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SIPA Celebrates 60

By Dan McSweeney and Jeca Taudte

On October 28, former World Bank President James D. Wolfensohn challenged SIPA alumni, faculty, staff and students to think hard about the current path and future development of their school. On whether SIPA's success during the past 60 years would carry it forward through the next several decades, he said, "If you keep the current trajectory, it won't."

Wolfensohn's remarks were part of the keynote address he delivered at the SIPA 60th Anniversary Alumni Reunion

Dinner held on October 28 at Columbia University's Lerner Hall. He suggested that SIPA must continue to anticipate global change and adjust accordingly in order to better reflect and service a world of growing socioeconomic disparity.

Formal and informal discussions on a wide variety of topics—and a healthy dose of networking and socializing—took place from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, when more

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Liu's Long March

A SIPA Student's Trek Through China's Historical Void

By Nichole Wong Gomez



Liu Xianghui

The old Tibetan peasants Liu encountered recall a different tale—one of desperate soldiers pillaging what little food "the people" they were fighting for had. Nothing was ever returned. In the end, soldiers and civilians starved to death in the tens of thousands.

Is Liu Xianghui China's modern-day Che Guevara? Not quite. Liu, a 32-year-old Chinese journalist, lacks the Marxist inclinations. But this Ford Foundation fellow at SIPA spent his summer vacation Che-style: on the back of a motorcycle winding cross-country for 45 days, discovering China's pulse among its peasants. He was on a mission to retrace the entire route of the Long March, which covers a large swathe of rural Western and Central China.

The Long March was the Red Army's legendary 6,000-mile military retreat from Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang troops. This year-long, 1934-1935 flight resulted in the near annihilation—through battle, hardship, and starvation—of Mao Zedong's Red Army. The success of the brave survivors, numbering perhaps 6,000 out of 100,000 troops, catapulted the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to hero status in the national consciousness, setting the stage for its ascendancy to power. From this triumph, Mao drew the legitimacy he needed to crown himself party chairman. Ultimately, he shaped the Long March into national myth to fuel Communist identity and ideology.

Liu set off on motorcycle from Chang Sha on June 6, 2006—an auspicious date for the Chinese, who pin their superstitions on numbers. Proceeding west into rural Sichuan, he entered the land of Red Army myth. The army was lionized for its legendary discipline (allegedly, starving soldiers never ate before offering food to their comrades first), and popularized by its land reform policy: seizing land from the rich to give to the poor. According to recorded history, the Red Army "borrowed food" from peasants in Sichuan, always promising to repay what they took.

But the old Tibetan peasants Liu encountered recall a different tale—one of desperate soldiers pillaging what little food "the people" they were fighting for had. Nothing was ever returned. In the end, soldiers and civilians starved to death in the tens of thousands.

History and legend can be difficult to separate, especially in China, a nation notorious for propaganda and historical revisionism. Liu's journey and interviews with peasants, Red Army veterans and local authorities reveal that history in this country—in this case, the history of war—is nothing more than the collective

memory of the individuals in its wake. When a nation fails to record its history truthfully, only individual, anecdotal accounts can establish truth—accounts whose accuracy is also uncertain.

Before his trip, Liu read the American, Chinese and Taiwanese editions of *New York Times* editor Harrison Salisbury's *The Long March: The Untold Story*. Where Salisbury discusses the unfair government treatment of Long March heroes, the Chinese edition offers omissions. The Taiwanese version offers further insight into history-making. Where the Chinese refer to the Long March as the "strategic movement North to defend against the Japanese," the Taiwanese call it "bandits escaping from honorable officials."

As with any war, history issues forth from the pen of the beholder. Salisbury notes in his book that the Long March could just as well be dubbed the "Fatal Retreat."

Others raise more inconsistencies. Jung Chang and Jon Halliday reveal in *Mao: The Unknown Story* that the famously ascetic Mao was carried for most of the journey in a bamboo dais,

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Rumsfeld Shown the Gates

By Benjamin Ryan

United States Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld has proclaimed that he doesn't "do" quagmires, diplomacy, foreign policy, even book reviews. He can now add "being Defense Secretary" to that list.

President George W. Bush announced Rumsfeld's resignation at a November 8 press conference, following decisive Democratic victories in the congressional midterm elections. Bush immediately nominated former Central Intelligence Agency

Director Robert M. Gates to replace Rumsfeld.

Rumsfeld's resignation came as a surprise to many. A week before Election Day, Bush met with reporters in the Oval Office and told them that Rumsfeld would be staying on.

At the post-election press conference, Bush explained, "I didn't want to inject a major decision about this war in the final days of the campaign."

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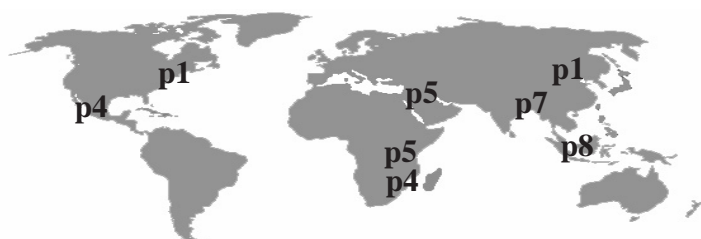


AP Photo/paul j. richards, pool

Donald Rumsfeld listens to questions from Pentagon reporters regarding the resignation of Secretary of State Colin Powell and his own status with the Bush administration Nov. 15, 2004.

Trendy Babies

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Review: 5 Last King of Scotland



AP Photo/pavel rahman

News, Views & FAQs From the People in Power

Fellowships: A Work in Progress

By Sara Mason
Associate Dean, Student Affairs

One of the most challenging undertakings of my first year as Associate Dean for Student Affairs at SIPA was to lead a task force charged with reviewing the school's fellowship awards process. All the stakeholders—students, faculty and administrators—had questions about the existing process, whereby approximately \$4 million in financial aid is awarded annually to MPA and MIA applicants in the form of assistantships which confer tuition remission and a stipend.

The task force consisted of myself, Professors Andrea Bubula and Paul Thurman, second-year students Rekha Chalasani and Daniel Oleks, then first-year Amanda Rittenhouse, Associate Dean Patrick Bohan, Director of Career Services, Meg Heenehan and Senior Assistant Dean Caroline Kay.

In our initial meeting, task force members identified aspects of the fellowship process that were problematic for various constituencies. A major concern for students was the lack of transparency in the process by which awards are assigned. Some found the eligibility criteria confusing. Others objected to the “weighting” of GPAs, and didn't understand the role of financial need in the process. Faculty were concerned the eligibility criteria sometimes interfered with selecting the best TA or PA for a position. From the administrative side, there was concern that the process had become labor-intensive, cumbersome and incomprehensible to students. And all parties were concerned the amount of financial aid available at the school was not sufficient to meet the needs of students who had substantial financial need, but who had not been matched with a fellowship position.

In the task force meetings, it became clear that the weighting of GPAs for MIA applicants was one major impediment to transparency. This practice originated several years ago to address student complaints that grading practices varied between classes. Since students could not calculate their weighted GPA because the class averages are not public information, many were confounded by the impact of this factor on their eligibility for awards. Dean Kay and I reviewed fellowship eligibility for the past two years using weighted and non-weighted GPAs and found that the practice made little difference in the list of eligible students. SIPA's grading policy, implemented in 2004, had eliminated some of the grading inconsistencies that weighting was meant to address, rendering it unnecessary.

