A Prominent NYLS alumnus and professor talks about his experiences in the entertainment industry

Rave Reviews:

"He is the source of everything you would want to know about entertainment and nobody would tell you."
-Michele Peters, 2L and former Grammy nominated producer

"What he taught me really impressed my bosses. Everything he talked about in class came across my desk at work. He gave me the tools to achieve at my job."
-John Sirota, 3L, aspiring entertainment lawyer

"A professor who puts his students' concerns first."
-Matt Jones, 3L

"The resident oracle of deals in Hollywood."
-Michael Landsman, 3L

"In his class there was no fluff. We were always learning something."
-Doug Jacobson, 3L

NYLS Alumnus, Professor Seymour Feig
PERSPECTIVES:
Sacrifice & Law School

by Lynette Certain

Completing law school is not easy. It requires dedication and attitude, but most important are sacrifice and early organization.

I believe sacrifice is one of the most valuable elements. When I entered New York Law School, I announced to all of my associates that my play time was over and that I was going to get serious about life. I believed that my first year of law school was going to be the most difficult of my four years as an evening division student. However, after the first two weeks, I had the craving to go out dancing. This opened up the flood gates, and started the storm. During the weekends I wanted to party more and study less. By the middle of October, this desire had become a serious detriment to my schedule. I severely fell behind with my school work, but I still had the urge to party.

Saturday nights were spent dancing and Sunday mornings were spent in bed because I was too tired to do much of anything else. Of course, Sunday evenings were spent cramming for Monday. I attempted to control the fear and anxiety of not having enough time to finish homework and kept promising to myself that I would use the next weekend buckling down with my subjects. However, when the next weekend came it was a vicious repetition of the weekend before. I was stuck in a horrible cycle of pale promises that I could not keep. The more I tried, the more I fell behind. My classmates were doing exceedingly well and forming study groups. I felt left out and left behind. I would make all sorts of excuses why my work was not done, because the ultimate truth and final conclusion was ugly. My work was not done because I did not sacrifice my social schedule for my studies. My anxiety increased because I began to feel the impending doom of approaching finals.

One Saturday morning I broke the cycle, and went to a local library to study. I stayed in the library for about six hours doing work. Even though I did not catch up completely, I walked out of there feeling better about myself and about my situation. I had finally made the sacrifice, now all I needed was some organization and a miracle. Early organization is a wonderful ingredient for success at law school. If I had organized early, I would not have needed the miracle called Vivrin.

Studying for finals was rough, because I was not organized and used all of my study time for catching up. All the while I was doing the work which should have been done during the semester. I kept wishing that I had organized earlier—praying that I had more time, and regretting that I danced my semester away.

My words of advice are: yes you can go dancing (it’s good exercise), but it does not come before studying. If you make the sacrifice and get organized early, you can schedule social events. Waiting until the last minute will do nothing but hurt you in the end. You will sit there at your study table sipping your coffee or popping your Vivrin. You will wish you had made the sacrifice and organized early. You may even pray that you had more time, but the reality of it is that you had all semester.

Early organization is a wonderful ingredient for success at law school.
Interview with Professor Karen Gross

by Bert Ross

Professor Karen Gross took some time out of her busy schedule preparing for class to speak with me early one Tuesday morning. I didn’t know what to expect. As a confused 1L, I had been (lost) wandering the halls of A, B, and C buildings for the better part of a week before this talk. My only contact with a Professor’s inner sanctum had been fleeting glimpses of static monium espied through half open doors. The de rigueur decorating technique in these offices seemed to Early Propaganda Leaflet Bomb Run. I immediately felt better when

Professor Gross invited me into her office. The space was well lit; the bookshelves were being used as... bookshelves, and pictures of her son, Zack, were displayed proudly and prominently around the room. Her latest book, called “Failure and Forgiveness,” explores bankruptcy as a social tool.

K How did you get into bankruptcy? I’ve always wanted to teach... but

B The way a lot of lawyers get into things... by accident. When I left law school the market was very different then. There weren’t a lot of women coming out of law school when I graduated. I never wanted to practice as a lawyer, and the law firm where I worked one summer said, "we’ll make you a deal. You can teach and write while you’re practicing if you want." B So you came out of law school wanting to be a teacher.

K Oh, absolutely. And they said, 'no, practice for a while." And I said, "Alright, I’ll practice for a while. But you’ve got to do me a favor and let me write about something all the time." And so they said, "fine." The first year that I was at the firm there was a man who became head of a major organization in bankruptcy. The bankruptcy law happened to be changing at the time and I did all of his speech writing, all of his congressional testimony, and all of his articles over the course of a year. So by the time the year was over I knew one hell of a lot about bankruptcy and, as they had promised, written a lot. I always tell people that had his expertise been in something other than bankruptcy, I would have been an expert in whatever it was that he was head of.

B So it must have been a bit of a surprise when you ended up where you were.

K I’ve always wanted to teach... but not this subject area. I tell students that’s there’s a lesson to be learned there. Sometimes what you think you’ll like doing as a lawyer is not, in fact, what you’ll like. When I was in law school, I swore I would never work for a big firm, I’ll never litigate, and I would be very surprised if I did anything involving business. And one of sort of life’s ironies is that I was at a very big firm, and I litigated all over the United States, and I dealt with an enormous amount of business issues. And in fact I adored all three. But I should have written down what I said when I walked in the steps of law school and then where I ended up five years, ten years, fifteen years...

B Bankruptcy for many people is a very dark subject. In your book, Failure and Forgiveness, you really characterize yourself as an optimist. It was fascinating to find someone who is both excited about bankruptcy, and who has a very open mind about what people are and what people can do and the role of bankruptcy has in rehabilitating people... of rehabilitating them back into society.

K It really is a world view. I have a world view, and it hinges off a number of underlying assumptions, and one of truly important ones for me is a glass half full as opposed to half empty.

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THE SENSATIONAL SABRINA
BAGDASARIAN

by Hansen Alexander

What you notice first about Sabrina Bagdasarian is her deep and penetrating smile; it is genuine. You know you are in the midst of a woman who both cares deeply about people and who can be a true friend.

Reports of her many kindnesses over two years at New York Law School are as plentiful as her considerable accomplishments.

Sabrina is Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of International and Comparative Law, and NYLS' Team Coach of the 1998 Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition.

In 1997 she wrote the Third Best Brief in the Northeast Regional of the Jessup held at Syracuse University. The issue was whether children abducted from country A during a national disaster had to be returned from country B afterwards.

International Law briefs are a lot more difficult to write because they are based on general customs and other factors which are more ambiguous than the rules set down in case law, she said.

Jessup participants also must argue for 20 minutes instead of 10 minutes, which is the usual Moot Court format. "That's a lot more difficult," Sabrina said.

"There was a great sense of pride in our whole school when Clinton was running for president, it was an exciting time to be there."

A Human Rights Law course with Professor Ruth Teitel sparked Sabrina's interest in that field.

"When I took International Human Rights with Teitel I knew I wanted to do Human Rights Law," she said. Sabrina was Teitel's research assistant at Georgetown. "My father wanted children professionals," said. "Art is his favorite city."

"There was a great sense of pride in our whole school when Clinton was running for president, it was an exciting time to be there."

Sabrina has become something of an expert on human rights abuses in Eastern Europe. While serving as a Research Assistant for the Lawyer's Committee for Human Rights here in New York, she conducted research on country conditions in Belarus and drafted memoranda and reports on human rights violations in former Soviet-bloc countries.

Last Spring she prepared affidavits and briefs, and conducted research on country conditions in Turkmenistan while participating in the Civil and Human Rights Clinic at NYLS. She represented refugees applying for political asylum and permanent residency.

Her family's history clearly motivates Sabrina's interest in International Human Rights Law. Her grandfather fled Armenia during the massacre of 1915, settling first in France and then immigrating to the United States.

"My grandfather wanted children professionals," said. "Art is her favorite city."

Sabrina's mom is a German from Northern Bavaria. Not surprisingly, Sabrina earned a Bachelor of Science degree in German and a School of Foreign Service Certificate in German Area Studies from Georgetown University. Besides German, Sabrina speaks Armenian, Turkish and Spanish.

While attending Georgetown, Sabrina worked as a Legal Intern for the Armenian Assembly of America, was elected to the Georgetown student government, served as Captain of the Ski Team, and ran the high hurdles on the track team.

Those were heady days at Georgetown. In fact, Georgetown alumnus Governor Bill Clinton of Arkansas announced his candidacy for President at the beginning of Sabrina's sophomore year in September 1991. In both October and November, Clinton came back to his alma mater to announce his domestic and foreign policy agenda in two speeches delivered on the Georgetown campus.

"There was a great sense of pride in our whole school when Clinton was running for president," Sabrina said. "And when Bill Clinton was elected President, we all went to the big Inauguration parade. It was an exciting time to be there."

While at Georgetown, Sabrina studied German Civilization and German Literature one summer in Trier, Germany. "It was a great experience," she said. "I had always visited Germany with my family and this was my first time on my own there. I lived with a host family and spoke German all the time."

Although Sabrina says she is partial to Germanic cities like Munich and Vienna, Paris is her favorite city. She tells the story of a visit one night to the Eiffel Tower.

"None of us spoke French and one of us pointed to Notre Dame on the horizon. A French couple came over to us and started telling us in English about Notre Dame. They were so nice. They took us around Paris, to little parks and out of the way places. Afterwards, they took us out to dinner. They even offered us to stay in their home."

Sabrina admits that she thought very little of studying law while at Georgetown. She had an International Law course her senior year, which was her favorite class. "My professor said I should consider law school," she says. "But I still didn't know what I wanted to do."

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October 1997
by Hansen Alexander

**Reporter:** You've been called one of the top ten music lawyers in America.

**Professor Feig:** Yeah. There's a book called *Careers in Music.* The author called me one of the ten best music lawyers in the country. Which is absolutely untrue, because I can name music lawyers who are far better than I am. I think it was said because of some of the deals I have made, such as the Irene Cara record deal which resulted in a platinum record for "What a Feeling."

