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# THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MAGAZINE

MAR-APR 2012  
VOLUME 104, NUMBER 4



The cover: George Anastaplo's correspondence with Virginia (Darrow) Oggins, U-High'44, AB'48, AM'55, goes back to 1948. Photo by Dan Dry.

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Volume 104, Number 4, Mar–Apr 2012

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WEB [mag.uchicago.edu](http://mag.uchicago.edu)

**The University Of Chicago Magazine** (ISSN-0041-9508) is published bimonthly (Sept–Oct, Nov–Dec, Jan–Feb, Mar–Apr, May–June, and July–Aug) by the University of Chicago in cooperation with the Alumni Association, 5555 South Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637. Published continuously since 1907. Periodicals postage paid at Chicago and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER Send address changes to *The University of Chicago Magazine*, Alumni Records, 1427 East 60th Street, Suite 120, Chicago, IL 60637.

© 2012 University of Chicago.

**Ivy League Magazine Network**  
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PHOTO BY MICHAEL KENNY



# Where T-shirts come to endure

BY AMY BRAVERMAN PUMA

**W**ho ever thought a “where fun comes to die” T-shirt would be exhibit worthy? Yet there it is, in the back row of a display of shirts boasting about hell freezing over, the Div School coffee shop, women’s crew, and Harold’s Chicken. The 20 T-shirts hanging in the library’s Special Collections Exhibition Gallery glass case offer a glimpse of the recent UChicago student experience in one quick snap.

The rest of the exhibition, *We Are Chicago: Student Life in the Collections of the University of Chicago Archives*, captures moments over a 120-year span. Some highlights: a 1935 photo of three women archers aiming bows and arrows, a 1932 cartoon map of campus with capped-and-gowned students scurrying about, and a 1925 silk kimono hand painted to commemorate a tradition of baseball games between the Ma-

rooms and Japan’s Waseda University. In addition to perusing the exhibit cases, visitors can watch a slide show of 7,500 photos the *Maroon* donated to the University Archives, which Special Collections digitized with a grant from the U of C Women’s Board. Visitors also can post their own memories on an interactive comment board.

The comment board could help the archives collect more information about student life, which can be a challenge. The University has some 300 registered student organizations; since 1892 students have been active in all sorts of social, cultural, academic, and political groups. The library staff notes that some exhibit items were donated by alumni, and they’re always looking to fill in the gaps.

If you have items of interest—even an old T-shirt can shed light on the UChicago experience—e-mail Special Collections Research Center director **Daniel Meyer**, AM’75, PhD’94, at [arch@uchicago.edu](mailto:arch@uchicago.edu). *We Are Chicago* runs through March 23.



# LETTERS

I suppose that a compliment withheld is as good as an insult—which is why I’m giving you a much-overdue ovation for the new art direction I’ve noticed from the *Magazine*.

## Lately I’ve been stacking my *U of C Magazine* conspicuously on top of the coffee-table assortment, silently bragging about the mag’s cool new look.

bragging about the cool new look of the mag’s graphic design and photo choices. My roommates have been stealing glances too—and have actually been reading it (secretly, of course).

So I apologize for holding back my praise till now. You guys are blowing the other schools away. You are the most intriguing, most readable, “high concept” superstar on my coffee table. Keep it up.

Simon Miller, AB’01  
Los Angeles

### Stories found

So happy to see the glimpse of Vivian Gussin Paley, PhD’47, in your Jan–Feb/12 issue (Glimpses). When I was doing a graduate degree in the Education Department in the mid ’70s, I was so fortunate to spend a semester in her kindergarten room doing what was then called an “ecological study” of the children at play in the housekeeping corner. My master’s thesis was on the value of play: the development of language and empathy through role-playing. After nearly 40 years teaching

in public education in early childhood—pre-K, K, and first grade, I can tell you that the value of play has sadly been diminished to nearly zero time in the school day. I agree with her statement about “a year of lost stories” and so much more that has been deemed irrelevant by the factory mentality of today’s public-education curriculum. But the vibrant and highly verbal environment she created in that room has stayed with me in all the subsequent years in which I worked with young children. Thank you, Vivian Paley!

Eslee Kessler, AM’77  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

### Check the math

There is a factual error on page 36 of the Jan–Feb/12 issue (“Debating Society”). Under the year 1988, it is asserted that the *Everyday Mathematics* curriculum was developed by Izaak Wirszup, PhD’55. Izaak was a co-founder of the University of Chicago School Mathematics Project, but he did not plan or manage the development of the *Everyday Mathematics* curriculum at any time.

The one person most responsible for *Everyday Mathematics* is Max Bell,

AM’58, MAT’59, a professor emeritus of education who still has a hand in *Everyday Mathematics*. Max’s thinking, and also the name he gave to the curriculum, can be traced back to a paper in the March 1974 *Mathematics Teacher*, “What Does ‘Everyman’ Really Need from School Mathematics?”

A detailed history can be found in an article by Max and Andrew Isaacs in *Perspectives on the Design and Development of School Mathematics Curricula* (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, 2007).

There also is a misleading statement on the same page with an error on the date. It is asserted that the Graduate School of Education (GSE) closed in 1978 because of a national glut of teachers. This is not true, though there was a national glut of teachers in some subjects (but not in science and mathematics) at the time.

From the inception of the GSE, the Department of Education and the school shared administrations (the dean of the GSE was chair of the department; applications to either unit went to the same office; there were a couple of joint committees), and the University’s central administration felt (quite accurately) that the duplication was unnecessary and expensive. It asked the faculties of the two units to merge and gave the choice to the faculties to merge either in the department or in the graduate school. The Department of Education faculty was larger and had many of the most well-known figures in the world in education, and its faculty did not want to leave the Division of Social Sciences, so the merger was into the department.

The merger occurred during the 1975–76 school year, not in 1978.

There has always been a need for well-qualified teachers like those trained in the GSE (and currently in the Urban Teacher Education Program). After the merger, teacher-training programs that had been in the GSE continued in the Department of Education until the dismantling of the department in 2001.

Zalman Usiskin  
Professor Emeritus of Education  
Director, University of Chicago School  
Mathematics Project

### Buried the lede

The education topics in the Jan–Feb/12



Vivian Paley lauds the value of play.

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## LETTERS

issue miss two critical stories. The most significant education event in the period I was at U of C (1992–2001) [as an astronomy and astrophysics faculty member] was the closing of the School of Education. The place where John Dewey laid the foundations for modern US teaching is no more. It is admirable that faculty members such as [astronomy and astrophysics professor] Don York, PhD'71, have done so much to improve teaching in Chicago schools, but he does this entirely on his own, using the prerogatives of tenure, an individual effort apart from his official role in astrophysics. In university teaching, U of C has completely missed the substantial advances in science teaching taking place at schools such as the University of Colorado, where Nobel Prize winner Carl Wieman saw such potential that he switched his personal research from atomic physics to physics education research. Then his university put \$5 million into improving its own science teaching. That's where the leading edge of university science teaching is today (see [phet.colorado.edu](http://phet.colorado.edu) for an example).

When MIT was told that it was

systematically shortchanging the resources given to women faculty, it conducted a major study, found the claims were true, and acted aggressively to fix things. Its number of good women faculty and students has risen. MIT also called a meeting of Ivy League schools and U of C to discuss these issues of women in science. U of C missed the meeting. My department, astronomy and astrophysics, has had one tenured woman professor in the 130 years since U of C was founded.

That is not the leading edge.

*Douglas Duncan  
Boulder, Colorado*

*According to Peter Vandervoort, AB'54, SB'55, SM'56, PhD'60, professor emeritus in the Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics and in the College, the department has had four women faculty members since 1949. Two are currently tenured members of the faculty.—Ed.*

### Tuition, sweat, and grants

I am not sure what was more sickening about “The Future of PhDs” (Marketplace of Ideas, Jan–Feb/12)—the arrogant and self-serving tone of sociologist Andrew Abbott’s (AM'75, PhD'82) comments or the tepid debate he received. At the risk of asking the obvious, why should Dr. Abbott or any of the others worry whether they are accurately portraying the value of the product they are selling to the incoming academic candidates as long as they have an unending supply of grist

## Those of us who live in the real world are facing more daunting challenges than merely the pursuit of an “elite academic life trajectory.”

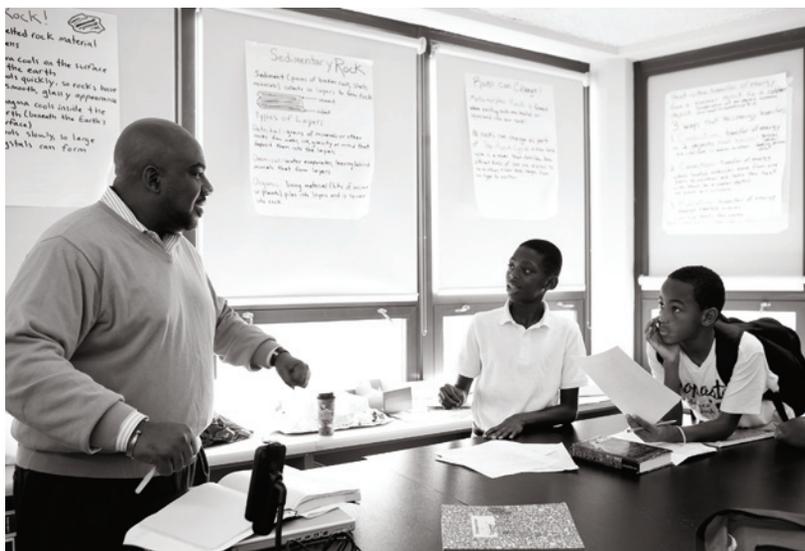
for their mill. If it didn't occur to Dr. Abbott, it did occur to me that it is quite easy for him to insist that it should be business as usual from the comfort of his cozy tenured life supported by the steady stream of tuition, sweat, and grant dollars provided by his students and their parents.

Those of us who live in the real world, however, are facing more daunting challenges than merely the pursuit of an “elite academic life trajectory.” As the mother of a PhD historian from Brown University who is unemployed and friend of many others who are stuck in an endless chain of cobbled together low paying adjunct positions, I would challenge your four interviewees to have a soul searching discussion of the ethics and morals of a group of people who promote something of great cost and dubious value without so much as a caveat emptor.

*Stephanie Lazzeroni  
Racine, Wisconsin*

### Chosen profession

Perhaps education is, indeed, greatly valued in editor Amy Puma's family (Editor's Notes, “So Much To Learn,” Jan–Feb/12). I must say, however, that starting her notes with the claim that teaching as a profession was held out to her as “something to fall back on” (granted her mother's words, which she chose to include), gives no such impression. I am a second-grade teacher in a Chicago public school. The work that I do is complex and personally demanding. To teach well one needs more than a store of information and tools of analysis, but the ability to empathize with learners and convert wisdom in the teacher into understanding in the student. Forget managing budding personalities, English-language learners, and the barrage of standardized testing



Principal Jared Washington talks with students at Woodson Middle School.

PHOTO BY CHARLIE SIMOKALITIS

now present in the primary grades.

Teaching, when done well, is no easy task, and yet, for many reasons, some of which are valid, others mere urban myth, the work of teachers is continually denigrated in American society. Puma's opening line does the profession no favors but just suggests that teaching is a job anyone could do if Plan A were to not pan out. I will not try to convince those who hold this position otherwise; such arguments tend to fall on deaf ears, but I will express my disappointment that in the issue meant to give education and teaching their due, the editor's note opens by reinforcing the false notion that teaching is merely a fall-back profession. I would, however, agree with the author's mother in that the *Everyday Math* curriculum has wonderful games but could stand to have more skills practice built into it.

*Genie Albina, AM'09  
Chicago*

*The editor apologizes to readers—and to her mother—for implying she meant teaching in general was a fallback career. In fact she meant the editor specifically should have some kind of Plan B ready, and that her own career choice offered a rewarding and stable (at the time, anyway) alternative. She had Plan B advice for the editor's sister too, even when she planned to become a teacher.*

#### **Skills and schools**

On page 16 of the Jan–Feb/12 issue is a graph that seems to me an example of sterling gobbledygook (UChicago Journal, Fig. 1, “Stop Gap”). Despite the abysmal failure of 46 years of Head Start, economist James Heckman has divined a saving metric—skills—that he says emerge before children begin school.

I posit that these skills of conscientiousness, perseverance, and sociability do begin early—at conception.

I'd like to ask: What indicates that these traits are not inborn? How are these skills measured on scholastic ability scores? What indicates that these skills are amenable to training? Is there any indication that any school program has this ability?

*J. Curtis Kovacs, AB'63, MD'67  
Sun City, Arizona*

#### **Impolitic decision**

I am very disappointed and disturbed that the University would hire or even

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**UCHICAGO** ALUMNI

## LETTERS

associate itself with David Axelrod, AB'76 [director of the University's new Institute of Politics; see the January 31, 2012, UChicago News for Alumni and Friends e-newsletter or "Left, Right, Left, Right," page 18.—Ed]. Mr. Axelrod's support of the policies of Clinton and the current administration and their forced march of our country into a bankrupt, European-style social-welfare state, in my opinion, disqualify him for advising students concerning careers in government and social service.

Decisions have consequences. I feel the University has chosen unwisely.

*Paul Gierosky, MBA'75  
Pepper Pike, Ohio*

What an unfortunate choice! David Axelrod, AB'76, is not a David Gergen. Axelrod is too much a "politics as usual" figure in our time and all others (see the 1947 Loretta Young, Ethel Barrymore, and Joseph Cotton movie *The Farmer's Daughter*). Both in the 2008 campaign and in the Obama administration, he showed himself to be a negative, vicious, no-holds-barred politician. I certainly wouldn't want my child learning about "idealism" in politics from such a person.

In sum: the U of C has marred a very good idea by this very bad start. We should have found a Gergen, and should be on the lookout for one to take over ASAP.

*Stephen Miller, PhD'76  
College Station, Texas*

### Speaking of Telugu ...

I read with interest Michael Fitzger-

## Letters to the editor are, I suppose, opinion pieces.

ald's (AB'86) article "Ends and Means" (Nov–Dec/11), concerning microfinance in India. The subject undoubtedly has even wider implications, whence various microfinance organizations operate in many parts of the world, as the author points out. It is regrettable that corruption threatens to undermine an otherwise promising source of relief for the very poor. At the risk of being overly pedantic, however, I would like to point out a major error in Fitzgerald's text. On page 36, in speaking about Andhra Pradesh, he states that "many of the state's 82 million residents, who speak a minority Indian dialect, Tegulu (sic), are engaged in subsistence agriculture. Not only is Telugu misspelled, but it is hardly a "minority dialect." It is a major Indian language spoken by at least 70 million people, and by far the majority language in Andhra Pradesh.

*Edward J. Jay, AM'57, PhD'63  
Oakland, California*

*We apologize for the spelling error: the writer is correct that it is Telugu. According to the CIA's World Fact Book, the language is spoken by 7.2 percent of India's population. The article noted that it is spoken in Andhra Pradesh.—Ed.*

### Freud lives

It appears that Mark Borinsky's (PhD'72) study of psychoanalysis ended with the "pre-Jurassic period" research he cites (Letters, Jan–Feb/12). Obviously he is unaware of the ubiquitous incorporation of psy-

chodynamic elements in art, music, literature, even marketing and sales. He rests his case on an article in the *Wall Street Journal*. I prefer the scientific inquiry he seems to demand to the hackneyed, out of date rhetoric he uses. Recent research has demonstrated the effectiveness of long term psychodynamic psychotherapy. It has been shown to have powerful long term effects on both symptoms and personality change, and that the changes are long term and enduring. In both outcomes, psychodynamic psychotherapy equals or surpasses the holy grail of the Evidence Based Practice cultists, CBT.

I suggest Dr. Borinsky catch up with the field and read: de Maat et al., *Harvard Review of Psychiatry*, 2009, 17:1: 1-23; Shedler, *American Psychologist*, 2010, 65(2) 98-109; and Cortina, *Psychiatry*, 2010, 73(1) 43-56. Letters to the editor are, I suppose, opinion pieces. But it would be nice to see those making scientific proclamations have extant scientific support for their exhortations.

*Robert B. Bloom, SB'58  
Highland Park, Illinois*

### Heat wave

Robert Reynolds's (AB'39) assertion that we "need" to warm the earth up "to avoid the return of the ice" is not very comforting (Letters, Jan–Feb/12). His overconfidence in his own conclusions is based in part on the education he received at Chicago in the 1930s, in the field of geology no less, when the macroecological processes which maintain our atmosphere and the livability of the earth were poorly understood. Chicago was not educating its students very well with regard to these subjects as late as the 1980s, so who knows what a student—even a biology student—learned in the 1930s. Certainly all students read many musty old texts by philosophers who had little or no grasp of the ways nature functions, and who could not foresee the ravages of future human overpopulation and overconsumption on the biosphere. Looking back with 20/20 hindsight, this may not have been the best type of education for people who lived and voted in the 20th century, when we had the opportunity to check and prevent problems but chose not to do so.



### BLAST FROM THE PAST

**It is a very grave situation when the University of Chicago does not appreciate the difference between á and à. The first time I saw *vis á vis* on page eight of the fall number, I was startled. The second occurrence was truly *déjà vu*.**

*Louis E. Janus, AB'70, in the Winter 1990 issue*



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## LETTERS

I doubt Mr. Reynolds's subsequent reading of books by "climate scientists" who agree with him has furthered his knowledge much. I am sure he will change his tune if he lives long enough, however, as Tucson is sure to experience more frequent killer heat waves in the very near future. Enjoy!

*Jennifer Thurber Willis, AB'84  
Cincinnati*

### And which thermometer to use?

Planet Earth has lots of water, lots of ice, and while not well mixed, they are in significant contact, both direct and via water flow and air circulation. Thus the planet is a weakly mixed and therefore partially buffered biphasic (ice/water) environment. It is very hard to take the temperature of a planet. One reading every quarter hour for ten years gets you 365,000 readings. One reading per degree of longitude multiplies by 360, and once per 0.1 degree of latitude by 1,800, taking us to over  $2.3 \times 10^{11}$ . For height I would do at least 100 readings from surface to 100 feet over surface, giving us a grand total of  $2.3 \times 10^{13}$ ; my oh my. And we have yet to consider where might be the anal pore, the oral pore, and an armpit. The temperature information is contaminated by the buffering, so why bother.

When the ice goes down, planet Earth is gaining net energy, and when the ice goes up, planet Earth is losing net energy. Main energy source is the sun; main energy sink is space. The message is we are gaining energy. The

**They asked if he would sign the cloth. He examined it with delight, and of course he signed.**

why is somewhat irrelevant because the 7 billion living humans are heavily invested in waterside property, and most of us don't do the New Orleans dog paddle very proficiently.

Robert Reynolds may well be right that we are in the fifth interglacial of the Pleistocene, but many crop and disease problems come with warming up, and really big problems come with the being under water part. Also, it is much easier to bump the temperature of the planet up than to bring it down.

Reynolds is also right about this being contrary to historical record. The historical record shows periods of increase in solar output followed by Earth ocean out gassing of gases such as CO<sub>2</sub> (increased atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, reduced oceanic CO<sub>2</sub>), which intensified the warming by trapping more outgoing radiation. The current record shows no change in solar (see NASA sun data), increases in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, and also increases in oceanic CO<sub>2</sub>, all consistent with burning 50 percent of planet Earth's oil supply in only 50 years, and thus raising the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. Of course, in historical times there were not 7 billion of us, along with our cows and pigs, and we had not learned how much fun it was to burn oil. The historical reading is correct. The current reading is correct. The lesson is: things can happen in more than one way.

*Richard A Karlín, AB'55, SB'57  
Pittsburgh*

### M\*A\*S\*H note

Re: Harry (Bratsburg) Morgan, X'37, who died last year (Deaths, Jan-Feb/12). Mr. Morgan was once asked if being on M\*A\*S\*H made him a better actor. His reply: "I don't know about that, but it's made me a better human being."

*Victor Sloan, AB'80  
Flemington, New Jersey*

### MLK memories

*In January the Magazine asked online readers to post memories of Martin Luther King Jr. speaking at Rockefeller Memorial Chapel in 1956 and 1959, and at Mandel Hall in 1966. Here are a few selections:*

I was a transfer student to the College during the 1965–66 academic year, living in Pierce Tower. Before his talk in Mandel Hall, Dr. King was having



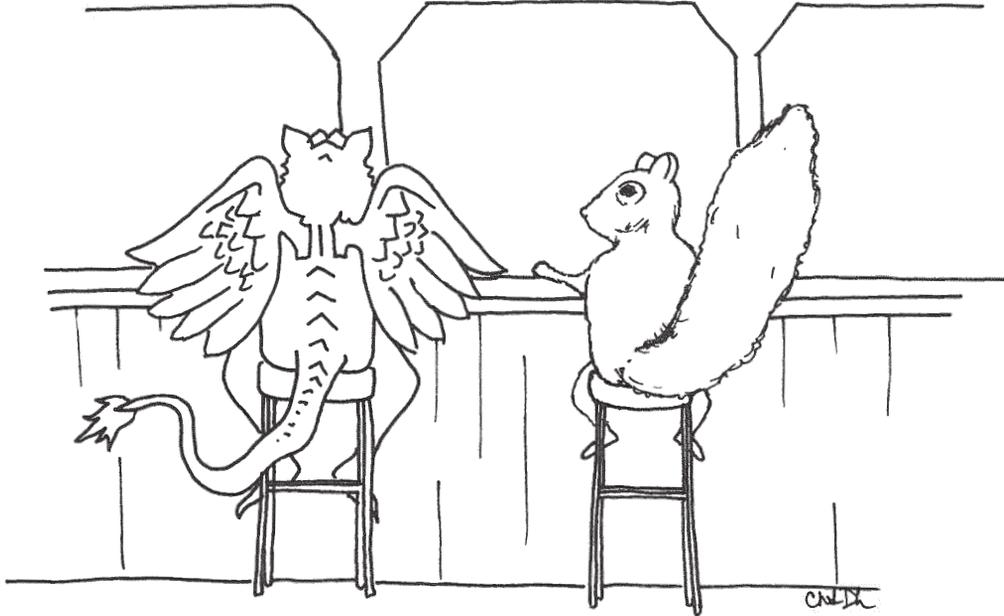
**Martin Luther King Jr. speaks from the Rockefeller pulpit April 13, 1956.**

dinner with select students in the private dining room off the main Pierce dining hall. Not being one of the elect, I stood in awe outside the private dining room door when, in a rush, a student exited. Noticing me, he asked if I'd like to go in and take his place, which turned out to be the chair immediately to Dr. King's right. I recall that Dr. King ate only a salad: he told me he never ate much before an address, and that he would have a regular meal later. He didn't talk about himself but drew me out about work I had done the previous summer with the children of African American migrant workers on the eastern end of Long Island.

When we left the private dining room, a few members of an African American family, representing at least three generations, I think, were waiting for him with a request. They had a family heirloom, a tablecloth with signatures of notable blacks in American history, and each signature had then been embroidered. They asked if he would sign the cloth. He examined it with delight, and of course he signed. I've often wondered about that family, and where the tablecloth is today.

Dr. King's talk, as I recall, was on the African American family, and, as an address to an academic community, it

# A squirrel and a gargoyle walked into Jimmy's...



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was not in the rousing style of a sermon, which I would have preferred. A little over two years later, when I was living as an assistant resident head across the midway in Salisbury House, I recall looking out a Burton Judson dining hall window at the military vehicles on patrol after Dr. King's assassination.