A second finding of the task force was that the role of finan-

cial need was poorly understood by students. Those who felt they had demonstrated financial need were upset at being found ineligible for fellowships because their need was substantially less than that of others. Other students felt their financial need should qualify them for an award, even if they were not chosen to fill a position or were not academically meritorious. Given that financial factors were hard to assess across the student body and that all students have financial need, the task force recommended that financial need not be used as a criteria for TA and PA awards.

The recommendation was that eligibility should be determined solely by academic merit and qualifications for these positions. This change would allow faculty to select the best TA or PA candidate who applied, and would make the eligibility criteria clearer for students.

A related recommendation by the task force was that a separate process be developed to address financial need. Some issues that will need to be resolved are: the difficulty of quantifying and comparing need across a heterogeneous student population of international and American students with different financial documents, the need to choose qualified students for any service position, and the difficulty of having less academically strong applicants obligated to a service commitment which could further hinder their academic progress. At this time, SIPA does not have sufficient fellowship money to make need-based awards that are not tied to service.

Although many are anxious to see changes to the fellowship process, it is important to assess the feasibility of the recommendations and implement change in a way that is fair to first-year students who will be applying for fellowships. For this reason, only minor changes will be implemented for the 2007-08 application process. The fellowship task force will continue to meet to work on developing a need-based award process for 2008-09. For 2007-08, GPAs will not be weighted, and financial status will not be used to rule people out for fellowships.

The task force will continue to meet this year to look at ways to evaluate financial need and make need-based awards.

Simultaneously, the administration will seek out ways to increase fellowship funding and raise dedicated funds for need-based awards.

An information session to describe the fellowship application process to first-year students will be held on Friday, January 19, 2007, from 12 to 2 p.m. in Altschul Auditorium.



SIPA alumni listen to former World Bank President James Wolfensohn address the 60th anniversary dinner gala held on October 28, 2006 at Lerner Hall during the alumni reunion weekend. Wolfensohn warned that SIPA would need to change its trajectory in order to stay a competitive international affairs school for the next 60 years.

SIPA's 60th Anniversary Alums Do It Again in Morningside Heights

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than 600 alumni came together for SIPA's All-Alumni Reunion Weekend.

The weekend was the latest event in a year-long celebration commemorating SIPA's 60th anniversary. Events have been held all over the world, including London, Mexico City, and Beijing. A cocktail reception for alumni, faculty, staff and students was held at the United Nations on Friday, October 27 to kick off the reunion weekend.

Elisabeth Lindenmayer, SIPA professor and former U.N. deputy undersecretary, welcomed guests to the reception, describing the U.N. as SIPA's “twin” in the international affairs arena. She was followed by Dean Lisa Anderson and 60th Anniversary Committee Chair Roger Baumann (MIA '85).

“We are devoting 2006 to celebrating the school,” said Dean Anderson. She went on to describe highlights in the school's history, such as the fact that SIPA was established before the introduction of television and has continued to grow well into the age of blogging.

About 130 current students attended the events, as volunteers or guests. Their contributions, according to SIPA Alumni Relations staff members, were a critical aspect of the weekend's success.

On Saturday, alumni convened at the International Affairs Building for an afternoon of panel discussions moderated by SIPA faculty members. The panels covered a wide range of topics including human rights, economic development, energy and terrorism. International Media and Communications concentration director Pete Johnston and professors Anne Nelson and Donatella Lorch moderated a panel on the media's coverage of international affairs.

In another panel, Professor Stephen Sestanovich presided over a discussion of international diplomacy and the global balance of power. Professor Richard Betts, director of the Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, led an exchange on rogue states and terrorism.

“I'm glad I showed up this weekend,” said Michael Hillmeyer (MIA '97), managing director of Atina Group International. “It's been great to see old friends and meet new people. Also, a lot of us have enjoyed the opportunity to re-engage in discussions on issues we don't deal with anymore because of how specialized we are in our professional lives.”

The highlight of the weekend was the gala dinner held in Lerner Hall on Saturday evening, hosted by SIPA alum Susie Gharib (MIA '74), New York anchor of PBS's *Nightly Business Report*. Speakers included Columbia University President Lee Bollinger and former New York Mayor David Dinkins, who now teaches in the MPA program at SIPA. Columbia Professor Richard Gardner received the SIPA Distinguished Teaching Award for his many years of service as a professor at SIPA and Columbia Law School. Robin Hood Foundation Executive Director David Saltzman (MPA '86) and former World Bank chief Wolfensohn received SIPA 60th Anniversary Global Leadership Awards.

On Sunday, a farewell brunch was held at the New York Historical Society. Alumni who attended were able to interact with current students.

“The interaction between students and alumni was really good,” said SIPASA co-President Ben Madgett (MPA2). “I think it was good for members of each group to meet their counterparts and trade SIPA stories.”

SIPA's Director of Alumni Relations, Margaret Reynolds, was enthusiastic about the strides made toward improving alumni relations during the weekend events.

“My primary expectation for the weekend was to demonstrate to our alumni that they are a high priority for SIPA,” she said.

The weekend “required extensive planning and involvement from a diverse set of constituents,” Reynolds added. “We received so much positive feedback from alumni and current students.”

Dean Anderson also said she viewed the weekend as a success.

“I had high hopes and they were exceeded,” Anderson said. “It brought together faculty, students and alumni across generations, across degree programs, across locations, and illustrated the continuity of spirit and commitment in this remarkable community.”

Several more events commemorating the 60th anniversary of SIPA will take place over the next several months. For more information, visit:

www.sipa.columbia.edu/sipa60.

Dan McSweeney and Jeca Taudte (both MIA2) are co-editors of The Morningside Post, SIPA's first student blog. They are both ISP concentrators.

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Marian Hodgkin's \$300 Term Paper

By Sandra Hernandez

It could have gone the way of most term papers, languishing in a computer's hard drive or recycle bin. But Teachers College student Marian Hodgkin couldn't let that happen to her paper about Rwanda. It would have gone against the very spirit of the paper, which discussed the disappearance of history books from Rwandan schoolrooms.

Instead, Hodgkin submitted her work to the Andrew Wellington Cordier Essay Contest, held by SIPA's *Journal of International Affairs (JIA)* every semester. Next month, her essay, "Reconciliation in Rwanda: Education, History, and the State," will appear in the *JIA* alongside that of scholarly luminaries such as Elazar Barkan, co-director of SIPA's human rights concentration.

The *JIA*'s fall issue will be released on December 7 at a 6 p.m. panel conference on SIPA's 15th floor.

Hodgkin, a native of Oxford, England, beat 15 other Columbia students who submitted essays to this semester's Cordier contest, garnering a \$300 prize as well as a spot in the *JIA*.

The Cordier competition is open to all Columbia students and welcomes papers written for academic credit. Established in honor of former SIPA Dean and Columbia President Andrew Wellington Cordier, the contest is judged by the *JIA* staff—which consists entirely of SIPA students.

Hodgkin's essay was an important addition to the upcoming issue, said Rebecca Leicht (MIA2), Director of Public Relations and Features Editor for the *JIA*.

"We were looking for a piece that was both original and relevant, and one which offered depth and insight into our topic," said Leicht. "Marian's essay met all of these expectations."

The *JIA* is a single-issue publication, meaning that the contents of each edition address a particular topic. The theme of the fall 2006 issue is "historical reconciliation."

"The paper looks at the fact that history is not taught in primary or secondary schools in Rwanda," Hodgkin told *Communiqué*. "I



Yian Huang

challenge the stance of the Rwandan government that the country is not stable enough for the teaching of history."

