

“There really is a paradigm that says ‘the Middle East is just reactive and defensive and everything you see there is just a reaction to the way the United States acts, or to colonialism, or Zionism or imperialism.’... Frankly, it’s not so interesting to look at the Middle East as a place that just reacts to the United States. You might as well just study the United States then.”

—THE WEEKLY STANDARD MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT LEE SMITH AT THE MIDDLE EAST AND UNITED STATES STRATEGY SERIES, HOSTED BY THE ROBERT F. WAGNER GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE

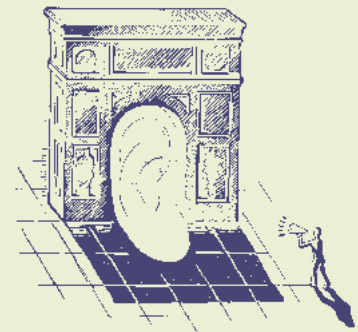
“I get this one a lot: ‘Oh, my God, you’re a lot bigger than you look on TV.’ And I’m always like, ‘Well, yeah. I mean how big is your television, lady?’ ”

—BEN BAILEY, EMMY-WINNING HOST OF CASH CAB, TAPING A STAND-UP SPECIAL FOR COMEDY CENTRAL AT THE SKIRBALL CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

“My mom said, ‘You gotta try this Internet thing out. It’s like a giant library.’ [Then] I got there and the human element was so incredibly powerful and striking—literally the first time I logged on I was chatting with somebody in Alabama.”

—CLAY SHIRKY, ADJUNCT PROFESSOR AT THE INTERACTIVE TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM AND AUTHOR OF *COGNITIVE SURPLUS*, DISCUSSES WHAT SPARKED HIS INTEREST IN THE INTERNET DURING THE ARTHUR L. CARTER JOURNALISM INSTITUTE’S PRIMARY SOURCES SERIES

HEARD ON CAMPUS

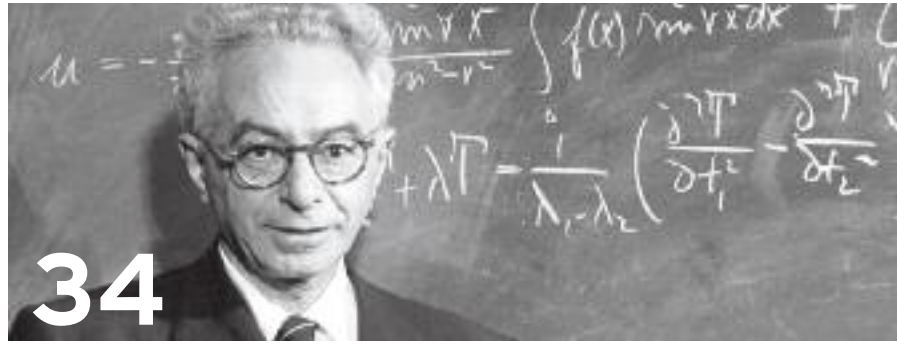


“In 1965, there were 160,000 people in jails and prisons in America. Today, there are 2.3 million. There are nearly 6 million under probation or parole.... [Mass incarceration] has created a culture of despair and hopelessness that actually feeds violence and criminality.”

—PROFESSOR BRYAN STEVENSON, DIRECTOR OF THE EQUAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE, AT THE FORUM “DOES THE UNITED STATES INCARCERATE TOO MANY PEOPLE?” HOSTED BY THE SCHOOL OF LAW

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NYU AIMS FOR A PROFOUND-AND NECESSARY-EXPANSION THROUGHOUT ITS HOME CITY

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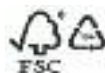
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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

NYU *Alumni Magazine's* Fall 2010 issue marks the 15th since we first began publishing seven years ago. When we launched, we viewed the magazine as a new opportunity to connect with our alumni, and to build a sense of identity that spanned borders and generations.

Now we have confirmation that we've been doing that. This past spring, nearly 1,000 of our readers participated in the magazine's first large-scale survey, generated by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. For us, the results were illuminating: 73 percent of respondents reported that the alumni magazine strengthens their connection to the university. Two-thirds rated the quality as excellent or good, and 30 percent found it a source of continuing education (see more on p. 6).

Yet we know that there is always room for improvement. We hope that you will continue to send us your thoughts on what the magazine does well—and, more impor-



PHOTO © MATTHEW SEPTIMUS

tant, what we can do better—as well as what types of stories you want to read. (Please e-mail feedback to alumni.magazine@nyu.edu or mail it to *NYU Alumni Magazine*, 240 Greene Street, Second Floor, New York, NY 10003.)

In this issue, we present the story of Richard Courant, the brilliant mathematician who escaped Nazi Germany in 1934 to found the mathematical institute at NYU that now bears his name some 75 years later (“The Irrepressible Courant,” p. 34). We also examine a labor-intensive new pilot program for

high-risk patients at Bellevue Hospital Center that may be one of the best bets for saving Medicaid dollars (“Critical Care,” p. 38). Finally, we look toward NYU's 200th anniversary and a grand new framework to guide our future growth (“Looking to the Future,” p. 42). Known as NYU Plans 2031, it details how we aim to meet the growing demands on space for classes, research, lodging, recreation, rehearsals, and any of the many activities that make this institution a top-tier center of learning.

—JOHN SEXTON

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NYU

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STAR

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

ACTOR LIEV SCHREIBER NARRATED AN ORCHESTRAL REIMAGINING OF THE STORY OF ICARUS AT THE WORLD SCIENCE FESTIVAL.

POWER



SINGING SIBLINGS WYCLEF AND MELKY JEAN PERFORMED AT A PHOTO EXHIBITION IN THE GALLATIN GALLERIES.



U.S. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY TIMOTHY GEITHNER TALKED FINANCIAL REFORM AT STERN.



FIRST LADY OF FRANCE CARLA BRUNI-SARKOZY VISITED STEINHARDT TO ANNOUNCE A NEW PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN HER FOUNDATION AND SEVERAL NEW YORK ART SCHOOLS, INCLUDING NYU.



We Hear From You

In place of our usual Letters to the Editor, we'd like to share some results from our first bona fide reader survey last spring. Nearly 1,000 people participated—thank you!—and we read every comment. Here are a few highlights, “warts and all”:

MOST MEMORABLE ISSUE?

Many said “The Green Issue” (Fall 2007) and “It’s Not Science Fiction Anymore” (Fall 2009). One reader with an elephant memory recalled “The Big Think” (Spring 2004).

PLUS:

- “The magazine always stands out, but the ‘Purple Haze’-like cover (Fall 2009) is the most memorable.”
- “I remember an issue about the fund-raising target and wondered if Bloomberg was giving money.”

WHAT DO READERS LIKE?

Class Notes...and the sense of con-

nection and nostalgia the magazine inspires, with its “eye candy” design and “quality” writing on a “breadth of topics.”

PLUS:

- “[I like] the great sense of pride I feel when I show it off to my friends from other schools. Eat your heart out, Michigan, Northwestern, Columbia...”
- “[I like] very little. The total lack of objectivity and obvious fear regarding criticizing the university makes it little more than a beautiful rag. Shame on the editors.”
- “[I like that] I actually get a hard

copy of the magazine, which I keep in my library. I have almost all of them since its first printing.”

WHAT SHOULD WE DO DIFFERENTLY?

Some readers advised us to move online (Note: We have! www.nyu.edu/alumni.magazine) and others—56 percent of respondents—begged us to keep printing hard copies. Many wanted more articles focused on their particular class, discipline, or school.

PLUS:

- “More coverage of NYU’s history.”

(Note: We heard you. See “Remember the Triangle,” p. 10, and “The Irrepressible Courant,” p. 34.)

- “[Publish] warts and all.”

Please send your comments and opinions to: Readers’ Letters, *NYU Alumni Magazine*, 240 Greene Street, Second Floor, New York, NY, 10003; or e-mail us at alumni.magazine@nyu.edu. Include your mailing address, phone number, school and year. Letters become the property of NYU and may be edited for length and clarity.

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

HON - Honorary Degree

IFA - Institute of Fine Arts

ISAW - Institute for the Study of the Ancient World

LAW - School of Law

LS - Liberal Studies Program

MED - School of Medicine, formerly College of Medicine

NUR - College of Nursing

SCPS - School of Continuing and Professional Studies

SSSW - Silver School of Social Work

STEINHARDT - The Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, formerly School of Education

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

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CREDITS: L-R: The Great Game: Afghanistan (Dec. 1-19), photo by John Haynes; pictured Danny Raahim, Vincent Ebrahim and Nabil Elouahabi. Chasing the Wind: Baurzila... Songs for Andy Warhol's Screen Tests (Oct. 22), photo by John Haynes; pictured Kenny Zito (Nov. 20). Chica (Mar. 5-6), photo by Justin Neohar. Atmosphere Photography, pictured Jesse Scott and Louis West. National Theatre Live (multiple dates).