R: As a graduate of this school, you've had to battle the arrogance of lawyers from the big name schools who treat you with disdain. Can you tell us a little about that?

F: It was when I was at RKO in the anti-trust department that I worked with lawyers from big name firms for the first time and was verbally beat up because I was not an elitist. They treated me with studied neglect. The adversaries, like a prominent lawyer in Boston, who was a plaintiff's lawyer, having found out I was a New York Law School graduate, and not a graduate from Harvard or Yale—exhibited an attitude of absolute disdain: I didn't know what I was talking about or I didn't know anything. But I got to handle it because I had much more experience in the every day happening of sales, which tied into the anti-trust matters we had. I had learned from masters at RKO and Disney. Later on, when I was with William Morris, for example, I had a marvelous feeling of putting to rest matters I had with large law firms who represented large production companies in California. I pretty much won all my points when I represented William Morris clients who were performers, writers, and directors. Frankly, I was beating them up that way. It was retribution. It was a form of revenge. I decided then, to a great extent, it is not who you know, it's what you know. And I was being very well trained.

R: In your *Entertainment Law* classes, you take time out during your lectures to point out rules that will be tested on the bar. You obviously don't have to do it—why do you it?

F: When I got out of law school, frankly, I knew very little. To me, the Bar Exam loomed larger than the universe itself. I decided then that if I ever passed the bar, or in the future ever talked to young lawyers who wanted to take the bar, I would tell them, don't get crazy. So this is why I pass on, to my students, little study tricks I learned. If you know your principles of law and know how to apply them properly, you'll do fine.

R: You make yourself particularly accessible to students. Why?

F: Students need somebody to talk to. Unfortunately, when I was at law school, I had nobody to talk to. Nobody gave me any advice. I was floundering. Students need guidance. I don't like to be standoffish. I will answer students' calls anytime and I will call them back. I will never refuse answering a question if I know the answer. I honestly feel very strongly for the students.

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R: Like the great retired Mr. Rothschild, you often begin classes with a quick recap of the major points of the previous lecture. Any particular reason?

F: There are some folks who may not have been to the previous lecture. So I bring them up to date. They may have had a force majeure—somebody was ill, they were incapacitated, they couldn't make it for some reason—I bring them up to date to let them know they haven't missed too much. Along the way, however, I drop certain hints, with respect to the papers I expect them to prepare for the term. That's how I know whether somebody was paying attention or not paying attention. It's my way of taking attendance, really. And I try to keep the students entertained by telling them true incidents that occurred in my practice of law and the practice of law of others. This serves to emphasize the principals of law I am expounding.

R: You teach with tremendous passion both for your subject matter and for your students. Why?

F: First of all, I enjoy the give and take with students. Second, when I was very young I went to the Fagin School of Dramatic Arts. I was 13 at the time and I was on the Yiddish stage. That taught me how to work with an audience. And that stayed with me. It's kind of a reflex action. I use the dramatic things to emphasize points so they remember what I'm trying to say. Otherwise, it's dull... to me that's not teaching, it's just reciting. I don't believe in reciting.

R: You've described arguing before the United States Supreme Court as a rather hair-raising experience. Can you tell us about it?

F: I was then General Counsel to the National Association of Theater Owners. It was an obscenity case. I had prepared a Brief Amicus Curiae with the help of the defendant's attorney. It was a most frightening experience. I went to this lectern and somebody opened the light for me. I was nervous beyond belief. I couldn't speak. I was a young lawyer at the time who had not spent much time trying cases. Rehnquist and Powell had just been appointed to the Court... being of the conservative bent... were asking me questions... I was saved by Thurgood Marshall... and Douglas... They were constantly helping me. Do you mean such and such? Obviously I was being fed some of the answers. Notwithstanding this help I was getting, I was terribly, terribly nervous. It was totally draining. But we won. I was proud of that.

R: You worked with Woody Allen on some of

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CITY LAW BREAKFAST

Features Nick Scoppetta

by John Preuss

It's written in the New Testament that the Apostle Simon Peter asked Jesus Christ, “Lord, what can I do?” and Christ replied, “If you love me, you'll feed my sheep.” But, according to Nick Scoppetta, Commissioner for New York City's newly formed Administration for Children's Services, if Simon were a children's case worker and had asked the same question, when the Lord responded, “if you love me, you'll feed my sheep,” Simon might have replied, “Could you be a little more specific?”

Scoppetta has been asking quite a few questions himself lately and answering many more since taking charge of the ACS only a year ago. But the problems of this city and its administration are two areas that Mr. Scoppetta has firmly under his belt, as he showed in his opening lecture at the series on New York City law and government, which was organized by NYLS Professor Ross Sandler.

Scoppetta was brought up on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, and attended the city's public schools. He earned his undergraduate degree in civil engineering on the GI Bill, and went on to graduate from Brooklyn Law School. Since then, he has been a deputy mayor, and commissioner of investigations for the City of New York.

His notoriety expanded when his real-life part with his un­derlying air of kindness and he could best be caricatured as a “Lion King.”

By contrast, his involvement today with troubled children is more likely to be recreated in the form of a Disney cartoon. For the young people who come under his auspices at ACS, his channeled gaze and sturdy, tough demeanor could mix with his underlying air of kindness and he could best be caricatured as a “Lion King.”

Indeed, in a way, Scoppetta has left his role as "Prince Of The City" and taken a new role as king of the jungle: the ACS is no mean collection of trees.

Up until last year, the welfare of 42,000 children in foster care, 50,000 in day-care programs, and the other 53,000 cases investigated annually by the agency, all were controlled by the Child Welfare Administration, which ACS has replaced. CWA was not, however, an independent agency.

Instead, it was a division of the Human Resources Administration (HRA). Under HRA, CWA had a $1.2-billion budget, yet no accounting office of its own. CWA employed 8000 people, 300 of them attorneys, but had no human resources department. These and other short comings left CWA not merely disorganized, but, in essence, without any organization at all. While newspaper stories regarding abused children in the care of CWA were both tragic and infuriating, the frustration of these incidents came to a head in the tragic case of Elisa Igquierdó.

You may remember this little girl and the circumstances surrounding her death. Elisa began kindergarten in September 1994, showing signs of neglect and abuse. A case worker from CWA was assigned to her. Elisa's mother, Ms. Lopez lied psychotically, complicating the investigation. As the case developed, Elisa's CWA agent, Mr. Navolla, uncovered many horrible facts about her life. Other agents from other care organizations became involved in the case — but they had to contend with Ms. Lopez. Elisa's mother hated the investigators, she hated her child, she asked them to take her daughter away claiming she was a devil. At the last minute she refused. These and other chaotic conditions embroiled doctors, lawyers, and countless others in a nightmare that seemed impossible to resolve. That resulted in the loss of the little girl was within the guts of the system. As a result, Elisa was abandoned to the care of her mother. On November 22, 1995, she was found dead, the autopsies showed that she had been battered and sexually tortured to death.

At his NYLS breakfast lecture on Friday, September 12, Scoppetta sought to describe this notorious case with a neutral or ap­assionate tone, but he was not completely successful. His face softened, but his eyes sharpened. He was hurt, and he was angry. Suddenly the 42,000 children in this city who are placed in foster homes became so many children who had to be saved from Elisa's fate by being taken away from the homes of their families.

Scoppetta has defined his mission as one of reform. But for him this mission is not the conventional buzzword used by most politicians. Scoppetta takes his goal of reform as a personal commitment, and has pledged that nothing short of full success will be acceptable.

The CWA developed unchecked and without a logical plan for some time. Besides its lack of departments to oversee budgets and personnel, it

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Volunteer for Justice

Domestic Violence Project

Despite an increase in information regarding domestic violence, myths and stereotypes about battered women still exist.

The New York Law School Domestic Violence Project, which was implemented through the Public Interest Coalition, helps educate students about the realities of women in abusive relationships, and gives students first-hand experience in assisting battered women through the family court system.

The Domestic Violence Project currently consists of two programs, the Court Accompaniment program and the Court Room Advocates. Both programs serve the purpose of providing victims with information necessary to obtain temporary and/or final orders of protection in order to secure for themselves a safe environment free from abuse.

The programs differ in the format through which students provide such information to the women they assist. A comprehensive training is provided at various points in the year to thoroughly prepare students who wish to participate in the Project.

The Domestic Violence Project is an excellent way to learn about one aspect of family law. It is also an excellent opportunity to help a woman who is trying to end the pattern of abuse in her life.

The Court Accompaniment program works in conjunction with Victim Services of the Westside Office Legal Project who provide the clients in need of court accompaniment. Section 838 of the Family Court Act allows for the presence of a “friend, relative, counselor or social worker” who is permitted to stand by and support the victim during the proceedings without addressing the judge directly. Through this provision, students are able to observe the proceedings and assure that the client’s needs are being met. Prior to the actual court date, student volunteers help the client prepare her case in order to present it to the judge in a clear and concise manner which may satisfy the requirements for obtaining an order of protection.

The Court Room Advocates assist battered women by speaking with them after their hearing, upon their receipt of an order of protection. They inform the woman of the next steps she must take, and then advise her about “safety planning” and the court proceedings to follow. The Advocate then returns to the court room to assist the next petitioner who Judge Richard Ross of the Manhattan Family Court deems is in need of assistance. Judge Ross currently presides over all Manhattan domestic violence cases, about 15 per day. This program requires a 3 hour commitment on any Monday, Wednesday or Friday throughout the semester and will be expanded to include the other boroughs.

The Domestic Violence Project is an excellent way to learn about one aspect of family law. It is also an excellent opportunity to help a woman who is trying to end the pattern of abuse in her life.

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My orientation towards the world really is very much a glass half full. In that sense, if you have that view, you handle lots of things in the world differently. You tend not to be as cynical...believe that basically people are good and decent...and will try hard and work hard. And I do that in my classes. I have an expectation that I come ready, willing, and able to work very hard, and teach everyone really well, and I believe they come to the table the same way. So I don’t talk a lot about being prepared every day. I expect you to work hard. I assume you will.

People have made a big commitment to coming to law school, theoretically.