As Hodgkin notes in her essay, Rwanda's post-genocide government banned the teaching of history upon coming to power in 1994. The ban was aimed at promoting ethnic reconciliation following a three-month genocidal campaign led by machete-wielding members of Rwanda's Hutu group. By the 1994 summer, 800,000 Rwandans, mostly Tutsis, were dead.

"Twelve years later history is still absent from formal school curricula," Hodgkin writes in her essay. "The international development community, the Rwandan government and the Rwandan people must face the past and learn history's lessons."

Hodgkin's engagement with Rwanda goes far beyond her Cordier essay. In 2001, as an undergraduate at University College London studying history and Zulu, Hodgkin helped found Never Again International, a peace advocacy organization that fosters dialogue among victims of ethnic conflict. In a trip to

Rwanda in 2002, Hodgkin and five other members of Never Again International visited the prisons where Rwanda houses thousands of former genocidal killers.

"It was strange to shake the hands and look into the eyes of the perpetrators," Hodgkin recalled, "especially because we were accompanied by the victims who had lost entire families in the genocide."

After graduating from university, Hodgkin moved to South Africa to continue her Zulu studies. While there, she organized the official 10th-anniversary commemoration of the Rwandan Genocide at London's Imperial War Museum, which was attended by various world leaders.

Since coming to Columbia in 2005, Hodgkin has run Never Again International's New York chapter, which she founded, in addition to attending classes and working as an intern at the Interagency Network for Education in International Emergencies, a New-York based organization that seeks to ensure the right to education in emergency and post-conflict situations.

With her Cordier essay, Hodgkin will be joining an illustrious line of *JIA* contributors. Established in 1947, the bi-annual publication has featured the work of scholars and leaders like Hannah Arendt and Jimmy Carter.

The December 7 launch conference will include panelists Priscilla Hayner, director of the International Center for Transitional Justice and an expert on Liberia, and Peter Rosenblum, a human rights activist and clinical professor of human rights law at Columbia Law School.

The fall issue will also be available for purchase at the *JIA* office on SIPA's fourth floor.

Asked how she felt about seeing her work appear in the *JIA*, Hodgkin said simply, "I'm very excited."

For more information on the Cordier Essay Contest, visit: jia.sipa.columbia.edu/cordier.html.

Sandra Hernandez (MIA2) is co-editor of *Communiqué's* SIPA News pages.

EDITORIAL

The recent war crimes charges filed in Germany against former U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and his cronies are long overdue. Rumsfeld, the public face of the Iraq war, is also largely responsible for the war's less publicized side: human rights violations and torture.

The suit alleges Rumsfeld's responsibility for "several dozen individual cases of prisoner maltreatment" and nearly 100 detainee deaths. It is being brought by U.S. and international human rights organizations—among them the Center for Constitutional Rights, the National Lawyers Guild, the International Federation for Human Rights, and the German Republican Attorneys' Association. The suit invokes Germany's universal jurisdiction law, which allows the prosecution of war crimes no matter where they were committed.

Under the War Crimes Act of 1996 and the Anti-Torture Act of 1996, a "war crime" is any "grave breach" of common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions, which prohibits "outrages upon personal dignity, in particular, humiliating and degrading treatment," as well as torture and murder.

One of the suit's many allegations is that Rumsfeld personally ordered harsher torture methods against Mohamed al-Qahtani, the alleged "20th hijacker" of September 11, when al-Qahtani didn't confess to terrorist activities during initial interrogations. According to the 2005 congressional hearings on the case, Al-Qahtani was stripped, made to wear women's underwear on his head, denied access to the bathroom, threatened with dogs, and deprived of sleep over a six-week period. The records also say he was kept in solitary confinement for 160 days and questioned for 18 to 20 hours per day.

In a December 2002 directive, Rumsfeld also authorized a list of torture techniques for use against terror suspects. This list included hooding, stripping, isolation, seizure of all religious items, deprivation of light and auditory stimuli, and the use of phobias to induce stress.

Rumsfeld also authorized the use of waterboarding, a form of torture in which the prisoner is strapped to an inclined board while interrogators run water over his mouth and nostrils to induce the sensation of imminent death by drowning.

Furthermore, the former Defense Secretary has admitted to ordering a prisoner's presence to be kept from prison rolls and hidden from the Red Cross for at least seven months—a violation of the Geneva Convention, which requires that all countries grant Red Cross access to detainees regardless of where they are being held.

The suit also cites orders to commit torture, or failures to prevent it, by U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, former CIA director George Tenet, and recently retired U.S. Army Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez, the former commander of U.S. forces in Iraq.

The case against Rumsfeld and his cronies is clear and compelling. German prosecutors declined to prosecute a similar, though more limited, suit in 2004. Then, Rumsfeld was protected by general diplomatic immunity. Today, stripped of his title, his flank is exposed.

The German courts must uphold the rule of law and rule that Rumsfeld and company have committed war crimes, showing the world that the Bush administration cannot callously discard the human rights it claims to uphold.

SIPA STREET

Communiqué asked, "Who should be SIPA's next dean?"

Pictures by Alexandra Sirota

Donald Rumsfeld, he's now in need of a job.
Jefferson Clarke (MPA2), Energy



Spiro Ardavanis.
Kate Yanashita (MIA2), ISP



I think Spiro Ardavanis would be a superb replacement for Dean Anderson. And let's not forget that he's a hottie.
Noni Durrani (MPA1), IMC

Roshanak Taghavi (MIA2), IEP
Professor Kenneth Prewitt. My reason: he is brilliant, accomplished and approachable.

Professor Prewitt.
Yeshey Dorji (MPA2), EPD



Jimmy Carter.
Chris Degner (MIA1), IFP



Who is Spiro Ardavanis? Wait and find out in the next *Student of the Fortnight*.



In this undated handout photo provided by Madonna’s publicist Liz Rosenberg, Madonna is shown with her daughter Lourdes, 9, left, son Rocco, 6, right and David Banda, 13 months, whom she planned to adopt with her husband, director Guy Ritchie. Madonna said that David is healthy and thriving in her London home, in an interview that aired Oct. 25, 2006, on “The Oprah Winfrey Show.” The child was taken to London after Malawi’s High Court granted Madonna and her husband, director Guy Ritchie, an interim adoption order.

Colorful Babies, the Fall Season’s Hot New Accessory

By Paula Margulies

Global baby: the latest in celebrity accessories. An exotic status symbol that comes in the color of your choice, photographs well and lasts a lifetime.

The recent media frenzy surrounding Madonna’s adoption of a baby boy from Malawi has sparked a larger conversation about the ethics, motivations and practices surrounding adoption in the developing world. While proponents hail international adoption as a selfless, humanitarian act that raises awareness, critics say it may exploit and confuse children from foreign cultures while neglecting the needy ones on our own soil.

It is hard to criticize celebrities—or anyone else, for that matter—who adopt needy children. In Africa alone, there are an estimated 11 million AIDS orphans, a number that UNICEF warns will increase exponentially over the next decade. The crisis is overwhelming in scope: even if food, medicine, shelter and education could be procured for those 11 million, there is still the matter of love, which no policy or donation can address. By adopting a child from a poverty-stricken country, celebrities like Madonna and Angelina Jolie shed light on one of the most intractable problems of our time. They also save a child’s life—exchanging an existence of want for one of privilege and opportunity.

Yet there is something oddly disquieting about the phenomenon, something humming beneath the surface of these very public and graceful acts. Why look thousands of miles away to adopt a child when there are 118,000 waiting to be adopted in the United States? Why travel, next to the clicking shutters of paparazzi, to a dusty village on the other side of the world? Is the chosen locale a mere afterthought to the sincere desire to parent a child—or is the act wrapped up in the fascination with the “exotic” locale?

