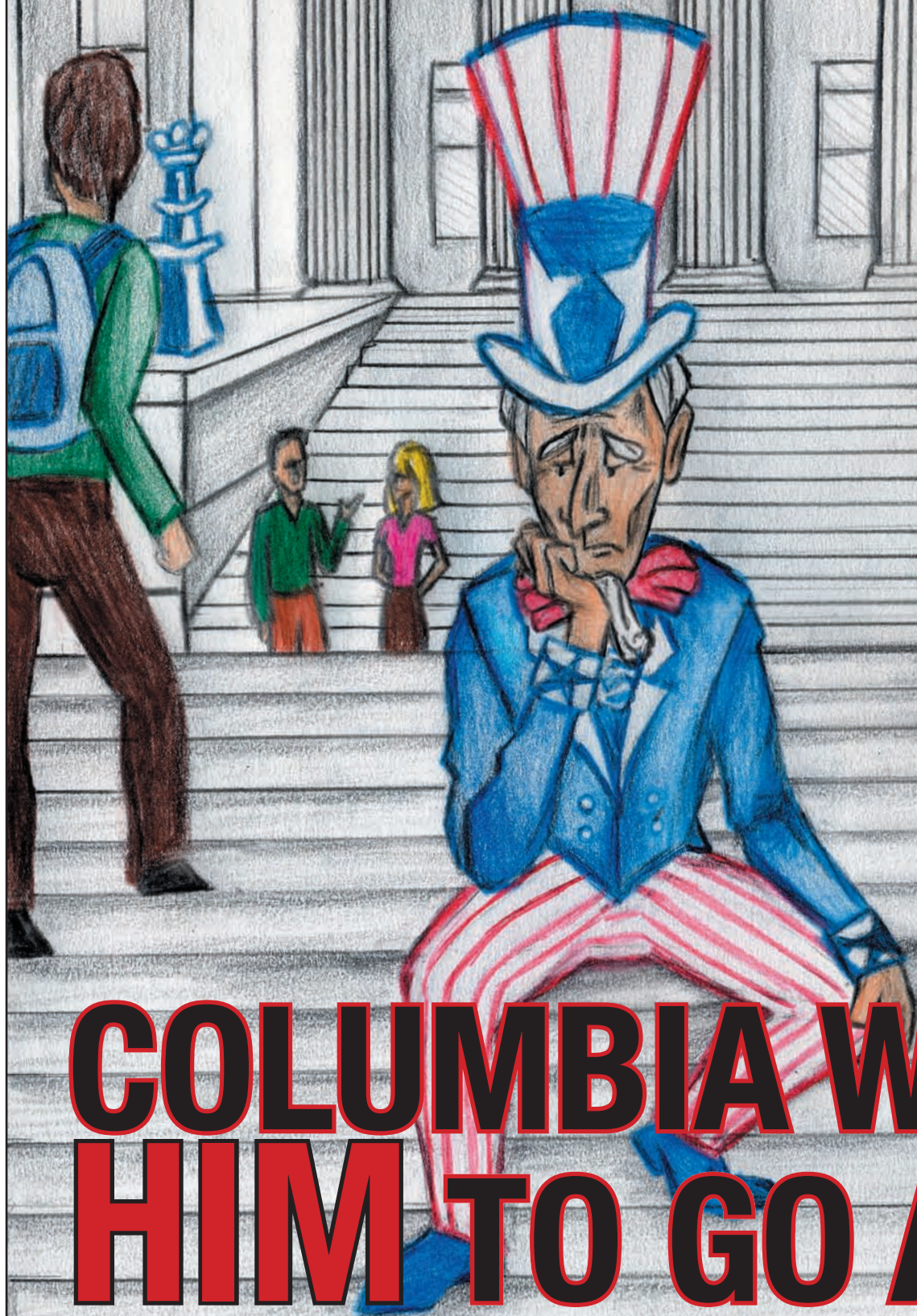


MEET THE FOOD NETWORK'S DAVE LIEBERMAN  
THE PARADOX OF COLLEGE ROCK • DO JEWS REALLY HAVE CLAWS?

# the eye

COLUMBIA ON THE STREET

VOL. I, ISSUE 8, 11.2-9.06



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# the eye

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Sally Cohen-Cutler

## Joe Lieberman

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## College Republicans

Brendan Ballou, Paul Barndt,

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## Minutemen

Ariel Bibby, Max Foxman, Swetha Regu-  
nathan

## The Straight Talk Express

Ian Corey-Boulet, Amanda Sebba

## Hanging Chads (Topical!)

Shira Goldenberg, Kaitlyn Gaynor,  
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## The National Review

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## The Weekly Standard

Matt Franks, Robin Yang,  
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tor, e-mail Tim Shenk, editor in chief ... for now ... at  
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"No children have ever meddled with the Republi-  
can Party and lived to tell about it."

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ing examination and vacation periods. It also hates  
America. No joke. I totally saw *The Eye* hating Ameri-  
ca last week when it was drunk. Tell the world!

## On the Cover



### Proud to Be American?

Why patriotism has become a dirty word at a mecca for free speech.

## Urbanities



### From Barnard to Book Jacket

Alumna Marisha Pessl sounds off on becoming a writer, earning rave reviews, and why a visit to Le Monde is a worthwhile splurge.



### Focus Features

How do students cope when Attention Deficit Disorder turns even the smallest quiz into a huge headache?

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## From the Editor...

To my knowledge, not many people have shrines in their homes. In fact, I have seen only one. It was in the home of a friend from high school. And it was dedicated to Ronald Reagan.

Pause and think about that. A shrine. To Ronald Reagan. In someone's home.

The family kept it in the basement next to a painfully large TV, which meant that one room held two icons to bad taste. A stand in the center of the room proudly showcased assorted campaign memorabilia and a framed picture of the Gipper himself.

(Some might say the shrine made the family patriotic. Others might disagree. To see where Columbia falls in this spectrum, go to Liz Brown's brilliant story on page seven. Now!)

The shrine was strange. So very strange. But what strikes me as even stranger is that when I saw it for the first time in high school I didn't realize quite how weird it was. Like most of my friends, family members, and even teachers, I considered myself a conservative Republican. As embarrassing as it is to recall this now—and believe me, it's embarrassing—I have a hard time blaming myself for my beliefs. I grew up in Annapolis, Maryland, blocks away from the Naval Academy, not exactly a bastion of leftism. In other words, I grew up in a place where people had shrines to Ronald Reagan in their homes.

Moreover, I actually believed all that conservative ballyhoo, and I knew why I believed it. Because there is no legitimate conservative tradition in American thought

before World War II, aspiring conservative intellectuals have to master only a few texts. There's Friedrich Hayek's *The Road to Serfdom*, Russell Kirk's *The Conservative Mind*, and a few articles by William F Buckley Jr. and Frank Meyer. The super-ambitious can dip into the works of Willmoore Kendall, Ludwig von Mises, Eric Voegelin, Leo Strauss, Robert Nisbet, and a few others. Or they can get the cliff notes version from George Nash's appropriately-titled *The Conservative Intellectual Movement in America*. (A snarky comment about Chris Kulawik's place in the conservative intellectual tradition was supposed to go here, but I deleted it because I don't want to be kicked in the face by a hired goon. Who loves ya, Chris?)

After a few weeks of diligent reading, even a well-trained, if surprisingly literate, monkey can call himself a conservative intellectual and start railing against "immanetizing the eschaton," which is a fancy way of saying "I'm a gigantic tool. Tool. Tool. Tool. And a virgin." All in all, it was a decent way for me to convince myself that I mattered. I might not have been able to make the baseball team, but I knew the exact moment Western civilization started going to hell. (It was in the fourteenth century because of William of Occam, obviously.) In retrospect, though, I wish I had just learned to catch a freaking baseball.

