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Alumni Write About the Tsunami
Marc Morial Fights for Economic Equality
Allen Keller Rebuilds Shattered Lives

Sam Maitin’s Life in Art
Features

The Art of Life
Sam Maitin FA’51, the beloved Philadelphia artist and Gazette stalwart who died in December, left behind an extraordinary body of work (some of which is now on display on campus in a show planned before his death), a loving family, devoted friends, and many, many memories. BY SAMUEL HUGHES | 32

The Rebuilder
“Working with clients, even those with heart-rending stories, is deeply satisfying,” says Allen Keller C’81, who heads the Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture. “Worrying about whether we’ll be able to keep the lights on is truly stressful.” BY MARGOT HORWITZ | 40

Man in a Hurry
Former New Orleans mayor and current president and CEO of the National Urban League Marc Morial C’80 is on a mission to reclaim the organization’s role as the economic voice of black and urban America and of all those who are “weak, disadvantaged, and dispossessed.” BY DAVID PORTER | 46
DEAR PENN ALUMNI, FAMILIES, AND FRIENDS,

As I have been so enthusiastically embraced by this extraordinary and diverse university community, it is now my pleasure to extend a warm welcome and invite you to Alumni Weekend 2005. I hope that you will join me, your classmates, friends, and some of the University’s most electrifying thinkers and doers for a weekend that spotlights the very best of Penn. Alumni Weekend provides you with the opportunity to return to your intellectual home and engage with the ever-changing world around you.

Tours, panel discussions, seminars, receptions, and parties are among the numerous events Penn alumni and their families can enjoy on May 13-15, all of which are detailed in this Guide. From a film festival highlighting the animated works by PennDesign faculty and students, to community service initiatives led by the Center for Community Partnerships and Civic House, to “Diversity in Sports Business Ownership” and “Easy Steps to a Healthier You”—these and other programs represent the rich vibrancy and variety that exemplify your alma mater.

Alumni Weekend brings together Penn’s most enduring traditions with the innovative ideas of its leading scholars and alumni. The commitment and enthusiasm of our alumni have not only propelled this university to tremendous heights, they have also inspired all of us to imagine and reach for new horizons in the years ahead. I look forward to celebrating my first Alumni Weekend with all of you and sharing your passion for Penn.

Warm regards,

AMY GUTMANN
Good Fighters

Sam Maitin FA’51, who is featured in this issue’s cover story by senior editor Samuel Hughes, was the furthest thing from belligerent or threatening, but the few times I met him he always put me in mind of an old fighter. He had that kind of physical presence and grace and strength about him, an air of treading lightly and yet being very solidly set on his feet. You couldn’t knock him down. (My first reaction, on learning of his death from cancer in late December, was simple surprise. It truly didn’t seem possible.)

Most of the wonderful work he did for the Gazette was before my time here, but I came to appreciate his art when we were researching our 100th anniversary, and I saw the many covers he had done over the years. Given his history with the magazine, it seemed more than appropriate that we approach him to do one of our Centennial issue covers, but I confess I was a little leery. I was afraid he wouldn’t come through, or would toss something off, considering the work beneath him by then, and resist making any changes.

I couldn’t have been more wrong. I remember him coming—I want to say bounding—into the Gazette offices in Sweeter Alumni House toting several different all-but-finished approaches, eager to show and talk about them, totally open to questions and suggestions, completely present in what he was doing. A bit later, I was pestering him to write up something for an “Alumni Memories” feature, and he agreed to let me to run the tape recorder and edit a text from that. He talked a blue streak about going to night school with returning soldiers on the GI Bill, who were “voracious for education” and all that Penn could give them. Though he was only 16 at the time, he could as easily agree to let me to run the tape recorder and edit a text from that. He talked a blue streak about going to night school with returning soldiers on the GI Bill, who were “voracious for education” and all that Penn could give them. Though he was only 16 at the time, he could as easily have been talking about himself.

I thought of that energy and enthusiasm at the opening of the show of his work that opened on campus in February. It was there on the walls, from the earliest pieces from the 1950s to the most recent ones from 2004. It came through clearly as well in the many tributes from Sam’s family, friends, and admirers who packed the Zellerbach Theater at his memorial service in January—and, I hope, in our story and the accompanying photography of Greg Benson, who shot most of the images of Sam’s work as well as the evocative view of his studio on the cover.

The subjects of our other feature articles are also fighting good fights. Allen Keller C’81 runs the Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture, which provides medical care, counseling, and other services to victims of torture who manage to make their way to the United States. The program has helped more than 1,500 individuals from 70 countries since its founding (by Keller) in 1995, with no end in sight. “Right now we’re more in demand than ever,” Keller says.

Marc Morial C’80 grew up watching his parents fight for civil rights in his native New Orleans, where his father would become the city’s first black mayor. Morial himself was elected to that office at 36 and became one of the city’s most popular mayors. He now heads the National Urban League, where he has initiated efforts to raise the organization’s profile and attack the continuing economic disparities between whites and blacks in this country.

Finally, in a combined “Alumni Voices/Elsewhere” column, alumni and faculty write about the tsunami that struck Southeast Asia on December 26. Despite the extensive media coverage of the disaster, small details can still freshly evoke its continuing toll: “The children need writing materials, shoes, and bags for school, so we decided to use some of the initial contributions for those things,” wrote an alumna working to rebuild a pre-school destroyed in the tsunami. “On January 14 we will light many small oil lamps for people who passed away and for those who lost loved ones.”

From The Editor

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