Perhaps more disturbing is the possible involvement of an element of aesthetics, even fetishism. Do these gorgeous, delicate-featured, tawny-skinned children feed into Hollywood’s unquenchable thirst for beauty? And in an era of globalization, of fashionable fusion cuisine and marketable religion, is the child from Cambodia, Malawi or Ethiopia a new way for the privileged to express their sophistication, global sensibilities and racial openness?

Whether or not some or all of these questions are rooted in reality, they do not erase the fact that some very needy children now have homes.

Paula Margulies is the Policy Pages editor of Communiqué.

The American Dream, Globalized

By John Galante

It’s a too-darn-hot summer night and business is slow at a dimly lit restaurant in Brooklyn’s trendy Cobble Hill neighborhood. The staff huddles around the TV at the bar, passing the time by watching the Mets game. Within the familial banter, an argument over a baseball statistic arises and the group looks to Hemel, the busboy and resident expert, for a decisive answer.

A fountain of baseball and football knowledge who spouts opinions in a firm New York accent, Hemel is also a recent college graduate. Like many, he is biding his time at the restaurant while searching for a better opportunity. But unlike his co-workers, Hemel cannot easily move on because he has no working papers—Hemel is an undocumented immigrant, brought from Bangladesh as a young child.

In his early 20s, Hemel is one of many “Americans without papers,” a generation of young adults outwardly American in their language, dress and mannerisms, who remain marginalized and without formal status. Yet Hemel’s experience in the United States—typical of many others—shows how misguided anti-immigration activists are.

In December 2005, the House of Representatives passed an immigration

reform bill that, among other things, makes the unlawful presence of an immigrant in the United States a felony. Other suggested “reforms” include setting the minimum sentence for possessing fraudulent documents at 10 years and forcing undocumented immigrants to leave before applying for re-entry.

One of the most vocal proponents of the House’s draconian bill is Republican Congressman Tom Tancredo, of Colorado. He is linked to the Congressional Immigration Reform Caucus, which suggests that immigrants damage the environment and carry diseases into the country. It also argues that immigration spurs criminal activity, but gives just a dozen examples of undocumented immigrants committing crimes.

Additionally, in March, *Washington Post* columnist Robert Samuelson referred to immigration as “importing poverty” and said that immigrants “generally don’t go home, assimilation is slow and the ranks of the poor are constantly replenished.”

The majority of the more than 10 million undocumented immigrants in this country do not deprive citizens of jobs or leech social resources and are not violent or lazy. In fact, they are often educated, fluent

English speakers, extraordinarily hard-working, and do not intend to stay permanently in the United States. Misconceptions serve as the foundation for the radical and misguided measures of the immigration agenda.

According to Justice for Immigrants, an organization that campaigns for immigration reform, the ratio between immigrants’ use of public benefits and the amount of taxes they pay is consistently favorable to the rest of the U.S. labor force. Even undocumented immigrants pay income tax. Immigration contributes to the economy to the tune of roughly \$10 billion annually. Within 10 years of arrival, more than 75 percent of immigrants speak English well. In addition, tougher immigration policies have not led to a single terrorism prosecution.

Luckily for Hemel and others, a Senate bill passed in May—after a wave of immigrant protests—takes a more enlightened stance. It includes a guest-worker program and would set many undocumented immigrants on a path toward citizenship. For now, the bills remain shelved, but a compromise is possible in the near future.

Until recently, Angel, also in his early 20s, worked seven days a week, splitting

his hours between a lunch shift, where he catered to Wall Street financiers, and a dinner shift down the street from Hemel. Angel came to New York more than two years ago from the central Mexican state of Puebla. Last month, he returned home to buy some land and animals with which he, his father and his brother plan to build a farm. Rather than importing poverty, Angel helps support the U.S. economy and contributes to the development of Mexico.

His experience mirrors those of the busboys I met in 2003 at an uptown restaurant. Hailing from the same neighborhood in Mexico City, they shared an apartment in Harlem. Like Angel, they were here only to make money. They were not violent, anti-American or disease-ridden.

Upon closer inspection, their stories of leaving wives and children behind to come here in search of prosperity often seemed heroic—a globalized form of the American dream that makes a guest-worker program a more logical step forward than the construction of a border fence expected to have little effect on immigration inflows.

John Galante (MIA1) is an IMC concentrator. Prior to SIPA, he was a reporter at Dow Jones & Co.



FILM REVIEW: *Iraq in Fragments*

By Nichole Wong Gomez

Baghdad, Mosul, Sunni, Shia—these are all words that roll off the tongue with growing familiarity. Yet it is as if the more familiar the sounds become, the less meaning they hold. They are distant abstractions to which we have grown alarmingly numb.

James Longley’s *Iraq in Fragments*, a film that swept three awards at the Sundance Film Festival—a first for documentaries—shatters our apathy. His images of burning Baghdad, ornate mosques, worshippers washing their feet at the call to prayer, and Kurdish children in sunflower fields bring immediacy to hazy conceptions of Iraq.

Longley shows us what it means to be Iraqi in three fragments of the country: U.S.-occupied Baghdad, the Shia-dominated south and the idyllic Kurdish outpost of the north.

Baghdad, with its yellow cabs and red double-decker buses, looks like any other heaving city, until the camera pans to shots of a bombed building, American soldiers patrolling the streets with big guns and imposing tanks parked across sidewalk cafés. Bombs and gunfire have become regular features of city life. All of a sudden, 9/11 seems trifling to the American viewer.

To the groups of old men who gather to smoke and sip tea, it is apparent that the United States is here for one purpose only—oil. One man points out that the city

has become a battlefield, and cynically wonders: if the United States is here in the interest of Iraq, then why all the guns? A favorite question among sidewalk philosophers is whether life is any better since Saddam has gone. Many would agree with one man’s assessment: the United States may have toppled the dictator, but only to bring in “a hundred more Saddams.”

Nowhere else is anti-American fervor more bone-chilling than in the south, where the Shia are gaining power and momentum under Moqtada Sadr. Longley bravely and intimately captures a violent vigilante crackdown on alcohol sellers in the market and militant rallies at the mosques, under a leadership that espouses a brand of Islam inextricably linked with politics.

Mourners grieving the loss of a political figure whip themselves with chains, some until bloody. Others chant, dance and drum to an ominous beat. They take their politics seriously, and are not afraid of brutality or pain.

This is a society where life is carried out in the group—from the classroom where children learn by repeating in unison, to the mosque where religion, and often politics, is institutionalized. The group dynamic is used to excite, pressure, incite. In the Shia south, the unpredictable mob momentum threatens any U.S. semblance of control.

The third fragment of the film steps back from the turmoil of war to the tranquility of a Kurdish village. Flags wave in the sun for a nonexistent but long hoped-for Kurdistan. Children herd sheep and tend to ovens firing freshly cut bricks. Here the first real pro-American words in the film are uttered. The Kurds are grateful that the Americans liberated them from Saddam’s oppressive rule. Here, half an hour outside Mosul, they are sheltered from the fierce gunfights and complex hostility between U.S. troops and Iraqi insurgents.

Iraq in Fragments is compelling not only as a window into the little-seen daily life of Iraqis, but as a reflection of how the United States is viewed by the Sunni, Shia and Kurds. In one scene, following the fierce attack on the alcohol sellers, a television is shown broadcasting an interview of Bush, with an Iraqi translator’s voice speaking as his lips move. Juxtaposed with the gritty reality on the ground, his empty words never seem more painfully irrelevant or dangerously ignorant than at this moment.