Tim



# Marisha Pessl's *Special Topics*

Marisha Pessl is young, impossibly chic, and enviously successful—not to mention a Barnard alumna. Her debut novel, *Special Topics in Calamity Physics*, has garnered high praise from the *New York Times*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Booklist*, and, of course, me. Beating the early gossip that her advance came hand in hand with her marketability (and, let's not lie, stunning appearance), Pessl's novel proved to be an innovative story with remarkable wit and intelligence. Pessl and I met for a cup of coffee (her one requirement for writing), and she allowed me to quiz her about writing, New York, and Columbia through a bookworm's star-struck gaze. —Sally Cohen-Cutler

## Did you always know you wanted to be a writer?

Actually, I thought for a while I was going to be an actress. But then it came down to the point that I'm much more comfortable being in charge of my own future. Writing a book—it's as good as you make it. And ultimately, it's about creating my own story instead of starring in someone else's. It just worked out better for me.

## Do you have any writing preferences in terms of location or situation?

I am not finicky in terms of where I work because for a while I was writing in what amounts to a veal-fattening pen in Midtown, so I really take whatever little space I can get and go. As long as I have some coffee, I can write wearing any sort of shoes, any kind of outfit. I can write in noise, and I can write in quiet.

## FAVORITES

**Restaurant:** Babbo

**Book:** *Lolita*, by Vladimir Nabokov

**Punctuation:** Semicolon

**TV channel:** HD Discovery Channel

**Animals:** My two cats, Hitchcock and Fellini! They're superstars.

## Do you have a specific writing process?

I treat it like it's any other job or trade. Even when it's painful, even when the words aren't coming, even when a voice in my head is telling me that this is terrible and "Who do you think you are that you can write a book?" ... I still make myself put it down, because to be a writer, it's something

you need to have in your schedule—it has to be something that you do innately. You can't think about it, you have to do it. I don't wait for inspiration. I don't wait for my muse. I just attack the story.

## You have said before that your characters are not really mirrors of yourself. How do you feel about the old adage, "Write what you know?"

There are two parts—the idea of writing a thinly veiled autobiographical coming-of-age [story] never really appealed to me. And I don't know why first-time authors should necessarily be limited to that. I am interested in what I don't know. That being said, once I focus on a particular character, I have to come to know them and each little world that I'm writing about ... But it being directly translated from your own life, what's the fun in that? That gives no validity to the imagination, which should allow us to empathize with people from all different walks of life, even if people or characters' experiences are a complete divergence from our own.

## Which of the positive reviews of *Special Topics* was the most exciting?

I certainly wasn't even thinking about reviews, as a first time author—I just wanted to be published. Whether that meant a cocktail napkin, I would have been happy. Just any route that meant someone other than my mother would be reading it. With the *New York Times*, there was just so much anticipation. And that was one of the greatest moments in life. And then the *Times Book*



*Review*, we knew I'd be in the issue, and then they mysteriously invited me to the office for a podcast. And we didn't know if it was positive or if it was negative, and, of course, we didn't know it was going to be on the cover. After they showed me the review, which was so spectacular, and told me it was going to be on the cover, I had to be articulate and talk in this podcast. I don't even remember what I said. I came close to being one of those hysterical authors and losing it. I think I saw stars after reading that review.

## You're from North Carolina originally, but you've been in New York for a while now. Which do you like better?

Well, right now, I love New York. I think I'll always live here in some capacity because it was such a dream to live here growing up. And there's something about this city where you can be alone and spend a lot of time by yourself, but I never had that feeling of loneliness. I think there's camaraderie in the crowds. I think there's this great energy, and there's that hustle too. When you're starting out, when you have no context and all you really have is that dream—as cheesy as it sounds—there's something about this city that really supports that and inspires it.

## What's your favorite part of New York City?

Gosh. I don't have a single favorite, I just love all the different neighborhoods. Each has its own little world, and that's always interesting to learn and to figure out. People talk about the vanishing neighborhoods of New York, but they're still holding on.

## Did you find that kind of neighborhood on the Upper West Side?

Columbia University is removed from the city just enough so that you have the sense of the campus and the collegiate life, but you're still in the city. For a city college, it's incredibly quiet up there and that neighborhood itself—I always went to the Hungarian Pastry Shop, and that's something you just wouldn't get in the middle of Iowa.

## Where else did you frequent around Columbia?

I loved Labyrinth and Mill Korean. I remember treating myself to lunches at Le Monde, which I could never afford. But when I was rewarding myself for getting an A, I'd go there. Eat the fries, they're really good! ... I love it up there. Those were the days, and that's why you have to enjoy them while they last. It's all over much too quickly.

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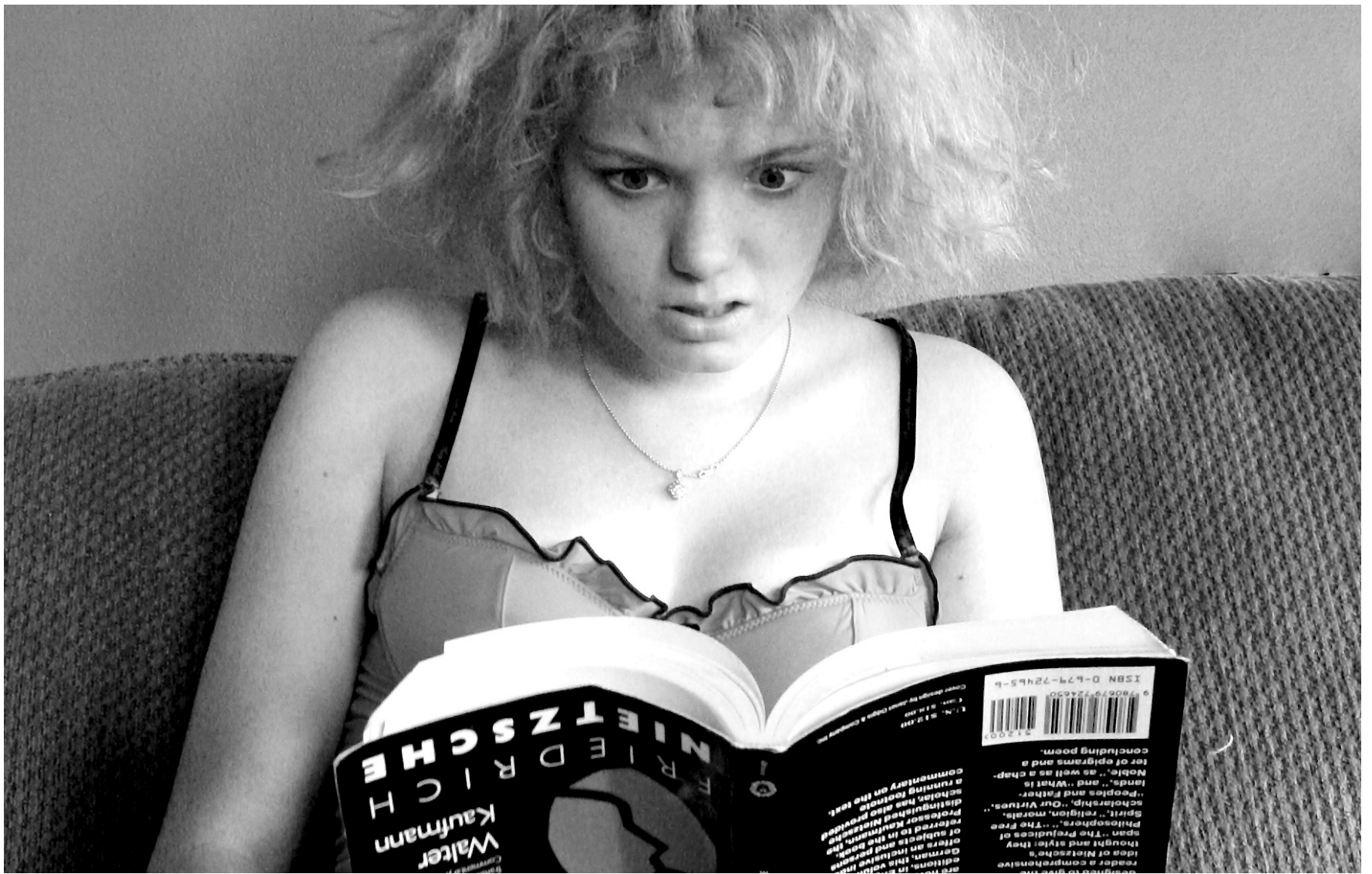
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## Frustrated With Focus

