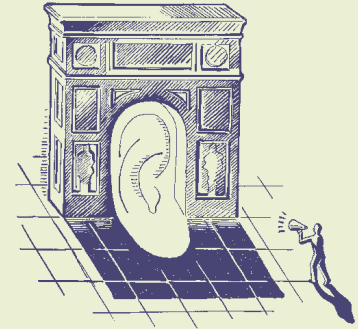


“You can have all the good intentions in the world, you can even liberate a people, and they’re still going to feel violated if they’re not in control of their own destiny.”

—HARVARD PROFESSOR **SAMANTHA POWER** DURING A LECTURE FOR THE SCPS CENTER FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS

HEARD ON CAMPUS



“These [paparazzi clips] are just indie films made by run-and-gun shooters, and the stars are giving away their performances for free. The best have a total plot arc: Britney shaving her head. John Cassavetes couldn’t have come up with a better climactic scene than that.”

—**VIRGINIA HEFFERNAN**, *NEW YORK TIMES* MAGAZINE COLUMNIST AND PANELIST FOR “THE BRITNEY SHOW: THE RISE OF THE 24/7 CELEBRITY NEWS CYCLE,” A FORUM CO-SPONSORED BY *THE ATLANTIC* AND THE DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM

“The window that opened at the end of the Cold War has been allowed to hang flapping in the wind, and it’s time it be fully opened and lead to a peace based on multinational order.”

—FORMER UN WEAPONS INSPECTOR **HANS BLIX** DELIVERING THE LECTURE “TIME FOR A REVIVAL OF DISARMAMENT?” SPONSORED BY THE CENTER ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

“Sir, you realize with your first hair-raising e-mail you gave me more material for my speeches. And if giving those speeches makes me a prostitute, then doesn’t giving me material for them make you my pimp?”

—AUTHOR **IRSHAD MANJI**, IN AN NYU WOMEN’S INITIATIVE ADDRESS, LAMBASTING A CRITIC WHO CALLED HER A “WHORE” FOR GIVING SPEECHES IN WHAT HE CONSIDERED INAPPROPRIATE DRESS FOR A MUSLIM WOMAN. MANJI IS DIRECTOR OF THE MORAL COURAGE PROJECT AT WAGNER’S RESEARCH CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION.

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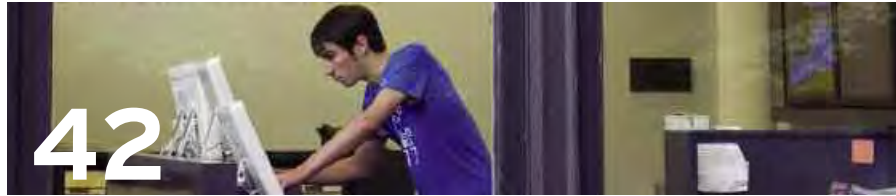
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COVER PHOTO JOHN PAUL ENDRESS
COMPOSITION BY RICK'S IMAGEWORKS

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Bold moves are not new to the New York University story. This institution has a proud history of raising itself at the most critical moments, and the past two decades have been no exception as NYU has transformed itself from a distinguished regional university into one of international prominence. Much of the fuel for this evolution has been provided by our Office of Development and Alumni Relations, which has spearheaded a series of historic campaigns, none more bold than the recently completed Campaign for NYU.

This effort has provided some seismic shifts in the makeup of our students, faculty, and facilities. The Partners Initiative will fund the hiring of 250 of the best scholars in the world, an increase in scholarships will help bring some of the brightest young minds to campus, and major gifts have

allowed us to build state-of-the-art structures throughout Washington Square and the medical center. But it has also helped us reimagine how to connect with our more than 360,000 alumni, who were the building blocks for all these changes. In this 11th issue of *NYU Alumni Magazine*, we examine the impetus for this unprecedented campaign (“View From the Finish Line,” page 36) and detail the important steps that helped us reach our goal.

A massive undertaking of another kind, the complicated rebuilding of New Orleans, is spotlighted in “The Little Difficult,” (page 52), an article that exposes the myriad challenges but also new opportunities presented to residents now three years removed from Katrina’s devastation. On the far lighter side, newly anointed comedic icon Rainn Wilson talks about how his Tisch training helped him create the nuanced character of Dwight Schrute on NBC’s *The Office* (“King



PHOTO © MATTHEW SEPTIMUS

of the Water Cooler,” page 46).