Longley’s film leaves the viewer a little more enlightened about Iraq, and a lot more sensitive to how seemingly abstract decisions made in Washington impact the lives of everyday Iraqis.

Nichole Wong Gomez (MIA1) loves to watch movies.

Rebecca Leicht Responds to Saifedean Ammous

In the October 23 edition of *Communiqué*, Saifedean Ammous responded to an op-ed I wrote (“Mine for Yours: Prisoner Exchanges Between Hezbollah and Israel,” from the October 9 issue), claiming my article stated that Israel’s concept of justice was (in Mr. Ammous’ words) “superior to that of Arabs/Muslims/Lebanese.”

My article most certainly did not state as such, and any assumptions otherwise stem only from predisposition. My op-ed drew a contrast—specifically and only—between Hezbollah’s concept of justice and Israel’s. If Mr. Ammous collects all Arabs, all Muslims, or all Lebanese into a neat package, his are the “bigoted statements,” not mine.

In a world prone to generalization, Mr. Ammous might be served well to be careful when assuming that the entire Arab population agrees with Hezbollah, whose tactics include hiding in hospitals and schools, without regard for the potential harm in which the organization places the people it purports to represent.

In addition, Mr. Ammous invoked the soul of a young Palestinian girl, Iman Al-Hams, who was killed by Israeli Defense Forces in Gaza. While my initial article was not about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, I mourn Iman’s tragic death, and I thank Mr. Ammous for reminding our community of her life. For her family’s sake, I am deeply sorry for the inability of a team of military judges to bring her killer to justice. As I plainly stated in my article, Israel has no monopoly whatsoever on justice. However, if we as a community—Arabs and Jews alike—continue to ignore the root causes of such heinous crimes as the death of children, we will all be in this mess for decades to come.

According to the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group, Palestinian militant groups have used children as “messengers and couriers, and in some cases as fighters and suicide bombers, in attacks on Israeli soldiers and civilians.” Let me again be clear: There is no excuse for the death of children, in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict or any other. Mr. Ammous’ misreading of my words does not change my stance. It also does not change the unfortunate realities of the conflict.

Rebecca Leicht (MIA2)

FILM REVIEW: City of Kampala Stars in *The Last King of Scotland*

By Hilaire Avril

In *The Last King of Scotland*, directed by Kevin Macdonald, Forrest Whitaker plays a dangerously fascinating Idi Amin, the dictator responsible for 300,000 Ugandan deaths in the 1970s. This seductive tale of paranoid power, beautifully shot on location, lingers on the African Nero’s seductive and murderous entourage.

Kevin Macdonald’s stylish account of Idi Amin Dada’s dictatorship in Uganda is a fresh and sexy take on an old tale: that of a mere soldier absolutely corrupted by absolute power. But the director’s foremost accomplishment is, surprisingly, an aesthetic one.

In *The Last King of Scotland*, Kampala, the 40-year-old capital of Uganda, is as much a character as the insane dictator himself.

After a few introductory scenes shot in the Ugandan countryside, MacDonal’s lens focuses exclusively on the city. Not an intuitive choice, given that Uganda is an overwhelmingly rural country, but one that parallels the dictator’s growing estrangement from his people.

Macdonald, a former documentary director, makes the city look like a tide of tin roofs, spread over red-earth hills and sprinkled with the occasional official building.

The contrast with rural Africa and its mud huts and thatch roofs is striking, a visual impression of an unfinished utopia gone wrong,



Forest Whitaker plays Ugandan President Idi Amin in *The Last King of Scotland*.

much like most post-independence African political experiments. But the director performs the feat of depicting it as new, modern and almost beautiful.

Cement reigns supreme in today’s urban Africa. As anyone who has spent time in the sub-Saharan tropics in the last 40 years knows, cities often look like a 1970s James Bond villain’s nightmare.

In downtown Kampala, Nairobi or Kinshasa, high-rise towers are made of bare, raw con-

crete, reminiscent on a small scale of the New York Twin Towers. Airport terminals and hospitals are enclosed in see-through concrete wire netting. Even ministries—mostly built around independence, sometime in the early 1970s—look like cheap renditions of what European architects considered ground-breaking design at the time of construction: Le Corbusier-inspired mammoths, in which all geometry seems to revolve around lozenges.

But Macdonald’s camera captures Kampala as it was originally meant to be seen: brand new, clean, and open to the elements. The director’s stunning use of light gives a new life to the city. The Ugandan capital’s hospital looks like it is spacious and deliberately minimalist instead of unfinished and unkempt.

In the tropical sun, under short but deluge-like rain seasons, suffocating traffic pollution and choking dust, buildings age 10 years in a single season. Most of

these constructions are independence-era relics, now varnished by a brownish coat of neglect, their walls cracked, stained and sometimes bullet-pocked, images of Africa’s abbreviated quest for modernity.

MacDonald’s tale is set before this architectural and political demise. The memorable orgy-like party scene filmed in the dictator’s villa therefore makes the palace appear cozy and sophisticated, an intricate blend of updated Art Deco and tropical nature. Interiors are equally studied. The orange-to-brown tones, yellow velvet and vanilla carpets, zebra skins and other wildlife trophies create an atmosphere of domesticated jungle. Reflections of light on the praline-colored skins of Idi Amin’s feline, afro-clad mistresses perfectly render the era’s obsession with earthy colors and smooth textures.

This is a welcome departure from the urban Africa portrayed in recent films like *Tsotsi*, set in a South African slum, or *The Constant Gardener*, filmed in Nairobi’s largest shantytown. It is a refreshing reminder of how Africa wanted to look at independence, in the 1960s. It is also a stark reflection of the continent’s failings.

Hilaire Avril (MIA2) is an IMC concentrator. For the last two years, he has been lost in Africa, reporting for IRINNews.

How to Cook Up a Saucy Trade Agreement

By Erica Hagen

"Regional trade agreements are the pepper in a good sauce which is the multilateral agreements," said World Trade Organization Director-General Pascal Lamy during a lecture at SIPA on October 31. The talk, "Multilateral and Bilateral Trade Agreements: Friends or Foes?" was this year's Gabriel Silver Memorial Lecture.

"Pepper adds taste and can improve a sauce," Lamy said, "but pepper alone is not tasty, and good pepper in a poor sauce will not do the trick! Use the wrong recipe and it will be a disastrous dinner."

Whether or not bilateral and multilateral agreements do in fact amount to a disastrous dinner has been hotly debated, particularly since the Doha Development Agenda round of international trade negotiations stalled earlier this year, resulting in a flurry of bilateral negotiations. While Lamy was optimistic that the two types of agreements could be friends, much of his lecture pointed to the potential for conflict.

The WTO generally seeks to liberalize trade through multilateral agreements. Critics say these agreements are often biased toward U.S. and EU private interests, while Lamy and others contend that the WTO seeks to benefit developing nations by protecting them from the pitfalls of bilateral agreements.

Bilateral agreements often cover topics without consensus among WTO members, such as investment, competition, labor standards and the environment. They can be negotiated sooner, and for developing countries, they often involve non-trade "rewards" such as development assistance.



AP Photo/Keystone/laurent gillieron

WTO Director General Pascal Lamy speaks at the opening session of the World Trade Organization Council in Geneva, Switzerland.

However, Lamy cautioned, "By definition, preferential trade agreements create a discriminatory environment for non-parties." While by WTO rules parties to these agreements must notify the WTO before implementing them, in practice the WTO is often notified long after.

