral Life // By *Rebecca Shapiro*

Unremarried Widow

By Artis Henderson (Simon & Schuster, 256 pages, \$25)

Artis Henderson '10JRN was twenty-six years old and had been a wife for just four months when suddenly, she wasn't anymore. From that point forward — the point at which her husband, Miles, was killed in a helicopter crash in Iraq — she was, in the words of the United States Army, an unremarried widow.

The phrase is cold and sterile, reducing Henderson's devastation to a box to be checked on the endless forms that came in and out of her new life. But there is a sort of poetry behind it, too. With efficiency, it outlines the paradox of young widowhood: the unthinkable notion that the lost spouse could be replaced, and the simultaneous hope for a future even without him.

Henderson's memoir, which borrows the Army's phrase as its title, began as a *New York Times* "Modern Love" column, a fea-

ture that has given rise to several memoirs of grief, particularly from war widows. But Henderson's story had a bizarre hook. When she was a little girl, she was flying with her father, a pilot, when the engine malfunctioned, sending the plane nose first into the trees behind their Georgia home. It took six weeks to repair Henderson's spine, leaving a scar running down the middle of her back. Her father never made it out of the plane.

"The aborigines say we live a spiral life, that our narratives curl around like smoke," Henderson writes, "the events of one moment rhyming with the events of previous moments so that in a single lifetime we live the same story many times." The parallels between her father's and her husband's deaths are haunting, but Henderson doesn't dwell on them, a move that saves her story from feeling

maudlin. Rather, she says, her father's death gave her a "road map for this grief" in the form of her mother, "who never remarried. Who was permanently, unpardonably alone. Who I had tried my entire life not to become and whose fate, despite my best efforts, I now shared."

Being alone, oddly, was not something that Henderson ever feared; she just wanted it to be by choice, by virtue of independence, rather than being abandoned by a man, even faultlessly in death. Before Miles, Henderson was the Penn student who "handed out condoms on the walk, and . . . encouraged young women to dictate the terms of their lives." Yearning to write and to live abroad, she joined a teaching program in Paris, until homesickness brought her back to Florida, where she was raised, and where she found Miles.

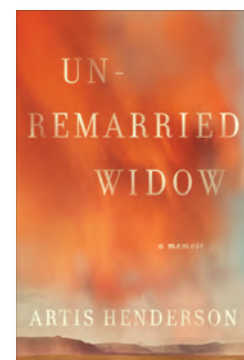
Initially, Miles was everything she thought she didn't want. He was a conservative Christian Republican, and she was a liberal Democrat. She vehemently opposed the war in Iraq, while his face lit up at the sight of an Apache helicopter. She still had a bank account open and waiting for her in France; he had several years of Army bases and deployments ahead of him. But cooking eggs with him the morning after their first date felt right in an inexplicable way: "It looked nothing like the life I had imagined and yet it was the most natural thing in the world, with Miles there at the center of it."

Before his deployment, Miles was stationed at a series of Army bases in dusty, depressing American towns, and Henderson followed him, sidelining her own career prospects in favor of dead-end jobs. She's honest and unsparing in describing the difficulties of this kind of life: her loneliness, her desire to settle somewhere more permanently, her frustration at her lack of professional options. She's also unapologetic about the choice, one that countless women have made and few write candidly about. When talking to a colleague about how a Wharton grad ended up a teacher's aide at a tiny Texas elementary

school, she thinks, "How could I tell him that Miles was what I had been looking for my entire life? That even in that shitty job in that god-awful town, I still considered myself a lucky, lucky girl?"

Then came the day that Henderson had dreaded since she met Miles. "Women would tell me later that they knew. *Just knew*," she says. Her foreboding came when she dented her new car in the grocery-store parking lot, and drove home angry, "the seed of unease stuck like a stone in the back of my throat." She chronicles the following days with remarkable detail — the private moments she stole during the funeral, retreating to the bathroom to whisper, "I miss you . . . I miss you so much"; the wire-rimmed glasses that her casualty-assistance officer said made him look smarter, having the audacity to seek a polite smile in her blank face; the relentless slogging through military bureaucracy it took to find out exactly what had happened to her husband.