*Jack Barbera, AB'68, AM'69, PhD'76  
University, Mississippi*

January 1966 was not the last time Dr. King spoke on campus. In 1967 I spent the summer in Hyde Park as a high-school volunteer in something called the Mitzvah Corps, run by the National Federation of Temple Youth. On July 10, 1967, the 20 or so volunteers were invited to attend an event at the Oriental Institute where both Dr. King and Rev. Jesse Jackson, X'67, were speaking at an event held by Operation Breadbasket. At the end of the evening we were introduced to Dr. King as young Jewish civil-rights activists, and he was most gracious.

I'm sure that evening was one of the main reasons I applied to the U of C. Hyde Park was full of energy and excitement that summer, and I wanted to be part of it.

*Joy F. Robinson-Lynch, AB'72  
Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts*

### Canon fever

The Doc Film Group that I know dates from 1947 and continues into the mid '50s, beginning from the time that Martin Picker, PhB'47, AM'51 [deceased], Guy Lester Cooper III, AB'50, and I met at Linn House as roommates and began a discussion on the art of the film evolving into a shared passion and crusade to further scholarly study, and appreciation of

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film as the most recently structured fine art (“Reel Stories,” *Alumni News*, Nov–Dec/11). Film could come into its right only with a knowledgeable and discerning audience that had the opportunity to see the canon and to contribute to it.

To that end, we appropriated the then idle resources of the Documentary Film Society, a social-issues advocacy group that used documentary films to gain an audience for its opinions. The dean’s office assigned us to a vault office in the basement of Classics. The desk still had supplies from the old group. We got no funding and hoped to survive on an admission fee from each series. We were assigned SocSci 122, because it had a rudimentary projection room. The projector and film had to be carried between Classics and SocSci, so we got a coaster wagon. Martin, a musicologist at that time studying bibliographic techniques, became the secretary and business manager. Guy was a humanist and kept us all on a course of unwavering high standards. I was interested in social psychology and the question of perception and cognition and undertook the organization of film series, film selection, and series poster writing and design. We chose every film because it would educate the viewer’s eye and help in our goal to maintain film through the pull of an educated audience.

I was glad to see the letter from Fred C. Smith, AB’54, AB’55. He was the group’s ace projectionist and he also pulled the wagon.

The consistency and quality of our series gave us a loyal following that paid the group’s way, and we virtually be-

came part of the academic year. A great reward was to be invited to a banquet given for Vittorio De Sica by the Italian Counsel General of Chicago. Somehow De Sica had become aware that we had espoused his work. In our table conversation, he queried me about Doc Film and was pleased that we were all students, not functionaries, not subsidized by the University, but made it on audience box office. He was amused when I told him besides film rental and printing, our cost was the hire of a projectionist, who also had to pull a coaster wagon.

That photo of Doc Film people is a sensation. I was a lifelong friend of Ed Shafer, the center figure. Ed was never in Doc Film, but he always gave a helping hand. The Doc Film badges are an odd thing, perhaps marking a special occasion or perhaps a spoof mocking Doc Film’s chronic lack of a formal organization. The statements about Ernest Callenbach, PhB’49, AM’53, need correction. He was not a core member or contributor to the group’s mission or activities. He appeared to have been to film showings, but other than that, went into film in California.

I still get a thrill from the canon and honor Eisenstein, De Sica, and all the others. Just the other day, I saw where “Rosebud” was the answer to a low-level question on *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*. After all of this time, who would have thought that everybody would know the canon?

*Frank G. Ternenyi, PhB’51  
Chicago*

#### Department of corrections

In the Jan–Feb/12 Citations, we referred to Jean Decety, the Irving B. Harris professor of psychology and psychiatry, as a psychologist rather than as a neurobiologist. We regret the error.

*The University of Chicago Magazine welcomes letters about its contents or about the life of the University. Letters for publication must be signed and may be edited for space, clarity, and civility. To provide a range of views and voices, we encourage letter writers to limit themselves to 300 words or fewer. Write: Editor, The University of Chicago Magazine, 401 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 1000, Chicago, IL 60611. Or e-mail: [uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu](mailto:uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu).*

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# The long view

BY THOMAS F. ROSENBAUM, PROVOST AND JOHN T. WILSON  
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE PROFESSOR IN PHYSICS, THE  
JAMES FRANCK INSTITUTE, AND THE COLLEGE

**T**his spring marks the start of my 30th year at the University of Chicago. As I suspect may be true for many of you, one comes to a place expecting to stay a short time, and before you know it, a decade or two or three has passed. But what keeps me here is not the constancy of the experience; rather, it is the constancy of change.

The most obvious change involves the explosion of construction on campus. From an athletic center to residence halls, from an arts center to an iconic new library, from biomedical research and teaching centers to Chicago Booth's Harper Center, new buildings have sprouted up on both sides of the Midway. Yet as much as we now hope to address acute facility needs across the disciplines, our fundamental motivation has not changed. The success of Chicago always has been its investment in human capital, creating an intellectual environment where big questions can be asked and scholars searching for answers—or, as importantly, posing the next big question—can thrive. Investment in buildings is simply a means to the end of attracting the best faculty, students, and staff to Chicago.

A second, deeper change involves new modes of inquiry, enriching our commitment to creating knowledge for the ages. We have broadened our scope of impact and embraced greater engagement with community and society. For example, the Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry situates the academic study of the arts in the context of a thriving national arts scene. As envi-



**Rosenbaum became provost in 2007, after serving as vice president for research and for Argonne National Lab. He's also directed the Materials Research Lab and the Franck Institute.**

sioned by the original faculty committee, it strives to develop a model for the practicing artist on campus through the most Chicago of approaches: exploratory constructs yielding data leading to new models. The University's Department of Education has been superseded by a University-wide faculty Committee on Education, closely linked via the Urban Education Institute to four University-run campuses of a Chicago city charter school, whereby theory can confront practice. The Institute for Molecular Engineering recognizes the full continuum from basic science to techno-

logical application; after a century of eschewing investment in engineering, we have launched an effort to recraft the study of engineering on the molecular level. The opportunity to define a discipline without being constrained by past practice is exhilarating, but perhaps the most powerful influence will come as current approaches are enriched by new colleagues with different scientific sensibilities.

The most profound change I have seen in my time in academia is the emergence of the supercharged, competitive educational landscape in which we must pick our way. It extends from college admissions through graduate-student aid to faculty recruitment and retention to organizational structure. Major research universities throughout the world, including Chicago, are investing aggressively across the board and creating ever more complex configurations that demand imagination coupled with a sure sense of institutional self. Suppleness of thought and acceptance of the reality that tools of scholarship and modes of inquiry are not only changing, but changing differently in different disciplines, will be essential to maintain the University of Chicago's eminence. The whole of the University is most powerful when the connections between schools and divisions and the College are real and robust, but these connections also must be allowed to evolve in ways that are driven locally and preferentially.

Like the *New Yorker* cartoon where one lab-coated physicist peruses the discoveries in his laboratory notebook and informs the other, "We've agreed to count it as both a wave and a particle for tax purposes," we need the freedom to reimagine the shape of the University while remaining bounded by the tenets of the intellectual society that we have created. Change is manifest and inevitable, but it will not be powerful except in the context of our defining values. ♦

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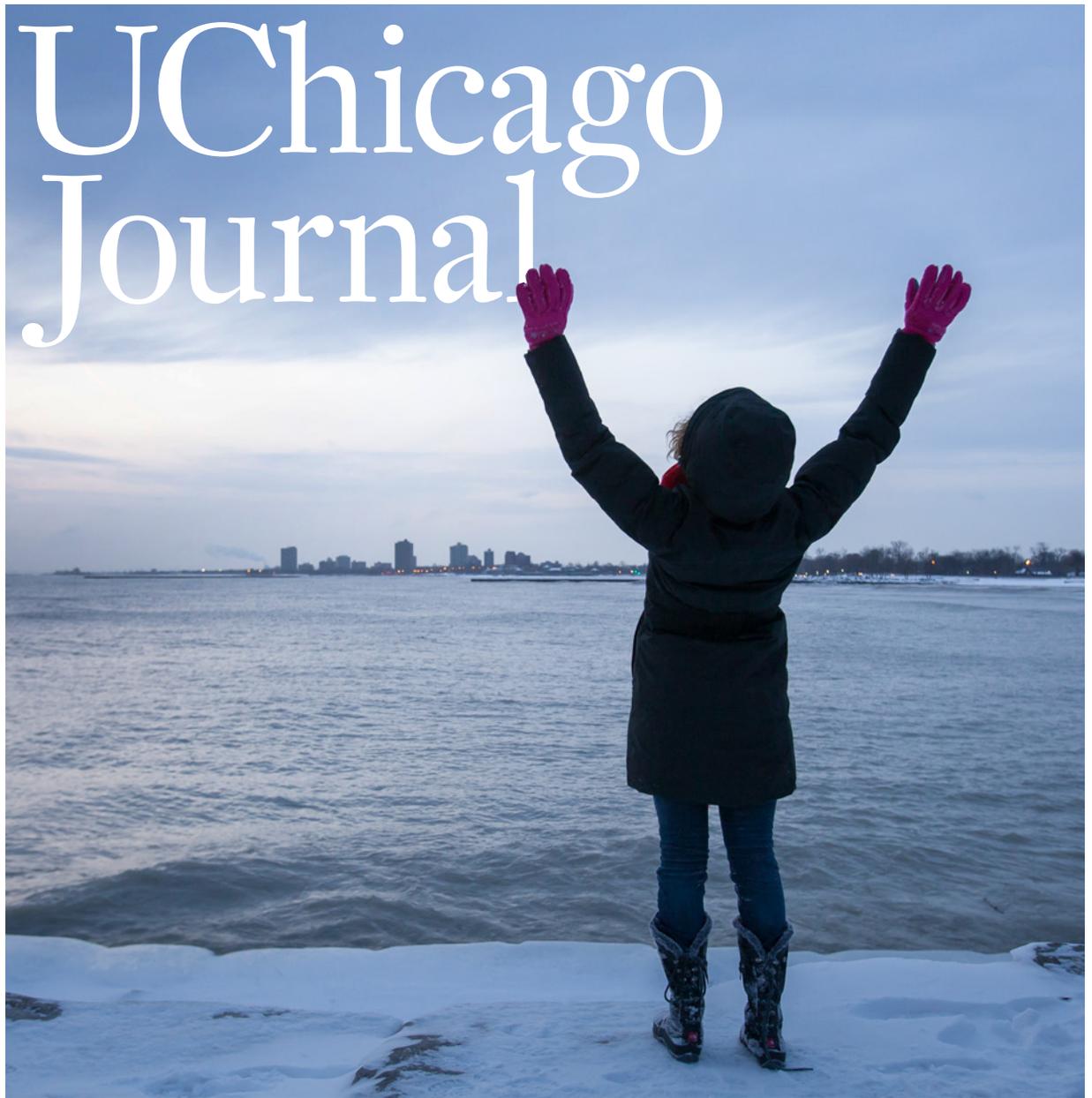
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STUDENT LIFE

## Chill out

A warm start for Kuviasungnerk swirls to a snowy finish.

The week started on such a high note—51 degrees Fahrenheit—that the purists declared 2012 was “not a real Kuvia.” But by Friday, scarves and snow pants were both commonplace and necessary.

Every year **Jean Treese**, AB’66, who leads the weeklong winter festival’s Salute to the Sun exercise (pictured above) at the Point on Friday, asks participants not to disrobe before the yoga begins. And while the cold snap kept some bundled in their beds, it didn’t deter the diehards from stripping down to shorts and T-shirts and flopping around in the snow.

In theory, the Monday–Thursday morning exercises are preparation for the final Friday ritual at the Point: you build up from two salutes on Monday

to ten on Friday, when your collective labor culminates in a glorious sunrise over Lake Michigan. In practice, there’s a big difference between yoga in the gym and yoga in the snow.

After the march from Henry Crown, a perfunctory plank pose and a few quick dips into the snow are enough to demonstrate commitment. Diehard or not, though, everyone hopped onto the buses and rode back to campus, where they were welcomed with a bagel, a juice box, and the coveted Kuvia T-shirt.—*Mitchell Kohles, ’12*

PHOTO BY JASON SMITH



The new Institute of Politics will include events like January's bipartisan panel of officials and analysts.

POLITICS

# Left, right, left, right

Strategist David Axelrod will lead a campus institute designed to be an ROTC for public service.

Complementing the announcement that former White House senior adviser **David Axelrod**, AB'76, will direct a campus Institute for Politics beginning in 2013, the University hosted a January 19 panel of well-known politicians to talk about the 2012 election.

The International House auditorium was packed with invited guests, students, faculty, and staff members to see *New York Times* columnist **David Brooks**, AB'83; Republican media consultant Alex Castellanos; Chicago mayor Rahm Emanuel; and MSNBC's Rachel Maddow. George Stephanopoulos of ABC moderated the discussion—an event planned to demonstrate the types of speakers

Axelrod, currently a strategist for President Obama's reelection campaign, hopes to attract.

Collaborating with the Harris School of Public Policy and the College, the institute will not be an academic division but rather will provide resources to students. "Think of this as an ROTC program for politics and public service," Axelrod said.

Although he has advised only Democrats, Axelrod and University president Robert J. Zimmer told audience members that they are committed to keeping the institute nonpartisan. Zimmer noted that the commitment reflects "the University's culture of open debate that includes multiple and often competing perspectives."

As a student at the University, Axelrod felt an absence of opportunities for politically minded students. He observed a low level of campus activism and wants the institute to inspire student interest. He said it's easy to be cynical about politics, but it's participants in the process who shape political decisions. Rather than "curse the outcome," Axelrod encouraged students to "change the outcome, if not as a candidate then as a strategist

or an adviser or as a writer."

Bringing the panelists onstage, Axelrod said the group demonstrated the range of political views the institute will promote.

That range soon became evident, but the discussion began with a consensus: they agreed that among GOP presidential candidates, former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney has the best shot to win the party's nomination. Emanuel said that New Jersey governor Chris Christie or Indiana governor Mitch Daniels would be stronger candidates, and Castellanos added that the Republican Party is missing an Obama, a standard-bearer with a strong "optimistic vision" that inspires voters.

Asked if there were a third-party candidate who might challenge either nominee, Maddow said that it would most likely be Texas representative Ron Paul. The left, she added, would "eat alive" any liberal trying to oust Obama.

Whatever happens in the November election, Axelrod will return in early 2013 to his Chicago academic roots, bringing his political experience with him. The Institute of Politics will have three main components—attracting political professionals to campus as

PHOTO BY JASON SMITH

fellows, a student internship program, and regular events featuring speakers such as the group who visited in January. The mission, Axelrod says, is to give students “a real-life sense of public engagement—what it entails, what it offers, why it’s important.”

—Christina Pillsbury, '13

## POETRY

# Holy, holey sonnets

Does Donne dramatize religious incoherence or lapse into it?

This was how winter quarter began for the Divinity School’s long-running Wednesday Lunch lecture series: with English professor **Richard Strier** standing behind a podium in the Swift Hall common room while two dozen students and faculty polished off the last of their brownies and listened as he tore into John Donne’s Holy Sonnets. The title of Strier’s talk posed a question: “Does bad theology make for bad poetry?” The answer, he contended, was yes.

His fellow scholars were more than willing to argue the point.

Donne was born in 1572 into a devout Catholic family at a time when Catholicism was illegal in England. His mother was related distantly to Sir Thomas More, and his brother went to prison for sheltering Jesuits. But by the 1590s, he “seems to have become something of a religious skeptic, or perhaps more accurately, a religious seeker,” said Strier, the Frank L. Sulzberger distinguished service professor in the English department and the Divinity School, who has written articles analyzing Donne’s poetry and whose most recent book is *The Unrepentant Renaissance: From Petrarch to Shakespeare to Milton* (University of Chicago Press, 2011). “He spent a long period in religious suspension, reading the books of controversy on both sides of the great reformation debates, trying to figure out intellectually where he wanted to be.”

In the end, Donne emerged a Protestant and in 1615 became an Anglican

priest. But Donne’s Holy Sonnets, now among his most celebrated poems, were written between 1607 and 1610, Strier said, before he’d fully aligned himself with his Protestant beliefs. And the theological confusion evident in some of the poems, Strier argued—with an almost gleeful vehemence that kept his audience chuckling—mars the poetry. Glancing periodically at his watch and wishing aloud that he had more time to speak (“this should be a three-hour seminar”), Strier analyzed three of Donne’s Holy Sonnets, including the most famous, which begins, “Batter my heart, three person’d God.” But the poem that seemed to dismay Strier most was sonnet number 6, describing the afterlife, with the opening line, “This is my playes last scene, here heavens appoint.” Reading to his listeners, who held print-outs, Strier halted at the end of the sixth line: “and I shall sleepe a space.” “Well, well,” he said. “This raises the obvious question: he’s already identified his body and soul as separate entities. What is this ‘I’? Which one is it? Or is it neither? You see what I mean.”

Wading deeper into the poem, Strier teased out further religious confusion, including what he called Donne’s “weird ontological fantasy” about a postmortem stripping away of sins and a “really bizarre line” misconstruing the theological concept of “imputed righteousness”—bestowed on a sinner by faith alone—to the point of incoherence.

Div School dean **Margaret Mitchell**, AM’82, PhD’89, countered Strier’s criticism of Donne for using “I” without a clear sense of which self the “I” might refer to. “Did he introduce the theological confusion about Christian eschatology, or is it in fact inherent in the Christian tradition about as far back as we can go?” Mitchell asked. She could hear echoes, she said, of

St. Paul’s words in Donne’s. “There is this tension between the immortality of the soul on the one hand, a sense of immediate postmortem survival,” she said, “and also this sense of eschatological resurrection—the body must be buried in the earth and then rise. So I actually thought the ‘I’ in line six is kind of skilled, because Donne has a Platonic dualism that you can read into if not find explicitly in Paul.”

Chiming in from his seat by the podium, **Michael Murrin**, a medieval and Renaissance literature scholar, reminded Strier of the turmoil during the early 17th century. “I would say one thing, Richard—and you know this too—between 1600 and 1610, people were moving all over the place in terms of their religious thinking.” He also accounted for Donne’s terror in the face of God, which Strier flagged as confused and wrong. Said Murrin, “And when he says he fears to see God”—here Murrin began chanting “Dies Irae,” a 13th-century Latin hymn about Judgment Day—“the Catholic background begins to appear, which he hasn’t always shaken off. I mean, the late-medieval idea of the end of the world is not, shall we say, as reassuring as we would like.”

“No, I think that’s right,” Strier answered Murrin, as the hour wound toward 1 p.m. and students began filing out of the room, dropping their utensils in a dishpan by the door and scraping their plates into a compost bin. “The fact that this is incoherent doesn’t mean that I want to make fun of it. I think Donne’s struggling, and I think the conceptions of what the state of being saved is like are so different from what he’s known.”

**Clark Gilpin**, AM’72, PhD’74, a former Div School dean who studies Christianity’s cultural history, asked about Donne wrestling with “questions of

My spans last inch, my minutes latest point  
And gluttonous death, will instantly unjoynt  
My body, and soule, and I shall sleepe a space,  
[But my’ever-walking part shall]\* see that face,  
Whose feare already shakes my every joint

A fragment of Holy Sonnet 6, which demonstrates, Strier says, Donne’s confusion.

how to articulate a radical transformation,” from Catholicism to Protestantism. “Is there a preferred language of transformation that Donne finally arrives at, or is he constantly playing as a poet with different ways of articulating? Because if so, you might want to argue the reverse of your title: does bad poetry make for bad theology?”

Strier laughed. “I’m not sure how you’d argue that,” he said. A few minutes later, he left his audience with a final assessment of Donne: “There’s a difference between dramatizing incoherence and being incoherent,” he said. “In the better poems, he dramatizes it. In the worse ones, he just falls into it.” —*Lydialyle Gibson*

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#### THEATER

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## Career change

Lucy Wang went from trading bonds to writing scripts.

In her 1994 play *Junk Bonds*, **Lucy Wang**, MBA’86, details the fast-paced world of Wall Street bond traders—the power plays, bluffs, and betrayals—along with the question of just whom you could trust. Wang was writing from experience: before becoming a playwright, she was a bond trader. “It’s a tough world. They want to make sure you can handle it,” she notes, adding that she endured her share of nicknames.

The year *Junk Bonds* premiered, the play won awards from the Kennedy Center Fund for New American Plays and the Katherine and Lee Chilcote Foundation. It was a good year for Wang: the *New York Times* featured her on the cover of the Business section, with a two-page article inside, and the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles selected her play *Bird’s Nest Soup*, about an immigrant family, for its New Work Festival.

Born in Taiwan, Wang was raised in Ohio by her father after her mother abandoned them when Wang was a teenager. Although she was a “good writer”—she wrote a short story in

tenth grade about Holden Caulfield going on *The Tonight Show*—Wang felt she needed to pursue a more practical career. “People would tell me, ‘You didn’t come all the way from China to be a starving artist.’ So very early on, it was ingrained that that I must make money.”

The self-described “business nerd” studied economics and Asian studies at the University of Texas at Austin and then moved to New York to work on Wall Street. At a party, she met someone who thought she’d be a good fit in Mayor David Dinkins’s City Hall, so she took a detour into politics, working as deputy chief of staff to the deputy mayor. Almost two years later, Wang found herself out of a job when Dinkins lost his 1993 reelection bid to Rudy Giuliani. “To chase my blues away, I joined a writing group,” she recalls. The group encouraged her to turn her stories into a play.

The result was *Junk Bonds*, and she’s been writing ever since—13 published plays and eight monologues to date. In mid-March Wang completes a ten-week residency at the Annenberg Community Beach House in Santa Monica, California, where she will have hosted a series of public events about storytelling. At the first meeting, titled New Year, New Beginnings, Wang opened the discussion by talking about the subject of luck and how many of the attendees thought of themselves as lucky—a lot, surprisingly, Wang thought. “In today’s economy, I know a lot of unemployed and underemployed people, struggling, carrying upside-down mortgages, no health insurance, worthless pensions,” she says. The discussion made her rethink the definition of the word: “Is luck a random windfall? Is luck simply an attitude? Or the byproduct of hard labor plus timing?”

During her residency, Wang hoped to finish a play in progress, “Moo Goo Gai Pan Asian.” She has also branched out into other genres. An as-yet-unpublished young-adult novel, “Teen Mogul,” is about a girl working in corporate America to support her family after her mother leaves. When Wang was about 15, she used some connections to get a job as a marketing research director. “And then I ended up on the board of directors because they didn’t know how old I was.”

When trying to publish “Teen Mogul,” “I was told by some people that



Wang has made writing her business.

nobody cares about a smart, precocious Asian American girl,” Wang says. “I was told to make it a boy, and not make him Asian American. ... So I’m adapting my novel into a play, and I’m making it race neutral, because I want it to be done in more than one city.”

Wang also has begun performing stand-up comedy at the urging of Gloria Steinem, whom Wang met during a monthlong writers residency at Hedgebrook. “She said, ‘You’ve got to dare yourself to do it,’” Wang says. “So I started trying last fall, and it’s a huge rush. Normally I let actors perform my lines, but it was cool to do my own stuff.” Wang finds the medium terrifying but rewarding. “I’ve had one guy tell me, ‘I almost peed in my pants,’” she recalls. “And that’s just the best compliment you can get.” —*Jenelle Riley*

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#### BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

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## Twin studies

Nancy Segal’s experience as a twin inspired her to ask, what makes them alike?