Additionally, according to Lamy, only one regional trade agreement has been explicitly determined by the WTO Committee on Regional Trade to be consistent with WTO rules.

Bilateral agreements can end up creating a "spaghetti bowl" of complicated trade

rules, Lamy said, borrowing the phrase from Columbia University Professor Jagdish Bhagwati. Lamy presented as a visual aid a map of the world crisscrossed with "spaghetti" lines representing existing bilateral trade agreements.

Between 15 percent and 40 percent of international trade is currently taking place under preferences, according to Lamy, and close to 400 preferential agreements could be implemented by 2010.

"This is quite a blow to the 'Most Favored Nation' principle which is one of the cornerstones of the WTO," Lamy said. "Most Favored Nation" is a non-discrimination clause that means WTO member countries cannot grant special favors to other countries; they must extend any trade benefit to all other members as well. Only very specific exemptions are allowed.

Nevertheless, Lamy insisted that regional agreements could "complement the multilateral trading system."

"Those taking part in bilateral agreements," Lamy said, "should be prepared to lead the way and show support for multilateralism by narrowing the gap between regional trade agreement commitments and GATS (General Agreement on Trade in Services) offers."

In practice, however, some countries make less appealing offers in a multilateral context than they are willing to make bilaterally.

For instance, said Lamy, "the United States has gained significant market access on services, compared to what the U.S.'s bilateral partners have committed or are willing to offer, at the WTO."

Following the lecture, Professor Bhagwati, who has served as an external advisor to the WTO, commented that the "essential principle of the WTO is undermined" by these preferential agreements. "[Lamy] wants the spaghetti to congeal into lasagna and then make a pizza, but that is not going to happen," said Bhagwati, referring to the idea of the regional agreements coalescing into a unified multilateral system.

Bhagwati further commented on the stalled negotiations: "The whole thing is rather disastrous, but it doesn't mean that Doha won't go through." According to him, certain types of negotiations, such as the removal of agriculture subsidies, cannot be negotiated bilaterally.

While Bhagwati and Lamy both lamented the obstruction of the Doha round, critics say the negotiations were not attuned to the needs of developing countries, and should not be continued. Such conflict underscores the debate over which international trade rules should be implemented and how, and whether the WTO has real potential to benefit global welfare.

The Gabriel Silver Memorial Lecture is presented every year at SIPA. The late Leo Silver, a New Jersey industrialist, established the lecture in 1949 to stimulate public interest "to lead the way over the present barriers of suspicion and distrust between men and nations." The first lecture was given by Columbia's then-president, Dwight Eisenhower.

Erica Hagen (MIA1) graduated from Reed College.

Donald Rumsfeld Shown the Gates

Continued from page 1

Bush added that he hadn't visited with Gates or had a "final conversation" with Rumsfeld at that point.

On November 14, war crimes charges were filed against the former defense secretary in Germany, where a universal jurisdiction law allows for the prosecution of war crimes regardless of where they were committed. The 220-page complaint was filed by civil rights activists including the Center for Constitutional Rights, the National Lawyers Guild, the International Federation for Human Rights and Berlin's Republican Lawyers' Associations, as well as five Iraqi torture victims. This is the second time human rights organizations have attempted to file a war crimes suit against Rumsfeld. Attorneys believe they will be more successful this time because of the 2005 congressional hearings on the case of torture victim and would-be September 11 hijacker, Mohamed al-Qahtani, and because of Rumsfeld's recent resignation.

Rumsfeld's entry to politics was less spectacular than his exit.

He entered politics in 1957 as an aide to Republican Congressman David Dennison, of Ohio. He has served as a congressman, a U.S. Ambassador to NATO for President Nixon, President Ford's Chief of Staff, and Special Envoy to Iraq for



AP Photo/gerald herbert, file

Outgoing Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, left, looks on as Robert Gates, George Bush's nominee to replace him, speaks in the Oval Office on Nov. 8, 2006. Gates successfully navigated the legal and political perils of the Iran-Contra scandal, emerging as CIA director.

President Reagan. Rumsfeld was both the youngest and oldest Secretary of Defense, serving under Gerald Ford from 1975 to 1977 and under George W. Bush from 2000 to 2006.

Rumsfeld leaves the office of Secretary of Defense a controversial figure. United States Military Academy alumni who gathered at West Point were in high spirits following the announcement.

Colonel Robert McClure (Retired) remarked, "This is a good choice for several reasons. Firstly, the relationship between the civilian and military leadership had become so strained, something needed to be done."

McClure explained that recently, strict adherence to the principle of military subordination to

the civilian leadership had "put the institution of the military under tremendous strain."

It was more than a year ago that General Barry McCaffrey (Retired) told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, "It's a race against time because by the end of this coming summer we can no longer sustain the presence we have now [in Iraq]... This thing, the wheels are coming off it."

McClure added, "It wasn't quite at this point, but—at what point does a man sacrifice the institution he has worked under, dedicated his life to, to the principle of civilian control... There was a perception that there was a lot of guidance coming down from above, but no real feedback coming up."

James Finan (MIA2), an ISP concentrator and an Iraq War veteran, was also pleased with the change.

"Rumsfeld was a polarizing figure of the absolutist school that Cheney and the neocons come from: the school of good and evil and nothing in between," Finan said. "Gates is from the school of Baker and Scowcroft and Bush I, and Professor Betts: the realist school."

James Baker was secretary of state under George H.W. Bush ("Bush I"). Brent Scowcroft served as national security advisor under presidents Ford and George H.W. Bush. And Professor Richard Betts is SIPA's Arnold Saltzman Professor of War and Peace Studies.

A long-time intelligence professional, Gates alternately worked at the CIA and on the National Security Council staff for 26 years. Prior to this, he served in the Air Force for two years as an officer with Strategic Air Command. Gates is the only person ever to advance all the way from entry-level employee to the head of the CIA.

Gates' nomination signals to many the potential for major changes in Bush administration foreign policy.

Gates co-authored a Council on Foreign Relations study with former Carter-era National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski advocating dialogue with Iran. Gates is also a member of James

Baker's Iraq Study Group, charged with assessing the Iraq situation and making policy recommendations.

Gates' previous encounters with the Senate confirmation process were in 1988 and 1991, when President George H.W. Bush nominated him for Director of Central Intelligence. Questions arose then about his involvement in the Iran-Contra scandal, though he was never prosecuted. Gates held prominent positions within the CIA during the height of Iran-Contra activities. In 1985, he was the Deputy Director for Intelligence, the top analysis position at the CIA, and in April 1986, he was Deputy Director for Central Intelligence, the number two spot at the agency.

The nomination is expected to sail through the Senate this time around. In a conference call on Wednesday, Democratic Senator Carl Levin, of Michigan, stated that the Republican-majority "lame duck" Senate would handle the confirmation process for Mr. Gates before the Democrats take over in January.

White House officials also announced that they would push to get John Bolton re-nominated as ambassador to the U.N. before the new Congress convenes.

Benjamin Ryan (MIA1) is an ISP concentrator. He spends a great deal of his time fulminating about foreign policy. He spent part of last summer in Beirut, Lebanon.

Liu's Long March

Continued from Page 1

covered to protect him from the elements.

Sun Shuyun, a Chinese writer whose parents survived the Mao years, reveals that the battle of Luding Bridge, the most legendary episode in this epic journey, never happened.