Eventually, Henderson resumed the life that she'd planned before meeting Miles. She got a job as a newspaper columnist, earned a master's in journalism from Columbia, spent time living and writing in West Africa and the South of France. In many ways, there was more in her life then that made her happy than there had been when Miles was alive. But, of course, it wasn't an even exchange. Early in her widowhood, Henderson decided that she would consider herself healed "when I would not trade everything in my current life to have Miles back. Every new moment, every new experience, every new love." That, she eventually realized, was an "impossible bargain."



The Savior // By Caroline Moorehead

Père Marie-Benoît and Jewish Rescue

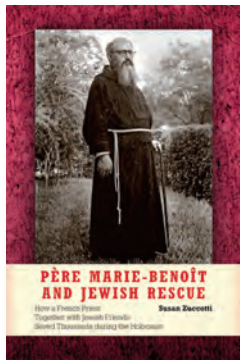
By Susan Zuccotti (Indiana University Press, 296 pages, \$35)

Père Marie-Benoît — or Padre Benedetto, as he was known in Italy — was a big, untidy man with a sprawling beard and the brown cassock and sandals of his Capuchin order. He was wry and humorous and greatly loved by his friends. More than that, he was brave and imaginative, and spent the years of the Second World War in France and Italy leading and taking part in the rescue operations of Jews from the

Nazis. With *Père Marie-Benoît and Jewish Rescue*, Susan Zuccotti '79GSAS, who has written several distinguished works on the Holocaust in both countries, returns to the archives to dig out a mass of fascinating material on a man who has been neglected by historians.

Born in 1895 as Pierre Péteul to a modest family in a village near Angers in western France, Père Marie-Benoît was moved

as a boy by the tales of the harsh treatment of the Catholics during the French Revolution, and by the emphasis on poverty and austerity he observed in the Capuchins. The order provided him with an education that he would not likely have received otherwise, and after he served as a volunteer stretcher bearer in the First World War, they sent him to Rome in 1922 to earn a doctorate at the Gregorian University. Mussolini and the Fascists were gaining power, and the streets rang to the sounds of marching *squadristi*. For the next eighteen years, he stayed on to teach young priests. When Italy declared war on France, in June 1940, he moved to Marseille, but not before witnessing the publication of the *Manifesto of Racial Scientists* and hearing Mussolini declare that Jews did not belong to the Italian race. Père Marie-Benoît did not see it that way. For him, these were shocking words.



The southern coast of France remained a place of relative safety for Jews even after the Germans moved south into most of what had been the nonoccupied zone in November 1942 and the Italians occupied ten French departments and the

cities of Nice, Cannes, Valence, Grenoble, and Vienne. The Italians, unlike the Vichy French, did not choose to turn over their Jewish citizens and refugees to the Nazis. Officials sent from Rome to expedite deportations dragged their feet. Even so, the Jews needed hiding places and false documents, and Père Marie-Benoît set about providing them.

He was fortunate in meeting two other remarkable figures, a Russian businessman and lawyer, Joseph Bass, known to his friends as “l’hippopotame” on account of his girth, and an Italian banker and diplomat, Angelo Donati. (Whether he met and worked with the third determined saver of the Jews in the south, the Syrian writer Moussa Abadi, who had set up a similar rescue operation in Nice, Zuccotti does not say.) Between them and their helpers, the three men worked feverishly and successfully, at least until Mussolini fell at the end of July 1943. General Eisenhower had agreed to wait a few days before announcing the new Italian prime minister Pietro Badoglio’s unconditional surrender; when Ike jumped the gun, German troops poured south before there was time to make plans to get the Jews over the border into Italy. Not least of the many fascinating parts of Zuccotti’s book are her detailed descriptions of Donati’s negotiations with the Allies and the Italian government. Donati, she writes, wore many hats, as a banker, community leader, philanthropist, and man about town.

By September 1943, Père Marie-Benoît was back in Rome, joining forces with DELASEM, the Delegazione per l’Assistenza degli Emigranti Ebrei, a similar Jewish rescue operation. From then

until the summer of 1944, he was constantly on the move, transferring Jews from one safe house to another, delivering medicine and money and false documents. May 1944 was a lethal month: two French deserters betrayed the rescue operation to the Germans, and the Jews subsequently rounded up were on some of the last trains to Auschwitz.