For students with ADD, it may take more than a little effort to pay attention

By Swetha Regunathan

For most students, a stray cell phone jingle in the middle of a physics exam would cause them to quickly glance around, disapprovingly shake their heads, and then return to the margins of their blue books. But for Brenna Cohen, a third-year pre-med post-baccalaureate, it forced her to fight with all her strength to regain focus. Her professor was struck by an unsettling asymmetry while grading her test—she had responded with A-quality in the beginning but declined to F-level work by the end. Something was surely amiss. After speaking to a friend, Cohen met with the Office of Disability Services and underwent testing for a learning disability. Cohen was swiftly diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder.

Attention Deficit Disorder, or ADD, proves tricky for psychologists, parents, and teachers alike at Columbia. Manifest through such symptoms as having difficulty organizing tasks and sustaining attention while completing them as well as being easily distracted by extraneous stimuli, ADD is further distinguished from Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), which is marked by high levels of impulsivity. But the disorders also defy reductive laundry lists, making them difficult to diagnose. “I didn’t fit the profile of a child with ADHD,” Cohen explained. Children with ADHD were previously thought to express their symptoms very obviously and were typecast as “problem children.” Those who didn’t fit the mold went undiagnosed and were often relegated to the rank of “bad students.” In either case, the learning disabled suffered stigmatization.

Once her ADD was detected by Columbia Counseling and Psychological Services, Cohen, like other students with learning disabilities, underwent extensive clinical assessment in order to determine the triggers of her distraction. Her academic accommodations, like those for other students, were then tailored to her needs. “Some of our students find using a digital tape recorder helpful if they aren’t able to pay attention or focus through the entire lecture,” explained Colleen Lewis, director of ODS. For some students, preferential seating may also allay the effects of distraction and inattention. Of all accommodations, extended exam time may be the most frequently used. Students are often seated in a smaller room with fewer people and are allotted 150 percent of the normal test time (for instance, three hours instead of two).

“It’s difficult because I have to translate [the exam],” explained Stephen Harris, GS ’08, who is concentrating in medical anthropology and the pre-med track and receives extra time on his exams at Columbia. Harris, now 40, had always harbored a deep secret. “The minute I couldn’t understand a page in a book, I’d throw it away,” he recounted. After leaving home at the age of 16, he worked in the entertainment industry, desperately avoiding words at every turn. “It’s like carrying this guilty thing around,” he noted, highlighting an inner struggle faced by many of those who are un-

diagnosed. When he decided to go back to school he sought help. The disability staff immediately diagnosed Harris with a one-two punch of ADD and dyslexia.

The current hot-button issues involving ADD/ADHD are proper diagnosis and medication. Accused with doling out Ritalin like candy, psychiatrists continually face pressures to “properly” treat children and adults with ADHD, while balancing their diagnoses with a dose of good judgment. “All these disabilities are like fingerprints—they’re so amorphous, and everyone’s so different,” said Harris, who has never taken medication. Cohen has steered clear as well. “I don’t think my situation is unique. A lot of people would say they have certain traits that match up,” she said. “But for me, it was a serious hindrance to my academics.” Her method of control has been to curb stress and pinpoint trigger conditions—alternatives to medication.

Still murky, however, is the outcome of medicating. Cohen and Harris, like many other learning disabled students, may be reluctant to take medication because of widespread concerns over misuse and dependence or because they’ve managed well with strategies and services provided by ODS.

But avoiding medication may not always prove viable for some students, and methods of treatment often hinge on individual clinical assessment as well as personal initiative. And for those who decide to be medicated, the questions don’t stop there. For example, if a student with ADD or dyslexia chooses to take medication, is he or she still entitled to special accommodations?

However, students faced with the disorder don’t see the accommodations as perks. “I would happily give up these accommodations to get rid of this problem,” Harris asserted when confronted by skeptics, some of who believe that students are quick to self-diagnose in order to receive medication or special services. “It’s so hard when people are poking every step of the way.”

But by and large, reactions to the recommendations made by CPS and accommodations requested by ODS have been extremely positive.

“Professors have been really engaged and collaborative in the process. They understand that an accommodation doesn’t give someone advantage—it’s designed to level the playing field,” Lewis said. “At the end of the day, the student is still evaluated by their own merit.”

Indeed, the academic world has adapted to help learning-disabled students make headway toward achieving success in the classroom. “I’ve never encountered anything but support,” Harris said. More resources and support networks also mean more college students are realizing that they don’t have to be ashamed or discouraged because of their disabilities. As Harris acknowledged, there is strength in numbers. “People cry because they’re so amazed they’re not the only one with these problems.”



how-to

# Escape From New York

Set your sights beyond the Manhattan skyline for fall break

By Parker Fishel

When Manhattan is the center of your universe, crossing the New York state line can feel like landing on another planet. But hey, college is a time for exploration. This weekend, celebrate fall break by abandoning yellow taxis and Gray's Papaya. The areas surrounding the city are ripe with exciting—sometimes even exotic—spots to visit. Here's how to bask in a last-minute mini-vacation without breaking your budget.

### Catch hay fever

A farm and Queens may seem like opposites, but they actually have as much in common as Willie Nelson and one-and-a-half pounds of pot. The Queens County Farm Museum is the only historical working farm in the city and is comprised of farm buildings, planting fields, a greenhouse, an orchard, and an herb garden. If you're looking to escape the bustling pace of urban life, strap on your overalls and reconnect with your inner country bumpkin on the museum's 47 acres of undisturbed farmland. Experience the majesty of fall firsthand by running through the Amazing Maize Maze and attending one of the many autumnal events offered in November while the leaves change colors around you. The farm even has livestock, just in case you need oxen to ford the river.

*Travel: Take the E or F train to Kew Gardens/Union Turnpike Station, and then get on the Q46 bus to the Little Neck Parkway stop. Cross Union Turnpike and walk north on Little Neck Parkway. Three blocks to museum entrance. (www.queensfarm.org)*

### Get cultured

If you're tired of elbowing your way through the MoMA's Free Friday crowd, head to the Hudson River Museum, an art museum in the heart of Yonkers with its own planetarium. The current exhibitions highlight the works of painters Neil Welliver and Sylvia Sleigh and the photographer Guy Gillette, while the permanent collection features a host of artwork that conveys the sublime beauty and rich history of the Hudson Valley. It is the only place where you can take an interactive video tour of the Hudson River from its source in the Adirondacks to New York Harbor. Don't forget to stop by the gift shop, designed by Pop artist Red Grooms.

*Travel: Metro North to Yonkers; \$5 cab to museum, \$5 admission. (www.hrm.org)*

### Hit the road

After a hectic, noisy afternoon in Chinatown, you should be more than motivated to brave the crowded bus named after the neighborhood. The Chinatown Bus offers cheap rides several times a day up and down the East Coast. Their financial loss is your gain—for only \$35-\$45, you can travel to Boston, Philly, Washington, D.C., or even "Hotlanta." Who knows, you could probably even get your parents to fund an "educational" trip to one of these historic cities. A quick impromptu getaway is often the perfect remedy to any problem, so trade in the claustrophobia of the city for a few hours on a bus to a new destination.