Right. On lots of levels. But one’s world view does effect how you view that law. When you’re in law school, you tend to study a subject. You learn all there is to know well not at all...but much of what there is to know about a given subject. But you commonly don’t learn it in the context of sort of the bigger view, one’s world view. There’s a big difference between the way the law is and the way the law could be. It seems to me that one of our jobs, at least mine as an academic, is not only to describe the law to think about where it should go or could go.

Someone mentioned to me that the law is a very pliable thing. Very much willing and needed to be molded by the people as they need to use it.

But who’s doing the molding affects what kind of direction the law goes. So from my perspective, if you come at bankruptcy from a positive view, you’re impression of bankruptcy...the way you’ll change bankruptcy would be very different than someone who had a very different view of the world and of people.

You’ve been at New York Law School for how long?

Since 1984...it’s a long time.

It is, but what’s nice about it is that you probably have a good view of the student population that’s been through these doors in the past 13 years.

A lot of students have graduated. Absolutely. It’s nice to see them now, the ones who I started with. They’re practicing lawyers, and many of them are partners in major firms. They’re well regarded lawyers, they’re very competent practitioners, they’re very thoughtful people. It’s very nice actually, to look at them grown up, so to speak...and it’s...I have a child, myself, and at a certain point, you can give someone tools, but they have to grow up on their own. You give them wings, but they’ve got to be able to fly. And I think one of the great rewards is to see people, years later, successful, happy, comfortable with themselves. Good people. Decent people.

Have the perceptions and the expectations of the students who’ve come to NYLS changed, or has it been a pretty steady expectations about what they’re going to get out of law school?

I think there have been some changes that have affected the student body. I think the job market has gotten harder, although I think it’s getting a little easier than it was two or three or four years ago. And I think in a tough job market it alters the dynamic of law school, because I think people become less concerned about learning and, perhaps rightly so, more concerned about being employed. So it changes one’s focus a little bit. And I think that affects the classroom. I think the classes have also changed because I think there are more women and minorities than there used to be and I think the employment world has become...not completely, not by any stretch...more open to women and minorities than it had been. So I think that’s another difference in the classroom. I’ve also changed. In truth, I’m not the same teacher that I was thirteen years ago and I think that affects classes too, the dynamic changes the older I get...

...the younger they get...

And that’s right. But I care about teaching. That’s a very big part of what I do and who I am. And I care about the quality of what goes on in the classroom. And I’d like to think that one of the changes in the classroom has been a product of my learning how to teach better in addition to experimenting with different techniques. I’ve taught over a thousand people contract law. If I still did the same thing I did on Day One not only would I be stale, but there would be something fundamentally wrong. I should be inventing and thinking about better ways to teach, to enable the students to show me where over the years they’re not learning as well...or what helps them learn better. So what I do in the classroom has changed...dramatically. I would say that I cover much less material. I used to cover a ton of material. Now I would say I cover a good amount, but more thoroughly, with a sort of deeper appreciation, I hope, for all the levels of legal thinking.

So where do you see the trend as going to?

You mean in terms of my classes?

It’s very expensive for people to spend so much money to go to law school and be worried about if they’ll be well employed at the end of the day. It’s a very expensive proposition. If one were comfortable that one would be employed...then I think it would open the opportunity for one to learn for learning sake. Not just to get out. And if you learn for learning sake, lots of creative and interesting and dynamic stuff can happen. I also believe, contrary to many people, that learning is actually taught. Many people approach law school saying it’s their “job” now...but it’s also fun...and it can be fun. As competitive and as difficult as it is, there’s a tremendous energy and joy that can come from this learning process if one isn’t scared.

I don’t know if I was just coming out of college if I would be more scared.

Well some people who have been out for a while are scared because they haven’t been in school for a while. Other people are scared for different reasons. And they’re understandably scared. But it’s awfully hard to learn when you’re scared. The best learning comes when you’re comfortable and when you’re open to learning. If you’re scared, your brain freezes, and you’re worried about a gazillion things other than learning something new. So, if I make students less scared, that would be helpful too.

Maybe if they weren’t so worried about grades or competing with each other...

Isn’t that part of law school, though, really? The competitive nature of it?

Well, I think that people come in with the image, the sort of the Pappy Chase mentality. You know, "answer a question wrong and I’ll give you quarter so you can call your mother or your father or your significant other"...or something. I don’t think that’s the way it has to be at all. In fact, one learns about the law as if it’s an adversarial process, because you read cases that grow out of litigation. But in truth, lots of law is not litigated. Lots of law is negotiated. Lots of compromise. Lots of law is achieved through
Who's Who at NYLS?

Bob Ward, the Main Man in Audio Visual

When I first met Bob Ward, six months ago, he offered to buy me lunch if I could go one week without smoking cigarettes. Well, that week turned into six months and a lot of lunches. Whenever I was low on money, I would remind Bob just how long I had gone without a smoke, and he would inevitably feed me. Bob helped add a few years and a few pounds to my life, and I'm grateful.

I recently sat down with Bob, over coffee, not food, and we discussed his experiences here at New York Law School.

Q You've been here six years, so, what has it been like really?
A There are basically three groups of people here. There's the staff, the faculty and the students. Most people are absorbed in only one of those groups. What's fun for me is that I interface with all three of them. I have students that work for me, and they're great. And I also have special projects that I do. Most people who do AV are only going to fix microphones, but I like the people here and I like making a unique contribution every year.

Q Many people may not know that for the past three years you have produced Mock Trials of John Wilkes Booth, Aaron Burr and Dorothy Gale.

A It started off four years ago when the president of the SBA at the time, Dominic Esposito, Moot Court Chairperson Gardenia Cucci and the public affairs person, Larry Starkey (who had written a book about John Wilkes Booth) and I thought it would be fun to do a mock trial because students don't get to see a trial from start to finish here at the school. We started with Booth because we wanted to do a historical trial that had never been done before. Booth was shot and killed, and never tried. That would have been the trial of the 19th century. It occurred to me after the second one, Aaron Burr, that not everyone is interested in history, so last year we did something a little different. We did the trial of Dorothy Gale in Oz and filled the reading room.

Q Who participates in these Mock Trials?
A Primarily students. I get legal advice from faculty and alumni. We've had Professors Richard Bernstein and Gerald Lebovits act as judges. Last year,

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his early movies and writings for television. Can you talk about those movies and what was he like to work with?

F: After William Morris, I was hired by General Artist Corporation, Woody Allen's agents, which is now known as International Creative Management. Woody Allen was represented by a law firm who knew very little about motion pictures. At that point I had already been with RKO, Disney, and Columbia. So I went along to try to help them through this thing. We negotiated a three picture deal with United Artists: Take the Money and Run, Play It Again, Sam, and Bananas. Woody told me he was happy with what I did. Woody already knew me somewhat. When I had been at William Morris I had handled writers and Woody, who was then a Morris client, had written for the Gary Moore Show. When Woody had this dispute with Gary Moore, he wanted to resign, it went to the Writers Guild of America Tribunal, and I was there speaking on behalf of Woody. So he knew of me. Not that I became his friend. I wish I had. He was erratic but he was a genius. He could visualize everything that took place in his movies. I had never seen a man with the mental agility he had. Off-camera he was very quiet. We had a common advantage. He was a clarinet player. I had been a bass fiddle player. We used to discuss music.

R: Why is Woody so much more popular in Europe than the U.S.?

F: I think Europe appreciates his humor more than we do. Using a Greek Chorus in one of his movies is a stroke of genius. Zelig, is the forerunner of Forest Gump. Woody's the guy who started it all...he wasn't given credit for starting that kind of superimposition.

I had met Jackie Mason in the Catskills. I used to sit in with the bands there, take my wife up there. I met him in one of the hotels. We became somewhat friendly. He was looking for an agent.

R: Why is it that movies are being made less and less in Hollywood and more and more in places like North Carolina, Texas, Florida?

F: These states are Right-to-Work states, and you don't have to be a union member to work there. Production companies are sick and tired of Beverly Hills, sick and tired of the same chase scenes in the same area with the same Palm trees. They want a change of locale. These states offer certain facilities, below the line facilities, locations, for very little, if no money at all. So, you can do your running on a body of water, on Rickenbacker Highway going across Biscayne Bay. A lot of pictures being made down in Florida can be made a lot cheaper. They can go to North Carolina with the lovely mountains and forests. They go to Texas because the Texas facilities are superb. One of my clients down there has equipment which is totally state of the art. They rent their studios for low budget pictures.

R: Would it be good advice for someone who wants to practice entertainment law to go to a small market city outside of New York or Hollywood?

F: In my judgment, yes. Former students of mine are working in places like Miami and Denver. I try to tell students in Entertainment Law how to go about getting a job in media, and it's been fairly successful so far.

R: Considering your Jewish background, you have a remarkable relationship as a lawyer with Protestant media organizations.

F: Yes. I have a very unique relationship with the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. I represented the Lutheran Church with contracts they needed for production. I represent the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission and the Acts Network in Fort Worth, Texas. I represent Right Turn Radio which is in Dallas, Texas. One of the reasons they hired me, they tell me, is that "you are a Jewish kid who went to a Catholic college, St. Johns, and are representing Protestant Churches." My relationship with the Southern Baptists has been a very pleasant one over the past 10 years. I believe the advice I have given them may have avoided difficulties they might have had with respect to production, distribution, and broadcast.

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consensus. So I would like to think that you can make teaching closer to the reality of what law really is. Sometimes it’s adversarial. And there’s a lot you can learn from the adversary process. But some of it is constructive, and some of it is cooperative learning... or cooperative relationships between people. So one might as well start early on. Whether it’s one’s family or one’s work environment or one’s friendships or one’s professional relationships, they’re all ultimately based on getting along and working well together. And, it’s my belief that you’ll all be seeing each other in your professional careers, so you might as well start now to sort of build those relationships, so that when you are on the opposite sides of the table, you can deal with each other well, fairly and decently. Be very good advocates for your client, but be decent people at the same time.