Sometime around her fourth birthday, **Nancy L. Segal**, AM’74, PhD’82, realized that she was a fraternal twin, that there was a “same-age person who

## CITATIONS

### TECH ADDICTION

Has checking your smartphone become a vice? Research from Chicago Booth suggests that the desire to check e-mail and social media is among the most irresistible temptations—even stronger than the yen for alcohol and tobacco. In an experiment of 205 people aged 18–85 in Würzburg, Germany, assistant professor **Wilhelm Hofmann** recorded how often and how strongly participants felt various urges, and when they gave in. In the *March Psychological Science*, he reported that desires for sex and sleep were the strongest and most commonly reported, but also the easiest to resist. Checking e-mail and Twitter accounts, on the other hand, proved difficult to withstand—perhaps, Hofmann said, because of the activity’s perceived low cost. Moreover, the study found that subjects didn’t build up immunity to their cravings—instead, as the day dragged on and they continually fought back desire, their willpower broke down.

### ORGAN SHARING

Organ allocation that favors geography over patients’ severity of condition may unnecessarily leave the neediest patients to die on the wait-list, says transplant surgeon **Mark J. Russo**. Russo and colleagues at Chicago and Columbia University used data

from the United Network for Organ Sharing and found that out of 580 lung transplants performed in 2009, 480 went to the closest patient while another patient in more critical condition waited outside the “local service area,” sometimes within 20 miles. Ultimately, 185 of the bypassed candidates died on the waiting list. Because the data was limited to double-lung candidates and researchers could not cross-check for blood-type matches, the study likely underestimates the number of lives lost, Russo said. The findings were shared at January’s annual meeting of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons.

### HEAD FIRST INTO EVOLUTION

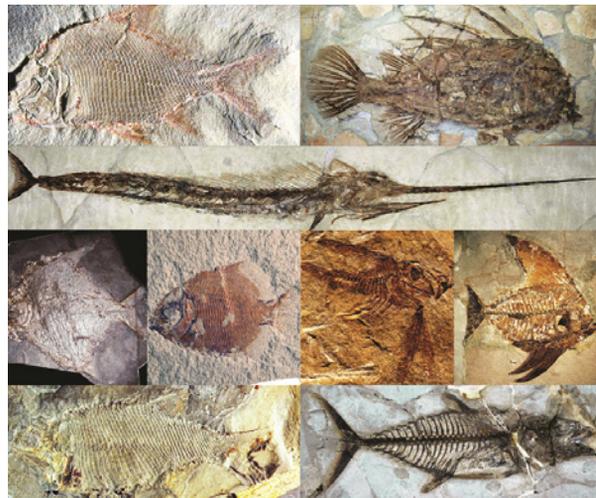
When biologists search for clues as to why a species evolves in one way and not another, they generally begin with living species and trace the path backward. **Lauren Sallan**, a doctoral student in organismal biology, instead consulted the fossil record to see how a species moves forward to evolve. With an Oxford University colleague, Sallan studied fossils of fish from periods immediately after mass extinctions, when resources were abundant and competitors scarce. In these conditions, they found that contrary to existing theories, fish’s heads evolved first, before their tails. The driving factor,

the researchers posit, may have been food: the animals evolved new teeth and jaws to exploit the expanded options. The findings were published online in December in *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*.

### TIME AND HYPERTENSION

When patients struggle with diabetes, any sign of high blood pressure is reason enough to make their physician reach for the prescription pad. But a study by internist and Pritzker instructor **Neda Laiteerapong**, published in the January 9 *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, suggests that patients may

have more time than they think to get their blood pressure under control. Drawing on years of published data, Laiteerapong and Chicago colleagues built models to determine how dangerous it is to delay effective treatment for diabetics. They found that patients who postponed medication and lifestyle changes for one year could expect only a two-day loss in quality-adjusted life expectancy. “For newly diagnosed patients, this means we have time,” said Laiteerapong. However, as the delay increases, the risks multiply.—*Mitchell Kohles*, ’12



Fossils turned a theory of fish evolution upside down.

grew up alongside me but didn’t look anything like me.” Segal’s twin sister, Anne, had wavy hair; Segal’s hair was straight. Their faces were dissimilar; their height disparity noticeable. Segal was more outgoing and less studious than her sister. Growing up in the Bronx neighborhood of Riverdale, the twins sought out separate groups of friends.

Segal, now a psychology professor and founder of the Twin Studies Center at California State University, Fullerton, noticed that her school’s identical twin pairs were strikingly similar. “When I was a child, I didn’t know about genes, of course,” she

says. “But what I did realize was that the identicals looked a lot alike, and they seemed to *be* a lot alike. [My sister and I] looked different, and we *were* different.” The identical twins also appeared to have a strong bond with their counterparts, while Segal and her sister were never especially close.

Segal has since built a career in twin research that has included four books, more than 130 journal articles, and nearly 200 interviews and appearances on news programs and talk shows. Her 2011 book, *Someone Else’s Twin: The True Story of Babies Switched at Birth* (Prometheus Books), chronicles the consequences of an unintentional

baby switch in the 1970s at a Canary Islands hospital. The switch caused a set of identical twin girls to grow up apart, unaware of each other’s existence. The *Wall Street Journal* called the book a “fascinating account of the switched-at-birth misstep and the painful family and legal entanglements that followed.”

At the start of her scholarly career, Segal researched cooperation, competition, and altruism in fraternal and identical twins for her UChicago dissertation. Identical twins share virtually 100 percent of their genes, and fraternal twins share 50 percent on average. At the time, remembers

# Voice of descent

Thomas Frank fears the rise of conservative populism could deepen economic decline.

Whenever **Thomas Frank**, AM'89, PhD'94, gestured in exasperation at the state of American political culture—and he did that a lot during a January talk at International House—water sloshed from the open bottle in his left hand. He didn't seem to notice the puddle forming next to him on the stage.

Eventually Frank set the water down, but he never let go of the vehemence that spilled it. Reading loose-leaf pages adapted from his new book, *Pity the Billionaire: The Hard-Times Swindle and the Unlikely Comeback of the Right* (Metropolitan Books, 2012), Frank tossed each completed sheet behind him. By the end he had created a pile of righteous indignation and hissing sarcasm.

A supportive audience of a few dozen challenged him only to serve up more red meat during the question-and-answer session. Called the “thinking person’s Michael Moore” in the *New York Times*, Frank provided all the ideological snarl expected from the author of the red-state-baiting best seller *What’s the Matter with Kansas?* (Metropolitan Books, 2004). Now a *Harper’s* columnist, Frank unloaded on the tea party’s populist fervor in the wake of the financial crisis.

Conservative economic ideas emerged from the recession with rabid public support, much to Frank’s surprise. He traces the financial crisis to the free-market philosophy of “deregulation, de-unionization, privatization, and free-trade agreements” that has had bipartisan political support since the 1980s. “Now, after all this has been going on for decades, we suddenly have a people’s uprising demanding that we embrace the free-market ideology,” said Frank, the founding editor of the left-wing journal *The Baffler*. “And this only a short while after that same ideology led the

Segal, many researchers argued that the environment was the prime determinant of individual behavior and that genetics played a relatively minor role. Based on her research, Segal suspected that biology deserved more consideration.

She did her postdoc at the University of Minnesota, working on psychologist Thomas Bouchard’s Minnesota Study of Twins Reared Apart. The study, launched in 1979 and lasting two decades, tested 137 adult twin pairs who had been raised in different homes. Eighty-one pairs were identical and 56 were fraternal. Bouchard’s group also used data from the Minnesota Twin Registry, started in 1983 by researchers studying identical and fraternal pairs raised together.

The general finding, explains Segal, who worked on the project for nine years, was “that genes are much more pervasive than anyone would have ever imagined,” a controversial idea when the data was first released in 1981. Across most of the measured behavioral characteristics, identical pairs—whether reared apart or together—scored more alike than fraternal pairs. Even more telling, on many traits, such as aggression, the identical twins raised apart displayed roughly the same degree of similarity as those raised together.

Although the study showed that genes account for the vast majority of family similarities, Segal gives social factors their due. “Behavior is a com-

plex combination of both genes and environment. Nothing is 100 percent genetic—everything is a combination of the two.” No pair of identical twins is exactly the same. The differences have to come from somewhere, Segal suggests, most likely unshared environmental experiences.

To research *Someone Else’s Twin*, Segal flew to Las Palmas, Spain. The book follows the 1973 case of Delia and Begoña, a pair of identical twins born at the Nuestra Señora del Pino Hospital. When Delia was accidentally switched with unrelated infant Beatriz, Begoña and Beatriz became same-age unrelated children raised together, and Delia became the first-born child of a family with whom she had no biological connection. Twenty-eight years later, Begoña was mistaken for Delia in a clothing store, a mix-up that eventually uncovered the baby switch and left the three women and their families stunned and embroiled in a years-long lawsuit with the hospital.

In 2009 the lawyers granted Segal full access to the families—they thought she would help their case, which concluded that same year and awarded the families €900,000 (then about \$1.2 million). The case confirmed for Segal that, in general, people are more like their biological relatives—even if they have not been raised under the same roof. Segal learned that Beatriz realized at 12 that she looked, thought, and acted differently than the family who raised her. Delia and Begoña noted their striking behavioral similarities and described feeling a strong connection upon first meeting, echoing reared-apart identical twins in the Minnesota Study.

Segal’s latest book project is *Born Together—Reared Apart: The Landmark Minnesota Twin Study* (Harvard University Press, forthcoming). She expects the book, like her other endeavors, will attract publicity because twins—especially identicals—fascinate people. “Everybody would love to have someone who is just like them,” says Segal, who is now very close to her fraternal twin. “Many of us sort of envy that, and perhaps in some ways I did too. Maybe I wanted someone just like me. Who knows?”

—Katherine Muhlenkamp



Twins Nancy (right) and Anne Segal differ in appearance and personality.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL KEEL



**Frank discussion: “The thinking man’s Michael Moore” thinks things look bleak.**

world into the greatest economic catastrophe in memory.”

In response, he said, liberals have preached moderation, ceding the rage that sparked legislative reforms during the Great Depression to their political opposition. “The bailouts produced an environment that was perfect for populism in the old Jacksonian tradition, for old-fashioned calamity howlers, for jeremiads raging against the corrupt and the powerful. And one of our two political factions, as we have seen, took to that task immediately and with relish.”

Occupy Wall Street has since added a left-wing perspective to the unrest, but Frank believes the elected officials on that side of the spectrum have been tone deaf. “The actual political descendants of Jackson and Truman and Roosevelt, they pretty much failed to rise to the occasion. They never seemed to get it. ... They could not embrace the requirements of the moment even though responding to hard times was once their movement’s very reason for being.”

In Frank’s view, the unworthy heirs to that tradition include President Obama, who happened to be in Chicago the same night for a series of campaign fundraisers. “Back to raise big bucks,” Frank said, holding up a *Chicago Sun-Times* clipping that reminded him of a passage from Obama’s book *The Audacity of Hope* about how

money influences politicians.

Major Democratic donors, Frank said, tend to have liberal social views but share the conservative antiunion, pro-free-trade economic philosophy. “In other words, they’re sort of like a nice version of the tea party movement. And that’s who pays for Barack Obama’s campaigns. And he himself has said it, and he’s very honest about it. He says, ‘As I campaigned for the Senate ... I found myself becoming more like them.’ And he’s right.”

As indebted as Republicans are to supporters who prospered despite the downturn, Obama and the Democrats do not elude culpability for the Ayn Rand abyss Frank envisions. A triumphant tea party agenda taken to its logical extreme, he said, would eliminate programs such as disaster relief and interstate highways and national parks as government functions for the common good. In their place, Frank argued, would be a culture not of individual responsibility but of social and economic anarchy.

“Every problem that our editorialists fret about today will get worse, of course: inequality, global warming, financial bubbles one after another after another, but it won’t matter,” Frank said. “On our country will go, chasing the only ideology that we have left, down into the seething Arcadia of all against all.”—Jason Kelly

## WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER’S INDEX BADGER’S INFLUENCE

Years Richard Badger, JD’68, the Law School’s assistant dean for graduate programs, has worked at the Law School:

40

Years Badger spent as dean of Law School admissions:

28

Percentage of living Law alumni admitted during his tenure:

50

Student organizations when Badger began working for the Law School:

1

Student organizations today:

60

Jobs Badger once held simultaneously (career adviser, admissions officer, dean of students, registrar) that now have their own departments:

4

## FOR THE RECORD



### INVESTMENT IN INDIAN STUDIES

A \$1.5 million gift from India's Ministry of Culture has established a visiting professorship in Indian Studies. The chair commemorates Hindu spiritual leader Swami Vivekananda. The quarter-long visiting professorship in the humanities division will go to scholars in disciplines most relevant to Vivekananda's teachings, including Indian philosophy, politics, and social movements.



### MODEL STUDENTS

The University's Urban Education Institute and the Ounce of Prevention Fund have been awarded a total of \$2.45 million for a multiyear effort to develop a public-education model from birth to college. Funds from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, and the Foundation for Child Development will be used to create and implement instructional practices and academic and social supports, beginning with early-childhood education and continuing from kindergarten through high school.

### IT'S FIVE MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT

In January the University-based Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists moved the hands of its symbolic Doomsday Clock one minute closer to midnight. Since 2010 the clock had stood at 11:54 p.m., but the Bulletin cited inadequate progress on nuclear-weapons reduction and proliferation and inaction on climate change as the reasons for the reset.

### GROUP THINKERS

Chicago Booth professors **Raghuram Rajan** and **Axel Weber** have been named to the Group of 30, an international body that examines the effects of public and private financial and economic decisions. Rajan, the Eric J. Gleacher distinguished service professor in finance, serves as an economic adviser to India's prime minister and was the International Monetary Fund's chief economist from 2003 to 2006. Weber, former president of Deutsche Bundesbank and a member of the European Central Bank's governing council, is a visiting professor of economics and the incoming chair of global financial-services company UBS.

### MOVING INSTRUMENT

The baroque-style Reneker Memorial Organ moves this summer from the Chicago Theological Seminary to Bond Chapel. To get the 1983 organ settled in its new home, the chapel will close after June Convocation and reopen in December. University organist **Thomas Weisflog**, SM'69, plans a concert series to celebrate the instrument's arrival at Bond Chapel.

### AKIRA COMES TO HYDE PARK

A Chicago-based retailer will open this fall in the former Borders bookstore building at 1539 East 53rd Street. Akira will occupy 8,000 square feet on the first floor of the building across the street from the mixed-use Harper Court development under construction. The Hyde Park location will feature women's clothing, accessories, and shoes.

### BOYCE LEAPS THROUGH HISTORY

As a literature student, **Kevin Boyce** imagined himself in Chaucer's medieval world. That made him think about the dizzying sweep of history, back to life on earth millions of years ago, sparking an interest that became a career. Now an associate professor in geophysical sciences, Boyce received the 2011 Charles Schuchert Award from the Paleontological Society, which goes to a paleontologist under 40, for his research into leaves and fossil geochemistry. One of 11 recipients since the award was established 1973, Boyce joins **Michael Foote**, professor and chair of the geophysical sciences department, on the list of winners.



### PRIZE FOR A PIONEER

**Janet Rowley**, PhD'45, SB'46, MD'48, has received the 2012 Japan Prize for Healthcare and Medical Technology for her role in developing targeted cancer therapy. Rowley, the Blum-Riese distinguished service professor of medicine, received the \$215,000 award for research that began in the early 1970s, showing that chromosome "translocation" affected genes that regulated cell growth and division, a factor in several types of leukemia. Her discoveries helped lead to better treatments, including the first targeted anticancer drug, Gleevec.

### THE SOUND OF SCIENCE

The sounds of Fermilab machinery—"the ubiquitous booms, hums, growls, and crackles"—provide a daily soundtrack that employees

learn to tune out. Composer Mason Bates turned those noises into music for his symphony *Alternative Energy*, which the Chicago Symphony Orchestra performed in February and the *Chicago Tribune* called "exceedingly well-made."

### HONORED IN TRANSLATION

The Modern Language Association honored three UChicago faculty members in January. **Michael Bourdaghs**, associate professor in East Asian languages and civilizations, received the Scaglione Prize for Translation of a Scholarly Study of Literature for Natsume Soseki's *Theory of Literature and Other Critical Writings*. Sharing the prize for Distinguished Scholarly Edition as coeditors of *Elizabeth I: Translations, 1544–1589*, and *Elizabeth I: Translations, 1592–1598*, were **Janel Muller**, the William Rainey Harper distinguished service professor emerita in English language and literature, and **Joshua Scodel**, the Helen A. Regenstein professor in English language and literature, comparative literature, and the College.



### IN THE LINE OF FIRE

The University of Chicago Medicine and CeaseFire Chicago will sponsor a "violence interrupter," a person who defuses potentially deadly disputes—efforts featured in the 2011 documentary *The Interrupters*. Providing \$120,000 over three years to fund the interrupter, UChicago Medicine plans other antiviolence efforts throughout the South Side.



Goldin says the United States needs to strengthen academic standards to increase its competitive workforce.

ECONOMICS

# Capital ideas

Panelists at a Becker Friedman Institute event tackle policy issues in classic Chicago style.

At a January event in New York, University president **Robert J. Zimmer** introduced the Becker Friedman Institute for Research in Economics as an endeavor that will build on the tradition of the Chicago school of economics. UChicago economists, Zimmer reminded the more than 220 alumni and business leaders in the audience, produced insights that changed how governments viewed their economic structures. “Many of you will

remember the rather famous remark that George Will made after the fall of the Soviet Union—and, along with it, a discrediting of an economic system that was totally non-market-engaged,” he said: “The Cold War is over, and the University of Chicago has won.”

The new institute, which combines the Milton Friedman Institute with the Becker Center on Price Theory, Zimmer said, is designed to continue the generating and nurturing ideas that change the world. Some of those ideas were on display during two panel discussions on some of today’s most pressing economic policy challenges.

Institute chair **Gary S. Becker**, AM’53, PhD’55, led a discussion of human capital and its importance in an information-based economy. Becker and **Claudia Goldin**, AM’69, PhD’72, the Henry Lee professor of economics at Harvard University, showed how the US educational system powered economic growth for much of the

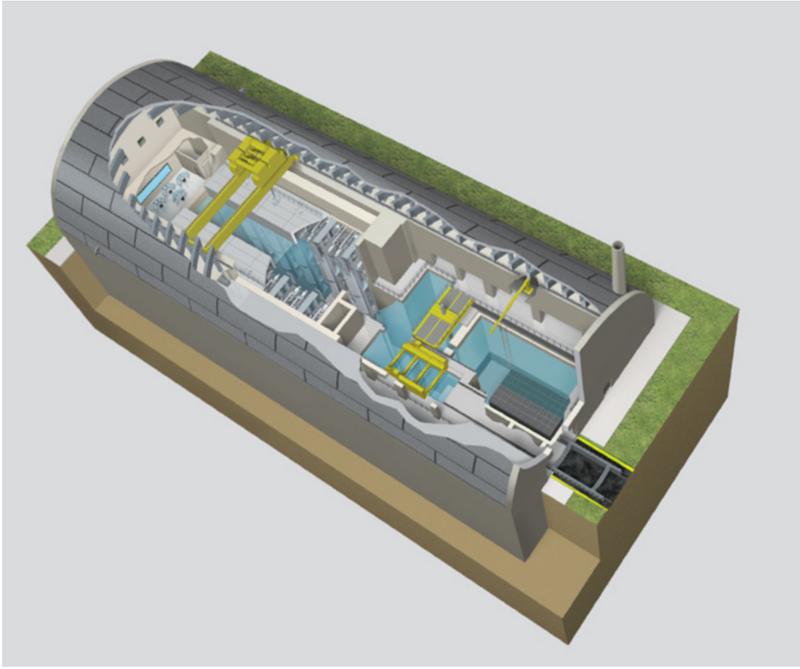
20th century, but stagnation in high-school graduation rates translates into a workforce lacking the skills to compete. Presenting information from her book with Lawrence F. Katz, *The Race Between Education and Technology* (Harvard University Press, 2008), Goldin called for more competition and stronger academic standards.

**Kevin Murphy**, PhD’86, the George J. Stigler professor of economics at Chicago Booth, agreed: Of the three factors driving GDP growth—investment in physical capital, investment in human capital, and new technology—“people are the most important input,” he said. “Human capital accounts for roughly 65 percent of our productive capacity. If you don’t increase the skills of your workforce, it’s harder and harder to absorb technical innovations and advances.”

The dearth of skilled workers, Murphy said, fuels the wage premium for college-educated workers and grow-

PHOTO BY JAMIE WATTS/BECKER FRIEDMAN INSTITUTE





Small modular reactors could energize the nuclear-power industry.

distinguished service professor in astronomy and astrophysics. The report, which Rosner wrote with Argonne National Laboratory's **Stephen Goldberg**, calls the proposed transition to the new reactors an "evolutionary, rather than a disruptive, radical shift" in nuclear-energy technology.

From a business standpoint, the new technology could revolutionize a stalled industry. The EPIC study notes that developing small modular reactors offers an opportunity for the United States to seize the lead in nuclear manufacturing. The Obama administration apparently agrees, announcing in January that the Department of Energy will allocate \$452 million over the next five years for design development.

The price tag of bringing a traditional plant from design to operation—about \$2 billion, according to a 2008 Congressional Budget Office report—has deterred nuclear development. There are 31 states with traditional plants in operation and seven states where nuclear power accounts for the largest percentage of electricity generated. But the last US commercial plant to come online was Tennessee's Watts Bar 1 plant in 1996.

A typical traditional station, Watts Bar generates about 1,123 megawatts

of electricity. Nebraska's Fort Calhoun plant, with an output of 478 megawatts, is the nation's smallest operational plant. By comparison, small modular reactors would generate between 45 and 300 megawatts. Most of the Energy Policy Institute's conclusions were based on a hypothetical "middle position" 100 megawatt plant.

"The economic question is all about, 'Is what I am buying affordable?'" says Rosner. "Are you going to go broke buying it or not? And can you make money when you actually use it?"

The new reactors could be built more quickly and efficiently than traditional plants, although pinpointing precise construction timetables is difficult at this stage. Because traditional plants are built so infrequently, laborers must be trained from scratch with each project, rather than moving from job to job. The proposed small modular reactor industry could change that model. Rosner compares it to the plane and ship industries: "Training costs are sharply reduced and the error rate is sharply reduced. People are just better at what they do."

It will take time to get laborers up to speed. The learning curve will make the early units expensive enough, Rosner says, that it may be difficult to find initial investors. "Most likely, it is the

federal government that will have to be the first major buyer," he says. Rosner's optimistic estimate is that, if both the industry and the government push development, the first small modular reactors could become operational in eight to ten years. Realistically, he added, it could be well after 2020 before the first ones come online.

From a safety standpoint, the design of small modular reactors would prevent the problems that plagued Japan's Fukushima nuclear plant. Small modular reactors were a goal before the Japan disaster, but after the meltdown safety concerns became a major public issue, and researchers like Rosner and Goldberg addressed safety more vigorously. "While the focus in this paper is on the business case for SMRs," the report notes, "the safety case also is an important element."

The Japan meltdown occurred when electricity to the plant was cut off as a result of the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami. The small modular reactors' integrated design eliminates the need for outside electricity. According to the report, the design relies on "robust battery power to maintain minimal safety operations."