*Travel: Take the 1 train to Canal Street stop. (www.apexbus.com or www.2000coach.com)*

### Head north, eh?

If you have the money and the time, make sure to visit Montreal, one of Canada's most beautiful cities. First-years: the drinking age is 18. For about \$160, a bus will get you there in eight to nine hours. Hostel rooms can be booked in advance for about \$20 a night. From there, a myriad of cheap adventures await, from museums that offer free discounts (Musee des Beaux Arts, Redpath Museum, and the Bank of Montreal's museum), to the latest and greatest party at McGill. Or head into the depths of the city and see Montreal's underground mall, a unique collection of stores, restaurants, metro stations, and movie theaters.

*Travel: Be sure to consult www.hostels.com, www.greyhound.com, or www.moremontreal.com.*

—Additional reporting by Maxwell Foxman



Chinatown Bus Stop

PHOTO BY DIANA WONG

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# Dining With Dave

More than just good deals—Dave Lieberman discusses his latest book

By Miri Cypers

**D**ave Lieberman, the Food Network's boy next door meets domestic Ivy League grad, likes to tell it how it is. Despite the charming facade, soft voice, and smooth moves in the kitchen that have launched him into Food Network stardom, Lieberman embraces simplicity and makes no pretenses.

Lieberman, who started his culinary adventures as a student at Yale with his Connecticut public access television show *Campus Cuisine*, laments that he ate the same foods day after day in college.

"It's hard for big institutions to feed people, and I don't disregard that, but it's easy to get lost in the sea of crappy food," he said. "You lose perspective on what's out there. Everything is fried and comes from Cisco and is industrialized and mass-produced crap. I don't think it makes you feel very good."

Lieberman has since moved forward from his Yale days, but he still understands the college attitude that cooking can be time consuming and requires a lot of effort. While he does not think that it is reasonable to expect people to cook every night during or after college, he does think cooking can provide more than just a warm meal. "Cooking for me is about providing a chance to get people together," he said. "When I do my show it revolves around inviting people over. It's all about balance."

Lieberman appreciates cooking "for a more holistic perspective." He said, "It allows you to be at your home, have people over, and create hos-

pitality ... I don't have strict dogma about what my style is."

Although Lieberman is not rigid about his approach toward cooking—which he describes as streamlined and combining unique flavors—he does worry that people do not appreciate or understand where their food comes from.

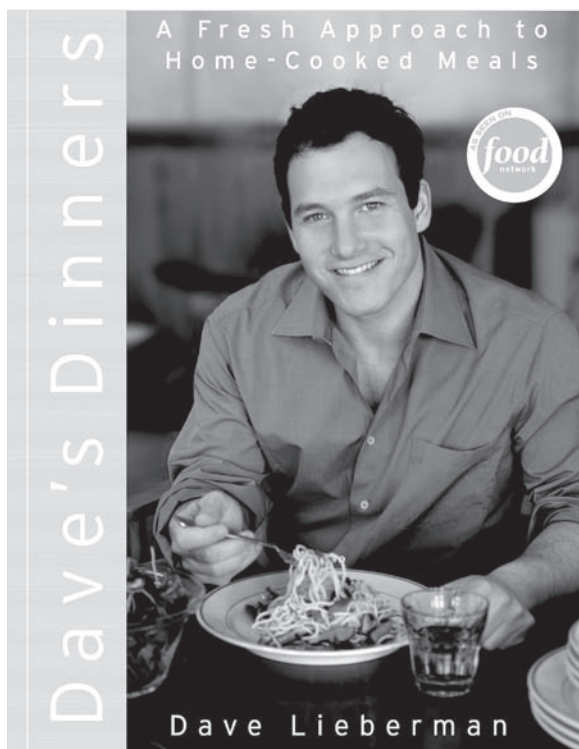
"I feel that people are increasingly disconnected from their food. They look at it as so removed from nature. It just shows up for people. It's a problem in terms of our value system ... It is a symptom of a much bigger problem in our culture," he said.

While he is not sure if the Food Network is the best vehicle to make people appreciate food, he said, "I think that you have to take baby steps and have people enjoy food and care about food, and if you can do that through entertainment that is the first step."

Lieberman is definitely mastering his entertainment skills while attracting attention outside of the food world. *People* magazine also recently named him one of America's 50 hottest bachelors, a fact which Lieberman shies away from. He complained that the photo of him was unflattering, and he didn't even get one date out the whole experience.

Despite his busy schedule and supposed lack of dates, Lieberman's future in the food world is looking bright, especially with the release of his newest book called *Dave's Dinners: A Fresh Approach to Home-Cooked Meals*. He describes his newest book

as an expression of his style and his message, which focus on accessible ingredients and easy-to-make, short recipes. Lieberman is also in luck as he films his show in New York City, where there happen to be culinary inspiration around every corner—and plenty of single women.



## Recipes for Fall

### Fall Squash Soup

**Ingredients:**

4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) unsalted butter  
1 onion, chopped  
1 medium tomato, cored, seeded, and diced  
2 garlic cloves, minced  
2 jalapeno chilis, stemmed, seeded, and chopped  
1 1/2 pounds winter squash, such as West Indian pumpkin, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch cubes  
3 cups stock or water  
1 teaspoon coarse salt  
2 cups whole milk  
1/4 cup grated Manchego cheese



**Directions:**

Melt the butter in a large stockpot over moderate heat. Add the onion and saute until soft, about 5 minutes. Add the tomato, garlic, jalapeno and salt and cook 1 to 2 minutes longer. Add the squash and stock

and simmer, covered, for about 20 minutes, or until the squash is falling apart and soup is thickened slightly. Puree soup with an immersion blender, or use a blender and return soup to a clean pan. Add the milk and heat gently. Stir in the cheese and adjust the seasonings.

### Roasted Fresh Figs With Gorgonzola



**Ingredients:**

12 ripe figs  
1 1/2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil  
1/2 cup Gorgonzola  
1/3 cup good-quality honey  
4 pinches finely chopped fresh rosemary leaves  
Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F

**Directions:**

Using a paring knife, carefully trim any tough portion

of the stems from each fig. Rub each fig all over with extra-virgin olive oil, then slice down through the stem about 3/4 inch. Make a second cut perpendicular to the first cut, so that you have an X-shaped cut in the top of each fig. Gently pry the edges apart and stuff each fig with about 1 teaspoon of the Gorgonzola. Place the figs upright on a baking sheet and bake until the figs are plump and shiny but have not burst, about 10 minutes.

Drizzle equal amounts of the honey on each of 4 serving plates and place the figs on top of the honey. Sprinkle each plate with a pinch of the chopped rosemary and some of the remaining Gorgonzola. Serve immediately.



# American Idle

## Why patriotism is the campus taboo

By Elizabeth Brown

### AMENDMENT I

CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW RESPECTING AN ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIGION, OR PROHIBITING THE FREE EXERCISE THEREOF; OR ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS; OR THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE PEACEABLY TO ASSEMBLE, AND TO PETITION THE GOVERNMENT FOR A REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES.

### AMENDMENT II

A WELL REGULATED MILITIA, BEING NECESSARY TO THE SECURITY OF A FREE STATE, THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS, SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED.

### AMENDMENT III

NO SOLDIER SHALL, IN TIME OF PEACE BE QUARTERED IN ANY HOUSE, WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE OWNER, NOR IN TIME OF WAR, WITHOUT AN ORDER TO BE ISSUED BY LAW.

### AMENDMENT IV

THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO BE SECURE IN THEIR PERSONS, HOUSES, PAPERS, AND EFFECTS, AGAINST UNREASONABLE SEARCHES AND SEIZURES, SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED.

