

LETTERS

READERS WRITE BACK

RETURNING A TREASURE

I, BY INHERITANCE, OWN a small head—sandstone, I think—which my mother bought around 1936 from the National Museum in Phnom Penh, as far as I know. She documented this in a travel journal, which I've temporarily misplaced. It was sold as coming from Wat Ta Keo, which I gather is near Angkor Wat.

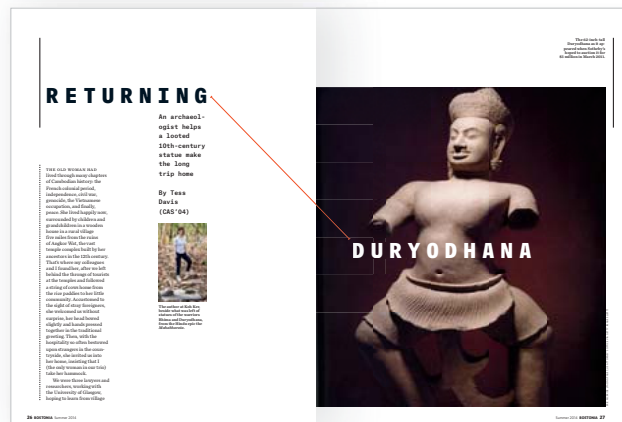
I was deeply touched by Tess Davis' article ("Returning Duryodhana," Summer 2014), and along with my rage at Sotheby's, her disclosures brought me a welter of emotions. For instance, when my parents visited Angkor Wat and bought this statue, *Head of a Dancer*, it was in all innocence and naïveté. Nor was it a blood antiquity at the time. Yet it was undoubtedly looted from Ta Keo, and as much as I love it, I most strongly wish to know how to contact the proper people and return it to Cambodia.

DAVID CARROLL (CAS'73)
Dexter, Mich.

Editor's note: David Carroll and Tess Davis are in the process of returning the statue to Cambodia.

UPBEAT ABOUT JOURNALISM

I REALLY ENJOYED THE conversation on journalism, technology, and business models ("Journalism Is Still Serious, Just Different," Summer 2014). David Carr, Andrew Lack, and Thomas Fiedler were refreshingly honest and upbeat, but not just for upbeat's sake. They are right to point out the increasing emphasis on storytelling and the interest many successful



investors are taking in news and information (John Henry buying the *Boston Globe*, for example). As a news reporter myself, I remind students and interns that while platforms are constantly changing, there's always demand for high-quality content.

ANNE MOSTUE (COM'06)
Boston, Mass.

EDWARD SNOWDEN'S story came to light through Glenn Greenwald, a carefully selected journalist at the *Guardian*. In his interview, David Carr of the *New York Times* mentions it was laughable that the *Guardian* broke the story of the year. I found it incredibly arrogant (not the only bit of arrogance in Carr's interview). Many of the more well-established publications have criticized Greenwald and the *Guardian*. But there is a reason that these "bastions of the free press" didn't break the story. Very often they sanitize themselves of news regarding the NSA, CIA, and the DOJ. When [former US intelligence official] William Binney came out to discuss many of the same programs that Snowden did

two years prior, it was barely recognized by the *Times*. Perhaps instead of focusing on the "new media," Carr should focus on the intrepid journalism that we all crave.

JEREMY KRUMSICK (CAS'08)
Brooklyn, N.Y.

PROTEST, OR PROVOKE?

I ENJOYED READING "Civil Disobedience, A Love Story" (Summer 2014). I must take issue with several points concerning your adulatory portrayal of Rabbi Susan Silverman's activism on behalf of liberal Jewish beliefs in Jerusalem.

Israel is not America, Jerusalem is not Boston, and the Wailing Wall is not the Boston Common speakers podium. It is one thing to protest; it is another to provoke.

Rabbi Silverman is portrayed as being enlightened, progressive, and liberal. Fine. But perhaps self-righteous, condescending, and intolerant better describe her views. Rabbi

Silverman came to Israel hoping to make a change. That's her right. But others came hoping to strengthen their attachment to a traditional view of Judaism that dates back well over 2,000 years. That is their right. Many fled from societies that were not tolerant enough to accommodate their beliefs. They came to Israel expecting to be free from religious intimidation and outright coercion.

One would hope that Rabbi Silverman is more understanding of Muslims' right to pray as they wish than she is of her fellow Jews' right to express their cherished beliefs in a manner that differs with hers.

In order to gain the respect of others, one must at times show them respect.

STUART KATSOFF (CAS'80)
Tel Aviv, Israel

IN PRAISE OF AN ALUM

GREAT AND EERILY timely piece on filmmaker Chiemi Karasawa (COM'90) and her documentary about the legendary talent Elaine Stritch ("Alumni Notes," Summer 2014). As you know, Stritch died on July 17. Karasawa's fine documentary is being talked about and referenced in numerous tributes as the *definitive* work on this truly one-of-a-kind personality. Kudos to Karasawa on her fine work.

BASIL O. GORDON (COM'75)
Columbia, Md.

WRITE TO US

Letters are edited for clarity, style, and length. Please include your full name and address.
WRITE TO *Bostonia*, 985 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215
EMAIL LETTERS TO bostonia@bu.edu
SUBMIT ON THE WEB AT bu.edu/bostonia/letters