The themes of opportunity and ingenuity prevail throughout this issue, and we hope you’ll connect with them both intellectually and emotionally, and find in them inspiration for your own important ventures.

JOHN SEXTON



Issue #11 / Fall 2008

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: © PHIL GALLO, PHIL GALLO, ELENA OLIVO, CHARLOTTE GRANT, FRED BUSH, ANNEMARIE POVO FURLONG, LITV OSWALD

LEFT: ACTOR MICHAEL J. FOX TAKES THE STAGE AT NYU'S 176TH COMMENCEMENT TO ACCEPT AN HONORARY DEGREE FROM PRESIDENT JOHN SEXTON. RIGHT: SUPER BOWL CHAMPION MICHAEL STRAHAN, WHO PLAYED DEFENSIVE END FOR THE NEW YORK GIANTS, RECEIVES THE LEWIS RUDIN AWARD FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO NEW YORK CITY.



TED TURNER TALKS ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY WITH STEINHARDT STUDENTS.



DR. BUNSEN HONEYDEW HELPS ANNOUNCE THE FIRST WORLD SCIENCE FESTIVAL, AN EVENT THAT AIMED TO EXCITE HUMANS—AND MUPPETS.

STAR

TOP-DRAW ALUMNI AND FRIENDS PUT ON THE GLITZ FOR NYU

POWER

HIP-HOP PRODUCER JERMAINE DUPRI VISITS THE CLIVE DAVIS DEPARTMENT OF RECORDED MUSIC.



ACTRESS ZOOEY DESCHANEL SINGS WITH HER GROUP SHE & HIM.



ACTRESS MOLLY SHANNON (TSOA '87) GIVES INDUSTRY ADVICE TO FELLOW TISCH ALUMNI.



We Hear From You

Thank you to everyone who responded to the Spring 2008 issue. We are delighted that *NYU Alumni Magazine* continues to provoke conversation and comment.

POVERTY ON POINT

Your article “Critical {Eye On} Aid” hit the mark. I have worked in many developing countries with Hope Unites (www.HopeUnites.org), using volunteers to improve education, health care, and economic development. As your writer illustrated, we find that children learn

better when they are provided good nutrition along with quality educators. You cannot exchange one for the other.

*Greg Forrester
Cortland, New York*

As governments fail to address the needs of the world’s poor, more drastic measures will be taken by the poor to survive. The price tag on poverty reduction is still affordable; the cost of not meeting the poverty challenge? Priceless!

*Ronald B. Brinn
STEINHARDT ’76
Great Neck, New York*

NO COVER

I was angered and embarrassed by your inclusion of Dan Barry’s uncritical celebration of blatant animal cruelty in “Under the Cover

of Night.” I suggest that you educate yourselves about the plight of elephants and the torment they endure for the sake of human entertainment. What a shame Barry didn’t stop to talk to one of the “angry animal-rights activists” he dismissively mentions but once.

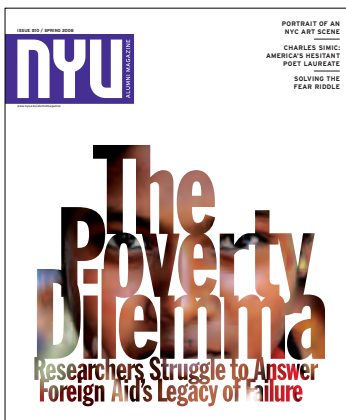
*Ari Solomon
TSOA ’98
Los Angeles, California
and
Chloé Jo Berman
TSOA ’99
New York, New York*

As one who is working to end the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus’s daily routine of abuse and torture, I can state that there is nothing inspirational nor delightful about the elephants’ yearly walk through the tunnel into Manhat-

tan. Animals do not naturally ride bicycles, stand on their heads, balance on balls, and jump through rings of fire. To force them to perform these confusing and physically uncomfortable tricks, trainers use whips, tight collars, muzzles, electric prods, bull hooks, and other painful tools.

*Leila M. Nelson
GAL ’96
New York, New York*

Editors’ note: We thank the many alumni and colleagues who have enlightened us on the misery that elephants and other circus animals suffer. We chose to reprint alumnus Dan Barry’s story because of his skillful hand at bringing a New York scene to life. We stand by his writing talent, but have a new opinion of the elephants’ march through Manhattan.