### AMENDMENT V

NO PERSON SHALL BE HELD TO ANSWER FOR A PRESENTMENT OR INDICTMENT, OR BE DEPRIVED OF LIFE, LIBERTY, OR PROPERTY, WITHOUT DUE PROCESS OF LAW; NOR SHALL PRIVATE PROPERTY BE TAKEN FOR PUBLIC USE, WITHOUT JUST COMPENSATION.

### AMENDMENT VI

IN ALL CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS, THE ACCUSED SHALL ENJOY THE RIGHT TO A SPEEDY AND PUBLIC TRIAL, BY AN IMPARTIAL JURY OF HIS PEERS, AND TO BE INFORMED OF THE NATURE AND CAUSE OF THE ACCUSATION; TO BE CONFRONTED WITH THE WITNESSES AGAINST HIM; TO HAVE COMPULSORY PROCESS FOR OBTAINING WITNESSES IN HIS FAVOR; AND TO HAVE THE ASSISTANCE OF COUNSEL FOR HIS DEFENSE.

### AMENDMENT VII

IN SUITS AT COMMON LAW, WHERE THE VALUE IN CONTROVERSY SHALL EXCEED TWENTY DOLLARS, THE RIGHT OF TRIAL BY JURY SHALL BE PRESERVED, AND NO FACT TRIED BY A JURY, SHALL BE OTHERWISE REEXAMINED IN ANY COURT OF THE UNITED STATES, THAN ACCORDING TO THE RULES OF THE COMMON LAW.

### AMENDMENT VIII

EXCESSIVE BAIL SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED, NOR EXCESSIVE FINES IMPOSED, NOR CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENTS INFLICTED.

### AMENDMENT IX

THE ENUMERATION IN THE CONSTITUTION, OF CERTAIN RIGHTS, SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED TO DENY OR DISPARAGE OTHERS RETAINED BY THE PEOPLE.

### AMENDMENT X

THE POWERS NOT DELEGATED TO THE UNITED STATES BY THE CONSTITUTION, NOR PROHIBITED BY IT TO THE STATES, ARE RESERVED TO THE STATES RESPECTIVELY, OR TO THE PEOPLE.

**A**FTER FOUR YEARS OF SERVICE, ERIC CHEN, GS '07, LEFT THE ARMY and embarked upon his first year at Columbia. That fall he would watch as his home city was blind-sided by the worst attack on American soil since Pearl Harbor. "For me," Chen recalls, "the immediate concern was my guys—basically what I consider my second family—their going to war ... For soldiers, serving the American people is very important. It's not a cliché to them—this is what they dedicate their lives to."

Chen's military service would inform his reaction to a tragedy that left so many others bewildered. "It's very important to [soldiers] what their peers' ... support level is," he contends. "When you're putting your life on the line for your country, well," he says, pausing, "It's very important to know your country supports you in that endeavor."

Needless to say, Chen could not stand idly by. His military experience compelled him to spearhead a group now known as Students United for America. The group's rallying cry is "Patriotism, Unity, a stronger and better America, and the conviction that diversity is America's great strength." Its mission: to foster greater patriotic feeling among Columbia students.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Among other duties, SUA has launched an aggressive campaign to revive the ROTC program at Columbia and enticed speakers like former CIA director James Woolsey to campus. Every anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001, the group recites the names of the victims of the World Trade Center attacks.

The organization has enjoyed an active but markedly overlooked existence at Columbia. Perhaps it's no surprise, then, that Fox News mediator Bill O'Reilly branded Columbia the "University Havana—North" and a locus of "anti-American behavior." On Oct. 6, 2006, O'Reilly proclaimed to two million viewers and two Columbia student guests, "I am convinced, gentlemen, that there is a left-wing jihad that holds power at Columbia University."

These incendiary declarations provide ground for self-reflection. But while searching for Columbia's vestiges of patriotism, we may feel as if we are playing a game of *Where's Waldo* with a Rand McNally map. What, exactly, does patriotism mean to us?

From our privileged northeastern vantage point, patriotic discourses may read like inflammatory tabloid pages. What's more, the urgency of their message feels removed, like some celebrity scoop of the Brat Pack's latest escapades. But in many pockets of my home state of Ohio, the auspices of patriotism and the accoutrements of Americanism are tangible.

This summer, as I traveled the state campaigning for my father, who is running for political office, the semantics of patriotic sentiment echoed from town to town.

In one village, McConnelsville, the center of the one-block downtown is marked by a statue of a soldier. The figure appears angelic, with an American flag suspended above his head like a halo. Tucked in the southeastern corner of Ohio, flush against the Muskingum River, McConnelsville is home to about 1,700 people. On the Fourth of July, I joined the town residents at an old mill (now restored as a motel) for the annual Independence Hog Roast. Here, football games at the county high school kick off to Francis Scott Key's star-spangled reverie—and no one can resist standing as its first notes waft out. "God Bless America" bumper stickers and yellow ribbons are as common as rainbow flags in Greenwich Village. At the roast, we pledged allegiance to the flag before lining up to heap our plates with potato salad and three kinds of pork from a long buffet table draped with red and blue crepe paper.

Columbia sorely lacks this type of patriotic fervor, the kind that seeps into disposable cutlery. But Casey Blake, professor of American studies, sees beyond the party favors: "The rhetoric of American patriotism has, until relatively recently, been much more polyvalent, much more open to multiple interpretations ... It's worth keeping that in mind when hearing claims that patriotism translates into unquestioning support for the current administration's policies here and abroad."

In fact, the University boasts a strong history of protecting Uncle Sam against threats. During World War I, President Nicholas Murray Butler—notable for holding the longest presidential tenure in Columbia history, discouraging admission of Jewish students, expelling Allen Ginsberg, and lending his name to the main library—fired several faculty members in 1917 on the grounds of unpatriotic behavior. Butler claimed that their opposition to American participation in the war meant they were "not with whole heart and mind and strength committed to fight with us to make the world safe for democracy." One of the University's prized professors, historian Charles Beard, subsequently resigned. History professor Eric Foner assesses, "[Beard] gave Butler a lesson in what patriotism really is."

What Foner admiringly calls real patriotism has little to do with national emblems and much more to do with activism, which Columbia has witnessed with the consistency of Jimmy Stewart in *Rear Window*. In 1936, one of Columbia's largest student organizations protested the University's attendance at the University of Heidelberg's 550th anniversary celebration. From 1966 to 1969, the campus witnessed the infamous 1968 protests against the Vietnam War, as well as protests against the University's expansion and CIA and Marine recruitment. Students in 1983 demanded—by way of another Hamilton Hall takeover—that University trustees empty their portfolios of companies that supported South African apartheid.

As during the protests of the Vietnam War, unfettered activism most often arrives in the form of critique, the vehemence of which can steer free speech into muddy waters. At a March 2003 antiwar teach-in, assistant professor of anthropology Nicholas De Genova asserted that he "person-



ally would like to see a million Mogadishus," referencing the deaths of eighteen US soldiers that inspired the book *Black Hawk Down*. He went on to claim that the American flag stood for imperialism and that Americans who called themselves patriots were also white supremacists. Jean Cohen, fellow professor and co-organizer of the teach-in, called De Genova's words "utterly irresponsible" and a "planned undermining of this teach-in," but President Bollinger did not fire De Genova.

Instead he invoked a familiar tribute to the First Amendment deities: "While Nicholas De Genova's words properly invite anger and sharp rebuke, there are few things more precious on any University campus than freedom of thought and expression."

After the Oct. 4, 2006, protest against Minuteman Project founder Jim

Gilchrist, patriotism was once again questioned in connection with the First Amendment. Bollinger scolded protesters for failing to fully understand the principles of free speech, while the protesters themselves cried disenfranchisement. This hostility and ultimate boot-swinging hardly resembled the patriotism that Foner touts.

Foner understands conflict as implicit to patriotic representation. He praises "the positive kind of patriotism, people trying to do something positive to express their feelings for their country," but hesitates in response to its divisive power. "Negative patriotism ... stigmatizes those you don't agree with as unpatriotic," he says. "It is the patriotism that is based on denying the right of others to be patriotic in their own way."