Zuccotti is evenhanded — some might say generous — about the conduct of Pope Pius XII, whose attitude toward the Jews in Italy was at best ambivalent and whose public statements seldom touched on anything more specific than the need to “show compassion” toward victims of war. She was able to meet Père Marie-Benoît in 1988, and made contact with his surviving friends. In archives across Italy and France, she unearthed much information about the deals and subterfuges brokered by Père Marie-Benoît and DELASEM in their negotiations with the Vatican and the various foreign ambassadors residing within its walls, and about the gestures, for both good and ill, made by individual prelates. It is seldom an edifying story.

Père Marie-Benoît was ninety-four when he died, back in Angers, in a Capuchin home for the elderly. Much honored by the French, the Italians, and the Americans, and named a Righteous among the Nations by Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, he never

Père Marie-Benoît with Rachel Fallmann Schutz, whose life he had saved, during a visit to Israel in 1958.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RACHEL FALLMANN SCHUTZ

rose to the positions or jobs he may have wanted, and it was said that his lifelong attachment to the cause of friendship between Jews and Christians did not endear him to the Vatican or to his superiors. Zuccotti's fine book about this modest man, who may, together with his friends, have been responsible for saving some 2,500 people from the Nazis and deportation, shows how much

could have been done, had there been the political will and the courage to do it.

Caroline Moorehead is a biographer and human-rights journalist. Village of Secrets: Defying the Nazis in Vichy France, the sequel to her book A Train in Winter, will be published this autumn.

No Same River // By Eric McHenry

Into Daylight: Poems

By Jeffrey Harrison (Tupelo Press, 77 pages, \$16.95)

In 1914, when the English journalist Edward Thomas confessed to his American friend Robert Frost that he wanted to write poetry, Frost informed him that he was already doing so. "Right at that moment he was writing as good a poetry as anybody alive," Frost would recall, "but in prose form where it didn't [*sic*] declare itself and gain him recognition." Frost suggested that Thomas take the rich descriptive sentences in his book *In Pursuit of Spring* and recast them in verse lines of "exactly the same cadence." Thomas obliged, and in the three years before his death in World War I created poems of surpassing, and surpassingly quiet, beauty. Here's his memory of a midsummer whistle stop in a Cotswold village:

The steam hissed. Someone cleared his throat.
No one left and no one came
On the bare platform. What I saw
Was Adlestrop — only the name

And willows, willow-herb, and grass,
And meadowsweet, and haycocks dry,
No whit less still and lonely fair
Than the high cloudlets in the sky.

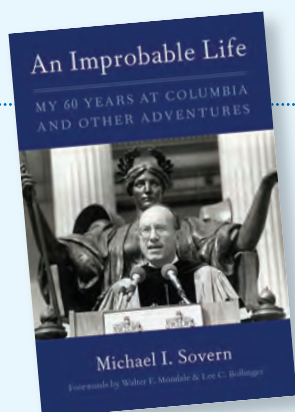
And for that minute a blackbird sang
Close by, and round him, mistier,
Farther and farther, all the birds
Of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire.

An homage to Edward Thomas appears about three-quarters of the way through *Into Daylight*, Jeffrey Harrison's new book of poems, by which point it seems almost inevitable. Harrison '80CC is a poet in enthusiastic pursuit of Thomas's project — turning to the natural world for restoration and insight, and sharing his findings in an elegant plain style so understated it could be mistaken

for no style at all. The conversational opening lines of "Vision" seem almost indifferent to their identity as lines; they sound more like a letter to a friend:

I just got back from the eye doctor, who told me
I need bifocals. She put those drops in my eyes
that dilate the pupils, so everything has
that vaseline-on-the-lens glow around it,
and the page I'm writing on is blurred
and blinding, even with these sunglasses.
I'm waiting for the "reversing drops" to kick in
(sounds like something from *Alice in Wonderland*),
but meanwhile I like the way our golden retriever
looks more golden than ever, the way the black-eyed
Susans seem to break out of their contours, dilating
into some semi-visionary version of themselves,
and even the mail truck emanates a white light
as if it might be delivering news so good
I can't even imagine it.