The reactors, says Rosner, also would not be as vulnerable to terrorism because they would be located underground: "There is nothing above ground to attack."—*Jeff Carroll*

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## HEALTH CARE

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# Salud

Mexico's universal health care is both an achievement and a work in progress.

After **David Garcia-Junco Machado**, AM'95, wrapped up his presentation on Mexico's newly achieved universal health coverage, one student raised his hand and asked what the main difference was between the health system in Mexico and in the United States. Garcia-Junco smiled. "In general terms," he said, "in Mexico we think health care is a fundamental right. And that the government has to pay for it."

Ten years ago, one in two Mexicans—more than 50 million people—

had no medical coverage at all. A 1980s amendment had carved out health care as a constitutional right, “but we didn’t have it in practice,” said Garcia-Junco, Mexico’s national commissioner for social protection in health, who returned to the Harris School in January to give a talk. Since the 1940s, he explained, most of Mexico’s salaried workers have been insured through a public system called the Mexican Institute for Social Security, which offers health and other “social protection” benefits. In the 1960s a similar agency was set up to provide health insurance to government workers. “For every other Mexican,” Garcia-Junco said—including not only the very poor but also farmers, odd-job laborers, self-employed professionals, and anyone working without a formal salary—“there was no guarantee of any kind of health services.”

Then in 2003, the federal government launched Seguro Popular, a plan whose stated purpose was to fill the gap in universal coverage. By the end of 2011, with 52 million Mexicans enrolled, the country reached that goal, said Garcia-Junco. Any Mexican can join Seguro Popular. “All they have to do is ask for it.” The package guarantees a wide range of basic medical services and offers coverage for more than 80 percent of catastrophic illnesses. For children up to five years old, the system covers every medical need. With a budget last year of \$12 billion, it

is funded mainly by the country’s general tax revenues. Both the federal and state governments contribute, and all but Mexico’s poorest Seguro Popular members also pay into the plan, based on a percentage of their income.

Because of Seguro Popular, the past eight years have seen massive changes in the health-care infrastructure. Since 2005, Garcia-Junco said, the government has built more than 4,000 hospitals, clinics, and mobile medical units. “Eight years ago, we had only three high-specialty centers in Mexico. If you had some complicated disease that you needed highly specialized medical services for, you had to go to Mexico City, Guadalajara, or to Monterrey.” Today the country has 12 highly specialized medical centers.

Already the plan is saving lives. Garcia-Junco talked about the 20,000 women who’ve received breast-cancer treatment, the children cured of leukemia, diabetics and hypertensive patients who’ve been diagnosed and treated. Some of Seguro Popular’s poorest enrollees had never had a checkup before joining the plan, had never visited a doctor. Now they receive physical exams at least every three years.

Still, plenty of challenges lie ahead, Garcia-Junco said, and the task of insuring so many people is enormous. Especially in the poorest states, medical care can be uneven, and waiting times long. Meanwhile, he said, “we have universal health-care coverage,

but in three different fragmented systems”—Seguro Popular and the two agencies that preceded it. “We should have one.”

During the Q&A that followed Garcia-Junco’s talk, students asked about the complexities of enrolling rural peasants with no IDs. One solution is biometric identification, Garcia-Junco said. “We cannot leave people without health care because the other institutions”—census and revenue agencies—“cannot count the Mexicans.”

Another student asked about corruption, which has long been a problem for Latin American governments. “Corruption never goes away,” Garcia-Junco said. “The only thing we can do is mitigate some of the problem.” One way, he noted, is to adopt strict federal budgets for equipment and other purchases and delegate the buying to local officials. Say a certain type of computer costs \$1,000, he said, offering a hypothetical. The federal government would provide the states with \$1,000 per computer, plus maybe ten percent. “If it’s no more than that”—that extra ten percent going into someone’s pocket—“I’m not sure if it’s corruption or not, but we’re going to allow it. I’m pretty sure some people are getting small amounts of money, but they become champions of the Seguro Popular system. And what we need is the system.”

What about Seguro Popular’s long-term economic feasibility? another student asked. “We see wealthy countries have budget problems with universal coverage,” he said. “How can Mexico afford it?” Partly, Garcia-Junco answered, because high-quality medical care is cheaper in Mexico than in wealthier countries, just as a house in Manhattan costs more than the same house in Nevada.

Seguro Popular, he added, is a system, not a program. The distinction matters: “A program, you negotiate the budget every year,” he said. “This is a system, defined by law. And the funding is defined by law.” There will be budgetary pressures, he acknowledged, but Seguro Popular’s basic undertaking remains constant. “The other thing,” he said, is that now “you have 52 million Mexicans that have a policy. Are you willing to tell them next year that they don’t have it anymore?”—*Lydia Ilye Gibson*



In Mexico, Garcia-Junco says, health care is seen as a “fundamental right.”

PHOTO BY LLOYD DEGRANE

# Is irony dead?

Jonathan Lear tries to revive the term as Socrates understood it—the opposite of detachment.

Irony died on September 11, 2001—or so went the conventional wisdom. For philosopher **Jonathan Lear**, the terrorist attacks shook Americans out of a common misunderstanding of the concept and revived a deeper sense of irony as Socrates and Kierkegaard expressed it.

In *A Case for Irony* (Harvard University Press, 2011), Lear argues that the 1990s sense of irony as a “rundown sense of detachment and lack of commitment” failed to reflect its significance to human experience. “Irony as detachment is the first movement of a two-movement dance. The culture at the end of the 20th century saw irony just as the first step and completely lost the picture of what the second step is and why it’s important.”

In a February interview, Lear, the John U. Nef distinguished service professor in the Committee on Social Thought, discussed the second step across “the gap between pretense and aspiration” that characterizes true irony.—*Jason Kelly*

## What does it mean to have an “experience of irony”?

This is tied up with my work in psychoanalysis. People are very concerned that their lives have some meaning before they die. This is what usually brings people into analysis, the sense of they’re caught in a routine and they can’t get out of it: they seem like they can’t be quite the friend they’d want to be, or have the friends they’d like to have, or be the wife they’d like to be, or be quite as creative in their work or in school as they’d like to be. The question arises, for people who are serious about their lives before they die, what does any of this have to do with, say, being a husband or being a friend? That question arises because a gap opens up. You experience, internally to you, a gap between going through the socially expected movements and what it would be to do this meaningfully.



## What’s the distinction between an ironic experience and routine personal contemplation?

Walking down 57th Street, you can’t walk past Medici without being confronted by at least one, maybe two people who want money from you. And they’re poor. What do you do about that? I would say just about everybody in the University of Chicago has a routine. Maybe they change it, maybe sometimes they give money, maybe sometimes they don’t. Mostly what we try to do is deaden down that experience, make it routine. There may be occasions where you might go to church and you hear a sermon about loving your neighbor, or you’re reading a Charles Dickens novel about poverty in England, and you think, “You know, I probably ought to be a bit more generous,” and the next time you give him a dollar. You change your routine a little bit. Irony is the moment where you’re so shaken you see all of this as part of a very standard coping mechanism. At some point, what I’m trying to capture is the moment where you see the soul of the other in his eyes and the demand of the other on you and are utterly shaken by it. Like, “Why is the world like this, such that there is a poor person here? How could this be?”... I think the real issue for humans at any given time in life is, “What are we blind to? What is the nature of our insensitivity toward the world?”

## How does irony relate to satire or sarcasm?

Irony, as I understand it, is essentially a first-personal confrontation. This is what makes it so different from satire and sarcasm, because satire and sarcasm are third personal—they’re making fun of somebody else, they’re ridiculing somebody else for not living up to some value. Irony is ... ultimately either about us or it’s about me in relationship to us. It really isn’t ridicule, and it’s not arrogant. It’s not looking down on somebody; it’s shaking myself up, or shaking us up, as fellow participants.

## In what ways do we encounter irony at a cultural level?

When irony is working, it’s calling us in a kind of anxious way to live up to the ideals we already think we have but have come into question. If you think of America, what other country has ever been founded around certain ideals—freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, religious toleration, protection from unreasonable searches. Where are these ideals now, and who is articulating them? Irony is the way of asking us, you might say, if our routines with ideals have become too routine. In that sense it’s a spur to a kind of transcendence with respect to our own lives around what matters most to us in terms of who we are and how we want to live.

## LITERATURE

# Staged reading: Court Theatre's world premiere gives College students new insight into *Invisible Man*

BY JASON KELLY

**D**iscussions in **Kenneth Warren's** undergraduate course Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* and the Problem of Democracy begin with students raising questions based on themes in the novel and related essays. At the start of one class in January, Warren asked his own question first to frame the conversation about individualism versus collectivism and the contradictions of democracy.

The previous night, the group had attended Court Theatre's world-premiere production of *Invisible Man*, a challenge of dramatic adaptation—and not only because the novel is nearly 600 pages long and opens in a cellar with 1,369 light bulbs burning, a detail incorporated into the set. Ellison resisted adaptations, insisting that none be done until after he and his wife had died.

The author died in 1994 and his wife in 2005, after which playwright Oren Jacoby began working with Ellison's literary executor, John F. Callahan, to bring the classic to the stage. Court Theatre had some advantages in securing the rights to produce Jacoby's script, including support from Warren, a leading Ellison scholar and the author of *So Black and Blue: Ralph Ellison and the Occasion of Criticism* (University of Chicago Press, 2003).

Warren, the Fairfax M. Cone distinguished service professor in English, consulted on the production and incorporated it into his class, asking his students how seeing the play shaped their thinking about the book's themes:

"Does the problem of staging the novel produce questions for us that maybe the novel on its own doesn't raise?"

"This novel is profoundly about an individual life," one woman said. A phrase in the play's program was "particularly odd," she thought, "where it says something about the everyman's journey. I thought, 'This is not about an everyman. This is about a very particular character.'"

That character journeys from a southern black college, where he's cast out for failing to uphold an unspoken arrangement with its white benefactors, to the Brotherhood in New York, where his oratorical power makes him a leader in a Marxist movement. The invisible man's isolation even within those organizations and the story's precise historical setting in the late 1940s prompted Warren to amplify the woman's point: "As you say, it's not an everyman, not even a sort of Christian everyman; he's sort of a particular individual at a particular time. But that may raise the question, why should we be concerned with this



**Is thinking, by its nature, antiorganizational?**

particular individual? Can he do away with representativeness altogether?"

In the humid warmth of Cobb Hall, with the January snow shaken off their coats and stomped off their boots, Warren's students teased out answers to those questions. Both the college and the Brotherhood exist, ostensibly, to advance the causes of collective equality and of individual freedom. Focusing on the tension between those goals, the class noted that Bledsoe, the college president, expects students to sacrifice themselves for the greater good of the race. Yet Bledsoe's bombastic rule over students belies his own subordination to the college's wealthy white patrons.

One woman's reading led her to see Bledsoe as perpetuating white society's power structure, providing limited opportunities for African Americans within parameters that kept them subservient. On stage, though, Bledsoe's circumstances reminded her of Primo Levi's essay "The Gray Zone," describing concentration-camp prisoners who assumed favored status. "People in this sort of privileged position are, in fact, oppressed in an even sadder way, in that they are not only oppressed, but they come to mimic and look just like their oppressors. Seeing it in the play, it seemed a lot more sad. I almost felt sympathy that Bledsoe was in this position."

The invisible man himself seems caught between the forces of individual and racial progress—overlapping but occasionally conflicting ends that weigh him down each time he rises in social status. Warren noted that the ideal of a college education is to produce critical, independent thinkers, but "it's precisely that type of individual who ends up being a threat to the order that the college and, I guess presumably, the Brotherhood are trying to impose. So what they want is to produce individuals who reflect a particular take or view on reality."

A man added that any organization, no matter how open-minded, has certain ideals, and anyone whose thinking does not align with them risks being oppressed. Warren distilled the idea: "Is thinking, by its very nature, antiorganizational?"

"Oh, man," a woman said, "that's a question."

The invisible man's experience sug-



**A novel approach: Teagle F. Bougere performs in Court Theatre's production of *Invisible Man*.**

gests that an individual who sets himself apart from a group, in thought or in action, risks becoming a pariah. Even when he believes he's conforming, ignorant of the forces that interpret his actions as hostile to the college or the Brotherhood, the result is the same: he's ostracized. Warren asked what the two organizations represent in the novel.

"Is, say, the college under Bledsoe the same as or different from the Brotherhood? ... Are they different geographically located instances of the same thing?" Sociology, Warren added, would be interested in the differences between a southern black college and a northern political organization. He asked if *Invisible Man* could be read as an anti-social-science novel because it equates the two institutions. "Is the force of Ellison's novel to say this is like the other?"

No, said the man who prompted the question about the nature of thinking. "One person can think in isolation, but that causes no change. The invisible man goes down into his cellar and [thinks] about it, but none of his realizations would have happened if not for his several accidents and key events that contained people, that contained society, that impact him."

Society's effect on him is punishing. His sincere attempts to succeed within its boundaries fail again and again.

One man identified a pattern of "trying to do the right thing and always ending up in a fight ... as he continually struggles to attain individuality and equality within society."

The degrading battle royal he endures as a high-school student—thrown into a ring to brawl with a group of boys—repeats itself in different forms throughout the novel. In physical and

verbal altercations, he's forced to assert himself against people who would strip him of his identity and dignity.

"In the play he says he feels like everyone he has come across has manipulated him in some way," a man says. "This pressure on him takes on very different disguises, but it ultimately boils down to the same sort of loss of individual autonomy." ♦

## SYLLABUS

During winter quarter **Kenneth Warren**, the Fairfax M. Cone distinguished service professor in English, included a requirement never before available to his course Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* and the Problem of Democracy: attending Court Theatre's world-premiere adaptation of the 1952 novel.

Attendance at the play and writing a three- to four-page essay on the relationship between the book and the adaptation added new layers to the class's

literary interpretations. In addition to *Invisible Man*, students read *The Collected Essays of Ralph Ellison* (Modern Library, 2003), *Conversations with Ralph Ellison* (University Press of Mississippi, 1995), and *Cultural Contexts for Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man* (Bedford/St. Martin's, 1995).

Class discussions, which made up 20 percent of a student's final grade, explored, among other questions, "whether a novel that so powerfully addressed the problem of democ-

racy in a society that was still legally segregated can continue to speak for our post-Civil Rights world." Each student was expected to pose questions for a session, posting them to the course's online discussion board 24 hours before the class met.

In addition to the essay about the play, students wrote a five- to seven-page paper analyzing a chapter of the novel, and another examining the connection between fiction and politics in Ellison's work.—J.K.

excerpt

# BOBO SOPRANO

*How monkeys, the Mafia, Italian academia—and, increasingly, American society—illustrate the biological impulse and social peril of nepotism.*

BY DARIO MAESTRIPIERI

ILLUSTRATION BY JEN LOBO

**T**he Italian word for “recommendation” is *raccomandazione*. According to the dictionary, both mean the same thing: advice, or support for an idea or cause. They are also used in similar contexts. In both the United States and Italy, people applying for jobs may be recommended—or *raccomandati*—by someone else. This, however, is where the similarities end. In the United States, letters of recommendation provide an evaluation of a candidate’s qualifications and are usually written by a senior person familiar with the candidate, such as a former teacher or employer. These letters are often an application requirement, and although in theory they can be good or bad, in practice they tend to be uniformly

good. As a result, good letters of recommendation don’t necessarily increase one’s chances of getting a job. They make the most difference when they are bad.

In Italy, where I’m from, the *raccomandazione* is not a requirement of the job-application process. It endorses a candidate but doesn’t necessarily describe his or her qualifications. It’s usually made with a phone call, and it generally comes from a family member or family friend. Not all candidates have a *raccomandazione*; those who don’t generally don’t stand a chance. For those who have one, the chance of success depends not on how good the *raccomandazione* is but on the power and influence of the person who makes the call. The *raccomandazioni* are not meant to facilitate the applicant-review process but rather to rig the process and guarantee the success of a particular candidate, regardless of his or her credentials. The



Behavioral biologist Dario Maestriperi has observed rhesus macaques for more than 20 years.

*raccomandazione* is not advice or support; it's a request or even an order: make sure Mr. X gets the job. Typically Mr. X is a family member or a protégé of the recommender.

The *raccomandazione* is the quintessential instrument for nepotistic influence on Italian public life. It plays an important role in politics, business, education, and in the military. To illustrate how *raccomandazioni* work and give an example of Italian nepotism, I offer an example from an environment I know well: academia. Understanding academic nepotism in my country requires that we learn other Italian words: *concorsi*, *baroni*, and *fregare*. *Concorsi* are nationwide competitions used both to admit college students into graduate programs and to hire new researchers and professors at public universities. *Baroni* (“barons”) refers to university professors who have great power and influence over student admissions, the hiring of new faculty, and funds for research. To *fregare* someone means to screw them.

Until 1980, Italian universities offered only one degree, called the *laurea*, a combination of a baccalaureate and a master's degree; then doctorate programs were introduced. Applicants had to compete in a *concorso*; their college grades and research accomplishments were evaluated, and they took an oral and a written examination. All positions were supported by fellowships, so students competed for both admission and money. This being Italy, the competition was rigged. The *baroni* negotiated with one another the number of students they could each admit each year into their programs and who would win the *concorsi*. Before applications were received, the *baroni* would have decided the winners.

When it came to admission decisions, family, of course, came first. The *baroni* admitted their children and other family members directly into their programs or recommended them to other *baroni*. *Baroni* also guaranteed admission to their protégés, students who, thanks to a *raccomandazione* from their parents, had completed their undergraduate thesis with a *barone* and, because of their loyalty, had been granted the status of extended kin—they had been adopted. Finally, the *baroni* admitted students who were neither kin nor protégés but strangers with *raccomandazioni* from politicians, businesspeople, or friends and neighbors. Applicants who did not fall into these categories would be turned down regardless of academic credentials. My adviser turned down students without the required family pedigree or *raccomandazioni* even if they were academically outstanding and he had empty slots in his lab. He had to keep slots vacant because his phone could ring at any time with a request to take a student he couldn't refuse. So how did I get in there?

The year I applied to the biology doctorate program at the University of Rome, there were eight open slots, and the eight winners had already been agreed upon. I wasn't

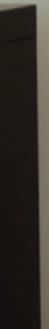
## IT WAS MADE ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT SOMEONE WHO HAD ENTERED ACADEMIA THROUGH A CRACK IN THE SYSTEM COULD NOT EXPECT TO GO VERY FAR.

one of them. A couple of weeks before the *concorso*, however, the National Research Council offered funding to support two additional fellowships. The *baroni* did not have time to negotiate these positions, so two outsiders with good résumés and exam scores—a friend and I—were admitted. We squeezed in through a crack in the system. Yet despite the fact that we were straight-A students and had published scientific articles, we couldn't find a professor willing to serve as our adviser.

The truth was that by filling a slot with an outsider without *raccomandazioni* or appropriate pedigree, the advisers might lose an opportunity to admit a family member or the child of the prime minister the following year. Admitting two outsiders had been a big mistake—someone would have to pay the price. Eventually, after some arm-twisting, my friend and I found an adviser. Three years later, however, after I finished my PhD, it was made abundantly clear that someone who had entered academia through a crack in the system could not expect to go very far. After doors were shut in my face one too many times, I moved to the United States.

The nepotism that controls admission to graduate programs is nothing compared to what happens when academic jobs and real money are involved. Many *concorsi* for full-time researchers and professors, especially in medical schools, are rigged; complaints and appeals by candidates turned down for positions for which they were eminently qualified (in a word, they were *fregati*) have led to multiple criminal investigations, with some *baroni* convicted of fraud. Investigations of academic nepotism have shown that the *baroni* have organized themselves in clans that operate just like the Mafia. They have hierarchies of power

PHOTO BY DAN DRY



# TO A BIOLOGIST, NEPOTISM SIMPLY MEANS FAVORITISM TOWARD KIN, SUCH THAT KIN ARE PREFERRED AS SOCIAL (BUT NOT SEXUAL) PARTNERS AND HELPED AT THE EXPENSE OF NONKIN.

with a “boss” at the top, they aim to control entire areas of academia, and they do not hesitate to threaten and intimidate to get what they want.

Scandals involving rigged *concorsi* have received a great deal of media attention in Italy; newspaper and magazine articles, and even books, have been written on the subject. Several years ago the weekly news magazine *L'Espresso* devoted a cover article—“The *Baroni*’s Mafia”—to academic nepotism in Italy, reviewing some of the best-known scandals.

A few of the incidents recounted are particularly noteworthy. For example, 25 new professor positions in *otorinolaringoiatria* were filled in universities around Italy in 1988 and 1992. Of these new hires, four were the sons of professors who sat on the search committees that examined the candidates. One powerful *barone*, Giovanni Motta, appointed his own son, Gaetano Motta, as a full professor at the age of 32. The father, as the chair of the search committee, himself evaluated his son’s credentials, which included scientific articles published in his father’s department, with his father as a coauthor. The senior Motta then falsified the examination reports to make it look like his son was more qualified and had performed better than the other candidates. Motta and other *baroni* whose sons were hired in these *concorsi* were later found guilty of fraud and convicted to one to two years in jail. Although the hirings were declared null, Gaetano Motta to this day still holds the appointment he illegally obtained in 1992.

Another case involved Roberto Puxeddu, an associate professor at the University of Cagliari. He was appointed by a committee that included two professors who had themselves obtained their faculty positions through a fraudulent *concorso* chaired by Professor Paolo Puxeddu, Roberto Puxeddu’s father and a powerful *barone*. Again, although the senior *barone* was later convicted of fraud and his son’s appointment annulled, the son maintains his position at the university. In another case at the University of Bari medical school, a professor who became dean left the directorship of his department to his 34-year-old son, the only candidate considered for the position. Another dean pressured his university to hire his daughter without even advertising the position and interviewing other candidates.

The inner workings of the Italian academic mafia were revealed when some university phones were wiretapped and conversations between *baroni* were recorded by the police. In 2005 Paolo Rizzon, a professor at the University of Bari, was recorded discussing strategies for manipulating *concorsi* across Italy. In one conversation he negotiated the composition of a search committee for his son, who had applied for a faculty position, and then he negotiated the essay topic for his son’s examination. Another recorded conversation revealed that a qualified job candidate who competed against the *baroni*’s protégés was threatened with physical violence by two Mafia hit men if he didn’t withdraw from the *concorso*. The hit men were identified by name—both had criminal records. In another conversation, Rizzon bragged to a colleague that to help his son and the relatives of other *baroni* obtain professorships, he had to be very creative to be able to *fregare* outside candidates with better qualifications.

The qualified job candidates *fregati* by the *baroni* often leave the country and begin successful careers abroad. In the last 20–30 years, tens of thousands of Italian researchers have fled the country. The *baroni*’s clans continue to operate undisturbed and have absolute control of the Italian academic system. As a result of such nepotism, the Department of Economics at the University of Bari had, at one point, eight professors who shared the same last name: Massari. They were all related. Apparently this set a new record for Italy; the previous record was six family members in the same department or institution.

**W**hen it comes to nepotism, the *baroni* of academia are amateurs compared to politicians, judges, businesspeople, and anyone else who has real power and influence in society. In his 2003 book *In Praise of Nepotism: A History of Family Enterprise from King David to George W. Bush* (Doubleday), Adam Bellow—the son of Nobel Prize–winning novelist and Chicago professor Saul

# IT'S TRUE THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS SEEN A RESURGENCE OF NEPOTISM, BUT THERE IS NOTHING GENTLE OR KIND—OR NEW—ABOUT IT.