B Tell me about your son.
K Well, my husband and I have a kid, who’s a freshman in high school this year, who is a competitive ski racer.
B Downhill?... K Downhill ski racer. Giant slalom, slalom and super-G are his main events. He races for Stratton Mountain in Vermont. And he’s raced all over Vermont and skied in the Vermont State championship.
B Is he ranked?
K He’s the 20th ranked skier in Vermont in his age group.
B How old?
K 14. He’s a wonderful skier. He was invited to the junior Olympic trials. He’s a very competitive and very good skier.
B That beats me. Personally I never really could understand skiing.
K Well, I’ll tell you. I could not do it. I happen to ski myself, but there is no way you could get me in a starting gate and have someone call out my name and expect me to go down a hill in front of a crowd of people. It’s just not going to happen. I’d still be there. I think maybe you learn a lot of good ‘life lessons’ doing it. It seems to me, if you can get out of that gate and get to the end of the course, it takes a fair amount of self confidence, self-esteem and the ability to take risks. That’s pretty incredible. If you can transfer that skill to life generally then you’re pretty well set. You also fail a lot in skiing; you fall a lot. Everybody does, even the best skiers. You watch any major ski race, the best skiers take a tumble. So it forces you to deal with failure, to get up to go again.
B How did he get interested in skiing?
K I grew up in a skiing family. My father is Swiss. To be fair, one might say he had skiing in his blood. He learned with my sister, actually. Who used to teach skiing, and used to be a ski patrolman in her ‘other life’ before she grew up. He’s been on skis since he was 5 years old.

B So he does have it in his blood...
K He’s been headed downhill fast for a long time.
B ...but in a good way.
K (laughs) I hope so...
B I think the closest I’ve ever come to going to a race is watching people on TV, and they always seem so relaxed. They’re all from California and Colorado and they’re all so relaxed and so, “yeah, you know, I was just going down the hill at 80 miles an hour, no problem.” But at heart there must be that real fire...
K They also train hard. I mean, he trains a lot. We spend most of our winter weekends and vacations in Vermont. When he isn’t racing, he’s training every day. And he skis in the summer in France and Mount Hood in Oregon. My husband and I are here working, and he’s off gallivanting in the Alps and skiing off in Mount Hood. And it’s one of those “what’s wrong with this picture?” situations
B But I’m sure that gallivanting is just a summation... he must be working hard.
K He is, so to speak, but he’s working, training and he’s having a wonderful time. It’s one of those things... there are some things that you only can do when you’re young. You don’t want to wake up when you’re 45 and say, “why didn’t I do X?” You can’t wake up when you’re 45 and decide that it really would have been good to be a ski racer.
B As people move through New York Law School you see them as 1Ls, you see them as 2Ls, you see them as 3Ls... can you see their minds grow?
K Absolutely. The example I use with my first year students is this: If you went to the gym... I mean I spend a lot of time dealing with athletics. In my law practice I represented athletes. I have a kid who’s a competitive athlete... so I think a lot about training. With physical training you have a trainer who tells you what to do... works with you... but can’t do it for you. You have to do it yourself. And training is not easy. Not every day is a good day. Some days are pathetically bad. And progress isn’t linear... some days you feel like you’re making progress and you get something you never got before, and some days you feel miserable and don’t want to be there. Law school education, teaching wise, is very much like that. Except that instead of training, evolving one’s body, it’s evolving one’s mind. It’s very similar, which accounts for why it’s such hard work. But I can’t do it for someone. I can help you do it, I can give you the skills to do it, I can watch what you’re doing wrong, I can note what you’re doing right, but you’ve got to exercise it yourself. I would say what is stunning to me, is that by the end of first semester, beginning of second semester of the first year, most people are getting it, ‘working it’ just the way one would with a trainer.
**THE DYNAMICS OF LAW SCHOOL:**

_Secrets Revealed_

Excerpts from '61 ways to simplify and enjoy law school: Savor the art of making 1L a Grand experience' copyright 1996

by Marion TD Lewis

"It is far better to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checked by failure, than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much, because they live in the gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat."

-Theodore Roosevelt.

Welcome to New York Law School. You’re undoubtedly psyched to be here, if not scared and a bit anxious. That’s normal. There’s probably not one of us who wasn’t a bit shaky the first few weeks of our journey. The good news is that this feeling, too, shall pass. The bad news is that it may take a few weeks.

While you’re busy being scared and anxious, I want to remind you of something well worth keeping in mind. While your primary goal is to get the first year degree, don’t let that be your only focus. You need to be savored and relished, because it truly is a once in a lifetime experience.

Some might argue that the word “enjoy”, and the term “first year law school”, are “oxymoronically” related. But I would have to disagree. I think the first year of law school should not simply be “gotten through.” Instead, it should be savored and relished, because it truly is a once in a lifetime experience.

I think the first year of law school should not simply be “gotten through.” Instead, it should be savored and relished, because it truly is a once in a lifetime experience.

A doesn’t only mean spitting it all back on your exam booklet, in all three languages. (That’s a tough pill to swallow but it’s true).

The trick is, you have to understand what it is your professor - and each professor has a completely different dynamic - is looking for. Get a feel for what it is your professor wants, and give it to him or her. (By the way, don’t neglect to get an exam packet when they come out later in the semester. You want to practice taking your professors old exams as I’ve heard its the way to ace the class). While we’re on the subject, form study groups as soon as possible, and meet regularly to brainstorm and compare notes.

Be organized. Organization can make the difference between a nightmarish first year and an enjoyable one. You’ll have a lot to do and if you’re not careful, you could miss important deadlines - like your Torts midterm. Can you imagine the horror? So get a weekly planner/schedule and write down everything you have to do from watering your plants in the mornings, to reading pp. 1-254 for Wednesday’s lawyering class.

You also can’t go wrong with investing in a laptop if you don’t already have a computer. Of course, I realize that computers aren’t cheap, but... you’re not a masochist, are you? Being without a computer in law school is kind of equivalent to going for a jog in high heels. It’s just not done.

By the time you read this, you’ve probably already had your first day of classes and you’ve come to realize that law school is different from college. Professors actually expect you to be prepared for class every single day. They use what is called the Socratic Method. That means simply this: the professor will stand in front of the class like an over-read, unforgiving, drill sergeant and call on some unlucky, terrified person to give the facts of the case, then he or she will proceed to grill the poor sod till the poor sod begs for mercy.

Take my advice: if its you who gets called on to recite Civil Procedure’s Petitoaer v Neff, plead the fifth and run for the hills. (Only kidding!) Seriously, though, if you haven’t bothered to read for class, don’t even dream that you can wing it. Because you can’t. And once your professor smells blood, you’re mine meat. So be prepared before going to class or else see the professor before class and explain your predicament. What you must not do is sit there and think that if you...
SCHOOL, Continued from page 12

say ten Hail Mary's, (or your favorite Buddhist chant, or whatever it is that you say, if anything), that the professor won't call on you... Ever heard of Murphy's Law?

One good word about professors here at New York Law school is, most of them want to see you succeed. It might be worth your while to get to know at least one professor on a one-on-one basis. Try to take advantage of your professor's office hours if you can. Amazingly, once you get to know them up close, professors are not as intimidating as you may think. And who knows? They might be willing to write you a much needed letter of recommendation for your dream JOB in the future, or simply act as a much needed mentor.

If by some fluke you have a professor who just doesn't seem to like your face no matter what you do, don't despair. Keep a low profile, continue to be respectful, and remember that after the first year, you don't have to take any professor you don't want to. Besides, learning to deal professionally with such a professor is excellent practice for dealing with judges - something you may have to do in the future.

Some judges can be openly hostile. (I say that respectfully, of course.) It is always fascinating to see how big, hot shot attorneys can be reduced to ZERO by the bark of an irate judge. But, no matter how piercing the bark or how penetrating the bite, as attorneys we'll have to be deferential or the judge can simply throw us out of the courtroom; or worse, find us in contempt. That would hardly serve our client's interests, would it?

So if you have a professor who tries to give you a hard time even though you're trying your darnedest to be reasonable, continue to be polite to the extent you can. You never know, your politeness could shame the professor into treating you with a bit more kindness. If not, keep in mind that everyone won't like you all of the time. Learn to accept that.

You'll be doing yourself a great disservice if you do not take Legal Writing and Research seriously. These classes are bound to be an exercise in frustration for many of you, but keep everything in perspective. Legal writing and research are extremely important skills, arguably the most important that you'll learn in the law school setting. You'll see what I mean when you get your first legal job in the summer, hopefully.

Here at New York Law School, some suggest that the grading in Legal Writing and Research, which is not anonymous, is too subjective. (Structural changes may have been implemented since last semester.) Whether or not that's true, however, is debatable, but I would strongly recommend learning as much as you can for yourself, no matter what grades you get. Grades are not as important as what you know, and ultimately, who you know. Furthermore, you're grades are not necessarily indicative of how good or bad a lawyer you will be.

Moreover, you might want to keep in mind that you're graded against others in your class. That means that though your writing may be good, someone else's could be phenomenal and that, unfortunately, affects your grade. Still, once you get out in the real world it is conceivable that your boss will be quite impressed with your writing abilities, given that he or she probably will not be comparing you to twenty other people. Therefore, know your stuff! Really concentrate on learning these important skills. If you get a good grade, fantastic. If not, don't worry too much about it.

Additionally, keep your chin up at all times. It's inevitable that you'll feel stressed. But even though you may feel on some level, "I hate law school," resist the urge to drop out, or to give up striving to be the best you can be. Try to stay focused on why you're here, and smile even when you don't feel like it. But don't underestimate the potency of a good laugh, a good cry, or a good friend when the going gets unbearable. These are three of the best ways to release negative energy.

Learning to relax under pressure is crucial to the enjoyment of the process as well. (I'm still trying to master the art of relaxation myself, but at least I know what I need to work on.) Talking to upper class people who've been through the experience might help, because they've been where you are now. They can advise you on how to avoid some of the pitfalls. Trust me, hindsight is always twenty-twenty. By the second year, almost everybody is an expert on the first year. We all look back and think: "Gosh, if only..." This article is a classic case in point. It comes from a woman who plunged headlong into every imaginable 1L pit.