Perhaps Liu's most compelling finding on his trip was the very difficulty of establishing truth. Many Long March veterans have already died, others are too old, or were too low-ranking, to have access to information. Liu also mentions the veterans invited to CCP rallies to tell glorified war stories, stories that have changed over time to fit their purpose.

"In China we have a saying," says Liu, dragging on his fifth cigarette. "Kill your hunting dogs after the hunt until they are no more. Hide your arrows after you have used them in battle."

When pressed about the discrepancies surrounding the numbers—the miles crossed, the soldiers killed, the number that survived—Liu says, "Numbers are not important. Maybe Mao exaggerated about the 25,000 li [8,000 miles], but they were at war. They weren't focused on measuring the precise distances they crossed."

He also appeals to poetic license, citing the Tang dynasty literary tradition of exaggeration in poetry.

One is led to wonder if the Chinese, deprived of historical integrity, have different expectations of what they have the right to know. Or, for that matter, what they want to know.

"Eighty to 90 percent of commoners believe the history they are told. Many peasants are nostalgic for Mao's era of social egalitarianism. Many never question. Besides, they cannot verify what the government says," Liu continues. "Young people may be

suspicious of history, but they don't care enough. Intellectuals who have done the research don't believe, yet cannot say anything. Officials may know some truth, but as the profiteers of propaganda, they will not speak out."

In 2006, the CCP is still in power, celebrating the Long March's 70th anniversary. Its propaganda is savvy—call it guerilla propaganda. Instead of hollow party slogans, the CCP has embarked on a Red Tourism campaign. The party is turning old revolutionary bases into tourism opportunities to educate and instill national pride.

China's *People's Daily* newspaper quoted one party official as saying, "It will help people review the rise of the [CCP] and the nation. There are abundant facts at these sites showing [that] Party and socialism are the choice of history and the people."

It is not only party officials who are capitalizing on their version of history. Local governments eager to draw tourist yuan are busy promoting their towns. Liu points to his picture of a fake museum in Guizhou—a traditional-style house complete with furniture that Mao purportedly used when he stayed there decades ago. According to locals, Mao was never here.

"This house used to be a temple," one local told Liu. "When it burned down, this 'museum' was built."

Has financial and political expediency become more important to the Chinese than truth?

Liu shrugs, and asks, "What more is truth in this context than something everyone is willing to agree on?"

Nichole Wong Gomez (MIA1), an IMC concentrator, spent two years in Benin with the Peace Corps before SIPA.



Liu Xianghui

Many Long March veterans have already died, others are too old, or were too low-ranking, to have access to information.

Microcredit's Macro Success

By John Galante



AP Photo/pavel rahman

Bangladeshi Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus smiles, as his daughter Dina Yunus plants a kiss on his cheek, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Oct. 13, 2006. Bangladeshi microcredit pioneer Yunus and his Grameen Bank, or Rural bank, were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their work in advancing economic and social opportunities for the poor. Microcredit has helped millions lift themselves from crushing poverty.

prominence elsewhere in Asia and in parts of Africa and Latin America.

Recently, the proliferation, potential and profitability of microcredit institutions have drawn significant attention. The United Nations declared 2005 the "International Year of Microcredit." Financial institutions like Citigroup and Deutsche Bank have established their own credit services for the poor. And post-industrial philanthropists like Microsoft's Bill Gates and eBay's Pierre Omidyar have lent financial support and influence to microcredit development efforts.

All of the attention "highlights the wonders of microcredit," says Lynne Patterson, co-founder and executive director of Pro Mujer, a New York-based women's development organization with nearly 150,000 active clients in five Latin American countries. Financial sustainability, the encouragement of entrepreneurship and its longevity help microcredit avoid common criticisms of development as wasteful, harmful to incentive-building, subject to fleeting trends among donors and unable to meet the needs of those who need it most.

Patterson says, "Microfinance is kind of home free now because it's a business. We're over the hump."

But such statements veil deep concern over where microcredit is heading.

"Pro Mujer is doing microfinance as a means to an end," adds Patterson. "Otherwise you are just a bank."

Unsurprisingly, microcredit's financial success attracts others, not always for the better. Palchik says artificially low interest rates offered by government programs—in exchange for popular support—create distortions and crowding-out.

Regarding the entry of commercially focused players, she says, "We want to be careful that they are trying to reach the poorest."

A debate rages even within the NGO sector. In an article published in *The New Yorker* magazine last month—itsself an

acknowledgement of microcredit's entrenchment in the minds of intellectuals, dilettantes and subway riders—eBay's Omidyar described the need for the full commercialization for microcredit. Last year, he established a \$100 million investment fund at his alma mater, Tufts University, to do just that. Others in the article advocate more of a primary focus on poverty alleviation, rather than commercial success.

Most well-established microcredit organizations provide much more than access to loans. The empowerment of women is a major driver. LAPO founder Ehigiamusoe says some 98 percent of its 38,000 members are women, who receive not only money but a sense of self-worth from the loans.

In addition to credit services, Ehigiamusoe says LAPO may use its resources to enable women to buy shares in companies and "actively participate in the ongoing privatization program of the federal government of Nigeria."

For its part, Grameen's credit-plus services include the management of a garment business owned by its clients.

Healthcare is a major service provided by LAPO, Pro Mujer and other successful microcredit institutions. Striking a balance between sustainability and credit-plus services is an issue, but there are solutions. Pro Mujer Peru, for example, has a self-sustaining health insurance program that its clients can opt to pay into.

With microcredit aggregating so much interest, money and human capital, its commercial viability is important and the possibilities for geographic expansion and extension into other fields seem endless. But as in any market, overheating can cause alarm.

As Patterson says, "I just hope all this investment and interest doesn't exclude a more development focus on the poor."

John Galante (MIA1) is an IMC concentrator. Prior to SIPA, he used to be a reporter at Dow Jones & Co.

U.S. Population Reaches 300 Million: Significance Debated

The World Census Bureau, an arm of the U.N. that monitors the daily activities of every person across the globe, announced last week that the United States had crossed the 300 million population threshold. Coincidentally, the increase of approximately 25 million from the last census tally in 2004 corresponds with a decrease of around 23 million in Mexico. Vasanta Collins, a border patrol officer, says that the difference is accounted for “in restricted federal holding cells near Nogales, Arizona.”

The number of illegal immigrants in the nation is of keen interest to legislators and bureaucrats who need to divert attention away from the little boys they have been touching and the money they have been stealing from Native American tribal reservations in recent months.

Lou Dobbs, the respected *CNN* pundit, claims that as many as 220 of the 300 million people currently in the United States are actually here illegally. If this proves to be true, and they are promptly deported as Mr. Dobbs recommends, then the population of North Dakota would be expected to plunge down to 74 from its current record



By Jimmy Finan

high of 116. Such an outcome would also reduce the number of representatives the state is capable of sending to Washington to lobby Congress for more snow blowers and down-filled mittens.

Hugh Forester, president of the Columbia College Republicans and founding member of the Campus Council on Promotion of Virtue and Repression of Vice, called the validity of the census into question.

“These numbers can’t be taken at face value,” Forester argued. “They undoubtedly include Catholics, Jews, Americans with passports, and other deviant subversives. I bet very few of these 300 million drive pickup trucks or support the troops.”

In his remarks, Forester also mentioned that it was a waste of time to learn any language other than “American” and that he sometimes punched people in the face “for no reason.”

Whether you feel this milestone is a cause for celebration, mourning or fear, at least there is one issue all sides can agree upon: The uptown number 1 train is going to get just a little more crowded.