Bellow, X'39—describes outrageous cases of nepotism that have received media attention around the world. Yet nepotism, he argues, “has its origins in nature, has played a vital role in human social life, and boasts a record of impressive contributions to the progress of civilization.”

Nepotism indeed has natural origins. To a biologist, nepotism simply means favoritism toward kin, such that kin are preferred as social (but not sexual) partners and helped at the expense of nonkin. For example, a squirrel who has saved a few nuts for dinner will share one with his starving brother but not with the unrelated squirrel next door. This altruism, however, is a bit phony. Because family members share some genes, helping a relative is a way to maintain the animal's own DNA in the population. So nepotism is really selfishness in disguise. Many selfish behaviors have evolved by natural selection because they help an individual to survive and reproduce; the genes for selfishness are transmitted to the next generation. Similarly, many nepotistic behaviors have evolved through a kind of natural selection called kin selection, because these behaviors help an individual's relatives to survive and reproduce; the genes for nepotism also are transmitted to the next generation.

Nepotism is a universal phenomenon. There is no animal species or human society in which individuals favor nonkin against their kin. What makes animals or humans more or less nepotistic is usually the availability of resources. When everyone has all the food (or water or money) they need or want, they can afford to be generous and don't bother to discriminate as much between kin and nonkin. When belt-tightening becomes necessary, however, family values rise in importance. It's not often that people have all the money they want—which may explain why nepotism has been an important part of human history.

Examples of nepotistic behavior can be found in almost any animal species, from vampire bats, who regurgitate the blood of their victims only to their close relatives, to naked mole rats, burrowing rodents native to East Africa, among which many females give up sex altogether to perform hard labor such as digging tunnels and gathering food for their mother, the queen. Some species of monkeys and apes closely related to us have taken nepotism to the next level. They don't simply help their relatives with food but also help them gain and maintain political power. One of the most political and shamelessly nepotistic creatures on this planet is the rhesus macaque, a monkey species I have studied for more than 20 years.

Like humans, rhesus macaques live in a competitive society and are obsessed with dominance. In many animals, dominance between two individuals is established by asymmetries in their resource holding potential (RHP), which includes traits such as size, age, and weaponry. For example, a male deer with large antlers is dominant over a male with small antlers. The rhesus RHP, however, looks more like that of US congressmen than that of male deer. A Washington politician's RHP has to do with how much political support he has from his party and how powerful the party is. The same goes for rhesus macaques; the only asymmetries that matter are those of political support. Adult females and juveniles receive support mainly from family members, in the form of agonistic aid. When the daughter of the alpha female picks a fight with an adolescent female from another family, the alpha female and her sisters join the fight and help their relative defeat the other adolescent and her relatives.

Similarly, what happens when Tony Soprano's nephew wants to gain control of the drug dealing in his neighborhood? His uncle sends a couple of hit men to whack the competition. Clearly, human nepotism has its origins in nature. But are rhesus nepotism and human nepotism really the same, as Bellow suggests?

Rhesus macaques live in a matriarchal society. In a rhesus group, there are several families, but fathers leave when infants are born. So families consist of multigenerational groups of female relatives and their young offspring. The males are part of the family until they reach puberty at around five years of age; then they emigrate to another group. The females stay attached to their mother's apron strings forever.

The matriline has power in the same way that political parties or the Corleone and Soprano families do. The more members of a matriline, the greater its power. A rhesus group could have three matriline in a hierarchy: the largest matriline is at the top, the smallest at the bottom. Older monkeys transfer power to the younger monkeys through nepotistic intervention in agonistic confrontations. Since juveniles pick fights all the time, and their mothers continue to intervene on their behalf, the sons and daughters of high-



About 1,000 rhesus macaques inhabit the island of Cayo Santiago, Puerto Rico, where Maestriperi studies them.

ranking mothers gain power and eventually acquire a rank just below their mothers. The sons and daughters of low-ranking mothers also end up with a rank similar to their mothers, which means that they also become losers.

Animal nepotism and human nepotism differ in important respects. Nepotism in macaques is mostly a female business, and especially a maternal business. Males don't recognize their offspring, don't give them milk bottles or change their diapers, and don't help them realize their dreams of wealth and world domination the way human fathers try to do with their children. Traditionally in human societies, men have held most of the wealth and political power. Accordingly, it's usually men who pull the nepotistic strings on behalf of their children and other relatives.

Another difference between rhesus and human nepotism is that while in the monkeys nepotism is limited to biological relatives, humans have extended the boundaries of the biological family to include nonkin through marriage and patronage. When we marry, we agree to treat our spouse and our spouse's relatives as if they were genetic relatives. Throughout human history, marriages and exchanges of wives have also allowed men to form alliances with men from other villages or tribes. In humans, as in rhesus macaques, political strength lies in numbers. For men and women with strong political ambitions, an extended family may not be enough. Nonrelatives, then, must be brought into the family and given kin status. The Mafia provides a good example: the mafiosi maintain strong bonds with relatives but increase the size and power of their families by providing patronage to a large number of associates. The head of the family cements this patronage by serving as a godfather to the children of these associates.

While the rhesus macaques transfer only their social sta-

tus to their relatives—other animals transfer nests or territories—humans transfer not only their power and privileges but also their property, money, knowledge, and values. So human nepotism is also a cultural phenomenon, since the transmission of knowledge, norms, and values within families makes an important contribution to human cultures.

The trouble with human nepotism is not that relatives are educated or helped, but *how* they are helped. The most important difference between the nepotism of rhesus macaques and our own has to do with a thing called morality. Like everything in nature, rhesus macaque nepotism—and all animal nepotism—is neither good nor bad. Sure, there are winners and losers; in the rhesus world, high-ranking females are winners and low-ranking ones are losers; in the African savanna the lion that captures the gazelle is the winner, and the gazelle that ends up in its stomach the loser. But the lion is not a bad animal, nor is eating the gazelle wrong. High-ranking rhesus macaques torment and torture unrelated monkeys of lower rank, but in doing so they don't break any rules.

When people behave nepotistically in public life, they usually break moral, social, and legal rules. If everybody played by the rules, nepotism would be useless. Moral inclinations are strong—in some individuals more than in others—but the instinct to favor relatives is even stronger. In the end, rules are broken all the time, and nepotism gets associated with fraud, corruption, and other crimes. The popes in Rome, instead of appointing people to office based on merit and qualifications, hired their illegitimate sons, whom they called “nephews”—hence the term *nepotism*. In doing so, they had to *fregare* more qualified individuals.

Such fraud, however, is the least of the crimes associated with nepotism. Millions of people have been killed as a re-

# ONE OF THE MOST POLITICAL AND SHAMELESSLY NEPOTISTIC CREATURES ON THIS PLANET IS THE RHESUS MACAQUE.

sult of ruthless dictators bent on advancing the interests of their family members. Uday and Qusay Hussein—the two sons of Saddam Hussein, killed in a 2003 gun battle with US forces—would not have acquired their immense power and wealth without their father’s support and the shedding of Iraqi citizens’ blood. Criminal nepotism is rampant in many human societies, and particularly in dictatorships in Africa, Asia, and South America. According to Bellow, Europeans too have a relatively positive and tolerant view of nepotism.

American society, by contrast, was founded on the criteria of merit, fairness, and equal opportunity, and Americans have historically resisted and rejected nepotism. Yet family interests predominate in American economic life. In his forthcoming book *A Capitalism for the People: Recapturing the Lost Genius of American Prosperity* (Basic Books), Chicago Booth economist **Luigi Zingales** makes the case that American capitalism, once unique for being based on fair competition, equal opportunity, and meritocracy, has gradually changed and increasingly resembles Italian capitalism, in which cronyism and nepotism rule.

Nepotism has crept into American academia too, increasingly following patterns similar to those of Italian *baronism*. I moved to the United States in 1992, and of the first two academic jobs I interviewed for, one was offered to the daughter of a powerful professor in the same institution, while the other was offered to an internal candidate, a protégé of the department chair. At the University of Chicago, many students supervised by well-established professors happen to also be the sons and daughters of other well-established professors.

Biologists explain the relative strength or weakness of nepotism in a species or a society based on resource availability and competition intensity. With America’s recent

resource depletion and economic crises, coupled with healthy population growth, social competition has intensified. A great deal of wealth and political power is concentrated in the hands of baby boomers. As they approach retirement age, their children are entering the workforce en masse. No wonder the aging baby boomers use all the means at their disposal to transfer wealth and power to their children.

**C**onfronted with the reality that American society has become more nepotistic, Bellow launches into a patriotic defense of this phenomenon. He explains that contemporary American nepotism is a different beast, a gentle and noble kind, and nothing like the nepotism practiced by rhesus macaques, dictators around the world, or Europeans. He also argues that while bad nepotism—hiring a grossly incompetent relative—is essentially harmless, good nepotism—hiring a competent relative—plays a positive role in promoting a capitalistic economy and conservative moral and family values.

It’s true that the United States has seen a resurgence of nepotism, but there is nothing gentle or kind—or new—about it. It’s the same old nasty beast. And although all economic classes practice nepotism, it is much more dangerous to society when rich and powerful people do it. The lower classes simply don’t have the power to bend the rules, and their nepotism is largely inconsequential for the society.

Bellow argues that we have a moral obligation to be nepotistic: if we fail to put our families first, we may destroy the very fabric of human society. We strengthen nuclear families, encourage people to help their relatives, and stimulate extended kinship networks through patronage of friends and associates. Hiring a nephew may be discriminatory, but since people will do it anyway, we might as well hire the best and most meritorious of nephews. “If nepotism is just about helping relatives,” he writes, “then clearly there is nothing wrong with it and even the nepotistic values the Mafia embodies may have merit and legitimacy.” He cites an episode of the *Sopranos* in which Tony Soprano’s wife Carmela tries to get their daughter admitted to Brown University by pulling strings. She says: “It’s all connections now. It’s who you know. If the rules don’t apply to everyone, why follow the rules?” If we share Carmela Soprano’s and Adam Bellow’s views, then in the end we are all mafiosi. ♦

**Adapted with permission from *Games Primates Play: An Undercover Investigation of the Evolution and Economics of Human Relationships* (Basic Books, 2012) by Dario Maestriperi, professor in comparative human development and evolutionary biology.**

profile

# ONE DOOR CLOSES

*“Are you a member of the Communist Party?” George Anastaplo refused to answer that question, a refusal that shaped his life.*

BY RICHARD MERTENS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAN DRY

**J**ustice Hugo Black once called **George Anastaplo**, AB’48, JD’51, PhD’64, “too stubborn for his own good.” Sixty-some years later, Anastaplo sits in a basement room in the Gleacher Center, in downtown Chicago, surrounded by a dozen adult-education students, the picture of cheerful amiability. At 86 years old, Anastaplo has taught in the University of Chicago’s Basic Program of Liberal Education for Adults for 55 years. A small man with white hair and clear gray eyes, wearing running shoes and an old tweed jacket, Anastaplo is lively and relaxed. A photocopy of Emerson’s essay “Friendship” lies on the table in front of him.

“I was appalled by how elitist Emerson was in his view of friendship,” says one student, a middle-aged woman.

Anastaplo’s eyes light up. He leans forward, and a smile tugs at the corners of his mouth. “You were appalled?” he says. She reads from a passage in which Emerson writes, “I

do then with my friends as I do with my books. I would have them where I can find them, but I seldom use them.’ Give me a break!” she exclaims, rolling her eyes. Delighted, Anastaplo swivels his head around the room. “Any reactions?”

This was not the life Anastaplo envisioned. On the morning of November 10, 1950, three days after his 25th birthday, he put on a coat and tie and headed downtown to the offices of the Chicago Bar Association, on LaSalle Street, for what he assumed would be the last step to launching a legal career in Illinois. The son of Greek immigrants from downstate Cartersville, Anastaplo was a World War II veteran—he had navigated B-17 and B-29 bombers—and a top student at the University of Chicago Law School.

He had already passed the bar exam. He had begun talking to firms in the city. All that remained was a routine interview with two members of the Illinois Bar Association’s Committee on Character and Fitness. Anastaplo expected 15 minutes of pleasantries. Other applicants were waiting outside.

But the interview took an unexpected turn. After a few harmless questions, one of the lawyers asked Anastaplo

ANASTAPLO





**At home in Hyde Park, Anastaplo is at work on books about the Constitution, 9/11, and a Holocaust survivor.**

if a member of the Communist Party should be eligible to practice law in Illinois. Anastaplo was surprised. “I should think so,” he said. But didn’t Communists believe in overthrowing the government? the lawyer asked. In the long colloquy that followed, Anastaplo, invoking George Washington and American political tradition, insisted that the right to revolt was “one of the most fundamental rights any people have.” The committee members were unconvinced. Finally the second one asked, “Are you a member of the Communist Party?”

Although this question was much in the air in the 1950s—earlier that year in West Virginia, Senator Joe McCarthy had brandished a list of Communists he claimed had infiltrated the State Department—no one seriously thought that Anastaplo was a Communist. Nor did anyone doubt his intellect, character, or patriotism. “If the mothers in Cartersville have their way, all their boys will be like George,” Fred K. Lingle, one of his high-school teachers, had told the committee in a written statement. And yet Anastaplo had determined that, as a matter of principle, the committee had no right to ask about his political beliefs or affiliations. “I think it is an illegitimate question,” he replied.

Thus began a decade-long confrontation pitting an unknown but determined young Army reservist and Law School graduate against the Illinois Bar Association and the climate of fear and suspicion that then pervaded public life in the United States. Anastaplo never did become a lawyer. But the case made him famous as an example of resistance to communist witch-hunting and launched him on a long and prolific career as a scholar, law professor, and

teacher of great books, a good-natured contrarian, gadfly, and independent thinker.

In the months and years that followed his first interview with the Committee on Character and Fitness, Anastaplo had many chances to change his mind and answer the question. He had plenty of encouragement to do so, including a warning from his Law School dean, Edward H. Levi, U-High’28, PhB’32, JD’35, that he was making a big mistake. But he refused—and kept on refusing. He declined, as one writer put it, “to follow the line of least resistance.” For its part, the Illinois Bar was no less intractable: it simply refused to admit him. Anastaplo sued. The two sides fought back and forth through ten years of hearings and rehearings, rulings and appeals, until the case landed before the Supreme Court in 1960.

By then Anastaplo had spent a decade practicing law, all on his own behalf. He made the oral argument himself. On April 24, 1961, the court ruled against him, upholding the Illinois Bar five to four. In a lengthy petition for rehearing that he had little hope would succeed, Anastaplo wrote, “It is highly probable that upon disposition of this Petition for Rehearing, petitioner will have practiced all the law he is ever going to.”

With that valedictory flourish, Anastaplo moved on. But although he had lost, neither he nor the case was forgotten, thanks primarily to Justice Black, whose dissent raised Anastaplo to something more than a legal footnote. Black had not taken Anastaplo seriously at first. Of his lawsuit, Black had confided to Chief Justice William Brennan, “This whole thing is a little silly on his part.” But recent cases had left

Black worried about the fate of the First Amendment and of what he later called “that great heritage of freedom.” In Anastaplo he found freedom’s champion. “The very most that can fairly be said against Anastaplo’s position in this entire matter is that he took too much of the responsibility of preserving [this country’s] freedom upon himself,” Black wrote. He compared Anastaplo to great lawyers like Clarence Darrow and then, taking measure of the nation’s ills, decried “the present trend, not only in the legal profession but in almost every walk of life” in which “too many men are being driven to become government-fearing and time-serving because the Government is being permitted to strike out at those who are fearless enough to think as they please and say what they think.” He concluded with an exhortation that still resonates: “We must not be afraid to be free.” Black liked this dissent so much that he had parts of it read at his funeral in 1971. When Brennan, who voted with Black, read it, he told him, “You’ve immortalized Anastaplo.”

**A**nastaplo has been called many things, some worse than stubborn. Sidney Hook, the leftist New York intellectual turned anticommunist crusader, described him as “a very much confused young man—both philosophically and politically—with a large bump of self righteousness.” On the other hand, Leon Despres, PhB’27, JD’29, a Hyde Park alderman and one of Anastaplo’s most fervent admirers, dubbed him the “Socrates of Chicago.”

But Studs Terkel, PhB’32, JD’34, who interviewed Anastaplo twice on Chicago’s WFMT, may have hit closest to the truth when he described him simply as “one of those rare individuals who belongs to himself.” Anastaplo remains an unconventional figure, a lecturer in the Graham School’s Basic Program, a law professor at Loyola University of Chicago since 1981, and a writer of unusual range and productivity, with articles and books on subjects as diverse as the US Constitution, the Bhagavad Gita, and the lights

**HE TOOK TOO MUCH  
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at Wrigley Field. Shut out of the law, Anastaplo poured his energies into new channels, where, his friends say, he has proven himself as much his own man as he was before the Committee on Character and Fitness.

“To use a cliché, George really marches to his own drum,” says Stanley Katz, an old friend and a professor at Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. “I don’t know anybody of whom that is truer.”

Anastaplo inspires strong feelings. To a dwindling number of old friends and admirers—he has outlived not only his antagonists but also most of his old supporters—he is a heroic figure who stood up for liberty and decency at a dark moment in American history. At its 40th reunion, his Law School class gave him a bronze plaque that read “In admiration of a life devoted to high principle.” He has been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize.

Later generations know Anastaplo mainly as a gifted teacher and writer who delights in expressing unpopular or idiosyncratic positions. His first book, a close reading of the First Amendment, holds that the amendment does not apply to the states, in contrast to the views of almost every other constitutional scholar. Once, at a ceremony honoring him for his defense of civil liberties, Anastaplo surprised the audience by arguing for the abolition of television. On a talk show, he defended Richard Nixon against Gore Vidal, asserting that Nixon’s Watergate transgressions were minor compared to the actions of some other presidents, such as Harry Truman.

“He has always behaved as some kind of gadfly,” Laurence Berns, AB’50, PhD’57, an old friend, said in a 1986 *Chicago* magazine article written by **Andrew Patner**, X’81. “When the conventional opinion goes overboard in one direction, he tends to move in the other.”

But Anastaplo is more than a gadfly. He is an intellectual omnivore, a generalist who respects few intellectual boundaries. In lectures, essays, and op-ed pieces, he often returns to favorite subjects, including the Constitution, the Greek classics, Shakespeare, and Lincoln. He comments frequently on contemporary issues involving questions of rights and liberties. Recently, for instance, he criticized the use of drones against terror suspects.

In fact Anastaplo writes about whatever interests him. He has published about 20 books, a dozen book-length law-review articles, and hundreds of essays. Many of his books treat aspects of the Constitution (including one on Lincoln and the Constitution), but they also explore literature (*The Artist as Thinker: From Shakespeare to Joyce*, Swallow Press, 1982), non-Western ideas (*But Not Philosophy: Seven Introductions to Non-Western Thought*, Lexington Books, 2002), religion (*The Bible: Respectful Readings*, Lexington Books, 2008), and other subjects far from his training in law and Western political philosophy. This variety is

# ANY MAN WHO IS KICKED OUT OF RUSSIA, GREECE, AND THE ILLINOIS BAR CAN'T BE ALL BAD.

in part a consequence of teaching in the Basic Program, where, during a typical week last fall, he led discussions of Emerson, Plutarch, and Newton's *Principia*, and where, he notes with a kind of pride, "I teach whatever other people don't want to."

It is also an expression of a lively curiosity and the freedom to follow it. Anastaplo frequently attends University lectures, panels, and colloquia—the Franke Institute for Wednesday lunch, a Physics colloquium on Thursdays—where, he laments, he is often the only layman in the room. As his friend Stanley Katz suggests, Anastaplo exemplifies an older intellectual ideal, one envisioned by Robert Hutchins's university and Mortimer Adler's *Great Books of the Western World*.

Friends have long marveled at his capacity for work. His eldest daughter, **Helen Newlin**, U-High'67, JD'75, CER'02, says that in winter he would rise and begin working as soon as the family's modest wood frame house had cooled sufficiently to wake him. John Murley, a professor at the Rochester Institute of Technology in whose house Anastaplo stayed while a guest lecturer in the 1980s, remembers that his typewriter began clattering away at 5 a.m.

"I have always had the overwhelming feeling, when I'm with him, that I should get much more serious about my work," says Murley.

In person Anastaplo is mild, courteous, and funny. He is a classicist at heart, with a deep faith in reason, moderation, and human goodness, and devoted to the search for enduring values. He is skeptical of modernity. He dislikes what he calls "value-free social sciences." He is fascinated by the physical sciences but thinks their influence has been bad, chiding scientists for their "abandonment" of "common sense." His 1961 petition to the Supreme Court included his own exhortation: "We must try to take seriously again the concern and conditions for virtue, nobility, and the life most fitting for man."

"He's a person who is profoundly conservative, with a

small 'c,'" says Katz. "He's deeply committed to traditional values ... that for him are more than intellectual. ... The bar-admissions case was about that. This is simply a man for whom principle is everything."

The bar case was not his only clash with authorities. In 1960 the Anastaplo family drove a Volkswagen microbus across Europe, one of many summer trips the family made. On a public square in Moscow, Anastaplo approached a group of British tourists handing out copies of an American magazine, attracting a crowd. He meant only to warn them they could get in trouble, but when the police showed up, he says, someone pointed him out, and he was arrested along with the others. The next day he was expelled. In 1968 Greece's military rulers threw him out of the country for criticizing their regime. C. Hermann Pritchard later quipped, "Any man who is kicked out of Russia, Greece, and the Illinois Bar can't be all bad."

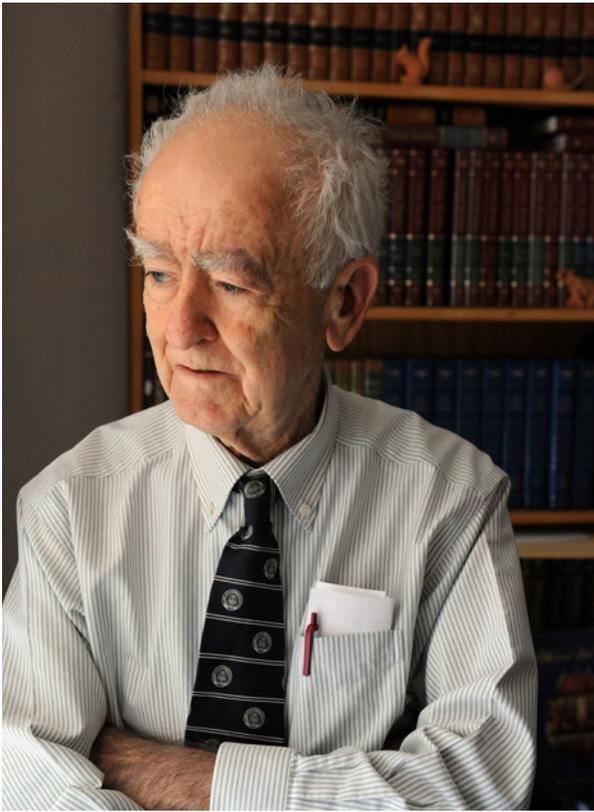
As a teacher, Anastaplo has a talent for inducing thoughtfulness, says Laurence Nee, a tutor at St. John's College in Sante Fe and a former student of Anastaplo. Once, Nee recalls, Anastaplo gave a talk on Constitution Day at the University of Dallas, a conservative Catholic institution where he taught for many years, flying down regularly from Chicago. Flag burning was in the news, and Anastaplo began by handing out photocopies of a canceled stamp bearing the image of a flag—in effect, a mutilated flag.