As much as liberal Manhattanites may feel alienated by the patriotic uni-

form, the disconnect is reciprocal. Condescension from the rooftops of our high-rises rings louder than the applause at any rally. Sure, fewer than 1,700 Americans call McConnelsville home, but in the great blob between the East and West coasts, millions more Americans hail from small towns just like it: largely white, with low rates of college education and high rates of poverty. Far removed from Columbia in ideology, geography, and lifestyle, it is tempting and sometimes instinctive to stamp the views of small town Ohioans or Pennsylvanians or Mississippians with a big, bold "Not Applicable" here. A stamp is a stamp, whether it's red or blue.

But American studies professor Andrew Delbanco dismisses the appropriation of patriotic red and blue as an artificial national binary: "I don't like 'Blue State' cool and self-conscious cosmopolitanism any more than I like 'Red State' militarism and belligerent talk about family values. What patriotism means to me is reciprocal respect among citizens of a common country that tolerates difference."

College Democrats president Michael Nadler, CC '07, similarly focuses on American values but judges those principles less severely. Nadler defines patriotism as "supporting the fundamentals of what this country stands for—things like civil rights, civil liberties, and basic freedoms."

A member of the International Socialist Organization, Dave Judd, SEAS '08, disagrees with both viewpoints. "Fundamentally, there's no moral justification for treating people differently on the basis of where they're born ... What patriotism does is justify imperialism and war, discrimination against immigrants, and prevent ordinary people from seeing how their interests diverge from elites," he explains. He sees in patriotism at Columbia a failure to challenge the country's greater wrongs: "Columbia students think of themselves and the US government as on the same side." In his eyes, students are distracted from challenging, energetic debate.

Five months ago, Ady Barkan, CC '06, traveled from Columbia's discursive love nest to southwest Ohio, where the state's 2nd U.S. Congressional district encompasses several towns similar to McConnelsville. The gerrymandered borders wind into diverse pieces of Cincinnati and the very wealthy suburbs of Indian Hill. Working for Democratic challenger Victoria Wulsin in the hotly-contested district, Barkan learned that in politics—Democratic politics especially—a careful choice of words shapes conversations about the state of the country. Barkan, who was an opinion columnist for the *Columbia Daily Spectator* in 2004, explains, "When you criticize on the political trail, you have to make sure you're criticizing the president or a particular act of Congress, not coming across as critical of the nation itself. That's a political no-no." We all remember a time when criticizing the president certainly did make us "unpatriotic."

Barkan recalls a course on American history from 1918 to 1945. One book on the syllabus examined American treatment of the Japanese during World War II, which had "some really horrific images of how the Japanese were portrayed in American media and some really graphic stories about what American troops did to Japanese soldiers and civilians." Barkan remembers that a student in the class was upset by assignment, and lashed out. "Why are we reading books that so call into question the patriotism and nobility and righteousness of the American troops and of the American media? You know, we were on the right side, and they were fascists," Barkan paraphrased. The tense silence that would follow such an outburst in the classroom is palpable even in the retelling. Barkan recounts that "all the other students in the section were kind of surprised by this."

At Columbia, an embarrassment about the "naïve" acceptance of patriotic ideology is prevalent. American values are deeply ingrained, but they are hardly sacred. Much more significant to the Columbia mindset is the less controversial ideal of political involvement.

For Chen, the student behind Students for a United America, critiquing the war in Iraq is counter-productive: "The leaders we have now—they are who they are, I guess." But the patriotic voice asserts itself in November: "I can do something about the leaders we will have in the future and what they will do to this country."

Indeed, voting on Election Day may be the universal emblem of patriotism, the happy purple medium in a sea of red and blue. Nonetheless, some Columbians choose to opt out of the debate altogether.

"I'm going to visit my friend in East Germany," said Alex Levenson, CC '07, who is tacking an extra week onto his fall break. "We're going on a road trip in his two-seated car for about 11 days. I'm basically just going to hang out, see him, and have a good time." Somehow, it's hard to imagine he'll be fretting over not turning in an absentee ballot on his outbound flight. ■



# Illegally Emigrating Home

New documentary *Romántico* follows a Mexican immigrant's journey South

By Emily Rauber

Carmelo Muñiz Sánchez is not your typical migrant worker. Sure, he works nights as a mariachi and spends his days selling food out of a cart, but there is a fundamental difference between Carmelo and the stereotypical Mexico-to-United States immigrant—Carmelo went back. Voluntarily. With Carmelo as the humble, engaging, and sometimes infuriating star of Mark Becker's documentary, *Romántico* is a refreshing, gripping, and timely look at the motivation behind his journey.

On the American side of the border, Carmelo plays "De Colores" and "La Bamba" for gringo tourists in San Francisco restaurants nightly. Though he earns very little with

contribution. Carmelo is quite caring when he is with his family, but since he's usually working, that isn't often. Carmelo's difficulty separating these concepts provides the film's central conflict, but at the end, the problem remains unresolved.

Becker's grainy-film camera follows Carmelo closely as he repels catastrophes of Hardy-like proportions with a frustratingly stubborn



**ROMÁNTICO**  
DIRECTED BY MARK BECKER

his music, it's one of his few options. He supplements this income with a day job at a car wash to pay the rent. The rent is for a shared apartment, where Carmelo sleeps on a makeshift bed and the other tenants steal his milk.

It's hard to imagine a worse situation, but soon enough Becker finds one. Carmelo receives word that his mother is close to death, and he decides to return to his small hometown in Mexico to be with his family. His wife and two daughters seem relieved that he is back, and they are not entirely convinced that it was ever better for them when he was gone. But to Carmelo, the ideas of family and finances are inseparable. He attributes his mother's unhappiness to his abusive father, who did not provide enough for his family. This past trauma manifests itself visibly in his everyday life and motivates him in nearly all that he does. His regrettable mistake is his belief that it was his father's lack of affection that doomed the family, not his monetary



A still from a poignant documentary on the Mexican experience, or from the set of the woefully misguided sequel to *Desperado*? We report, you decide.

optimism. The adversity Carmelo faces is at times too real and too much, and the film seems like the cinematic equivalent of watching somebody slowly drown—and then get hit by a boat, and then get eaten by a shark. But with all this, it's impossible to forget that Carmelo's experience is not an isolated one. The film quietly insists that behind every political issue, there is a person. And very often, there is a story.

## The Spirit Of the Beehive

A dreamy succession of images unravels with deliberate ambiguity in Victor Erice's *The Spirit of the Beehive*, recently given the increasingly common two-disc treatment by the redesigned and increasingly prolific Criterion Collection. Tranquil and unsettling, melancholy and magical, this Spanish masterpiece is an enigmatically plotted film whose voids speak volumes. Set in the small Castilian village of Hoyuelos, it follows two sisters, Ana and Isabel, over several days toward the end of the Spanish Civil War. The opening sequence, in which the village children sit in an improvised movie theater watching James Whale's *Frankenstein*, establishes a dreamlike conceptual framework for later glimpses into Ana's consciousness. Convinced that she can communicate with the Frankenstein monster in nature, she awaits his arrival patiently at an abandoned barn. When a wounded partisan seeks shelter there, Ana tends to him and brings him food and clothing stolen from her house. But she learns that her childish simplicity and generosity is incommensurate with the violence and irrationality of the adult world.