Developing good communication skills with family members, spouse, significant other, roommates and anyone who could affect your ability to concentrate and study can only increase your chances of having an enjoyable first year. You surely don't need the distraction of a bad relationship while trying to get through this important milestone. And, be nice to people around you, like fellow students, professors, other members of the law school community, neighbors, or members of your community, such as church members, deli or supermarket personnel, the cashier at the Laundromat, etcetera. Not only will this enrich your life by qualifying you as a "nice" human being, but one of these people could end up being an important connection you'll need sometime down the road when you're looking for a JOB. You never know.

Your enjoyment of the process could literally turn on maintaining good physical health. You have to be physically strong. Exercise is para-
BREATHFAST, Continued from page 6

has had no uniform guidelines for screening and training case workers. One example of Scoppetta’s reforms in the reorganized ACS is the training of case workers. Previously, case workers had to attend only one month of training. Scoppetta has established a much tougher ten-month course of training, including exposure to field work. Further, in the past, case workers were required to take an exam before they were certified — but they were not required to pass it. Scoppetta has thrown out that system, requiring that all case workers take and pass their qualifying exam.

Beyond reforming the bureaucracy of his agency, Scoppetta is also concerned with reforming rhetorical and social misconceptions about his agency’s workload and mission.

For Mr. Scoppetta, foster care is central. When faced with the dilemma of preserving the family as opposed to providing a foster family, Mr. Scoppetta quickly puts the issue to rest. The standard: “Whatever is best for the kid.” Scoppetta has clear ideas about what that standard means, and about how its achievement must take account of the issues surrounding foster care.

He is developing a program under which children placed in foster homes are put in the care of families near enough to sleep, food, clothing, shelter, medical attention, and placement services. CONNECTIONS also will help ACS and its private partners work to improve training of case workers and share ACS’s substantial workload.

Beyond reforming the bureaucracy of his agency,
Scoppetta is also concerned with reforming rhetorical and social misconceptions about his agency’s workload and mission.

An affiliate of the Archdiocese of New York, Pius XII is vying for private donations and government matching funds. Also attending the NYLS breakfast was Al Salanitro, the administrator of Pius XII. His son is a student here at NYLS. Salanitro expressed his deep enthusiasm for CONNECTIONS. As both he and Scoppetta noted, it is a major step forward in the logistical organization of a child-care system that must tend to 100,000 children. Not only does CONNECTIONS alert case workers where children are housed, it helps to locate organizations, such as Pius XII, that have either bed space or specific expertise in the treating of specific children’s problems. In short, CONNECTIONS makes it possible to match a child to an organization which can then get them help from those with the necessary concern and skills. Salanitro’s only concern was the cost of training his staff in the use of the CONNECTIONS software.

In fact, it was the appropriations of funds (or “rates”) that Scalanitro was hoping to hear more about. The money ACS gets from state and federal sources goes to its own administration; the balance goes to the private organizations that ACS relies on for assistance. These organizations are of various sizes and located in various places with various areas of operation. They are also at various levels of accreditation and popularity among those who are forming parameters for how rates will be disbursed. In short, ACS has a fairly fixed scheme of guidelines within which an agency like Pius XII must fit into before it is allocated any funds.

The allocation of funds according to such fixed standards is yet another policy that Scoppetta has inherited from the CWA, the predecessor of ACS, and yet another area that he is working to reform. And although these and other reforms he has had to make were neither easy nor obvious, they were at least under his direct control.

By contrast, Scoppetta’s biggest challenge cannot be reformed — it must be litigated, in the Federal Court of Southern District of New York. When Scoppetta was named as head of the Agency for Children’s Service, he became a named defendant in Marisol v. Giuliani.

Marisol is a class-action suit brought by a group of attorneys on behalf of eleven children who were neglected while in the care of CWA. Though the case is understandably complicated, two things about it are clear.

First, Marisol has forced the city government to confront directly the problems facing the city’s foster children. This point is best articulated by U.S. District Judge Robert Ward in his opinion rejecting the defendants’ motion for a dismissal of key elements of the suit: “The factual allegations of the complaint portray a child welfare program in crisis and collectively suggest systematic deficiencies of gross proportions. The eleven children who seek to represent the supposed class have endured a wide range of abuses and all reflect the dire situation facing children in the system.”

Second, as a named defendant, ACS is responsible for the class-action plaintiffs’ attorneys’ fees. Scoppetta would like to expedite the case by introducing his voluminous reform plans as evidence that the agency is changing. As he reported, the plaintiffs’ attorneys would welcome the evidence but not before the appropriate time to introduce it in the suit. Meanwhile, of course, ACS is paying the plaintiffs’ attorney's fees until that time arrives. In the final analysis, Scoppetta noted, there is work to be done. The noblest intentions cannot budge this weight. What is called for is diligence, cunning, and care. In Nicholas Scoppetta, New York City has gained a qualified administrator and attorney. But Scoppetta brings one qualification to this mission that cannot be learned and can never be taken away from him. As he observed, “I’m not who I am despite my background, but because of it.” Scoppetta was raised in a foster family himself.

Upcoming City Law Breakfasts are:

- Daniel Greenberg, Executive Director and Attorney-in-Chief, The Legal Aid Society, Friday, October 24. Topic: “Creating a Full Service Law Firm for Poor People in New York City.”

All City Law Breakfasts begin at 8:15 a.m. and take place in the Faculty Dining Room on the 5th floor of the “C” building. Admissions are free, though reservations are recommended. For reservations and information, contact the Center for New York City Law, contact the Center for New York City Law at (212)431-2115, fax (212)431-3295, e-mail nycitylaw@nyls.edu.
GERRY ADAMS AND THE PEACE PROCESS OF THE NORTH OF IRELAND

by Jessica O’Kane

On September 4, 1997, I had the opportunity to meet and listen to a leader who is striving for peace, justice and equality in the North of Ireland. These essentials to a democracy are things which many Americans take for granted. The leader is Gerry Adams, President of Sinn Fein. I attended the Friends of Sinn Fein fund raiser at the Waldorf Astoria. A large banner over the podium read “A Great Change Is at Hand - Peace, Justice and a United Ireland.” I was also fortunate to meet with Sinn Fein’s chief negotiator, Martin McGuinness. It seemed as if finally, with Sinn Fein admitted to the peace talks, which began September 15, 1997, that a solution acceptable to all parties would come about.

It was inspirational to see a politician working hard towards democracy and self determination in a country where a large number of people have been denied this. Sinn Fein represents roughly 40 percent of the North of Ireland’s Roman Catholic minority and about 17% of the vote. Prior to the talks beginning on September 15, 1997, Sinn Fein signed the Mitchell Principles, which committed them to exclusively peaceful methods in its effort to reach an agreement on the political future of the North of Ireland. This commitment was welcomed by the Irish and British governments. While four other parties welcomed Sinn Fein to the talks, the five Protestant-dominated parties were in opposition to Sinn Fein taking part in the talks were not in attendance. The talks are aimed at ending the sectarian violence that has killed 3,225 people since 1969.

The main issues in the talks are the disarmament of the Protestant and Catholic paramilitary groups and Sinn Fein’s (Gaelic for Ourselves Alone) goal of a united Ireland free from British control. However, Protestant leaders, are opposed to this goal of a United Ireland, and it will take much compromise to come to a peaceful solution. Currently, the peace process is floundering due to key members refusing to sit at the peace talks table. This demonstrates that the Unionists are not willing to talk to reach a peaceful resolution to the ongoing conflict. Instead, they want to uphold the discriminatory system that has enabled them to thrive, while their fellow countrymen are discriminated against.

If you are an American and believe in democracy then you share in the responsibility to put pressure on the American government to lend their uncompromising support in the peace talks regarding the North of Ireland. It seems remarkable that if steps toward peace could happen in Israel and South Africa, then why not in Ireland. It was deliberate that Gerry Adams chose the United States as a forum to ask for support in his party’s goal for a peaceful resolution to the ongoing conflict. America represents the last bastion of hope of what a democracy stands for, at least in theory. What is occurring in the North of Ireland is another civil rights movement. There is a discriminatory system in the North of Ireland which denies people equality in employment, education, and housing. They have no system in place to redress wrongs. This is the first time that representatives from the Republican and Nationalist communities have sat down with British officials since 1922, when their country was partitioned.

This is it, if a solution does not stem from these talks then another generation of children will grow up to seek out an alternative way to achieve justice. They will see once again if the talks fail that they have no other way to redress their government for the injustices they suffer day in and day out. Many people have been murdered during this struggle, the time is now to end it. I encourage everyone to write their congressperson and President and demand that they support the process. The Irish Law Students Association will be monitoring the situation and supporting a peaceful resolution to the conflict. If you want to lend support either contact your congressperson, the President and/or come to an Irish law meeting to ensure that history will not repeat itself.
Three years ago, I walked into this school and had a revelation. "I'm not half as smart as I think I am."

To understand the difficulty, importance, and astounding act of self-immolation that statement required, picture this—I was 37, father of one, somewhat successful financially (very somewhat) and at the top of my game in a what is a very limited and small niche of the New York corporate market. I thought that I could conquer the hill that is law school. I wasn't wrong. But I wasn't right, either.

Today, three years later, I stand before you, weathered and wizened, stuck deep in the middle of a life that is not quite what I thought it would be. I am deep in the middle of a lot of things—I'm 40, making me middle age; I'm in the middle of the class rankings; I am somewhere in the middle, or maybe a little better than middle, of the American socio-economic grouping: the irony being that we don't really feel like we live well at all, I have three children now, which, from what I understand, puts me and my wife Deborah deep in the middle of the latest government stats—among those of us having children, the average number is now up closer to three.

I thought that I could conquer the hill that is law school. I wasn't wrong. But I wasn't right, either.

Somehow, for reasons which are probably no better or no worse than the reasons that anyone goes back to school once past the first bloom of youth, I decided to go back to school. You have to understand that I didn't realize that going back was fraught with danger for me. I didn't think that my ego would take some of the shellacking that it has.