"His first motion isn't to argue for or against a position," says Nee, then a graduate student in Dallas. "It's, 'Have we thought about this?'"

Students like his obvious love of learning. He often scribbles notes in class, and he tries to approach each work afresh, using a clean text whenever he can. "He has a kind of boyishness to him still," Nee says. "I think that's part of his appeal. He enjoys learning. You can see the pleasure he takes in it."

Monday and Tuesday mornings this past fall, Anastaplo taught at the Gleacher Center, then walked briskly up Michigan Avenue, a canvas tote in each hand, to teach jurisprudence and constitutional law at Loyola. He uses public transportation (or his feet) whenever possible, and until a few years ago he biked to classes downtown, pedaling an old three-speed up the lakeshore path.

Anastaplo's freewheeling and often philosophical approach to the law is a welcome contrast to the "nuts and bolts" fare of other courses, says Rebecca Blabolil, a recent Loyola graduate who took Anastaplo's class last fall. "His classes are an opportunity to think and exercise a part of your brain that has been dormant for the three years you've been here," Blabolil says. During one week, for example, he discussed the Emancipation Proclamation, a new Supreme Court ruling concerning images on cigarette packs, and Civil War songs, which he described as a neglected window into sectional differences.



“He stood up for his principle,” says Stanford’s Friedman.



In 1960 Anastaplo argued before the Supreme Court.

Anastaplo’s Law School classmates remember him as brilliant and witty, although quiet, even solitary. He was clearly not a typical law student. “He had his own ideas about how to spend his time,” says **Abner Mikva**, JD’51, who went on to become a congressman, federal judge, and adviser to President Clinton. Instead of joining the *Law Review*, a sure path to advancement, Anastaplo audited other courses at the University. When Dean Levi decreed that students wear coats and ties to class, Anastaplo continued to show up in jeans. When a lecture bored him, he would pull out a newspaper and read.

Few of his classmates, then, were surprised when Anastaplo defied the Committee on Character and Fitness, says **Alexander Polikoff**, AB’48, AM’50, JD’53, who later helped write a friend-of-the-court brief for him. “He was strong willed and stubborn when it came to constitutional principles.”

At the hearings Anastaplo was polite but confident. Transcripts suggest he was more than an intellectual match for his questioners. But he seems to have misjudged them. He arrived as if armed for a graduate seminar, laden with books, citing Jefferson, Locke, and English parliamentary rules, expecting to engage in real debate. To the lawyers on the committee, however, his arguments seem to have been mostly beside the point. The anxieties over communism in America, fanned by far right, anti-New Deal Republicans, were real, if misguided, and the lawyers could not easily discount them. In Chicago schoolteachers had been forced to take loyalty oaths. An Illinois legislative committee had been investigating communist sympathies among the fac-

ulties of Illinois universities, including the University of Chicago. Anastaplo’s talk about revolution was alarming.

“I had a feeling that George was not a communist in any shape or form,” said the late Edmund A. Stephan, who presided over a rehearing of Anastaplo’s case in 1958, in the *Chicago* magazine article. “But at that time, ‘communist’ meant somebody who would overthrow the government. It wasn’t something to be trifled with.”

A bigger issue for the lawyers—and a decisive one for the Supreme Court—was whether Anastaplo could get away with refusing to answer questions. His manner, as much as his arguments, exasperated some committee members. One told Patner he was “a smart aleck.”

“The big mistake, if it was a mistake, was in assuming that other people in other institutions had sense and good will, and they didn’t,” concludes **Lawrence Friedman**, AB’48, JD’51, LL.M.’53, a former classmate and today a professor of law at Stanford University. “It was an age of intolerance and moral panic. He was asking for trouble, and he got it. You don’t argue with George—‘Why are you doing this?’ It won’t do any good. I think it was admirable. He stood up for his principle. And he took the consequences.”

At the Law School, sentiment ran heavily against him. Students seem to have respected his principles but doubted the wisdom of his position.

“I think the majority felt that it was impractical,” says **Ramsey Clark**, AM’50, JD’51, a classmate and a former US attorney general. “It was kind of a quixotic gesture that might hurt the Law School a little bit. And I think some,

and I shared this, felt some pain for what you might call a self-inflicted injury. But I admired him.”

A few Law School professors defended Anastaplo, but most did not. Several wrote a proposal, likely never adopted, to discourage other students from following his example. Levi, who went on to serve as University president and US attorney general, urged Anastaplo to reconsider.

“I thought Anastaplo’s position was ill-timed,” Levi told the *New York Times* in a 1975 profile published after he became attorney general. “I thought the big problem was the teacher-oath cases. I thought to raise the non-Communist oath issue with the Character and Fitness Committee was the wrong way to do it, and because of the timing of the thing he would lose and hurt himself, and he did. We were all trying to help him, whether he knows it or not.”

Indeed, Anastaplo felt betrayed. To this day he believes that if the Law School had stood up for him, the Illinois Bar would have backed down. For all his abilities, he says, Levi, then in his first year as dean, “was a timid man.” The faculty, too, “were fearful.” In his view, he was standing up to “hazing, harassment, whatever you want to call it.” His years as a flying officer in the Army Air Corps had helped to give him confidence. “I wasn’t going to be bullied.”

While the bar-admissions case was under way, Anastaplo worked at different jobs, including, briefly, driving a taxi. He also studied political philosophy in the Committee on Social Thought under Leo Strauss. He taught, first in the Basic Program and then, after earning his PhD, at Rosary College, the University of Dallas, and eventually, Loyola, often holding two or three positions at a time.

His relationship with the University has been complicated and a source of disappointment. With three degrees, Anastaplo is as much a creature of the institution as anybody. But he remains marginal. For a long time he hoped to secure a regular faculty position, and each time was rebuffed. In April 1975, after Levi had departed for Washington, Anastaplo loaded a shopping cart with manila envelopes and pushed it the mile from his house on Harper Avenue to the Faculty Exchange mail office. The envelopes contained samples of his writing, a bibliography listing some 300 publications, and a letter making “a quiet ... appeal to the good sense of the University faculty.” They were addressed to acting president John T. Wilson, the provost, and the heads of schools, divisions, departments, and committees. He received a few replies but no offers. He never tried again.

Anastaplo did teach once at the Law School, in a not-for-credit course organized by Patner, then a law student. For many years he also met informally with graduate students in the University library. He recounts a separate occasion several decades ago when he was offered a course in the College and actually taught the first class—on the Declaration of Independence—only to have the offer withdrawn without explanation.



**Anastaplo and Edward Levi had a long history.**

Anastaplo and his supporters say he was blacklisted because of the bar-admissions case and the opposition of his old dean, Edward Levi. He was too much of a troublemaker. Others offer different explanations. **James Redfield**, U-High’50, AB’54, PhD’61, a professor of classics and former master of the New Collegiate Division, recalls that he and Levi talked “more than once” about Anastaplo and that some professors recommended him. But Anastaplo lacked broad faculty support. The reason, Redfield suggests, was neither Levi nor the bar case but Anastaplo’s link to Leo Strauss. “There was generally a hostility toward Leo Strauss on the humanities faculty,” he says.

Katz believes that Anastaplo’s scholarship was simply too unconventional. “He has not respected any of the norms of academic discourse,” he says. “He’s turned that into a virtue, but he never would have gotten tenure at the University of Chicago like that.”

Still, Anastaplo has thrived in the academic hinterland, finding appreciative audiences at lesser known and often conservative institutions like the University of Dallas and publishing in obscure journals like the *Oklahoma City University Law Review* and the *South Dakota Law Review*. “The main thing is to write it the way I want it,” he says. “That’s what I’ve been able to do.”

Anastaplo has taken care that his writings do not languish in obscurity. “My model in self-advertisement is Don Quixote, who seems to have reckoned that if he (as an artist of knight-errantry) went to the trouble of doing useful things, others should benefit from learning about them,” he writes in an essay footnote. He collects many of his essays into books. In recent years friends have posted his writings on the Internet (at [anastaplo.wordpress.com](http://anastaplo.wordpress.com)). And for most

of his adult life Anastaplo has regularly sent packets of his writings to large numbers of friends and acquaintances. His children received packets when they were at college. So, in the last ten years of his life, did Hugo Black, who responded that he enjoyed them. “I have long thought and still believe that you have the capacity to make a highly useful citizen of this country,” he wrote in 1969.

Anastaplo’s work has attracted critical notice and often praise, but no large following. “George is prolific, original,” says **Geoffrey Stone**, JD’71, an expert on constitutional law and a Law School professor since 1973. “But in the world of legal scholars, he isn’t widely recognized.” An exasperated Dean Alfange Jr., now a professor emeritus at the University of Massachusetts, noted in a 1974 review that Anastaplo would not extend First Amendment protection to artistic or literary expression: “Professor Anastaplo states that he knows of no one who agrees with his position on the First Amendment. It is unlikely that he will have to change that assessment as the result of this book.” Another writer praised Anastaplo’s “fervent and selfless moral vision, rooted in the classics of Western thought,” and called him a “rare intellectual: thought and learning are not for him the meaning of life, inducing a withdrawal into books, ideas, and ideological posturings; they give meaning to life, enabling one to live it actively and as perfectly as possible.”

At 86, Anastaplo maintains a busy schedule of teaching and writing. “That’s how you stay alive,” he says. He is in the middle of a projected ten-volume series called *Reflections*, each volume a collection of essays, or “constitutional sonnets,” as he calls them, on various topics. In the third volume, for example, titled *Reflections on Life, Death, and the Constitution* (University Press of Kentucky, 2009), he takes up Pericles’s funeral oration, assisted suicide, oblit-

eration bombing, and “The Unseemly Fearfulness of Our Time.” In the meantime he is trying to publish a collection of essays on the aftermath of 9/11, as well as a book-length series of interviews he conducted a decade ago with a Holocaust survivor. He would like to write a book about Roma people and about Sophocles’s *Oedipus Tyrannus*, a work he considers “the greatest of our plays.”

Despite his full life, Anastaplo remains aggrieved by the bar-admissions case. He finds it ironic when people tell him they admire what he did. Last year, on the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision, he wrote, “If such people had expressed their admiration publicly in the 1950s, the Character Committee would probably have backed away from demands that were being made only of me.”

**A**fter anticommunist fervor cooled in the United States, friends and supporters tried several times to get Anastaplo finally admitted to the Illinois Bar. The Committee on Character and Fitness itself had a change of heart: in 1978 it voted 13 to 4 to certify him. But Anastaplo refused to reapply, and without his cooperation these efforts died. “George doesn’t want to let them off the hook,” says Katz.

Indeed, Anastaplo has done his part to keep the case alive. He has spoken about it occasionally and has chronicled it in immense detail, publishing not only most of the essential documents but also much correspondence and commentary about it afterward. “Frankly, I felt, and still do, that staying out on the terms I did was more instructive,” Anastaplo says. “I figured that, all in all, it was better to stay out.”

Was he too stubborn for his own good? Certainly Anastaplo sacrificed what might have been a lucrative law career. As a graduate of a leading law school, he might have found other opportunities open up to him as well. Many of his fellow students, including Mikva, Clark, Friedman, and **Robert Bork**, AB’48, JD’53, went on to distinguished careers in government and academia. From a practical point of view, says Clark, Anastaplo’s actions in 1950 were “catastrophic.”

But the practical point of view never was Anastaplo’s. In the end, he says, his case proved “liberating and even empowering.” It made him a symbol of principled resistance and set him on what he calls “my career as a naysayer.” More than that, losing the case gave him the freedom to “do what I want to do and publish what I want to.” Those who know him say they cannot imagine him doing anything differently.

“George is always at peace, as far as I can tell,” Clark says. “He was confident. The consequences, which he fully understood, were not a concern. He was determined to live a life of principle as far as he understood it. ... And that’s the type of life he’s lived.” ♦

**THE PRACTICAL POINT OF VIEW NEVER WAS ANASTAPLO’S. IN THE END, HE SAYS, HIS CASE PROVED “LIBERATING AND EVEN EMPOWERING.”**



Some sights, sounds, smells,  
touches, and tastes can send  
you back to the quads.

Sinking into a comfy reading chair in Harper Library's sunlit Grand Reading Room, propping your feet onto the matching ottoman, and pulling out a book (for effect) as you drift off for a late-afternoon nap.

photograph

# VISCERAL UCHICAGO

BY AMY BRAVERMAN PUMA  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JARED RYDER

**C**atching a glimpse of the spring ducklings in Botany Pond, heart bulging with familial pride and protectiveness.

Hearing the bagpipes wail louder as the Convocation procession makes its way toward the Main Quad.

Scanning the Medici bakery shelves (right) in the morning, when they're restocked full of fresh, warm, flaky, buttery pastries.

Smelling the aroma in the dark Divinity School coffee shop, the promise of a caffeine boost to get you through one more chapter or verse.

Feeling the cold swipe at your cheeks during your brisk walk to the Reg (is it always this far?), keeping your head down to avoid the wind.

Feeling the grass under your feet on the first nice day of the year, when the whole world decides to eat their lunch, toss a Frisbee, or take a nap *al fresco*.

Listening to the blended melodies of strings and rhythmic footfalls coming from every which way during Folk Fest at Ida Noyes.

Slurping a creamy, mint-chip, dollar Shake Day shake (below), all the better after an hour's wait at the C-Shop.

Biting into a sweet yet savory gooey-cheese stuffed pizza at EdwarDO's.

Smelling the foul smashed seeds fallen from the gingko trees along Ellis Avenue.

Breathing in old leather, cloth, paper, glue, and ink in the Reg stacks (below right), looking for one text but finding something different, bringing it to a carrel for just a moment... or two.



**We could go on, but we'd rather let you. What sorry memories take you back to campus? Let us know at [mag.uchicago.edu/visceral](http://mag.uchicago.edu/visceral).**





profile

# EDITORIAL AUTHORITY

*Fresh off simultaneous No. 1 New York Times best sellers, editor Gretchen Young continues to find new authors with big stories to tell.*

BY RUTH E. KOTT, AM'07

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BILL WADMAN

**G**retchen Young, AB'84, AM'84, could be the only real-life book editor to appear on a daytime soap opera. In a 2008 episode of *All My Children*, in a bit part for which she didn't have to dig too deep, she played the editor of character Kendall Hart's memoirs—a book actually released as if written by Hart (and actually edited by Young). She had one line in the episode, praising the fictional writer.

"Gretchen did fine with her line," rhymed *New York* magazine's *Vulture* blog, yet, the writer observed, she looked "somewhat embarrassed" on set. Young is comfortable working with celebrities but in behind-the-scenes roles, helping them to shape their memoirs or choose poems to include in a collection. Celebrities, politicians, and media personalities make up many of her clients; she finds

people with a good (and marketable) story to tell and works closely with them to fashion those stories into a book.

As vice president and executive editor of Manhattan-based general-interest publisher Hyperion Books and editorial director of ABC Synergy—the arm of Disney-ABC Television Group that produces books tied to the company's television shows and movies—Young works with a wide range of clients and subjects. In addition to ghostwritten fictional memoirs, she's edited a book about fitness and health by *Extreme Makeover: Weight Loss Edition* trainer Chris Powell; mystery novels by CNN talk-show host Nancy Grace; comedy and opinion best sellers by George Carlin; and poetry anthologies with Caroline Kennedy.

Young has been Kennedy's editor for a decade, and the two are prolific. Starting in 2002 with *Profiles in Courage for Our Time*, 15 essays about men and women who have received the John F. Kennedy Library's Profile in Courage Award,



Young and Kennedy have put out six books together. The most recent, *Jacqueline Kennedy: Historic Conversations on Life with John F. Kennedy*, published in September, debuted at No. 1 on the *New York Times* best-seller list. The book—eight-and-a-half hours of transcribed, previously unheard interviews Jacqueline did with historian Arthur Schlesinger four months after her husband’s assassination—was packaged with eight compact discs. Readers can hear Jacqueline’s voice (she pronounced her name *jahk-LEEN*), the ice cubes clinking in her glass, and planes overhead as she talks with Schlesinger about what the president thought of Dwight Eisenhower (“not much”) and his relationship with her parents (“he always called my father ‘Mr. Bouvier’”).

“So now, at long last, it is her turn to speak,” writes historian Michael Beschloss in the oral history’s introduction. Commemorating the 50th anniversary of JFK’s presidency, the tapes, which Caroline Kennedy first listened to after her mother’s 1994 death, reflect a poised, witty woman with strong opinions about her husband’s colleagues and the people passing through their lives. Her breathy voice, interrupted only briefly by questions from Schlesinger or from young Caroline or John passing through the room, reveals unknown details about her husband’s short presidency. One day in October 1963, about a month before JFK’s death, he woke up from a nap looking “very worried,” Jacqueline recalls: “I said something and he said, ‘This has been one of the worst days of my life. Ten things have gone wrong and it’s only two-thirty.’ ... Anyway, one I can remember was that some little raid on Cuba had failed.”

“After my father’s death,” Caroline Kennedy wrote in the book’s foreword, “my mother resolved to do everything she could to make sure that the record of his administration was preserved.” For that reason, even though her mother likely would have made revisions to the transcript if she had read them now, Kennedy left the tapes’ content unedited.

Piggybacking on *Jacqueline Kennedy*’s success, Young and Kennedy are working on another book: transcripts and CDs of JFK’s Oval Office tapes. They’re not newly released, like the Jacqueline recordings; the JFK Library had declassified them steadily since 1993, the final hours in late January. In total there are more than 248 hours of recorded meeting conversations and 12 hours of Dictabelt telephone conversations. With the crude technology of the time, Young says, it’s a challenge to find the best quality recordings and clean them up, like they did with the Jacqueline tapes. “These tapes capture the unscripted brilliance of a great leader in action,” Young says. “Journalists, historians, and biographers are amazing—they do deep, tremendous work on their subject—but there’s nothing like the raw history. You can’t argue with it. It’s what actually occurred, without the filter of someone else’s perspective.”

Young spends most days in meetings about deadlines at Hyperion’s Midtown office, making offers for new books, or having lunch with literary agents. “The editing of the manuscripts doesn’t happen in the office,” she says. It happens at her home in New York’s Turtle Bay neighborhood, after work or on weekends, “in a quiet spot somewhere.”

Because Hyperion is a small publishing house, with six editors and three assistant editors, Young is involved from the minute she receives a book proposal to its publication, including design, marketing, and publicity. “We have to be our own cheerleaders for books that we acquire all the way through the publishing process,” she says. Although the written page is an important part of her job, Young calls herself more of a project manager. On any given day, she says, she might discuss a cover or interior design or meet with writers’ PR teams. “The editor can’t ever let go to some degree.”

On a Wednesday in early January, Young and two members of Hyperion’s publicity team called Georgia congressman John Lewis’s communications director, Brenda Jones, in Washington, DC. The group was starting to plan a publicity schedule for Lewis’s book, *Across That Bridge: Life Lessons and a Vision for Change*, set to come out May 15. Typically, Young says, there are a few events before publication, but the big push comes about two weeks after a book’s release.

“Are there any media, anchors, journalists, reporters, or particular shows that have been after the congressman for an interview?” Young wondered. Yes, Jones said: “Brian Williams *loves* Congressman Lewis.” She also suggested Katie Couric, who is launching a show on ABC in the fall.

Not all editors choose to be as engaged in publicity as

**AFTER MY FATHER’S  
DEATH, MY MOTHER  
RESOLVED TO DO  
EVERYTHING SHE  
COULD TO MAKE SURE  
THAT THE RECORD OF  
HIS ADMINISTRATION  
WAS PRESERVED.**



Jacqueline Kennedy's interviews reveal new details about her husband's short presidency.

Young is. “Gretchen’s a really creative, involved editor,” executive director of publicity Marie Coolman says. “She’s passionate about her writers’ projects, and she’s flexible, and she’s very collaborative. She’s always been very good at moving the project forward, figuring out a way to work something out if there’s any issue. Which is a good life skill in general, and particularly as an editor.”

Indeed, in fall 2011 Young had two different books at No. 1 on the *New York Times* best-seller list. With Jacqueline Kennedy’s oral history leading the nonfiction list, the fiction list was topped by *Heat Rises*, a novel tied to the TV show *Castle*, about a mystery novelist named Richard Castle who shadows a detective for inspiration. The ghostwritten thriller was supposedly written by the fictional character. “We put those books out there as if Richard Castle exists as a flesh-and-blood author.” *Heat Rises* had real-life blurbs from crime writer Michael Connelly and thriller novelist James Patterson.

Young and the Hyperion team also experiment with

digital storytelling, including enhanced e-books, which add videos, images, and music to the reading experience. Apple cited the interactive *Jacqueline Kennedy* as the No. 1 enhanced e-book of the year. In addition to the transcript and the tapes, “we added archival footage, music, a video introduction by Caroline, a video introduction and video conclusion by Michael Beschloss, home movies of the Kennedys with one of their favorite songs, ‘September Song,’ in the background—we tried to make it as multimedia as possible.”

Young’s boss, Ellen Archer, embraces e-books and other new publishing technologies. The president and CEO of Hyperion was interviewed by *Digital Book World* in early January, predicting that Hyperion would derive 50–60 percent of its revenues from e-books by 2015. The company looks to acquire authors competent in social as well as traditional media, she said, so that their personal marketing drives sales. The goal is to have a large base of authors whom Archer calls “media-genic.”



Young and her writers (clockwise, from left): Tracey Ullman, George Carlin, Joe Torre, and Don Cheadle and John Prendergast.

Young cites journalist Alexandra Robbins as a “digitally savvy” example. The author of *The Geeks Shall Inherit the Earth* (2011), Robbins “gets social media.” Her nonfiction book follows seven members of what Robbins calls the “cafeteria fringe,” trying to navigate the murky social waters of middle and high school. Active on Twitter and Facebook, Robbins has a fan base beyond the book, from her four previous books on youth culture, two of which have been *New York Times* best sellers, and from her many TV and lecture appearances. The Hyperion marketing team capitalized on that fan base when creating the book’s promotional video, with formerly “geeky” adults asserting pride in their nerdiness. Thanks to her devotees, Robbins won the Goodreads Choice Award for Best Nonfiction of 2011, competing against some big names, including **David Brooks**, AB’83; Richard Dawkins; and Jon Krakauer.

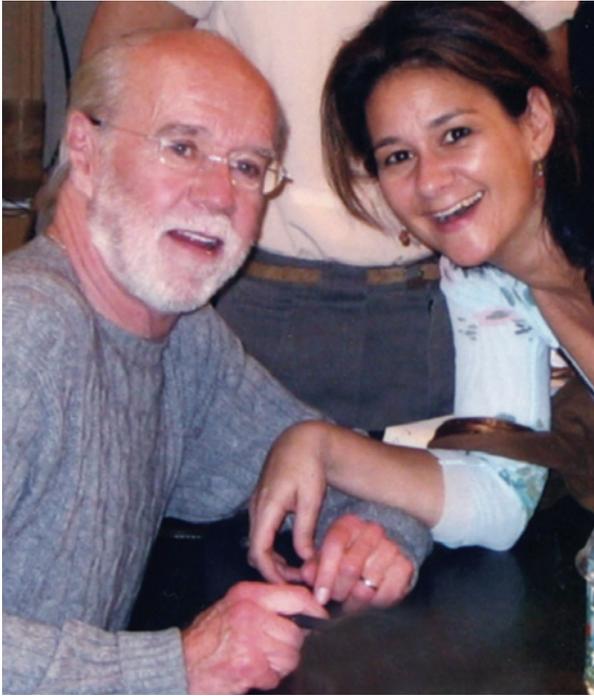
Ultimately, when it comes to social-media promotion and different ways to tell a story, Young says, “the sky’s the limit.” The format doesn’t much matter to Young, but she still loves the physical book. She and her husband, John Baxter, who runs a bondholder communications company and has written two novels of his own (not published by Hyperion), collect first editions. “We love early editions of significant works, but we also collect unspectacular books with striking dust jackets,” Young says. In the late ’80s they started their collection at an auction, buying a first edition of *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*. “We didn’t have a penny to our name, but we spent \$110 on it.”

