

Expansive Reading

Summer 2012



University president Dwight Eisenhower with engineering dean James Kip Finch (left) and Trustees chairman Felix E. Wormser, 1949. (Courtesy of Columbia University Archives)

Jean Edward Smith's [new book](#) on Dwight Eisenhower tells us that Ike was more intellectually astute and curious than many people supposed, and this picture proves it: here, as president of the University, Eisenhower holds the October 1949 issue of *Columbia Alumni News*, the precursor to this magazine.

The issue opened with an unsigned editorial that begins, "Columbia was born in a borrowed vestry room and grew up in a deaf and dumb institution and an insane asylum. Now part of it will move into a dairy plant and bottling works." The Sheffield

Farms plant, located near Riverside Drive on West 125th Street in Manhattanville, became Prentis Hall, which first functioned as a laboratory space for the engineering school and currently houses studios for the School of the Arts and the music department.

Columbia Alumni News

October, 1949

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Courtesy of Columbia University Archives

As Columbia moves forward with its Manhattanville campus, it is worth noting that today's administration, like the University under Eisenhower, is dealing with a

timeless problem.

“That these structures have been needed desperately,” the editorial goes on, “cannot be contested by anyone familiar with a University bulging at the seams.”



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