There's a lot to notice, or fail to notice, here: the loose blank verse; the way the black-eyed Susans dilate to match the speaker's eyes; the way the passage itself dilates, each sentence almost exactly twice the length of the one before it; the way the poem's apparent spontaneity and immediacy are made possible by a series of carefully considered phrases — "the page I'm writing on," "these sunglasses," "I'm waiting"; the way the dog changes when the word "golden" is repeated, from a mere example of its breed to something almost beatific; the way "the way" is repeated, too — an anaphor that nudges the writing from conversation toward incantation; the way all of this bespeaks a poem shifting by degrees from the prosaic to the lyrical without really seeming to change, as a seagull on the sidewalk becomes a seagull in flight.



BOOKTALK

Highs in Low

The book: *An Improbable Life: My 60 Years at Columbia and Other Adventures* (Columbia University Press)

The author: Michael I. Sovern '53CC, '55LAW, Chancellor Kent Professor of Law and University president emeritus

Columbia Magazine: You open your memoir with the events of 1968, a year you call “wonderfully satisfying for me.” Not many Columbians would say that about '68.

Michael Sovern: The events of 1968 tested us, and I learned a lot about myself. I was leading a great life as a law professor, really enjoying my teaching and my scholarship. Along came the disruption, and by a series of accidents, I found myself the chairman of the executive committee of the faculty. That's one of the many reasons I call my book *An Improbable Life*. So many Columbia luminaries became my friends in the course of that year, and we were able to help restore the fabric of the University.

CM: Following the police bust that ended the demonstrations, you argued eloquently and forcefully against a faculty strike. What would have been the consequences of a strike?

MS: Oh, it would have been so divisive. As it was, '68 left segments of the faculty riven. Some good people left, and some who stayed, especially those who did not have tenure, might well have been the victims of the animosity that developed during that period had there been a strike. A strike wouldn't have made a whole lot of difference to the last few weeks of that academic year. The College was virtually in suspension at that point. My concern was not about the functioning of the University at that period, but the residual pain that would have continued. It would have taken us even longer than it did to recover.

CM: You were the driving force behind the formation of the University Senate. Is gov-

ernance of the University as big a concern today as it was forty-five years ago?

MS: Probably not, in large part because Columbia's governance, including the Senate, is sound. It's always been the case, particularly with undergraduates, that most students are concerned only with their own lives, not the life of the institution. It's also true with many of the faculty, at least in the absence of a crisis. It's an old story: faculty tend to have their allegiances to their disciplines, rather than to the larger institution of which they're a part. It's not universally true; there are some wonderful citizens of this place. But it's not surprising that governance is not a big concern.

CM: You assumed the presidency in 1980, shortly after a commission headed by Steven Marcus, who was then Delacorte Professor in the Humanities, recommended a policy of “selective excellence” for the University. To what extent did that inform your actions in Low Library?

MS: To a significant degree. Columbia was very nearly broke, so we had to make choices or suffer across the board. I suppose the ultimate demonstration of this was when we closed the School of Library Service in 1992. That was hard to do, most importantly because it was a place with a great history, and we got enormous pressure from librarians and alumni. But the dispositive factor for me was that nobody else in the University said, “We need this school.”

I had some involvement in the original Marcus Commission report. As would happen with a report led by an English professor, it had some wonderful flourishes, but several assessments of arts and sciences departments were very damag-

ing. I sat down and went over with Steve Marcus the areas where I thought he could make the substantive point without harmful rhetoric. He and I were friends anyway, and happily we did change some things that softened the blow. I was concerned about press coverage that would have grabbed those wonderful phrases and made us look as though we were really devastated.

CM: Did you leave Low Library in 1993 with any loose ends or thoughts about what you wish you had done differently?

MS: The phrase I use in the book is, “I left enough work for my successor.” I was never satisfied with the degree to which faculty worked across disciplinary lines. I think Lee Bollinger has done a lot better at that than I did. I was not satisfied with the degree of success in our moves toward diversity. Any university president who retires saying, “I accomplished what I set out to accomplish,” had an insufficiency of goals.

CM: What advice did you give your successors, George Rupp and Lee Bollinger?

MS: Not as much as you'd think. Once a person leaves office, he's out of the loop. The president is busy as hell, so unless it's something really important, or an instance where his predecessor has special knowledge, he doesn't bother to ask.