This is not because the people of NYLS have been bad for me or to me. Just the contrary. This has been the best school experience of my life. I have never felt as comfortable at school as I do here. My fellow students have been terrific and, for the most part, my professors have been either good teachers, or warm, understanding human beings who took into account the complexities of my life. Most have been both. Some haven't.

What was difficult (but is not anymore) is...
LEGAL MODE OF THOUGHT

by Martin Asatrian

What does it mean to think like a lawyer? Some law students refer to this concept as a systematic mode of "brainwashing". I do not subscribe to that point of view, rather thinking like a lawyer is better understood in terms derived from analytical and descriptive philosophy, which basically sets forth the premise that thinking occurs in layers.

The first layer of thought requires lawyers to organize the given facts in a chronological fashion. Here, the lawyer is given a plethora of facts and events occurring at different times and places. After filtering out the irrelevant facts, the lawyer retraces the pertinent facts and events to its origin. After ordering the relevant facts, the lawyer is equipped to operate within a visual framework referred to as a time line.

What does it mean to think like a lawyer? Some law students refer to this concept as a systematic mode of "brainwashing."

After developing a cognitive map, the lawyer mentally dissects the facts into detailed particulars. The mental division enables the lawyer to attach the facts to the applicable legal principles. This step is an important distinction distinguishing a lawyer from a philosopher, because without the vital application of concrete facts to legal doctrine, the lawyer is reduced to an abstract theorist.

However, the lawyer’s mental gymnastics do not end with the mechanical application of the laws to the facts. The lawyer then has to enframe the fragments of legal analysis in a pictorial. The lawyer’s canvas is represented in the form of mental images, and she colors the canvas with the selection of words. Those words which that originate in the mind are silent, unless the words are externalized to the world in the form of a voice. Hence, the importance of a lawyer’s voice ought not to be understated, because it is solely the voice that unveils the narrative to the audience.

Therefore, the fallacy that law student’s are indoctrinated by professors to think like lawyers is somewhat simplistic. Lawyers do not think in a different way than, say, plumbers, rather lawyers mentally divide thought into particulars and rearrange the fragments of thought in a coherent manner. Therefore, the legal mode of thought is truly the striking of a balance between analytical and descriptive thinking, for effective communication to an audience, which is really the ultimate endgame.

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor,

Constitutional Crisis at NYLS

Welcome back! I hope you have all settled into a nice workable schedule for this semester. Elections have taken place and the SBA has its work cut out. It is the goal of the SBA this year to work with the Administration to achieve a truly functional SBA.

Last years SBA Executive Board took the initiative and rewrote our SBA Constitution. The Constitution was put to a vote before the entire student body in the fall of ‘96 and it was ratified. Despite this, the Administration does not recognize the new Constitution as legitimate. The Administration asserts that the adoption of the new Constitution did not follow the guidelines set out in the old Constitution for amending or rewriting. Additionally, the Administration claims they were never consulted regarding the new Constitution, and therefore they did not have any input into the construction of the new Constitution.

The lack of professional respect toward the students is insulting and damaging to NYLS

However, this is a Student Bar Association Constitution and the new Constitution was ratified by the student body. There were attempts by last years SBA Executive Board to work with the Administration, but to no avail. The real issue is money, not what the Constitution does or does not say. Let me explain.

The new Constitution does not usurp any power from the Administration that rightfully belongs to them. What it does is give control of the SBA budget to the SBA. According to the new Constitution, the SBA senators and budget committee decide how to spend the money that appears each semester on our tuition bill as “SBA Fees.” Does this seem so unreasonable?

The Administration argues that the money is not SBA money. The Administration says it belongs to the school and while they take SBA budget recommendations very seriously, they have the final say as to how the money is allocated. Additionally, the Administration argues that they need to insulate themselves from liability since the money is in their accounts and most activities take place on campus. Let me make a few suggestions.

One, SBA funds should be in a separate account with two SBA signatures required on every check. Two, the SBA should incorporate to insulate the school from liability. Does not the school have more liability when they control the funding of events?

One last issue concerning the SBA and the Administration. The lack of professional respect toward the students is insulting and damaging to NYLS. The lack of control that the SBA has over its money and affairs translates into a lack of involvement in SBA activities or enthusiasm for the school. Being a commuter school, it is difficult to create a feeling of mutuality in issues concerning students. However, if the students were treated as professional equals and given control of their own affairs, interest would be peaked. There are so many different ways the student body can positively affect the reputation of NYLS. The possibilities are endless, but without the power to act as one organization it is not possible to be effective. Wouldn’t it be nice to have a Student Bar Association that does more than just request money from Sally Harding for pizza?

Sincerely,
Gary D. O’Brien

October 1997
ON YOUR MIND

by Seth Lehman

Law is not the only thing on the minds of NYLS students. This column is devoted to finding out the opinions and feelings of our diverse student body. My comments are in (). If you would like to submit questions, comments or hate mail, leave a note or e-mail me at Cynic007@aol.com.

Bryan Schwartz
Age: 24
Year: 2L
From: Montreal, Canada
Marital Status: Single, but looking
Boxers or briefs? CK Boxer/briefs

Michelle Carniciano
Age: 24
Year: 2L
From: Staten Island
Marital Status: Single
Boxers or briefs? Boxers

Marie-France Gelot
Age: 22
Year: 1L
From: Paris, France
Marital Status: Single
Boxers or briefs? Boxers

Jennifer Long
Age: 31
Year: 2L
From: All over
Marital Status: In flux
Boxers or briefs? Briefs

If you were Chelsea Clinton, what kind of plastic surgery would you get?
Bryan: Make her look exactly like Alicia Silverstone. (break out the knife!)
Michelle: A nose job and then an entire face lift. (too kind)
Marie-France: Facial Surgery! (that will help)
Jennifer: Chin enhancement. (way too kind)

What is the most embarrassing thing that ever happened to you?
Bryan: When a chair got pulled out from under me and I landed on my ass.
Michelle: I missed a chair and fell in front of a judge, a jury, and some lawyers.
Marie-France: Too personal...
Jennifer: In high school, I was thrown into the football team locker room after a game.

What about your classmates annoys you the most?
Bryan: When they interview me. (cheap shot)
Michelle: When they ask stupid irrelevant questions in class when the answer was just given.
Marie-France: Cliques have been formed right from the first day. (Get to know everyone!)

Jennifer: Historical comments. (You know who you are.)

What's the closest you've ever felt to death?
Bryan: I slipped off a chairlift and my father caught me by the thumb over a picket fence.
Michelle: When I kicked a hole through the wall and my father got really mad.
Marie-France: I've never had a near death experience. (Try first year finals, ha ha).
Jennifer: I fell out of a moving car and I was in a plane which caught on fire (ouch).

Finish this sentence: No one would ever guess that I'm...
Bryan: ...a shy and sensitive guy. (hear that ladies?)
Michelle: ...really family oriented.
Marie-France: ...funny.
Jennifer: ...related to my sister. (she's six feet tall and just 15 years old)

If you were homeless, where, and in what would you live?
Bryan: I'd live on the French Riviera somewhere in a box on the beach. (kinky)
Michelle: Somewhere warm in California in a cardboard refrigerator box. (sounds roomy)
Marie-France: In India along the Ganges River in the shelters where nuns would be there to take care of me. I would not want to live in an industrialized country. (who needs clean water?)
Jennifer: In Florida, in a self made shelter in an orange grove.

Not Fa Nuthin' But...

by Michele Sileo

I would first like to welcome all the first years, and welcome back all the fans of whining from last year.

Why can't we have add/drop the week before school starts? See, this way instead of wandering around school and not knowing what class you're in, not being able to buy books and not being able to do any assignments, you can be ready and prepared for all your classes the very first day. Having add/drop the very first week of school only adds to the headache, frustration, and agony that already exists on the first week of school.

Stay tuned kids, more frustrations to come...

October 1997
Sports Commentary: Quiet, Please

by Ross Moskowitz

I am a passionate sports fan. Mind you, not the one who disrobes in sub-zero weather and shouts obscenities at the top of his lungs, but a sports fan nonetheless. One who is troubled by the precepts of professional tennis that prohibits fans from cheering during a point. Any rumblings or excessive motion in the stands while a player prepares to serve are greeted with an irritating "Quiet, please" from the chair umpire.

Tennis, however, is the Sport commonly associated with Kings and Queens originally established among European society's upper crust. Along with golf, its socio-economic cousin, tennis has always required gentlemanly behavior from its audience, a tribute to the days when only royalty or the gentry would partake in such pastimes.

America's aristocracy (reconfigured as the country club set) has eagerly upheld these highbrow traditions, segregating themselves from the "uncivilized" practices of the hoi polloi; the kind of people who, when left unfeathered, often resort to rooting wildly for their teams during a football or baseball game. Today, in order to enjoy the talents of a Pete Sampras or a Tiger Woods in person, one must adhere to these archaic rules of decorum, vestiges of the country club elitism upon which tennis and golf have been sustained for so long. Rather than embrace the masses that have flocked to their sports through the years, country clubs continue to cling desperately to their time-honored snobbery.

This year, the new National Tennis Center, site of the US Open, showed courage by eschewing the recent trend of selling a stadium's name to the highest bidder. Instead, the stadium was named after Arthur Ashe, clearly one of history's most courageous men. Overcoming racism to play a sport he loved was simply the focal point of a life spent battling social injustice.

On tennis' edict of quietude, he recognized the stifling nature of the rules. In Arthur Ashe on Tennis, he wrote "I consider it unrealistic for players to demand total silence from the crowd during an exciting point. That is a ridiculous expectation. It is not natural. Tennis and golf are sports. Let's treat them as such instead of paying homage to their country club roots."

Proponents of silence claims that it takes remarkable concentration return a 100 mile-per-hour serve or sink a crucial putt. But sports like tennis and golf require no more concentration than does throwing a slider from 60.6 feet away across a 19' 2" inch plate while Ken Griffey Jr. is up in bat, or sinking a game winning free throw in basketball while 35,000 face painted fans are screaming and waiving objects in attempts to break your concentration.