Young’s office is filled with her writers’ books, including 2011 memoirs by comedian Whoopi Goldberg and actress Marlo Thomas and journalist Thomas French’s *Zoo Story*

(2010), following six years of research at Tampa, Florida’s Lowry Park Zoo. Her husband’s artwork—he also paints—sits on her desk, as does the art of their 13-year-old daughter, Greer, a student at the Chapin School, a private girls’ school on Manhattan’s Upper East Side and Young’s alma mater. One of Greer’s pencil drawings shows the New York skyline view from Young’s office, with the Empire State Building shooting up from smaller high-rises and a smattering of mushroom-shaped water towers. Young’s favorite skyscraper, the Chrysler Building, is barely in view.

A Manhattan native, Young says that her family thought she’d end up going to Columbia University, where her father and brother went. Applying to the University of Chicago on the suggestion of her college adviser, she entered an accelerated bachelor’s/master’s program in Spanish, earning both

**IT’S YOUNG’S WILLINGNESS TO TRY ANYTHING AND CONTACT ANYONE THAT HAS GOTTEN HER SO MANY SUCCESSFUL WRITERS.**



degrees by age 21. After finding out she'd passed her oral and written exams, she remembers, "I called my parents collect" from a phone nearby. "I feel like that was the smartest I've ever been." The University "is so intense, so intellectually alive. I didn't realize that was in me until I was there."

Moving back to New York, she got a job at *Good Morning America*, where she'd worked over the summer while in the College. After several years in television, she decided to move to a publishing house. Even working in TV, she says, "I always had a book in my hand, and I was always the one running down the hallway reading." An entry-level job at Harper Collins ultimately led to an editorial position, and in 1996 she started at Hyperion, then just five years old.

Early on she booked big writers—comedian Tracey Ullman and rocker David Lee Roth, for example. One of her first books, *ESPN SportsCentury* (1999), which traced the 100-year evolution of American sports, was a *New York Times* best seller. "When you're a new house, it's all about new authors," she says. "In order to make a splash and let people know you exist, you want to get out the big books with the biggest numbers."

**F**or someone who works with celebrities regularly, "I'm not jaded," she says. Some people make Young as excited as when she first started in publishing. A two-page handwritten letter from *To Kill a Mockingbird* author Harper Lee is among her "most treasured possessions." She had written to Lee after reading her 2006 essay in *O Magazine* about "the shrinking popularity of traditional methods of expression in the wireless age," Young says. "It reminded me of the rich literary euphoria I experienced when reading

*To Kill a Mockingbird* for the first time. I was so thrilled that the famously reclusive Lee could still write like an angel on a topic of relevance that I immediately resolved to compose an old-fashioned letter of appreciation in her honor." She sent it to Lee's publisher and expected to never hear back. Lee answered about a month later. "She had responded to my gesture with a warmth and eloquence that took my breath away."

It's Young's willingness to try anything and contact anyone that has gotten her so many successful writers. Sometimes it works. After seeing Congressman Lewis speak and reading his op-eds, Young thought about bringing him on as an author. Lewis, 72, was a Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee leader and in 1965 helped lead marchers across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. When Barack Obama became president, he signed a photograph for Lewis with the words, "Because of you, John." Says Young, "That just made me think, there's a book here."

Sometimes her assertiveness doesn't result in a book contract, at least not right away. After seeing an interview with a Hollywood legend, Young contacted his agent. "He's just got the most amazing stories—and more importantly, he really knows how to tell them." A couple weeks after sending the letter, she heard from the agent, saying that the award-winning actor/director would be in town and could meet with her. "I usually don't get that nervous—but I was." They spent an hour last summer in Hyperion's offices, talking about possible ideas for a book, but nothing has come out of it yet.

Any chance—contacting authors or suggesting new ideas—no matter the outcome, is worth taking, she says. For Young, the important thing is finding a story: "I want to be part of making those stories and telling those stories. I want to keep readers reading." ♦

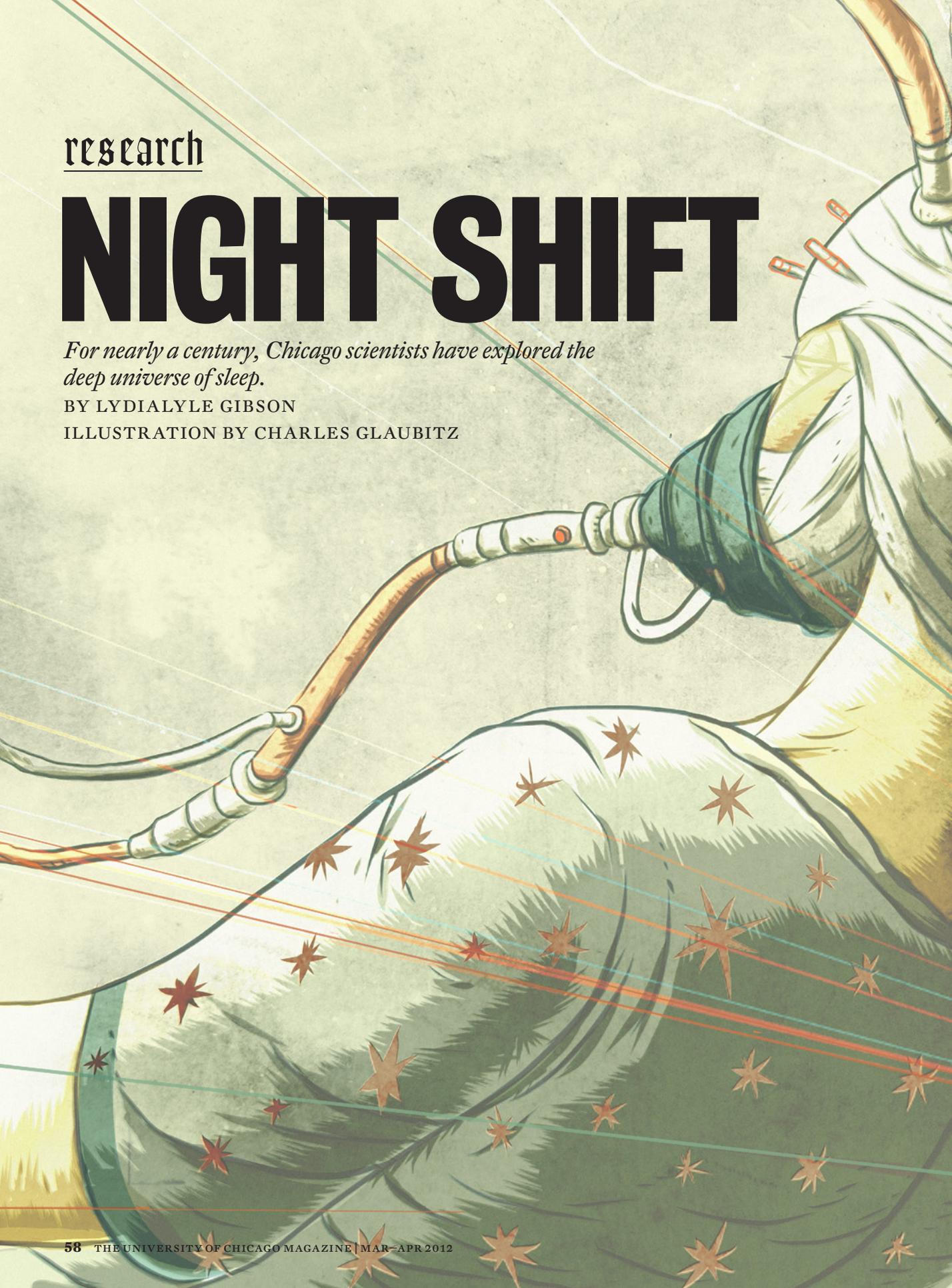
research

# NIGHT SHIFT

*For nearly a century, Chicago scientists have explored the deep universe of sleep.*

BY LYDIALYLE GIBSON

ILLUSTRATION BY CHARLES GLAUBITZ





feel like a lab rat,” says Ruben Rodriguez. He looks a little beleaguered, smiling up from the bed where soon he’ll be asleep, while next door, in a room smelling of coffee and humming with computers, a sleep tech will spend long, small hours monitoring his breathing and brain activity, his eye movements and muscle tone, the oxygen and carbon dioxide levels in his blood.

Rodriguez feels like a lab rat because he is one. Covered head to foot in wires and electrodes, he is spending his fourth night in as many months at the University of Chicago Medicine’s Sleep Disorders Center as part of a study on obesity hypoventilation syndrome. Also called Pickwickian syndrome—in *The Pickwick Papers* Dickens described a character with the classic symptoms—the disease usually combines severe sleep apnea with shallow waking respiration. “To the point where they’re not breathing enough to get rid of the carbon dioxide, so it accumulates in their bodies,” says **Babak Mokhlesi**, who directs the Sleep Disorders Center. “This is the extreme of the extreme.”

Rodriguez, 39, knew he’d put on a lot of weight in the past few years—he reached 375 pounds before he started working it off this past January—and he knew he was waking up frequently at night. But he didn’t realize he had a problem until his boss called and told him. A driver for a handicap-accessible van service, Rodriguez kept nodding off at the wheel, a few seconds here, a few seconds there, whenever traffic slowed to a stop. The camera on the windshield caught him. “I never hit nobody, thank God,” he says. Going in for a diagnostic sleep study last fall, he found out that when he slept, his breathing periodically stopped for 20 seconds at a time, sometimes longer, before his brain lurched into action, sending an urgent signal for him to rouse up and gasp for air. (“Apnea” comes from a Greek word meaning “without breath.”) In the course of a night, this might happen dozens of times.

Tonight is Rodriguez’s last in the sleep lab. Now outfitted with a CPAP device (the acronym stands for “continuous positive airway pressure”) that keeps him breathing normally through a mask that fits over his face, he sleeps soundly, solidly. Five minutes after sleep tech Greg Bild wishes him goodnight over the intercom, Rodriguez is asleep. A little more than an hour later, he’s in REM, the digital waves that track his eye movements picking up speed, rolling over each other as they undulate across the computer screen’s teeming, black cosmos.

**T**he University of Chicago has a long history with sleep. “I heard this was the place where they invented it,” Rodriguez joked the first time he came to the medical center. That’s not quite true, but it is the place where sleep science first took shape, and where the shape of sleep it-

self—how it works and what it’s for, and what happens when something goes wrong—began to emerge from the darkness. In 1925 Chicago physiologist Nathaniel Kleitman, PhD’23, established the world’s first sleep lab, on the second floor of Abbott Hall, which he filled with instruments and measuring devices he and his students had fashioned.

Fourteen years later, he published a textbook, *Sleep and Wakefulness* (University of Chicago Press, 1939), which became the canonical volume for sleep researchers everywhere. Fourteen years after that, in 1953, Kleitman and graduate student Eugene Aserinsky, PhD’53, published a two-page paper in *Science*, documenting their discovery of REM sleep. Little noticed at first, it was nevertheless a breakthrough, a foundation on which the rest of sleep science would build. Rapid eye movements, the two reported, occurred regularly during sleep and were accompanied by faster heartbeats, quicker breathing—and dreaming. Subjects whom they awakened during or just after a REM cycle could describe vivid, detailed, visual dreams.

With medical student **William Dement**, MD’55, PhD’58, Kleitman dispelled the idea that sleep was a single state. Recording subjects throughout the night, they used eye-motion measurements and EEGs of brain activity to chart shifting sleep patterns. A few years later, Chicago psychologist **Allan Rechtschaffen**, SB’51, MD’54, along with Dement and Chicago colleague **Gerry Vogel**, SB’51, MD’54, helped give scientific shape to narcolepsy, a disorder first described in the late 1800s. In a series of 1960s papers, the three researchers articulated the idea that narcolepsy is a form of dissociated REM sleep.

Later Rechtschaffen, who led the sleep lab after Kleitman’s retirement, carried out some of the first research on insomnia and sleep apnea. He and Pennsylvania psychiatrist

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO HAS A LONG HISTORY WITH SLEEP. “I HEARD THIS WAS THE PLACE WHERE THEY INVENTED IT.”**

**Pediatric pulmonologist David Gozal stresses the importance of sleep research focused on children.**

Anthony Kales developed a standardized method for classifying sleep stages that remained in use until 2007, when the American Academy of Sleep Medicine, building on Rechtschaffen and Kales's system, released new guidelines.

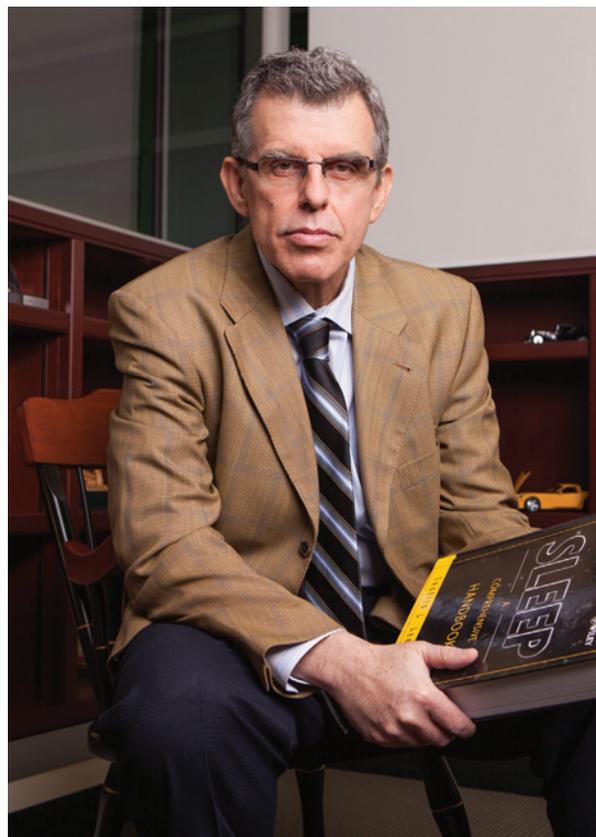
In those early years, when sleep science was still a wide-open field of deep and ancient mysteries, Rechtschaffen looked for clues wherever he could find them. He brought into the lab not only human subjects but also cats, alligators, tortoises, and lizards, hoping to pin down the common fundamentals of sleep. His experiments with rats, in which he kept the animals awake continuously, demonstrated the fatal effects of sleep deprivation. Growing scrawnier and weaker, even as they ate more, the sleep-deprived animals lost coordination and stopped grooming themselves. Finally their bodies failed completely, and after two to three weeks they died.

**N**early a century after Kleitman first drew back the curtain on sleep, its mysteries remain vast and profound, although the field is more densely populated, at Chicago and elsewhere. Sleep researchers converge from across disciplines: physicians, neuroscientists, psychologists, physiologists. As **David Gozal**, who leads the University's pediatric sleep program, says, "The universe of sleep here is expanding. There are lots of galaxies out there."

Most of those galaxies exist within UChicago Medicine, but some are farther flung. Social neuroscientist **John Caicoppo** has shown that loneliness can damage sleep quality, and biophysicist **David Biron** searches for clues to the genetic mechanism that regulates sleep in the "lethargus" behavior of roundworm *C. elegans*, a tiny primitive organism whose quiescent state resembles our own.

For more than a decade, organismal biologist **Daniel Margoliash** and former psychology chair **Howard Nusbaum**, U-High'72, have investigated how sleep affects cognition in people and birds. Testing students as they learn complex video games or memorize new words, and starlings and zebra finches as they encounter new songs, Margoliash and Nusbaum have shown that sleep consolidates and protects new memories, that it fends off false ones, that it can even restore memories that seem to be lost. Tracking birds' individual neurons, Margoliash discovered something not unlike dreaming: during sleep, the animals' brains fire in patterns that mimic wakeful singing. Birds, he theorized, rehearse their songs at night, the way some scientists believe people revisit the day's events in dreams.

Most of the University's sleep research, though, happens within the medical center, where the past two decades of discovery have leaned more toward the physiological than the psychological: how sleep—or lack of it—interacts with obesity, diabetes risk, hormone function, metabolism, and



cardiovascular problems. In 2008 scientists led by epidemiologist **Diane Lauderdale**, AM'79, AM'81, were among the first to draw a conclusive connection to heart disease, calculating that for every hour of average sleep lost, coronary calcium buildup can increase by 16 percent. In a novel study this past January, internist **Vineet Arora**, AM'03, examined how hospital noise, which sometimes spikes to a chainsaw-loud 80 decibels, disrupts patients' rest, and perhaps with it their recovery.

"We have developed a theme that basically could be summarized as: the importance of sleep for physical health," says **Eve Van Cauter**, who directs the University's Sleep, Metabolism, and Health Center. "I mean, your grandmother would say, 'I knew it all along, that sleep is important to stay healthy.'" Study by study, sleep researchers are proving it.

In 1999 Van Cauter published a groundbreaking report in the *Lancet*. Chronic sleep loss, she found, strikingly alters hormone secretion in young, healthy adults. In some subjects who were sleeping only four hours a night, glucose metabolism came to resemble that of diabetics. Their blood cortisol rose to levels usually seen in much older people. The study was one of the first to explore the effects of sleeplessness on the body rather than the brain.

Since then Van Cauter's research has linked poor, irregular sleep to a multitude of chronic diseases: diabetes, obesity, and heart disease. She has studied shift workers and jetlag sufferers. Last year she and biomedical anthropologist **Kristen Knutson**, a frequent collaborator, reported that insomnia can worsen insulin resistance in diabetics. In another 2011 study, Van Cauter found that sleep loss can



**“If you sleep deprive an individual,” says biophysicist Eve Van Cauter, “basically nothing remains normal.”**

lower young men’s testosterone levels. Sleep apnea, she’s reported, can raise the risk and severity of diabetes.

“Many of my colleagues in the sleep field will say that the function of sleep is still unknown,” Van Cauter says. “Why do we sleep?” But the question, she argues, is itself a fallacy: there’s no single function. “If you sleep deprive an individual, basically nothing remains normal, whether mental or physical. Sleep is a basic need for function at every level.”

Van Cauter still has big questions. Does restoring sleep to the sleep deprived repair mental and physical function? Is it possible, with longer, better-quality sleep, to walk back some of the damage done to blood pressure, diabetes risk, inflammation, the likelihood of Alzheimer’s disease? “There are some hints,” she says, that what she calls “good sleep hygiene” can offer those benefits, but what’s missing is a body of evidence, “strong well-designed studies.”

Another open question for her is pharmacological. “We have so few drugs to treat people in sleep. For people with hypertension, there are 20 different drugs,” each targeting a different blood-pressure mechanism. “For sleep, we know there are different waking centers, so a person who has trouble sleeping, it could be because of too high histaminergic tone, or too high cholinergic tone, or too high neurogenic tone. The regulation of sleep is complex, and we know the neuronal groups and neurotransmitters involved. Yet the sleep drugs we have all target the exact same receptor,” a subunit of the benzodiazepine. “The pharmacology of sleep is really very poorly developed.”

In another corner of the medical center, the pharmacology is a puzzle **Nanduri Prabhakar** is trying to solve, at least for

one disorder whose numbers have been rising: obstructive sleep apnea, which happens when the soft tissue around the airway blocks off breathing. (Mokhlesi says that 70 percent of the clinical patients at the Sleep Disorders Center have sleep apnea.) Weight is a frequent contributing factor—it’s no coincidence that sleep apnea has increased along with obesity—but so are age and gender and genetics. Men are more likely to develop the condition. So are people over 40, those with a family history, or people with certain sinus conditions. Four to 9 percent of middle-aged men and 2 to 4 percent of middle-aged women have sleep apnea.

An emergency-medicine professor, Prabhakar directs the Center for Systems Biology of Oxygen Sensing. His research focuses on the molecular mechanisms at work during intermittent hypoxia, the oxygen deficiency that accompanies sleep apnea and can contribute to high blood pressure, heart attacks, and other maladies. Using rodent and cell-culture models, Prabhakar is developing a drug to counteract the biological reactions that set those larger problems in motion.

The need is urgent, he says. During a 2010 interview with the UK’s Physiological Society, he noted that for adults with sleep apnea, a hypoxia-fighting drug would make CPAP devices more effective and improve patients’ quality of life and cognitive function. He added that nearly one in two babies born prematurely suffer chronic intermittent hypoxia because of disrupted breathing during sleep. “If it’s not cured,” Prabhakar said, “eventually they develop sudden infant death syndrome.”

**P**ediatric pulmonologist David Gozal has seen that happen. During his medical residency in Israel, a baby died from sudden infant death syndrome. The experience shook him. “Sudden infant death syndrome is a condition that occurs only during sleep,” he says. “I didn’t know anything about sleep, because at that time—this was the late 1970s—as a discipline it barely existed, and certainly not in pediatrics.” In 1981, while he was still a resident, Gozal established a sleep lab specifically for children at Haifa’s Rothschild Hospital (now called Bnai Zion Medical Center). “Looking back, I can’t overemphasize how primitive I was in my understanding of sleep, but it seemed like the right thing to do,” he says. “I thought we needed to understand why babies die suddenly and unexpectedly, and to understand that, I thought we needed to understand sleep in babies.” His research has helped illuminate the mechanisms that connect hypoxia and sudden infant death syndrome.

Thirty years later, Gozal is still a rarity, running a pediatric sleep program he says is “more unique” than he would like. “Children are not little adults,” he says. Diseases can behave differently in one than in the other, and they often require different remedies, although children, like adults,

PHOTO BY JASON SMITH

suffer the full range of sleep disorders: sleep apnea, insomnia, restless leg syndrome, and “narcolepsy, which we now know—because we and others documented this—can occur very early.”

Moreover, Gozal says, children need their own sleep research because the stakes are so high. “Alterations in sleep in early childhood can have huge lifelong consequences, and sometimes transgenerational consequences.” Sleep disorders in kids can modify their genomes and change the way they develop into adulthood. “Our job as pediatricians is not just to make sure that kids are healthy, but to make sure they become healthy adults.”

Gozal came to Chicago in 2008, and since his arrival he’s assembled a team of nearly a dozen scientists and physicians doing what he calls “bench-to-bedside” work. Among them are **Yang Wang**, studying ways to protect children’s brains from the intermittent hypoxia associated with sleep apnea, and **Shelley Zhang**, investigating how immune function and metabolism are affected. Using animal models of sleep disorders, **Abdelnaby Khalyfa** examines the genomic pathways and gene interactions, and **Vijay Ramesh** looks for connections between childhood sleep disruptions and neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s. **Rakesh Bhattacharjee** studies how cellular particles—endothelial cells, monocytes, platelets—shed during sleep apnea, contribute to vascular dysfunction and, in turn, to childhood obesity. **Leila Kheirandish-Gozal**, Gozal’s wife, studies how specific immune cells may change and then contribute to atherosclerosis in children with sleep disorders, while **Richard Li** investigates the role endothelial cells and monocytes play in apnea-related atherosclerosis.

