

proved easier than expected. The Army's Infantry Division and the First Infantry Division are expected to be in Iraq by the end of the month. The Army's Infantry Division and the First Infantry Division are expected to be in Iraq by the end of the month.

the military as a means to pay for a college education."

al, April 3) refers to the military's "admirable restraint" in Najaf. This

Mr. Friedman speaks of "Arab liberals" who want this war "to succeed." But this war is not about American idealism or American values. It is about power and greed.

I am an Arab liberal yearning for democracy, yet I totally reject this war, as do all of the people I know.

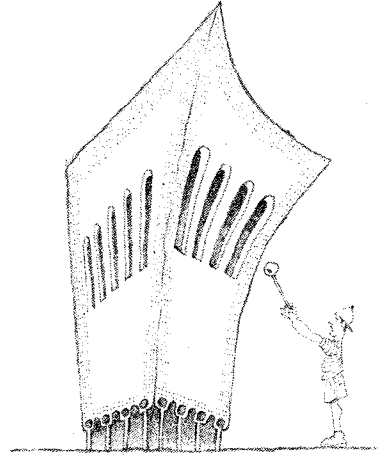
MARWAN HANANIA  
Amman, Jordan, April 2, 2003

## That Quirky Building, Lollipops and All

To the Editor:  
Re "A New Look for a 10-Story Oddity" (Arts pages, April 1):

I have admired the zany, whimsical, kitschy, kooky and quirky building at 2 Columbus Circle since going to school nearby in the late 80's. I am happy to see that it may soon be restored in an attractive, well-thought-out plan that will revitalize the building, both inside and out, while preserving its unique charm. But please, please, please, save at least a couple of the lollipops!

PAUL FONSECA  
New York, April 1, 2003



Matteo Pericoli

To the Editor:  
Re "A New Look for a 10-Story Oddity" (Arts pages, April 1): I take issue with the characterization of Edward Durell Stone's Gallery of Modern Art at 2 Columbus Circle as "a dead building."

To paraphrase Monty Python, the building is not dead, it's only sleeping, having been forced into hibernation by the city since 1998. Now that the building is about to be awakened with a bold new resident, does it necessarily follow that radical cosmetic surgery is needed? Isn't tenancy enough to revitalize this important, quirky piece of modern architecture?

SIMEON BANKOFF  
Exec. Dir., Historic Districts Council  
New York, April 1, 2003

To the Editor:  
You put it well when you write that "a spectral memory" of Edward Durell Stone's original 1964 design for 2 Columbus Circle will remain if the city allows the Museum of Arts and Design to reclad the building

(Arts pages, April 1).

But whatever its merits, Brad Cloepfil's design is hardly an homage to Stone, one of America's most significant architects, a leader who challenged orthodox Modernism and argued that the inspiration for a building should be in the accumulation of history. The proposed new design utterly erases Stone's vision for 2 Columbus Circle by eliminating its most evocative features: its noble white-marble cladding, "porthole" windows and whimsical "lollipop" arcade.

Let us not forget that 2 Columbus Circle was given as a gift to the city in 1980 and that its sale is subject to public review. It's up to all New Yorkers to decide through an open, democratic process whether we can afford to lose it.

KATE WOOD  
Executive Director, Landmark West  
New York, April 2, 2003

To the Editor:  
Re "Second-Guessing the War" (editorial, April 2):

After we militarily win this war, will we be sufficiently attentive and wise to winning the hearts of the Iraqis and others?

Will we be dedicated and persevering in securing a lasting peace, or will we leave warring pieces in our wake?

Those "after military victory, then what?" questions are the ones to be asking now.  
LOUIS SCHMIER  
Valdosta, Ga., April 2, 2003

## Israel and Settlements

To the Editor:  
Re "As Palestinian Violence Subsides, Israel Must Stop Building Settlements, Powell Says" (news article, March 31):

In his speech to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell said, "Settlement activity is simply inconsistent with President Bush's two-state vision." He also quoted the president as saying, "As progress is made toward peace, settlement activity in the occupied territories must end."

How many times must we hear what should long since have been obvious? Settlement activity in itself is an obstacle to peace. For years, that has been the stated policy of the United States government. It cannot in all logic be conditioned on progress toward peace.

The sooner settlement activity

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