The SIPA Rules of Engagement

Par La Bonne Vivante

Though it has yet to be statistically proven in Professor Thurman’s class, it is a known fact that there is a direct correlation between semesters spent at SIPA and the lack of human companionship in your bed. You’ll see more single women here in your second year than in the first.

There are many causes of this phenomenon: Boyfriends get jealous of your time, of your hot SIPA friends, of your late-night econ rendezvous. The only people who understand are the ones sharing your misery. So the natural tendency is to dump extraneous boyfriends and start dating classmates. But why does almost every SIPA love adventure go sour the next morning? Why do men get awkward and start playing teenage games after a good night out? Whatever happened to good manners and chivalry?

A J-School friend of mine once observed, “No wonder you can’t get anything serious going at SIPA. It’s a zoo. Men are devoured upon entrance.”

Yet aside from the depressing proportions of devoured and married men, there are still more than a few single darlings out there who—to put it mildly—F#*K IT UP.

So after counseling lost souls and spending a gazillion hours deciding “Should I call him now or never?” I charted out SIPA chivalry rules for true gentlemen...

Rule 1: Be responsible for your actions. When you wake up the next morning in an unfamiliar bed, pretend that you know exactly what happened last night. She’ll

cook you breakfast if you are nice.

Rule 2: Don’t lead a woman on until your other SIPA squeeze materializes. Be nice but firm. Let her know if you want to break it off. And DO NOT date several SIPA women at once. We are sophisticated. We don’t get into cat fights. Instead, we will eradicate the “root cause” of the conflict. Fighting for a man is so last century.

Rule 3: Don’t play games of delayed phone tag. Not calling a woman you like makes you look childish. Stop playing games; you have econ to do.

Rule 4: If you made out with someone at a social, don’t pretend you don’t know her the next day. You look stupid! The whole school thinks you are stupid. Call her the next day, invite her for coffee, become friends... You’ll be saving Africa together one day. And, no, she won’t fall in love with you. She’ll just think you have good manners.

Rule 5: Honor your commitments. If you made plans to see a movie, don’t call it off because of a stats meeting. Thurman might not agree with this rule openly, but deep down, he probably understands the value of keeping a promise.

Above all, love your woman. In this age of speed and equality, men tend to forget that nobody ever dismissed good manners in relationships. It is okay to open a door for a lady, to treat her well at a party, to be a gentleman the next day.

If you take the trouble to learn these rules here at SIPA, you’ll find them useful even after your days on campus come to an end.

DATELINE: ASIA

Pfizer to Stop Prozac Supply to Singapore

By Jonathan Fox, Special Correspondent

Editor’s Note: For the past semester, this space has been reserved for a series of articles offering the Canadian perspective on world affairs and other matters of import. Never have we received so much angry mail in response to a Communiqué feature. It seems our readers just plain hate Canadians.

Therefore we are boldly submitting to popular demand and discontinuing the Canada series. We trust you will enjoy the new Dateline: Asia column that will henceforth take the place of Northward Ho!

Eli Lilly spokesperson Marjory Himmel announced today that the pharmaceutical giant will this week cease its supply of Prozac to the city-state of Singapore.

The announcement followed the recent publication of allegations that the Singaporean government has been adding the antidepressant medication to the public water supply for the past three years. While the initial reaction to these allegations by many in Singapore was shock and concern, it was followed quickly by a regained sense of calm and tranquility.

When asked about the allegations, Ministry of Health spokesperson Yong Ying-I stated that the program was undertaken

as part of the recent campaign of “4 Million Smiles” to welcome international delegates to the IMF/World Bank summit. “We noticed that despite their financial success, many Singaporeans just didn’t seem happy enough,” he said. “After conducting some research, we decided that the most efficient and cost-effective way to cheer the population up is to add Prozac to the general water supply.”

Yong claimed that the international condemnation was essentially irrelevant to Singapore, since the booming island-nation holds “a different Asian value system unique to Singapore,” wherein it is “perfectly acceptable” for the professional political leadership to dope up the population.

“Had we not done this,” she concluded, “our immature citizens would be moping about instead of warmly greeting our esteemed international guests.”

“This would explain a lot,” said Mai-lan Ha (MIA2), a visiting Columbia University student at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore. “I was curious at first, and figured that they must all be in some cult that I didn’t get invited to.” She added that she now regrets having drunk only bottled water since her arrival.

The Optimist

By Vernon Harding

Over the course of my 28 years on this planet, I have picked up some harsh truths about the real world that many of us at SIPA, either because we are in the bubble of academia or because we have not had a taste of the real world, have yet to pick up on. So, as a public service announcement, I am going to spell out those numerous truths that everyone should be aware of prior to graduating.

But beware: this is not for the faint of heart. The realities that I am about to expose might make some of the liberal, tree-hugging types out there question not only the way the world works but also, dare I say, the existence of God (By the way, there is no God).

Harsh reality #1: No one gives a rat’s ass about your GPA. I can just hear the hiring manager at Booz Allen: “Wow, you got an ‘A’ in Economic Development? Who gives a sh-t!” I know what you’re thinking: “Awww, but Vern...” (That’s Vernon to you!) “...I worked so hard on all those problem sets for Bubula last year. Are you telling me that all those hours spent working on them were useless?” Yes.

Harsh reality #2: Check your idealism at the door. You heard me. Stop being idealistic, right now. I SAID STOP!

Hey, you...yes you, sitting in the 6th-floor lounge telling people how you are going to right all of the injustices in the world after you graduate—stop it. No matter where you end up working, at

some point you’re going to perform a task that is completely contradictory to your values—and you’ll do it with a smile on your face and you will like it.

Life sucks—the sooner you realize this, the sooner we can all move on. I know what you’re gonna tell me: “But I came to SIPA to make a difference in the world.” This brings me to my next point....

Harsh reality #3: You will never make a difference. What’s that you say? Don’t believe me? You’re going to prove me wrong? Great—I’ll see you in AA in three years. I’ll be the one in the corner laughing manically and eating popcorn. When you leave SIPA, you’ll be no more than a cog in the machinery. In fact, you won’t even be a cog, you’ll be a sub-cog. You’ll be like the cilia on the paramecium of life—all working together for the one goal of moving the slow, lumbering machine that controls all of our lives. And when you die, you’ll barely have moved an inch.

Are you crying yet?

Harsh reality #4: The people at OCS take turns making fun of your resumes and cover letters during their weekly “staff meeting.”

Harsh reality #5: \$100,000. Does that mean anything to you? It should—that’s how much you’ll be in the hole upon graduation. Ask yourself: Was it worth it? If you said yes, punch yourself

in the face. Then go up to the person who is currently to your right and punch him (or her) in the face. When they ask what that was for, tell them, “You know what you did.”

Harsh reality #6: There’s a SIPA Prom? Are you f#@king kidding me?!

Harsh reality #7: Some of you may receive the Dr. Seuss classic *Oh, the Places You’ll Go* on graduation. Throw it out. No other book has done as much damage than this trite claptrap that passes itself off as an inspirational book (and this includes the Bible). It gives people the illusion that the real world is this magical, phantasmagorical place, where gumdrops grow on trees, and everyone you’ll meet will inspire you to be successful.

Bullsh-t. Be like me (it’s exhausting), and give recent graduates a copy of *Death of a Salesman* and half a bottle of vodka (I like to drink the other half), and smack them on the ass while saying “Good luck, Slappy!” The horrified confusion on their faces will be priceless. You might want to take a picture.

You’re welcome. No, really, it was my pleasure. If I have prevented just one person from going out into the world bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, I have done my job.

Vernon Harding (MIA2) was most likely not sober when he authored this article.