Why then do tennis players and golfers enjoy the privilege of silence? Simple, because it is a tradition of the privileged. However, these sports are no longer embraced solely by the upper class. Common fans should no longer have to adhere to rules designed to prevent their influence in the first place. While tradition certainly has its place in sports, milking an elitist practice under the guise of tradition is bogus. (Keeping blacks out of Major League Baseball was also justified as tradition).

Others will argue that requiring higher standards of conduct prevents the obnoxious behavior often displayed at various other sporting events. The decorum at a tennis or golf match may be a welcome respite for many, but it should occur as a result of choice, not fear of being ejected or (worse) standing out in a crowd. Obeying society's mores and norms of acceptable behavior must ultimately remain the responsibility of each individual fan.

Besides, establishing a code of conduct does not guarantee compliance anyway. In 1960, Charlie Sifford, the first black golfer to win a major PGA event, endured this encounter: "Five white men started following me around the course. They threw beer cans, jumped up and down while I attempted to concentrate on a shot, called me a "ni**er" and many other vile names."

Interesting how the men in charge chose not to enforce their precious rules of etiquette on this particular occasion.

Your probably wondering why would someone care about this? My response is simply, I just do!
Control by Cleavage: The New Feminist Movement?

by Laura Anne

Knowing how to successfully use your womanly powers is such an important part of living in today's world. There is a definite art form in plopping your breasts onto an ordering counter of a business. Auburn-haired, blue-eyed Maureen (Robin Wright Penn) is a very interesting reunion between Maureen and Eddie at Joey's house. In the interim, Maureen goes on to marry Joey (John Travolta), and raise three daughters, one of which is Eddie's child. Her love for Eddie, however, never dies. When the "reformed" Eddie is released from the institution, there is a very interesting reunion between Maureen and Eddie at Joey's house.

Sean Penn (who won best actor at this years Cannes Film Festival) and Robin Wright Penn are excellent as the crazed, madly in love couple. The real life chemistry between the two definitely shines through on the big screen. My problem was that I just wasn't able to empathize with either of these loser characters. I just didn't care enough about Maureen or Eddie to feel bad for either of their plights. Additionally, I just didn't understand why Joey married Maureen. Maureen is so lovely? I think not. Travolta absolutely steals the film. The above mentioned reunion scene in which Joey, in a jealous rage, shows us why he is not exactly a model father, had be laughing out loud.

But beyond breast size, the advantages of being a female should be taken to its fullest potential. Every woman knows that a cutey laugh and a flirting grin will get them a table in a restaurant a lot faster than yelling "men are Luciferic pigs" any day of the week. Playing dumb is an approach that can be fun, but forces you to resort to low levels of vocabulary, as well as neckline. For example, mispronouncing quadrille syllable words and screwing up basic proverbs may get you faster service, but for women, including myself, are regularly willing to be thought of as a potato-brained idiot. When it comes down to it, don't underestimate your potential to use a nice set of legs to get a cab on a rainy day, or a good set to cut in line at the registrar's office on a busy afternoon.

I don't see the means of women flaunting their bodies at their own will as working against the progress of feminism, but as an alternative means of promoting it. I think in a lot of ways women have been blessed with brains and natural gifts in order to survive in our male-dominated society. And when it seems that men are perfectly willing, not to mention wanker-minded enough to fall into our traps, it almost seems like they deserve it.

By Laura Anne

At the Movies...

She's So Lovely

Directed by Nick Cassavetes
Starring Sean Penn, Robin Wright Penn and John Travolta

by Jason Krauss

Here we have the love story of two down and out, alcoholic characters in Maureen (Robin Wright Penn) and Eddie (Sean Penn). When a trashy neighbor (James Gandolfini of True Romance) beats on the pregnant Maureen, Eddie, a tad mentally unstable as it is, goes into a rage that lands him in a mental institution for the next ten years. In the interim, Maureen goes on to marry Joey (John Travolta), and raise three daughters, one of which is Eddie's child. Her love for Eddie, however, never dies. When the "reformed" Eddie is released from the institution, there is a very interesting reunion between Maureen and Eddie at Joey's house.

Sean Penn (who won best actor at this years Cannes Film Festival) and Robin Wright Penn are excellent as the crazed, madly in love couple. The real life chemistry between the two definitely shines through on the big screen. My problem was that I just wasn't able to empathize with either of these loser characters. I just didn't care enough about Maureen or Eddie to feel bad for either of their plights. Additionally, I just didn't understand why Joey married Maureen. Maureen is so lovely? I think not. Travolta absolutely steals the film. The above mentioned reunion scene in which Joey, in a jealous rage, shows us why he is not exactly a model father, had be laughing out loud.

Although there were several fun scenes, they were too few and far between to rationalize spending $8.50 on this movie. This critic advises you to wait for the video.

Rating: 2 gavels (out of five)
WHERE HAVE ALL THE QUARTERBACKS GONE?

by Yus Weintraub

It all started with the bold statement of one Joe Willie Namath who, with the utmost confidence, predicted his New York Jets would win Super Bowl III against the heavily favored Baltimore Colts. With his team’s surprising victory, and his prophecy realized, came the phenomenon of the position of quarterback being the marquee player in the National Football League. The quarterback, along with the inception of television playing a major role in the success of the league, brought a huge level of marketability to the game and an increase in fan support ensued.

In the 70’s there were the likes of Roger Staubach, Terry Bradshaw, Ken Stabler, and Fran Tarkenton who brought a new excitement to the game with their flamboyant personas and excellent skills. They took the game to a new height and were major influences of the game for future stars. In the 80’s there was a tremendous influx of new talent in the quarterback position. Joe Montana, Dan Marino, John Elway, and Jim Kelly even brought the game to a higher level. Possessing a quality that is rare among superstar athletes, they are also classy human beings who have remained down to earth.

Let’s face it, the reality is that sports today is a business.

Which brings us to the 90’s. It seems painstakingly clear that there is a shortage of quality quarterbacks who will give fans something to cheer about in years to come. This trend is even made worse with serious injuries to those who do have bright futures in the league. I believe this can be reversed if some things come into fruition. First of all, there should be a rule that permits starting quarterbacks to play only one quarter per game in the preseason (see Mark Brunell and Kerry Collins). If a star player is out for a significant amount of time before the regular season even starts, a team’s entire season can be ruined, and there could be a loss of revenue from lack of fan interest. Secondly, there should be harsher penalties for those who go after quarterbacks in a violent matter. For instance, suspensions and/or weighty fines might suffice. Finally, and probably most important of all, is that coaches should allow their young quarterbacks to develop in game situations. They should be thrown to the wolves as soon as possible. That is, veteran quarterbacks as well as their coaches should realize when it’s time to hang ‘em up and allow the young guys to step right in and get experience (see Steve Young). Or if they don’t want to retire, these veterans should relinquish their roles as starters and play as a backup in case of injury (see Warren Moon).

Let’s face it, the reality is that sports today is a business. The most important thing to a commissioner, the owners, the coaches, and the players is how much money they are making. In the game of professional football, the one position that is crucial for the league making money is the quarterback. With a lack of superstar quarterbacks, and with injuries to those who have the potential to be great, the National Football League could lose a large fan base and ultimately lose revenue. As a fan, it will affect others and myself in a different way. There are those who watch football simply to watch it. So long as their team wins they are happy. They don’t look into the quality of play. I watch football to see world-class athletes compete at the highest possible level, regardless of the outcome (well, not all the time). With this quarterback situation, I feel as if I will be cheated out of watching the best players perform, and that my friends is the real tragedy.
Asian American Law Students Association

Greetings to all of you. We here at the Asian American Law Students Association (AALSA) welcome you to NYLS. You may be wondering "what is AALSA?" and "what can AALSA do for me?" Besides being a mouthful, the Asian American Law Students Association is an organization committed to addressing issues impacting the Asian American community both domestically and internationally.

VISION, UNITY and VISIBILITY These are three goals AALSA hopes to achieve. What we see in AALSA for the coming year and beyond is an opportunity for those involved to utilize this organization as a medium to connect ourselves with legal professionals for the advancement of each of our career desires. Not only should AALSA be an organization of those interested in Asian American affairs, but it should be one that interacts with Asian American issues and take part in influencing their outcomes. By involving ourselves with various organizations inside and outside of NYLS, we at AALSA have the great opportunity to address and communicate these issues to the NYLS community via symposiums and roundtable discussions, of course with the help of our esteemed alumni.

Topics we will address include: International trade, human rights, hate crimes, and domestic violence.

This organization is open to anyone interested in Asian American affairs. Thus, AALSA isn't limited to those of Asian ancestry. For those of you who are of Asian ancestry, you have a great opportunity to guide the future of your heritage. For those of you who aren't, the world is a much smaller place than you might think. You will definitely be at an advantage by gaining exposure to other cultures. The key here is awareness. Whether you are of Asian ancestry or not, with AALSA, you have the opportunity to gain knowledge as to how the Asian community relates to other communities at all levels and scope.

For you 1Ls, we here at AALSA maintain an excellent outline bank and have many 2Ls and 3Ls willing to assist you on almost anything you may need to know to make this year a successful (and hopefully enjoyable) one. Again welcome, and we hope to see all of you at our next general meeting. Check your mailfolders for our next upcoming event.

Black Law Students Association

The Black Law Students Association (BLSA) at New York Law School was founded by a pioneering group of law students of color to ensure that law students of color would have a forum within which their needs and issues may be addressed. To this day, BLSA continues to serve not only as a support system for students of color while at the school, but also as a link to other organizations and to the community at large.

The purposes of BLSA are manifold. They include, but are not limited to: (1) furthering the educational needs, as well as goals of students of color at New York Law School; (2) promoting and encouraging the representation of attorneys of color throughout the nation; (3) promoting the admission and retention of law students of color in numbers proportionate to their standing in the general population of our United States; (4) focusing on the relationship between students of color, the American legal structure and their community, (5) instilling in law students and attorneys of color a greater awareness and commitment to the needs of their community, and finally, (6) lobbying New York Law School and other law schools around the country to utilize their resources in order to assist law students of color in the development, attainment and advancement of their legal careers. In the past, just to name a few, the organization has sponsored the following:

1. panels, roundtable discussions, and seminars; 2. BLSA's annual Mentor Program; 3. voter registration drives, 4. canned food collections, and 5. The Community Outreach Program. BLSA will continue these time-honored efforts, and will inaugurate new ways in which its membership may help to INFORM and to EDUCATE. Any and all questions should be presented, either in person or via mailbox to the BLSA office in the lower level of the student center.