In his own lab, Gozal examines the effects of disrupted sleep on children’s brains and bodies. In a 2011 study he

tracked the sleep habits of four- to ten-year-olds and found that, on average, they slept eight hours a night—an hour and a half to two hours less than the recommended duration. Children with the poorest and shortest sleep were four times more likely to be obese, and their blood tests showed increased metabolic and cardiovascular risk factors. Currently Gozal studies how sleep apnea, obesity, and cognition interact. “So we’re imaging kids, doing cognitive function in kids, measuring vascular function in kids, doing metabolic assays in kids. And trying to put it all together and understand how genes could potentially affect these relationships.”

He also studies how oxidative stress affects cognition, and how diet might modify those effects; how sleep disruptions can lead to changes in cancer behaviors; and how poor sleep can alter the genome. Because obstructive sleep apnea affects kidney function, he is developing a urine test for the disorder, so that children can skip the strenuous, difficult nights in the sleep lab.

**J**ust down the hall from the bed where Rodriguez is spending his final night in the sleep lab, a three-year-old girl, attached to her own set of electrodes and wires, struggles to get to sleep. (Children and adults share sleep lab facilities, if not medical and research programs.) She’s come in for diagnosis and treatment of a nighttime breathing disruption—the sleep techs suspect sleep apnea—and for two hours she whimpers and squirms. Her mother cajoles her with a blanket, a toy, and, in desperation, a cell phone. By the time she finally drifts off, her mother already passed out beside her, it’s long after midnight.

Sleep disorders have genetic and biological underpinnings that researchers are just beginning to understand, but lack of sleep is also often environmental, and often in ways that are not within people’s control: Life’s responsibilities push back bedtimes. Stress keeps people awake. Children sleep irregularly because their parents do.

There’s also something Gozal might call a modern lack of regard for sleep. “You look at the earth today,” he says. “It’s all light, all noise. The quality of our sleep, the regularity of sleep—it has disappeared.” People ignore the effects of sleep loss because they can. “It’s the only thing that doesn’t punish you immediately.”

But sleeplessness does punish you. It’s not the “tradable commodity” it seems to be, Gozal says. “We spend one-third of our lives sleeping. If it weren’t important, why would we do this?” he says. “Every aspect of our lives essentially revolves around sleep. It is the dark matter that connects all the visible stars.” ♦

**PEOPLE IGNORE  
THE EFFECTS  
OF SLEEP LOSS  
BECAUSE “IT’S THE  
ONLY THING THAT  
DOESN’T PUNISH  
YOU IMMEDIATELY.”**



To read about how human sleep compares with that of wild animals, see [mag.uchicago.edu](http://mag.uchicago.edu).

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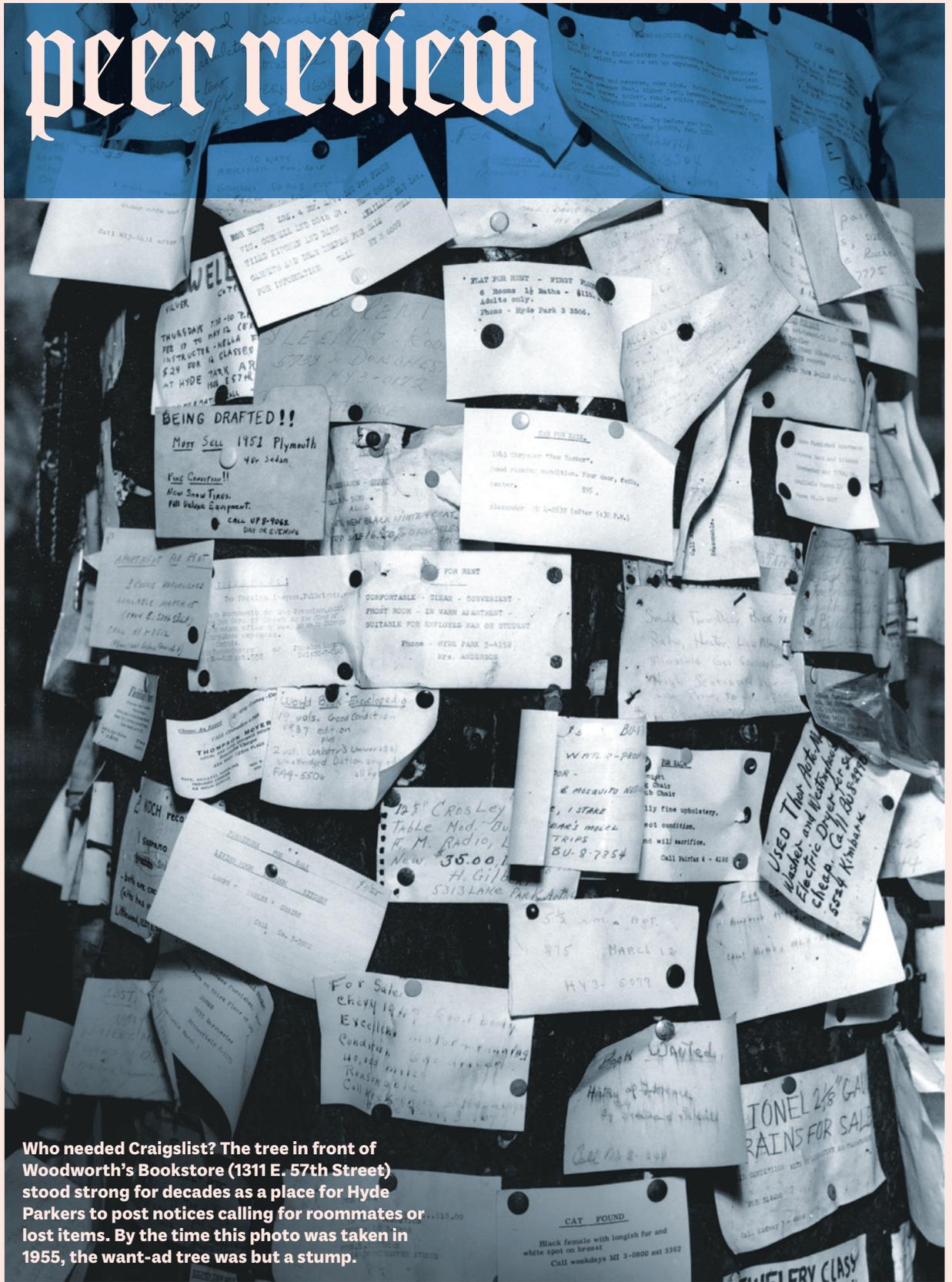
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**UCHICAGO  
ALUMNI**

# peer review

PHOTO FROM ARCHIVAL PHOTOGRAPHIC FILES, APP2-04055, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS RESEARCH CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY



Who needed Craigslist? The tree in front of Woodworth's Bookstore (1311 E. 57th Street) stood strong for decades as a place for Hyde Parkers to post notices calling for roommates or lost items. By the time this photo was taken in 1955, the want-ad tree was but a stump.

# Russia's chance for redemption

BY DAVID SATTER, AB'68

**O**n a peaceful night in June 1980, I was on a train from Moscow to Vilnius. In my compartment were a man and a woman, both Soviet citizens. The man was an engineer at a power station outside Moscow. The woman was an economist in Vilnius. Rolling by outside the train's windows were forests and lush green fields lit by the fading light of a blood-orange sun. Taking advantage of the encounter with an American journalist, my fellow passengers decided to engage me in a political discussion.

"First of all, you have to begin with the basics," the man said. "In America, you'll have to admit, money determines everything."

"That's right," the woman said, "the corporations control everything."

I said that in a democracy, the behavior of the corporations is limited by the law.

The engineer waved his hand in disgust. "The law," he said. "That's nonsense. The law is what the corporations want."

I noted the resignation of President Nixon. "You see," I said, "even the president isn't above the law."

"Yes," he said, "but the president isn't the real power. The real power is the corporations, the Rockefellers."

I arrived in Moscow in 1976, eight years after graduating from the U of C, and was to spend the next six years

reporting there. The question that dominated my term in Moscow, when the Soviet Union was at the height of its power, was the one that first occupied me when I was an undergraduate: to what extent is "political virtue" worth the price of living in a world of lies?

The Soviet Union saw itself as the quintessence of political virtue, and it was the crystallization of a lie. Soviet citizens could not vote, write, speak, or travel freely, but they were told that they were the freest people on earth. Others dreamed of paradise in the next world, but Soviet citizens did not need the hereafter. (This was a good thing because when Yuri Gagarin went into space, he looked for God and did not see him.) The Soviet Union had created heaven on earth.

What existed in the Soviet Union was an entire false reality that came to be so taken for granted that its surrealism was not appreciated. Newspapers contained only one opinion, trade unions supported management, and the parliament approved without dissent everything submitted by the government's executive branch. The entire society was said to be unanimous (except for a few renegades, mostly traitors in the pay of the West), and the regime, steered by Marxist-Leninist ideology as inarguable as the axioms of geometry, was infallible.

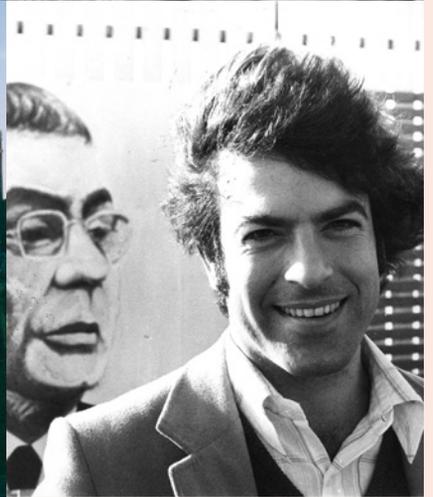
The false world of the ideology dominated in the Soviet Union during all of the years I was in Moscow as

the correspondent of the *Financial Times*. As a result, I felt as if I had a front-row seat at a nationwide theater of the absurd. But this theater could not withstand the impact of truthful information, which is what it faced after Mikhail Gorbachev came to power and initiated the policy of glasnost.

The intention of glasnost was to aid in the liberalization of the system. It was supposed to make socialism more dynamic, yet it had the opposite effect. The introduction of truth into an integrated system based on lies completely undermined the latter, and in six short years the Soviet Union collapsed.

I was persona non grata after leaving Moscow in 1982, but the changes under Gorbachev made it possible for me to return in 1990. I therefore witnessed the Soviet collapse and the birth of the new Russia. Unfortunately, the practices of the Soviet Union were not laid to rest when the country itself disappeared. In particular, the glorification of the goals of the state (and contempt for the fate of the individual) was carried over into the new Russia, where the attempt to go from socialism to capitalism without the rule of law led to the complete criminalization of the country. When Vladimir Putin took over from Boris Yeltsin and Russia's economy finally began to grow as a result of the sharp increase in world commodity prices, the result was not

**What existed in the Soviet Union was an entire false reality that came to be so taken for granted that its surrealism was not appreciated.**



**Back in the USSR (clockwise from top): Satter interviews a journalist in the Republic of Georgia (1978); stands in Siberia near a poster of Soviet Communist Party head Leonid Brezhnev (1978); poses in Red Square with son Raphael Satter, AB'05, visiting his father (1992); and stands with an icon painter and his two friends at a collective farm in the Tver region (1989).**

the implanting of democracy but the glorification of the past and a new authoritarian system.

Under Putin there was little civic activism in Russia. For the most part, the population was ready to ignore lawlessness and lack of democracy as long as the rise in their standard of living continued. When the Putin regime blatantly falsified the December 2011 parliamentary elections, however, thousands of people finally took to the streets in the biggest demonstrations in 20 years.

The demonstrations are set to continue. As a result, Russians now have a second chance to create the democracy that they failed to establish after the Soviet Union's fall. But to do so, they have to free themselves of the remnants of the imaginary world of

the Soviet Union, including the notion that the Russian state is somehow sacred and its judgments infallible. This will only be possible if they face the full truth about the past and commemorate the millions of victims of the Communist regime's crimes.

In 1992–93 I again lived in Moscow and witnessed the chaos as anti-Communists tried to create capitalism using Bolshevik methods, and in the following years I traveled to Russia perhaps 70 times. My experience there led to three books: the first, *Age of Delirium: The Decline and Fall of the Soviet Union* (Yale University Press, 2001), has been made into a documentary film that premiered this past fall in London and Washington. All three books chronicle the history of Russia in our

times as I was privileged to see it.

On March 4 Russia will vote for president, and a new confrontation is brewing between the country's democratic forces and a corrupt regime. This is a confrontation that the democratic forces need to win. Russia is too great a country to live forever under the yoke of falsehood. At the same time, they need to win for the benefit of the rest of the world, to demonstrate once and for all the danger of accepting the temptation rejected by Christ in the wilderness—the exchange of truth for bread. ♦

**David Satter has written three books on Russia, most recently *It Was a Long Time Ago, and It Never Happened Anyway* (Yale University Press, 2011).**

## NOTES

### AWARD-WINNING FILMMAKER

In March director and screenwriter **Philip Kaufman**, AB'58, receives the Cinequest Film Festival's Maverick Spirit Award. The writer of *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (1981) and director of the Academy Award-winning *The Right Stuff* (1983), adapted from Tom Wolfe's 1979 book, Kaufman's next movie is *Hemingway and Gellhorn*, about the writer's affair with and marriage to WW II correspondent Martha Gellhorn. It premieres on HBO in May.

### MINISTER OF FINANCE

**Christina Liu**, MBA'80, PhD'86, head of Taiwan's cabinet-level Council for Economic Planning and Development, was named the country's next finance minister in late January. She will be the second woman to be Taiwan's finance minister—her mother, Shirley Kuo, held the position in the late 1980s.

### ORGANIC MOVE

In January **Margaret Mueller**, AM'97, helped launch CarbonSix Research, a health-care and pharmaceutical firm inside market-research agency Leo J. Shapiro (AB'42, PhD'56) & Associates. Before becoming CarbonSix's president, Mueller created the pharmaceutical



**Margaret Mueller**



### TO INFINITY AND BEYOND

Former astronaut **John Grunsfeld**, SM'84, PhD'88, has been named the associate administrator for NASA's Science Mission Directorate in Washington, DC. Responsible for overseeing the nation's space-research program, the directorate "seeks to expand the frontiers of four broad scientific pursuits: earth science, planetary science, heliophysics, and astrophysics," according to its website, through robotic observation and explorer crafts. Grunsfeld, most recently deputy director of Baltimore's Space Telescope Science Institute, has been on five space shuttle flights and has performed eight space walks to service and upgrade the Hubble Space Telescope.

and health-care group at LJS. She volunteers for the University as president of the Master of the Arts Program in the Social Sciences' alumni association.

### HIGH-QUALITY IMAGING

In January the Digital Imaging Marketing Association presented **George E. Smith**, SM'56, PhD'59, with a Lifetime Achievement Award. The award, given only twice since the association's 1995 founding, recognizes Smith's work as the coinventor of the CCD sensor, a technology that helps create high-quality digital images.

### GOOD DESIGN

Architecture firm MASS Design Group, cofounded by **Michael Murphy**, AB'02, has received *Contract* magazine's 2012 Designer of the Year Award. The firm has built a tuberculosis hospital and vocational school in Haiti and a 140-bed hospital in rural Rwanda,

which received the magazine's 2011 Healthcare Environment Award in the acute-care facility category. "It is designed as a campus of buildings," explained a *Contract* article about Rwanda's Butaro Hospital, "separate structures to help isolate and limit the possible transmission of disease."

### CANCER FIGHTER

**Sidi Chen**, SM'07, PhD'11, has been named a Damon Runyon fellow to conduct cancer research. Chen, a postdoc at MIT, hopes to develop anticancer drugs and therapies by targeting the processes of genetic network regulators called RNAs within human cells.

### YES, RESERVATIONS

In August **I. Duncan Robertson**, MBA'98, was appointed chief financial officer of OpenTable, an online service that provides free restaurant reservations for diners and a computerized reservation system to restaurants.

ABOVE: PHOTO BY NASA/BILL INGALLS; LEFT: PHOTO COURTESY MARGARET MUELLER

## RELEASES

*The Magazine lists a selection of general-interest books, films, and albums by alumni. For additional alumni releases, use the link to the Magazine's Goodreads bookshelf at [mag.uchicago.edu](http://mag.uchicago.edu).*

### THE IMPATIENT WOMAN'S GUIDE TO GETTING PREGNANT

By Jean M. Twenge, AB'93, AM'93; Free Press, 2012.

When she wanted to have a baby, psychologist **Jean Twenge** did her research, analyzing scientific data from medical journals, books, and websites. She found that the scientific data available for public consumption was often wrong or from a questionable source—for example, the most commonly cited statistic about fertility among women over 35 came from 17th-century French birth records. Twenge dismisses common myths and provides advice on the best time of the month to try to get pregnant, the best prenatal diets, and at what point to consider fertility treatment.

### CECELIA AND FANNY: THE REMARKABLE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN AN ESCAPED SLAVE AND HER FORMER MISTRESS

By Brad Asher, AM'91, PhD'96; University Press of Kentucky, 2011. Fifteen-year-old slave Cecilia from Louisville, Kentucky, escaped to Canada in 1846. Separation from her enslaved mother and brother led her to begin a correspondence with Fanny, her former mistress, that lasted several decades. **Brad Asher's** book draws on letters from the former slave owner to the escaped slave, exploring race relations in mid-19th century Kentucky. Asher, an independent scholar, details the cultural roles assigned to the two women and offers a glimpse into urban slavery and life in 19th-century America.

### OVERCOMING AMERICA/AMERICA OVERCOMING: CAN WE SURVIVE MODERNITY?

By Stephen C. Rowe, ThM'69, AM'70, PhD'74; Lexington Books, 2011. Grand Valley State University

philosophy professor **Stephen Rowe** wrote this book, he says, as a patriotic duty, in response to the challenges America faces. Including a foreword by Divinity School professor emeritus **Martin Marty**, PhD'56, the book is not a doctrine about how to get the country back on track. Instead Rowe suggests that America is at a tipping point: the country will either be overcome by multifaceted, ideological battles—perhaps corporate greed or immigration—or it will overcome these battles and return to the tradition of democratic deliberation.

### KNOWING NATURE: ART AND SCIENCE IN PHILADELPHIA, 1740–1840

Edited by Amy R. W. Meyers, AB'77; Yale University Press, 2011. In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, an active scientific community in Philadelphia fostered a group of naturalist-artists including John James Audubon. **Amy Meyers**, director of the Yale Center for British Art, has edited an illustrated coffee-table book of essays that demonstrate how the study of nature stimulated artistic production. These naturalist-artists created environments and objects associated with scientific practice, such as botanic gardens and natural-history illustrations, but also art separate from science—textiles and garments, for example, or architectural structures—inspired by scientific interpretations of the natural world.

### THE JEWISH DARK CONTINENT: LIFE AND DEATH IN THE RUSSIAN PALE OF SETTLEMENT

By Nathaniel Deutsch, AB'88, AM'89, PhD'95; Harvard University Press, 2011. In 1912 Ansky, a Russian Jewish ethnographer, set out to document the lives of the Jews of the Pale, a territory in imperial Russia where Jews had been required to live and work for more than a century. At the time, this population comprised 40 percent of the world's Jews, but their way of life was relatively unknown. Ansky wrote a detailed questionnaire to document this vibrant community that disappeared soon after World War I. Ansky's project was interrupted by the war and never completed. In this book **Nathaniel Deutsch**, a professor of literature



**John James Audubon's illustrated opus, *The Birds of America*, was published in volumes between 1827 and 1838, after he had declared a goal to paint every bird species in North America. The illustration above is Audubon's depiction of the Trumpeter Swan.**

and history at the University of California, Santa Cruz, translates the 2,087-item questionnaire from the Yiddish and documents Ansky's efforts to carry out his project.

### BEAUTY PAYS: WHY ATTRACTIVE PEOPLE ARE MORE SUCCESSFUL

By Daniel S. Hamermesh, AB'65; Princeton University Press, 2011. Are the nonbeautiful a disadvantaged group in society? **Daniel Hamermesh**, an economist at the University of Texas at Austin, measures the economic advantages of beauty around the world. The attractive, he argues, are more likely to be employed, receive more substantial pay, and even negotiate loans with better terms. Hamermesh also explores the possible policy implications for those considered less attractive.

### TECHNIQUES OF PLEASURE: BDSM AND THE CIRCUITS OF SEXUALITY

By Margot Weiss, AB'95; Duke University Press, 2011. In this ethnography of the San Francisco Bay Area's pansexual BDSM—also known as SM—community, Wesleyan anthropologist **Margot Weiss** follows more than 60 participants through dungeon-play parties and at flogging workshops. The community, open to people of all genders and sexualities, is not inherently a “safe space,” Weiss argues. Acts the community performs, which include heterosexual male domination and slave auctions, in fact reproduce and sensationalize real-world gender and racial inequalities.

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*“The College was a mind-expanding experience for me. I could not have attended without the full tuition scholarship I received. I have felt obliged to give back since I graduated.”*

HELEN “SCOTTY” MOORMAN, AB’62

You may find Helen Moorman serving as an usher for concerts at Mandel Hall and Rockefeller Chapel or leading tours of Robie House. Fifty years after graduating from the College, she also enrolled in the Basic Program at the Graham School. She notes, “My mind is expanding again.”

In addition to keeping a close connection to the University, Ms. Moorman wanted to express her gratitude by giving a gift of life insurance. “The life insurance policy was a way to ensure a larger gift to the University than I could manage otherwise,” she says.

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# The intellectual lifestyle

**A fan of 19th-century writer Gérard de Nerval, Evonne Kummer poses with her lobster, Blitzcreek, at the New York World's Fair in 1940. No lobsters were harmed during the photo research. Sadly, that's all we can guarantee.**

Cultivating a few choice eccentricities is practically a requirement for an intellectual. Fortunately, notable role models are everywhere. Despite having parsed some of the universe's most complex secrets, Einstein reportedly never learned to drive, claiming it was too complicated. On top of that, he

disdained socks. Legend has it that the French essayist and poet Gérard de Nerval walked around town with a lobster on a leash—which is actually inspired, when you consider how few pets also make good eating.

But only a lunatic would embrace eccentricity without a plan.

## HOW TO PUT THE MAXIM INTO PRACTICE

**1** *Keep it benign*  
Nobody appreciates a naked gentleman running down the street, smashing windows, and screaming about space aliens. The best eccentricities are small and safe. Strange hats and out-of-place accessories (ear horns, etc.) are always favorites, as are unusual hobbies, such as collecting erotic art from pre-Columbian Peru or fashioning household goods out of duct tape. Strange pets are a bit more problematic: a tiger will probably forego the leash in favor of eating you.

**2** *Loud and proud*  
Own your eccentricities with every fiber of your being. An audience will instantly discredit the public performer who displays a hint of uncertainty or doubt. For better or worse, that means any chosen eccentricity needs to be cultivated, practiced, and developed over a long period of time. Being an intellectual requires commitment.

**3** *Sense of humor*  
The best eccentricities amuse and delight people. You have to admit, walking a lobster is pretty funny. Well, except to the lobster.

—Nick Kolakowski, AB'03

 Adapted from Kolakowski's book *How to Become an Intellectual* (Adams Media, forthcoming). To read two more maxims and the inevitable footnote for this excerpt, visit [mag.uchicago.edu/maxims](http://mag.uchicago.edu/maxims).





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