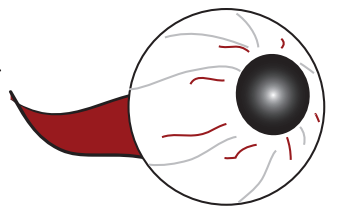
*The Spirit of the Beehive* is a moody and disorienting poem about the wonder and fear of childhood. Luis Cuadrado's fixed camera captures the details of the sisters' life, from their opulent decaying mansion to their mushroom picking excursions, with the luminescence and clarity of a Goya painting. The metaphysical weight of emptiness and silence makes



it puzzling that in the three decades since *The Spirit of the Beehive*, Erice has only made two other (lesser) films. But then again, *The Spirit of the Beehive* is a one-of-a-kind film that one savors in a state of childhood wonder. —A.J. Goldman



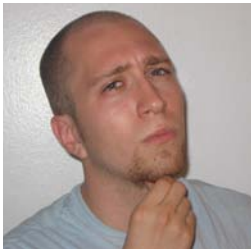
# THE ROLLING EYE



## Thus Spoke Dan

Please Stop Trying to Fight Me

By Dan Haley



You all know that moment. You're standing at the bar, getting up the nerve to walk over to that Delta Gamma girl (just one more shot and I'll do it, I swear!), and then some guy looks over at you and says something along the lines of, "Are you alright?" Despite how

it may appear, he is not actually asking you if you're doing okay. Instead, he's trying to see if you may be willing to fight him. This type of shit has to stop.

I'm not a pussy. I'm a red-blooded male fully capable of joining the hockey team (well, except for the fact that I don't know how to skate and probably suck at hockey). In fact, I'm so normal I frequently fantasize about beating other guys up. But that's exactly what it is: fantasy. This is what it should remain. I ask you, men, aren't our "nights out" hard enough? After a long night of getting shot down by women, do we really need to introduce the possibility that we might get our asses kicked?

Around a month ago, I was waiting on a phone call from a girl I was supposed to grab drinks with later that night. In the meantime, I was hanging out with my lesbian friend from Barnard, SmokeWeedEveryday, who just so happens to be an excellent conduit to meeting other (non-lesbian) women. Unfortunately, I must have caught SmokeWeedEveryday on an off-night, because I wound up sitting with her and another guy at the bar at Mona, actually listening to this dude's relationship problems. Oh, and just to paint the picture more clearly, Mona was basically empty.

"Man, she just doesn't know." ::sniffles:: "I loved her so much."

SmokeWeedEveryday made attempts at comforting BreakupDude, but she was pretty high and her words of comfort were actually *Arrested Development* quotes. I kept thinking of ways to extricate myself from their company but was confronted with the prospect of having nothing better to do. Maybe that girl would call me. In the meantime, I ordered another drink.

"Are you alright?" asked some Italian-looking guy in a suit from across the bar.

My guard was not up, and I just instinctively told JoePesci we were fine.

"Oh. That's good. Cause you were kinda looking at me and shit." JoePesci said.

Now I knew things were going awry. I looked down into my drink, hoping this guy would move on to harassing the bartender.

"I mean, I'm beginning to wonder if you're fucking gay or something," JoePesci continued.

Yeah. I was actually going to have to fight the drunk guy at Mona's. The girl who was supposed to call me hadn't called. I'd spent the entire night up to that point hanging out with a lesbian and another dude. The bar we were hanging out in was virtually empty. And now I was going to, quite possibly, have my ass kicked *Goodfellas*-style.

This was actually my Thursday night.

JoePesci began making his way over to us. SmokeWeedEveryday and BreakupDude didn't really understand what was happening. I wanted to leave but couldn't justify it to myself. The night had blown enough. I wasn't going to let JoePesci ride on me.

Just as he was almost there, my cell registered a text message from the girl who was supposed to call. She wanted to meet me at 1020. Immediately, I put on my coat and headed for the door, blowing right by JoePesci. Given the choice between getting pussy and fighting a dude, I will almost always go with pussy. I'd like to think I'm doing my part to make the world a better place.

## Ask Dr. Knowledge

By Matt Kantrowitz

It's time again to ask Dr. Knowledge, the man on the inside of women!

Dear Dr. Knowledge,

I'm a college freshman who has heard a lot about the "walk of shame." The only problem is that I'm too ashamed to ask what makes it shameful! How do I know if I should be ashamed of my night?

CONCERNED IN CANTON

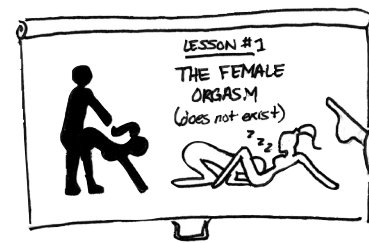


ILLUSTRATION BY DANIELLE ASH



Well, CINCINNATI, there's a little bit of a double-standard here. If you're a guy, you should be ashamed only if your hookup was indistinguishable from a medium-sized orangutan. If you're a woman, you should probably be ashamed if you had fun. In fact, I can't think of a situation in which you shouldn't be ashamed. Your shame is your greatest ally in the fight against sex. Of course, I don't want to perpetuate this double-standard. I only present it without comment or response, except to say that it's 100 percent accurate.

Dear Dr. Knowledge,

I've been with my girlfriend for a few months now, and we get along great. Unfortunately, she never orgasms no matter what I shove in there. This is my first relationship, so I don't know very much about the female anatomy. How can I make my girl happy in bed?

CONFUSED IN CALIFORNIA

Well, CINCINNATI, a lot of men have trouble helping their women climax. I've heard a whole bunch of sex advisers say that most women achieve a "clitoral" orgasm easier than the "other kind" of orgasm. They generally conclude that oral sex is your best bet, but that's disgusting. My advice? Forget about it. I've never been with a girl who could orgasm, so I'm pretty sure the whole thing is a myth.

Dear Dr. Knowledge,

I followed your advice from the last column. Needless to say, it didn't work. Not only is the rash still there, but I seem to be growing hair at a faster-than-usual rate. Also, I periodically lose feeling in my left leg. What should I do now?