YOUR GUIDE TO THE SCHOOL CODES

THE FOLLOWING ARE ABBREVIATIONS FOR NYU SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES, PAST AND PRESENT

- **ARTS** - University College of Arts and Science (“The Heights”); used for alumni through 1974
- **CAS** - College of Arts and Science (“The College”); refers to the undergraduate school in arts and science, from 1994 on
- **CIMS** - Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences
- **DEN** - College of Dentistry
- **ENG** - School of Engineering and Science (“The Heights”); no longer exists but is used to refer to its alumni through 1974
- **GAL** - Gallatin School of Individualized Study, formerly Gallatin Division
- **GSAS** - Graduate School of Arts and Science
- **LS** - Liberal Studies Program
- **HON** - Honorary Degree
- **IFA** - Institute of Fine Arts
- **ISAW** - Institute for the Study of the Ancient World
- **LAW** - School of Law
- **MED** - School of Medicine, formerly College of Medicine
- **NUR** - College of Nursing, now part of College of Dentistry
- **SCPS** - School of Continuing and Professional Studies
- **SSSW** - Silver School of Social Work
- **STEINHARDT** - The Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development
- **STERN** - Leonard N. Stern School of Business, formerly the Graduate School of Business Administration; Leonard N. Stern School of Business Undergraduate College, formerly School of Commerce; and College of Business and Public Administration
- **TSOA** - Tisch School of the Arts, formerly School of the Arts
- **WAG** - Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, formerly Graduate School of Public Administration
- **WSC** - Washington Square College, now College of Arts and Science; refers to arts and science undergraduates who studied at Washington Square Campus through 1974
- **WSUC** - Washington Square University College, now College of Arts and Science; refers to alumni of the undergraduate school in arts and science from 1974 to 1994

FLIGHT ATTENDANT'S FANCY

As a flight attendant and NYU alumna, I was pleased to [read the] article on *Femininity in Flight* ["Sky Girls"]. Thanks to the unique scheduling of my job, I was able to relocate from California and fly while attending NYU. It was a joy to see the safety duties we perform highlighted in the article; it is an aspect sometimes forgotten by the flying public.

Amber Fletcher Beiermeister
CAS '02
Boonton, New Jersey

MORE RE-CYCLES

Regarding the article "On the Road Again," another great solution to the

problem of unwanted and abandoned bicycles is a New Jersey-based organization called Pedals for Progress (www.p4p.org). They collect used bikes and ship them to partners in developing nations all over the globe. To date, they have shipped more than 115,000 refurbished bicycles.

John Malar
NYU parent
Cranford, New Jersey

COMPLICATED BIRTHDAY

I read with great interest your article "Happy Birthday?" but I object to the characterization of Israel as a "divisive nation." As pointed out in the story, the countries in the Middle East made

war on Israel as soon as it was made a state by the United Nations in 1948.

Leslie Feldman, PhD
GSAS '83
Hempstead, New York

I understand that the topic was Israel, but I had hoped that the Palestinian viewpoint would at least not be covered by someone [panelist Jeffrey Goldberg] who served in the Israeli forces.

Karim Zamani
via e-mail

I thought your article on Israel's 60th anniversary was a disservice to the idea of honest, complex, and

critical discourse at NYU. Perhaps you could run a counter story to fill in the picture a bit more from the so-called other side?

J. Anthony
via e-mail

Please send your comments and opinions to: Readers' Letters, *NYU Alumni Magazine*, 25 West Fourth Street, Fourth Floor, New York, NY, 10012; or e-mail us at alumni.magazine@nyu.edu. Please include your mailing address, phone number, and school and year. Letters become the property of NYU and may be edited for length and clarity.



The graphic features a background photograph of a young man and woman sitting on a bicycle, smiling and talking. The man is wearing glasses and a black t-shirt, and the woman has long blonde hair and is wearing a white top. They are outdoors with trees in the background. In the top left corner, there is the NYU logo (a green torch) and the text "NEW YORK UNIVERSITY". A large red diagonal banner across the bottom contains a yellow sunburst icon and the text "Take the summer on NYU Summer". Below this banner, the website "www.nyu.edu/summer/alumni" is displayed. At the bottom, there are three columns of text describing summer programs: "Summer in Greenwich Village", "Summer Study Abroad", and "NYU Precollege".

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