Christian Legal Society

We encourage you to consider the Christian Legal Society. CLS is committed to equipping and challenging law students to be the best that they can be by nurturing their belief in Christ and the Divine Creator. Together we strive to proclaim the faith and promote the concept of the Christian lawyer. The Christian lawyer has the professional responsibility of maintaining high standards of legal ethics. The purpose of the CLS is to develop a forum for discussing problems related to how to be a good Christian, Church and State issues with other NYLS organization, and with the general Christian legal community. We seek to promote justice, religious liberty and individual freedom.

In order to serve you better, will be providing a CLS Newsletter, copies of the Daily Word, and the Christian Legal Quarterly which updates you on CLS member activities around the country. This year, we are putting together a prayer group to provide support for one another, especially during stressful periods of the academic year and to share our faith. Also, we are looking forward to starting a mediation group. Mediation is a growing practice not only among believers but in many work and school environments as well. Look for the announcement of our upcoming general meeting. Need the call and join the Christian Legal Society, we would be delighted to have you as part of our family. Please visit us at I8 in the student lobby or give us call at 431-2100, ext.4199.

NYLS Civil Liberties Union

The NYLS Civil Liberties Union is designed to encourage and promote students who are concerned about and/or who intend to practice in the area of civil liberties. We plan to have an active role in the NYLS community and the general community, especially in areas concerning the rights and civil liberties of the student body as well as the community at large.

Through our programs and active role at NYLS, we hope to instill in the student body a greater sensitivity to the significant impact that civil liberties, as guaranteed by our country's Constitution, have on the practice of law at large. We also wish to encourage substantive civil liberties curricula and programs at NYLS.

Irish Law Students Association

The Irish Law Students Association will benefit from the return of last year's President Jessica O'Kane. After a successful club day, O'Kane said she was confident that this year's planned events would be even better than last year's. O'Kane was also encouraged by the enthusiasm expressed by the many first year students in attendance at the club's first meeting.

The Executive Board is comprised of President Jessica O'Kane, Vice President Gary Giannantonio, Secretary Austin Murphy, Treasurer Matthew O'Brien and Social Chair, Romeo Burmudez. This year's planned
McGowran, a New York Law graduate, will share her insights in the area of organizations.

The Irish Law Students Association also plans to organize other student events for a three day event scheduled for the end of October at Hunter College.

The Irish Law also plans to have NYLS alumni and former club members return to discuss their law careers and give current members a networking opportunity.

International Law Society

The NYLS International Law Society seeks to promote awareness of issues and opportunities in the field of international law. Teas with Professor Mograbi and a brown-bag lunch with Professor Bell allow ILS members to tap into the expertise of two professors who share our interests and concerns.

The ILS-sponsored International Law Luncheon in April, students have a chance to share tables with NYLS Alumni who are practicing in the field of international law. ILS also works in conjunction with the International Law Center to host symposia on IL hot topics. We welcome all students who share these interests!

Jewish Law Students Association

Hi! My name is Beth Ettedgui, and I am the President of the Jewish Law Students Association. This organization is relatively new, and its purpose is to combat discrimination against Jews, as well as against all other peoples. It is also here to help people who are interested in Jewish Affairs in their day to day NYLS life. JLSA has many things to offer its members this year. Among the array of events which are scheduled thus far include:

1. A party on Nov. 20th at Webster Hall (a Manhattan club),
2. Clothing and Toy Drive for the poor during Chanukah,
3. Hate Crimes Panel Discussion on February 1st

If you have any questions or you want to get involved please call us at Ext. 4194. I'm looking forward to hear from you.

NYLS Journal of International and Comparative Law

The New York Law School Journal of International and Comparative Law (ILJ) is a prestigious legal periodical that publishes scholarly work in the areas of international, comparative, and foreign law. ILJ is devoted to topics of international significance, particularly in the areas of business and industry. The publication is edited by New York Law School students chosen on the basis of their scholastic performance or through an annual writing competition. ILJ serves as a resource for the practicing bar, the judiciary, and legal scholars.

As part of its service to the legal community, ILJ regularly organizes symposia moderated by New York Law School faculty to present its readers with a wide range of views concerning timely and significant issues of international importance. In addition, ILJ co-sponsored four symposia with the Center for International Law during the 1996-1997 academic year. The proceedings of these symposia will be included in this year's first and second issue.

American Financing

In November, ILJ will be co-sponsoring two more symposia with the Center for International Law. These symposia will focus on trade and investment involving Sub-Saharan Africa and the Euro Currency Unit.

Finally, the current editorial board has high aspirations for the future of ILJ. On behalf of all of the editors of the Journal of International and Comparative Law, we would like to welcome and congratulate our new staff members on their excellent academic performance and look forward to working with them during the 1997-1998 academic year.

Latino Law Students Association (LaLSA)

Bienvenidos! Welcome to all new and returning NYLS students. LaLSA is an organization that works closely with local bar associations to further the interests of law students concerned with promoting Hispanic issues and culture.

Our membership is made up of both Hispanic and non-Hispanic students who realize the benefits of diversity.

Both LaLSA and the Hispanic bar associations have numerous opportunities available to benefit law students, such as mentoring programs with attorneys and upper class students; networking opportunities at attorney-student receptions and social events; scholarships for bar review courses and monetary need; and student career development workshops on resume writing and mock interview sessions.

LaLSA organizes numerous cultural excursions for students to attend, from Tapas nights to the Ballet Nacional de Cuba. Additionally, LaLSA started NYLS's annual Multi-cultural festival and continues to be its primary organizer. The festival, which is held each spring, brings all of the organizations in the law school community together during one evening to sample foods and experience cultural entertainment from our diverse student body.

Our meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month, at 1:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., in the LaLSA office which is in the lower level of the A building. All NYLS students are encouraged to attend.

NYLS Law Review

The New York Law School Law Review is a quarterly publication devoted to scholarly issues of legal importance and run solely by student members and editors. As part of its service to the legal community, the Law Review regularly organizes symposia, moderated by New York Law School faculty, to present its audience and readers with a wide range of views concerning timely and significant legal issues. Recent symposia sponsored by the Law Review have brought together nationally and internationally prominent legal scholars and practitioners.

During the academic year 1997-98, the Law Review will publish a double issue based on last year's symposium entitled Corporate Philanthropy: Law, Education, Culture and Politics. This collection of articles and speeches analyzes the historical development of corporate philanthropy, the motives, causes, and consequences for corporate contributions in relation to economic and organizational theory.

This year the Law Review will also publish its first New York Court of Appeals Year in Review issue. The issue's articles will focus on major decisions rendered last term by the New York Court of Appeals. In addition, Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye will write an Introduction to the issue.
Relax...

by Cynthia Litman

The end of summer. Ah, the subway ride. Ah, the ID checkers. Ah, the elevator. Yum, the food stand. All in the same moment you realize that summer has come and gone, and it's back to school. For some it's a return and for others it's a fresh beginning. All of us have our ideas of what to expect. Pretty soon you will take your first step into a new room. Upon entering you are surrounded by unfamiliar faces, and you choose your seat. Is everybody in? The humbling process is about to begin.

There is no right or wrong. In one way or another we all choose the path most appropriate for our needs. Personally, I'm into drama and comedy. Or one could say, burlesque tragedies.

A hypothetical issue came up recently in my constitutional law class about whether or not it violates the due process clause of the fourteenth amendment if a firm allows their employees to work in excess of sixty hours a week. The main state concern is whether the effects of constantly working takes an unhealthy toll on one's life. In law school I notice an uncontrollable necessity for students to get worked up into a frenzy. That is, getting scared as opposed to charged. Letting the nervous energy persevere instead of channeling it fully to become a benefit rather than a detriment. Setting aside the conclusion of this particular case, it is important to remember that no matter how determined you are to complete the projects you endeavor in life, there must always be a balance.

There is work time and play time. Unfortunately, the work time can easily incorporate the play time. However, we all have our breaking points and we all need to relax. This is not always an easy chore. But luckily enough there are plenty relaxing rituals at our disposal. Whatever you find relaxing depends on what kind of person you are. An atmosphere must be created in order to soothe your nerves. Even if you are not nervous per se, it's still beneficial to have your down time and release whatever pent of energy you have reserved.

Both your physical and spiritual bodies need their fair share of nourishment. If you listen close enough your body will tell you exactly what it needs.

in response to a mind boggling question, looking up to find a puzzled face staring down at you. Your response is simply your way of intermingling logic, some may not necessarily dig it. What you portray is an assessment based on the text and a compilation of all you have assimilated up until that point. No matter what you say, or how good you say it you can not control the responses. I find comfort in knowing that the legal geniuses of our time are still deciphering the intent of our founding fathers.

Our role as students is to advance each concept with each attempt of understanding. For every issue raised a new insight is found. You may be an outward speaker or an inward thinker. The law relates to practically everything in existence. The problem is trying to make what you see fit.

The ultimate test in law school is packaging a semester's worth of material along with all your years of experience in a manner that is tailored to your specific professor. The anxiety rises and the intensity is heightened as the exams approach. This is where it gets ugly. The stomach can't settle, grays sprout, your once perfect complexion fades with pimples and blemishes galore, you can't sleep, eat, etc... This is where you stop and engage in your most relaxing ritual. Afterwards, focus.

When its said and done an overwhelming sense of accomplishment becomes you. The weeks after your finals the questions consume your mind. You become a master at analyzing all the relevant case law, relevant facts and realizing all the defenses and attacks. But why the delayed reaction? This is law school. For every lesson taught there are triple the amount to be unraveled and revealed at a later time. