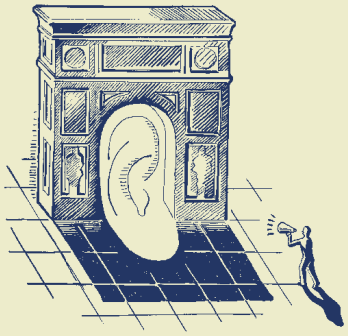
"Intellect is great. I have no compunctions about having studied it. But ultimately what's needed here and abroad are people of good character."

–**HOWARD GARDNER,** EDUCATIONAL THEORIST AND VISITING PROFESSOR, DELIVERING THE INAUGURAL JACOB K. JAVITS LECTURE "FROM MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES TO FUTURE MINDS"

HEARD ON CAMPUS



"The number of times that my reviews made a decisive difference in the fortunes of a movie is a very small one. But on the other hand, it is a very loud bullhorn that I have... if you say something mean in *The New York Times*, it's like 100 times as mean as it was meant to have been."

–*NEW YORK TIMES* CO-CHIEF FILM CRITIC **A. O. SCOTT** VISITING A MEDIA ETHICS CLASS AT THE JOURNALISM DEPARTMENT

"I'm not claiming for a totally open border, I'm claiming for an orderly flow of immigrants to this land, for full respect of human and labor rights. Who would crop the vegetable fields in San Joaquin Valley? Who would serve the hotels in Vegas, the restaurants here in New York?"

–**VICENTE FOX QUESADA,** FORMER PRESIDENT OF MEXICO, AT THE VOICES OF LATIN AMERICAN LEADERS SPEAKER SERIES, HOSTED BY THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES

"The reach of the universities may be far greater than [that of] the United Nations."

–SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS **BAN KI-MOON** ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND POLICY DURING THE THIRD-ANNUAL GLOBAL COLLOQUIUM OF UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS, HOSTED AT NYU

ISSUE #10 / SPRING 2008

NYU

CONTENTS

FEATURES

40

CRITICAL {EYE ON} AID

AS FOREIGN AID REACHES RECORD LEVELS, ACADEMICS ASK HOW—AND IF—IT CAN HELP THE WORLD'S MOST DESPERATE PEOPLE / BY NICOLE PEZOLD / GSAS '04

48

THE POET CONSIDERS

PULITZER PRIZE–WINNER CHARLES SIMIC (WSC '67) DELIVERS INTEGRITY AND WIT TO HIS POST AS U.S. POET LAUREATE / BY MICHAEL SCHARF

DEPARTMENTS

THE SQUARE

8 / FOREIGN AFFAIRS
ISRAEL TURNS 60 AND FACES AN UNENDING STREAM OF CHALLENGES

11 / IN BRIEF
NYU AND POLYTECHNIC COMBINE FORCES, THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK LANDS A BIG GIFT, BRANCHING OUT TO ABU DHABI, AND MORE

12 / LETTERS
A HOME FOR POETS AND WRITERS

14 / ACADEMIC TREND
HOSPITALS—AND UNIVERSITIES—CONFRONT THE NURSING CRUNCH

16 / WHAT THEY'RE LEARNING
STUDENTS CHANNEL MICHELANGELO

18 / CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH
TESTING THE POLITICAL SUBCONSCIOUS, POWERFUL PERSPECTIVES, AND PHONE CALLS FROM YOUR PLANTS

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52

ANXIETY ON THE BRAIN

JOSEPH LEDOUX, THE NEUROSCIENTIST WHO PINPOINTED THE SEAT OF FEAR, AIMS TO SOOTHE A NATION ON EDGE

/ BY CARLIN FLORA

56

THE NEW YORK SCHOOL

A NEW EXHIBIT AT THE GREY ART GALLERY REEXAMINES THE VILLAGE ARTISTS WHO PROPELLED POP ART

/ BY CARLY BERWICK

62

CLASS NOTES

ALUMNI PROFILES

64 / KHALID LATIF / CAS '04
RELIGIOUS SERVICE

68 / KAREN WOLFF / SSSW '06
RESTORING INNOCENCE

ALUMNI Q&A

72 / JEREMY LEBEWOHL / CAS '05
MEET THE DELI GUY

ALUMNI ART

76 / NATHAN SAWAYA / CAS '95, LAW '98
LEGOS FOR GROWN-UPS

PLUS ALUMNI NEWS, BENEFITS, AND UPDATES

IN NYC

20 / CONSERVATION
A NEW LIFE CYCLE FOR OLD BIKES

21 / ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN
PRESCRIPTIONS FOR A HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT

22 / THE INSIDER
EXPLORE THE BEST OF THE BIG APPLE—FROM HIDDEN HISTORY TO A HOT HOTEL

23 / ECONOMY
CITY FINDS THAT THE ARTS PAY

CULTURE

24 / TELEVISION
THREE DECADES OF NYU ON *SNL*

28 / MARKETING
CONSUMERS SHOW THEIR TRUE COLORS

29 / CREDITS
ALUMNI WIN BIG AT THE OSCARS AND SUNDANCE

IN PRINT

30 / POLITICS
TWO PROFESSORS TELL THE HISTORY OF BUYING INTO WAR

32 / NONFICTION
THE TURBULENT JOURNEY OF FLIGHT ATTENDANTS

34 / HISTORY
PULITZER PRIZE–WINNER DAVID LEVERING LEWIS ON ISLAM AND EUROPE

36 / JOURNALISM
NEW YORK TIMES REPORTER DAN BARRY FOLLOWS THE ELEPHANTS ON 34TH STREET

38 / MEMOIR
ALAN GREENSPAN REMEMBERS GROWING UP IN NEW YORK CITY

PLUS MORE BOOKS BY NYU ALUMNI AND PROFESSORS

EVERY ISSUE

1 / HEARD ON CAMPUS

4 / PRESIDENT'S LETTER

4 / CONTRIBUTORS

5 / STAR POWER

6 / MAILBAG

80 / STUDENT LENS

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COVER PHOTO JACOB SILBERBERG

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Since 1831, the idea of NYU being in and of the city has guided us as scholars and citizens. But more and more, we have also realized that we are an institution in and of the *world*—sitting as we do in the heart of the most cosmopolitan, polyglot city on Earth. NYU thrives on ideas and talents from nearly every nation, and as a result, however far-flung some places may be from this metropolis, we cannot ignore the most clawing questions they face. For many that question is what to do about poverty, an abhorrent reality for almost half the world population. In this, our 10th issue, we uncover the roots of this inequality and the range of ideas and research on how it might be rectified ("Critical {Eye On} Aid," page 40).

This is not to say that we have in any way forgotten our beloved city. In addition to the endlessly popular "Best of New York" (page 22), you'll also find in these pages a review of a galvanizing art movement spawned in our own backyard, which is now the subject of a Grey Art Gallery show ("The New York School," page 56), as well as a profile of alumnus Charles Simic, who once sharpened his wry wit on the city's sidewalks and this year added U.S. Poet Laureate to his list of distinctions ("The Poet Considers," page 48).

Finally, we look at the one thing that far too often these days plagues us, in New York City and beyond: fear—and the astonishing work that NYU neuroscientist Joseph LeDoux is doing to counter it ("Anxiety on the Brain," page 52).

PHOTO © MATTHEW SEPTIMUS

We hope that despite the gravity of some of these topics, you'll find there is much to be hopeful for this spring.

JOHN SEXTON

CONTRIBUTORS

CARLY BERWICK writes about art and culture for Bloomberg News, *New York* magazine, and *Condé Nast Traveler*. She is also a contributing editor at *ARTnews* and *The Next American City* magazines.

BEN BIRNBAUM is the editor of *Boston College Magazine* and the book *Take Heart: Catholic Writers on Hope in Our Time*.

TED BOSCIA lives in Madison, New Jersey, and works for Google News. He has written for the *San Francisco Chronicle, Stanford Magazine*, and *Baseball America*.

CARLIN FLORA is a senior editor at *Psychology Today* who has written for *The Scientist* and *Weekly Reader*. She lives in New York City.

PETER GREGOIRE is an Emmy Award–winning photographer whose work has appeared in *Sports Illustrated, Esquire, Time,* and *Entertainment Weekly*.

LARS LEETARU has illustrated for *The Wall Street Journal, Esquire, ESPN The Magazine, Forbes, Inc.,* and *The New York Times*. He also enjoys painting and playing the banjo.

ROBERT POLNER is a press officer for NYU's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. He is a former reporter and editor for *Newsday* and edited the book *America's Mayor, America's President?*

BETH SAULNIER is associate editor of *Cornell Alumni Magazine* and editor of *Weill Cornell Medicine*. A film critic for the *Ithaca Journal*, she has published seven murder mysteries with Warner Books.

MICHAEL SCHARF is a reviews editor at *Publishers Weekly* whose third book of poems, *For Kid Rock/Total Freedom,* was released last year.

MATTHEW SEPTIMUS (STERN '83) is a commercial photographer based in Brooklyn. His clients include the French Culinary Institute, Fashion Institute of Technology, *The New York Times*, and the Museum of Modern Art.

ADELLE WALDMAN is a freelance writer living in Brooklyn. She has contributed to *The Wall Street Journal, Slate, The New York Observer*, and *The Village Voice*.

LEIGH WELLS is an illustrator in San Francisco who has worked with Converse, Starbucks, and American Express.

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JASON HOLLANDER (GAL '07)
Editor-in-Chief
NICOLE PEZOLD (GSAS '04)
Associate Editor
RENÉE ALFUSO (CAS '06)
Editorial Assistant
JOHN KLOTNIA / OPTO DESIGN
Creative Director
ANDREA CRAWFORD
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Articles
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FORMER PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON ADDS URGENCY TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE DISCUSSION AT THE GLOBAL COLLOQUIUM OF UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS, HOSTED BY NYU.

POWER STAR

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

ARIANNA HUFFINGTON, THE WOMAN BEHIND THE SNARKY POLITICAL BLOG THE HUFFINGTON POST, DISCUSSES HER RISE AT AN SCPS EVENT.

HIP-HOP MOGUL RUSSELL SIMMONS MODERATES A PANEL ON MUSLIM-JEWISH RELATIONS ON CAMPUS.

JACKIE CHAN, WITH TSOA DEAN MARY SCHMIDT CAMPBELL, IS HONORED FOR HIS FILMS AND PUBLIC SERVICE AT A RED-CARPET CELEBRATION OF TISCH'S NEW SINGAPORE CAMPUS.

ACTRESS AND ACTIVIST NATALIE PORTMAN STUMPS FOR MICROFINANCE AT A PUBLIC DIALOGUE CO-SPONSORED BY AFRICA HOUSE.

We Hear From You

Thanks to all the alumni who responded to our ninth issue (Fall 2007). We are thrilled that *NYU Alumni Magazine* continues to stir so many of you to write and share your thoughts. Please keep the letters coming!

BOARDERS, UNITE

You can't imagine my tremendous pleasure to read a profile of Jake Burton Carpenter ("King of the Mountain") in the fall issue! Yes, Burton's story is one of commercial success, but his creativity and determination have also delivered a product that offers unbounded excitement and a profound experience for snowboarders all over the world. Although we've never met, Burton has definitely had a huge impact upon my life, and now I can proudly add another factor we share: our bond with NYU.

Chicki Rosenberg
GSAS '66
Killington, Vermont

THE LIGHTER SIDE

In your fall 2007 issue, you had an article about the illumination of the Empire State Building for the past three years ("Violet City") honoring NYU's commencement ceremonies. You briefly review the historical inception of lighting first celebrating Roosevelt's 1932 presidential victory. For the record, my daughter, Mallory Blair Greitzer, a second-year student at Gallatin, single-handedly was able to convince the Empire State Building to be lit up blue and white honoring Hanukkah—the Festival of Lights—in 1997, when she was just nine years old.

Manny H. Greitzer, OD
NYU parent
Greenwich, Connecticut

After reading about the Empire State Building lighting 1,336 lights on many occasions, I have but one question: Why don't they go back to the single beacon? It's time to conserve, as "The Green Issue" says.

Harriet (Levy) Klein
STEINHARDT '40
Palm Springs, California

GREEN, AT ISSUE

I enjoyed "The Green Issue," but it would have been so much better if there had been discussion of the research that various NYU scientists are doing on climate change and other environmental topics. However, there appear to be very few environmental scientists on the faculty these days, no actual department of earth science or geology, and a biology department devoid of ecologists.

Judith S. Weis, PhD
GSAS '64
Rutgers University
Newark, New Jersey

I was disappointed, but certainly not surprised, to learn that my alma mater has jumped on the global-warming bandwagon. What really galls me, however, is the way you smugly engage in psychobabble to discredit global-warming skeptics who are so audacious as to declare that the emperor has no clothes

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

GSP – The General 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 Graduate Division, 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

("The Denial Justification"). In essence, you claim that we are in denial because we don't want to be inconvenienced by higher taxes and prices. On the contrary, there are large numbers of highly credible and well-credentialed scientists providing powerful evidence that the notion of human activity being responsible for climate change is fraught with error and dubious science. If we act upon the agenda of global-warming alarmists, the consequences to national economies will dwarf any alleged harm from human carbon emissions.

Lance Lamberton
GSAS '79
Austell, Georgia

Your piece "Global Harming: Facts and Forecasts" presents an extremely one-sided view. The science is not settled and the debate is not over. Unfortunately, this issue has become politicized at a time when we need to look at and assess all of the evidence.

Former Sen. Rudy Boschwitz
STERN '51, LAW '53
Minneapolis, Minnesota

If global warming is occurring, it is cyclical and due to natural forces completely beyond the ability of man to control. Instead of the obsession with a disputed, unproven theory, we should be concerned with the very real threat to our existence that would occur with the acquisition of atomic weapons by North Korea, Iran, or Islamic terrorists.

George E. Rubin
WSC '55
New York, New York

Editors' note: Indeed the issue of climate change has become politicized and, for that reason, we received a number of letters from displeased alumni. However, NYU, this magazine, and the balance of scientists and nations feel there is now compelling evidence that the climate is changing, in large part because of human carbon emissions. What we do not know is when and exactly how this will alter our lives. It could wreak far greater havoc on the global economy than any attempts to regulate greenhouse gases. This is why NYU has committed to greening our campus and investing in research and new faculty—including the creation of an Environmental Studies program—so that we don't just sound the alarm but contribute to resolving this problem.

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.

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