Fundraising is an exception to that. While in office, a university president forms close ties with major donors. Those don't vanish when he leaves office. And so I could be, and have been, helpful in supporting efforts to keep donors engaged with the University.

— Thomas Vinciguerra '85CC, '86JRN, '90GSAS

Harrison has been doing this for three decades now. *Into Daylight*, his sixth collection, finds him taking stock at midlife — trying to emerge from a long personal darkness that followed his brother's suicide, to transcend pettiness and disappointment, and to find steadying consolation in love, memory, and art. He likes to build his poems around single, slow-developing conceits and to tease big implications out of small domestic incidents. In "The Day You Looked Upon Me as a Stranger," Harrison's wife spots him at a distance in the airport, doesn't immediately recognize him, and admires his appearance:

I wondered if you had pictured him
as someone more intriguing than I could be
after decades of marriage, all my foibles known . . .

did you imagine a whole life with him?
and were you disappointed, or glad, to find
it was only the life you already had?

More than anything, Harrison likes to write clearly and directly — or, rather, with apparent clarity and directness. He strips the lyric voice of flourish and ornament and allows it to simply speak, which is not the same thing as speaking simply.

Yes, yes, you can't step into the same
river twice, but all the same, this river
is one of the things that has changed
least in my life, and stepping into it
always feels like returning to something
far back and familiar, its steady current
of coppery water flowing around my calves . . .

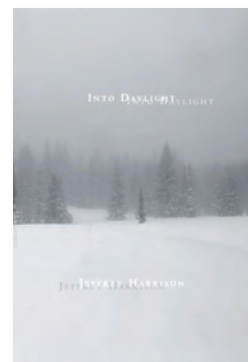
Occasionally he chases artlessness with such determination that he catches it, failing for a few lines to distinguish between the pleasingly idiomatic and the merely trite: "all the petty injustices that have gone on / since ancient times and are bound to continue / for centuries to come." And his campaign against grandiosity can at times lead to a

reflexive self-effacement that only further foregrounds the self. When, with clever enjambment, he describes his vocation as "sitting at the kitchen table doing what / any respectable carpenter would call / nothing," he's being funny, undeniably, but he's also doing what any respectable reader would call caricaturing carpenters.

Far more often, though, his common diction and uncommon intellect reconcile in a poem of exquisite lucidity. Harrison has a nose for nouns like "Vision," whose multiple meanings include both the sublime and the ordinary, suggesting the presence of the sublime in the ordinary. A poem called "Renewal" takes place at the DMV and contains the lines, "But when I paused to look around, using my numbered / ticket as a bookmark, it was as if the dim / fluorescent light had been transformed / to incandescence." Then there's "Temple," a tiny love lyric:

Not a place of worship exactly
but one I like to go back to
and where, you could say, I take
sanctuary: this smooth area
above the ear and around the corner
from your forehead, where your hair
is as silky as milkweed.
The way to feel its featheriness best
is with the lips. Though you
are going gray, right there
your hair is as soft as a girl's,
the two of us briefly young again
when I kiss your temple.

This is a book full of quiet triumphs, a daylight you can step into repeatedly but not twice.



The Weight of the Past // By Jennie Yabroff

Little Failure

By Gary Shteyngart (Random House, 369 pages, \$27)

In postwar Leningrad, a young Jewish girl walks with her father to the post office, carting twenty cans of sweetened condensed milk to send to her uncle, Aaron. What the girl doesn't know is

that Uncle Aaron is in a Siberian work camp, serving ten years' hard labor for the crime of writing "counterrevolutionary" poetry while a member of the Red Army. Or that he joined the Red Army

after fleeing his home in the village of Dubrovno at the age of sixteen when the Germans invaded, or that Aaron's parents had instructed him to run and hide in the forest, while they stayed behind with his wheelchair-bound sister, rather than letting her die alone. Or that before he fled, Aaron watched the Germans shoot his parents and sister in the courtyard of their home while he hid in the attic, clutching a piece of wood until his fingers went numb.