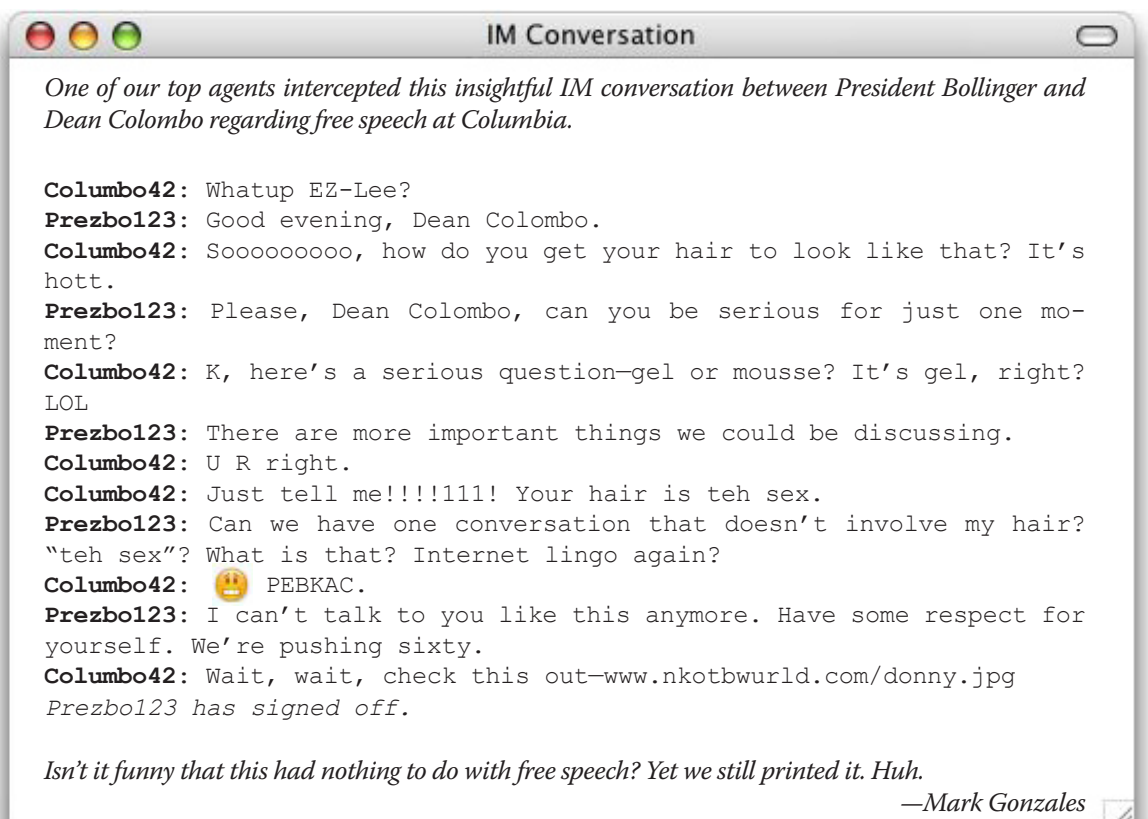
CLEVELAND IN CLEVELAND

Well, CINCINNATI, a lot of people wrote to me with similar concerns and stories. It turns out I should have consulted a medical dictionary before I used those particular terms. After talking with a medical professional and my attorney, I have decided that I cannot comment further on the matter, except to say that anyone who actually made it to the end of the column should see either a gynecologist or a podiatrist as soon as possible.

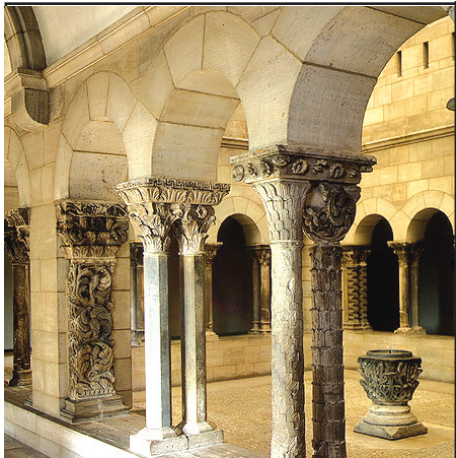
(ASK DR. KNOWLEDGE appears in over three college newspapers nationwide and has at least three devoted blog-stalkers who psychotically dissect everything he says. He also has a vanity page at [www.drknowledgeisawesome.com](http://www.drknowledgeisawesome.com).)

## PrezBo Gets Pwned

(Warning: Internet lingo ahead. Yeah, we don't understand most of it either.)







**THE CLOISTERS  
FORT TRYON PARK**

With five days off from classes, now is the time to make the trek up to Fort Tryon Park to see the Cloisters, the Metropolitan Museum of Art's home for medieval art and architecture. Pretend you're jaunting off to ancient Europe as you mingle amid the marble sculptures, hang out in stone abbeys, and decipher the tapestries depicting ancient battle scenes. Then head to the cloistered gardens, which are not your typical manicured displays but are instead the more free-form arrays typical of the European countryside.

**WOLLMAN SKATING RINK  
CENTRAL PARK**  
There is a chill in the air. Coats, scarves, and the occasional mitten have all been spotted. That means it is time to partake in the quintessential New York City cold weather activity—ice skating in Central Park. Nestled amid the trees deep within the park, this is an oasis for professionals and amateurs alike, as they glide and slide along the ice together. At night, the lights from the buildings illuminate the ice and create the perfect ambiance as you enjoy hot chocolate after your skate.



**THE ING NEW YORK  
CITY MARATHON  
NOV. 5**  
This is the event that runners around the world eagerly anticipate in a way that only the truly crazy could. It must be all those endorphins from the massive amounts of training that they put into preparing for this 26.2 mile race, which is more than most of us can say we have ever run. But that sense of accomplishment is what many runners say makes it worth it in the end.



**"A LAUGH TILL IT HURTS EVENING!"**  
— talkentertainment.com

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IS BAD**

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**BANK OF AMERICA  
FRIDAY EVENINGS FOR  
STUDENTS AT THE MET  
NOV. 3, 10, AND 17  
5 P.M.**  
**FREE WITH CUID**  
Did you somehow miss the Met's college party for the "Americans in Paris" exhibit a couple weeks back? You may know that for the past four semesters, the Metropolitan Museum of Art has held parties exclusively for college students, and they are now looking to make this a more frequent event. For the next three Friday nights, the museum will be open late only for us special college students so we can view art and mingle among other students at our leisure.

**The  
Choc  
late  
Fondu**

Chocolate, like our  
is burned by an open  
but soothed by a w

**MAX BRENNER:  
CHOCOLATE BY THE  
BALD MAN**  
**841 BROADWAY (UNION SQUARE)**  
There are no Oompa Loompas roaming this chocolate factory. Israeli Max Brenner brought his famed chocolate to New York City this summer, and his store has since become a mecca for chocoholics around the city. Sumptuous desserts take chocolate to new heights, as fondues, cakes, and other molten lava creations can be found along with chocolate pizza and warm chocolate soup. The drink menu boasts chocc-tails and "Chocolat—the cappuccino of chocolate served in the Hug Mug," and lists both the types of chocolates used in the various creations as well as their origin, information that can only be found in a true chocolate lover's paradise.



# CARNEGIE HALL presents



**Saturday, November 4 at 8:30 PM**

Zankel

## **ROSWELL RUDD & BADMA KHANDA'S MONGOLIAN BURYAT BAND**

ROSWELL RUDD, Trombone  
BADMA KHANDA, Vocalist  
BATTUVSHIN BALDANTSEREN, Khoomi (throat singing),  
Khalkh (bass), and Limbe (flute)  
JAVKHLAN ERDENEBAI, Morin Khuur (horse-head fiddle)  
SAYANA TABKHAROVA, Kalmik (dulcimer)  
URANTUGS JAMIYAN, Yatag (zither)

Vocalist Badma Khanda and her Mongolian Buryat ensemble are joined by veteran jazz trombonist Roswell Rudd for a program ranging from throat singing to jazz.

*Presented by Carnegie Hall in partnership with the World Music Institute.*

**\$30, \$42**

**Wednesday, November 8 at 8 PM**

Stern / Perelman

## **HÉLÈNE GRIMAUD, Piano Carnegie Hall Recital Debut**

BACH Chaconne in D Minor (arr. Busoni,  
from Violin Partita No. 2, BWV 1004)  
CHOPIN Berceuse in D-flat Major, Op. 57;  
Barcarolle in F-sharp Major, Op. 60  
BRAHMS Two Rhapsodies, Op. 79  
RACHMANINOFF Sonata No. 2

*French artists and programs are supported by The Florence Gould Foundation.*

**Tickets start at \$23**



**Friday, November 10 at 7:30 PM**

Zankel

## **SÉRGIO AND ODAIR ASSAD, Guitar with special guest PAQUITO D'RIVERA, Clarinet**

*DANCES FROM THE NEW WORLD*

*Presented by Carnegie Hall in partnership with Festival Productions, Inc.*

**\$40, \$48**



**Wednesday, November 8 at 8:30 PM**

Zankel

## **KURT ELLING GROUP Featuring The Escher String Quartet and Bob Mintzer, Saxophone**

KURT ELLING, Vocalist  
LAURENCE HOBGOOD, Piano  
ROBERT AMSTER, Bass  
WILLIE JONES III, Drums

The urbane vocalist Kurt Elling and his longtime collaborators explore witty and poetic journeys of love, loss, and life with special guests the Escher String Quartet.

*Presented by Carnegie Hall in partnership with Festival Productions, Inc.*

**\$44**



**Friday, November 10 at 8 PM**

Stern / Perelman

## **SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK**

The renowned a cappella sextet preserves and celebrates African American culture and singing traditions, addressing the most pressing contemporary issues with its electrifying musical drive.

*This performance is sponsored by Lehman Brothers.*

**Tickets start at \$21**



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