Uncle Aaron's niece can't know that the cans of condensed milk her father is sending to his brother-in-law serve as currency in the labor camps; that they can be exchanged to prevent rape, or torture. All she knows is that she is allowed one measly tablespoon of the treat before bedtime, while her uncle surely must drink it in great gulps. Lucky Uncle Aaron! This, Gary Shteyngart writes in his memoir *Little Failure*, is his mother's first memory.

The anecdote is heartbreakingly apt for a book about how difficult it can be for children to comprehend the hardships endured by past generations, especially when families are separated by war or relocation, and the sacrifices made to improve their lives. Rather, the gaps in information, lack of context, omissions, and obfuscations often breed resentment and guilt, so that it is easier to imagine a selfish, condensed milk-glutted ancestor than to fathom the horror of your family's actual history.

"As I march my relatives onto the pages of this book, please remember that I am also marching them towards their graves and that they will most likely meet their ends in some of the worst ways imaginable," Shteyngart, a professor at the School of the Arts, writes. Compared to their forebears, Shteyngart's parents had it easy. By the time Shteyngart's mother and father bring little Gary (born Igor) back from the hospital, they own an apartment in the center of Leningrad and enjoy relative prosperity. More important, they are lucky (truly lucky, unlike Uncle Aaron) in that they receive visas to emigrate as part of Brezhnev's plan to increase Jewish emigration in exchange for Soviet interests. As Shteyngart says, "Russia gets all the grain it needs to run; America gets all the Jews it needs to run: all in all, an excellent trade deal." When Shteyngart is seven, the family moves to Queens, and Igor becomes Gary and begins a decades-long, systematic program of undoing all the hard work of all the Shteyngarts who came before him: in other words, becoming a spoiled American brat.

In his best-selling novels *The Russian Debutante's Handbook*, *Absurdistan*, and *Super Sad True Love Story*, Shteyngart has satirized the feckless, callow, willfully underachieving "beta immigrant," whose refusal to apply his parents' "alpha" work ethic make him far more Americanized than his parents could ever hope

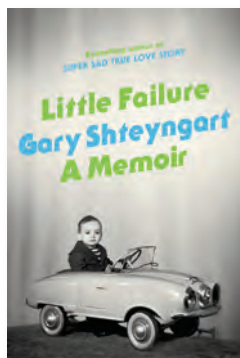
to be. In life, the writer's "deeply conservative" parents dream of their son becoming a lawyer ("what kind of profession is this, a writer?" his mother asks when he informs her of his career plans), but he thwarts their Ivy League American dreams in high school, where his own American dream is to shed every trace of his Russianness and become indistinguishable from his classmates. In 1987, this translates into Generra Hypercolor T-shirts, and California-cool outfits by Union Bay and OP: "When we walk out of Macy's with two tightly packed bags under each arm, I feel my mother's sacrifice far more than when she talks about what she's left behind in Russia . . . The fact that my mother just visited my dying grandmother Galya in Leningrad . . . while the rest of her family, cold and hungry, waited in line for hours to score a desiccated, inedible eggplant, means much too little to me." He soon discovers he is a terrible student and falls in with the stoner crowd, taking courses like metaphysics, where he will demonstrate tantric sex as an excuse to touch foreheads with a cute girl.

After high school, Shteyngart goes to Oberlin College, where he further disappoints his parents by studying Marxist politics and creative writing. Graduation brings misadventures in love and underemployment in Manhattan, while in Queens, the elder Shteyngarts remain defiantly unassimilated, unknowingly providing fodder for the novel their son spends the better part of a decade writing and revising. When the book is published, his father telephones to call him a *mudak* ("perhaps closest to the American 'dickhead'"), while his mother howls in the background. But Gary, now in four-days-a-week psychotherapy, insists to himself, "I am not a bad son."

Or is he? In *Little Failure*, Shteyngart portrays this as the essential dilemma of the immigrant child — if you fulfill your parents' greatest wishes for you, if you become surfer-chic-clad Gary, not Russian-fur-hatted Igor, you can't help but break their hearts. In giving meaning to the pain and suffering of your ancestors by living a better life, you exist in such security and ease that you can't conceive of any reason your uncle would want cases of condensed milk aside from as an after-dinner treat.

This is the challenge of the memoir by the immigrant child: the writer's American suffering (I didn't get asked to the prom) pales so much next to his relatives' Old World suffering (I watched my parents and sister get shot in our courtyard) that it can seem insignificant. The success of *Little Failure* is Shteyngart's scrupulous examination of the chasm between his parents' experiences and his own, and his hard-won understanding of the way his family's murky, bloody, half-understood history informs his present. "I am small, and my father is big," he writes. "But the Past — it is the biggest."

Jennie Yabroff '06SOA is a writer and editor living in New York City. Her writing has appeared in Newsweek, the New York Times, Salon, and Elle Decor.



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Vacation Rentals

DEERFIELD BEACH, FL: Lakefront, 2-bedroom, 2-bath furnished villa, fenced tropical backyard, near I-95, beach. Weekly/monthly. Contact: ABinNY@aol.com, 914-722-2757.

IRELAND: Contemporary, isolated country house on the Kilkenny-Carlow border in SE Ireland. Spacious and sleeps 8 comfortably. Panoramic views of mountains and the Kilkenny plain. www.mountcoggill.com.

LAKE GEORGE, NY: 4-bedroom air-conditioned home — quiet, iconic, private Rogers Rock Club — 1 1/4 mile shoreline, deepwater docks, beach, very good fishing, and clay tennis courts. Contact: dac64@post.harvard.edu, 518-312-0953.

LONG ISLAND, NY: North Fork, Peconic Bay Victorian. Four bedrooms, two baths. 60' lap pool, fenced-in yard, gardens, one block from sandy beach. July 15–August 15 or August 1–Labor Day. \$15K. 917-714-7639.

NANTUCKET: Waterfront cottage. Kayak, watch birds and sunsets. For photos and rates <http://www.flipkey.com/nantucket-cottage-rentals/p504723/> or 203-966-5140.

PARIS, MARAIS: Luxury rental in center of Paris. Close proximity to Picasso Museum, Centre Pompidou, and other historical sites, as well as gourmet shops of rue de Bretagne. See owner's website at www.parischapon.com.

PARIS, SAINT-GERMAIN-DES-PRÉS: Lovely studio apartment on rue Jacob: 212-463-8760; www.lefanion.com/paris.html.

PARIS, 7th: Fifth floor, quiet, 45 sqm studio. View Eiffel Tower. www.parisgrenelle.com. 207-752-0285.

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FL: Luxurious Atlantic Ocean beachfront home: 6 bedrooms; convertible den; 8 baths. Ideal for family gatherings and golf getaways. 100 holes of golf within 3 miles, including TPC. Ten-minute drive to Mayo Clinic. Columbia discount. 404-786-4080; pvbeachrental@gmail.com: VRBO#413518.

ROME: Spacious, stylish, renovated apartment. Living room, 2 generous double bedrooms, 2 baths, kitchen/breakfast room. Central location near St. John Lateran. \$850 weekly. www.casacleme.com; Lm603@columbia.edu; 212-867-0489.

SANTA FE, NM: "Classic Adobe Home with Fabulous Views," 30 days minimum. Details and photos at airbnb.com/rooms/697086.

TUSCANY: Gorgeous apartment in lovely hilltop village of Casole d'Elsa near Siena. 2-BR, 1-BA, sleeps 4–6. Beautifully appointed. Wi-Fi. Large eat-in kitchen, private garden overlooks 11th-century church. \$650–750/week. Contact Lyn (PH '90): 404-371-8287, info@imagesoftuscany.com, or see photos/details at www.imagesoftuscany.com/apartment.htm.

VIENNA: Furnished charming vacation and business rental apartment with garden in Vienna/Austria center. miazonta@aol.com/004368110616230.

WOODSTOCK, NY: Deluxe retreat, new construction, 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom, separate cabin on 8 acres with creek. Perfect summer getaway. Contact 617-277-9577 or info@veeversassociates.com for more information.

SPRING 2014

COLUMBIA

MAGAZINE



A Warm, Fuzzy Feeling

In the spirit of the Columbia Campaign, we asked cartoonist Edward Koren '57CC to do what he's been doing for the past fifty years at the *New Yorker*, and even before that, as editor of the *Jester*: make us smile.

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to explore
and endless
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Jonathan Allen '97CC
Seizing Up (detail), 2013
Courtesy Lu Magnus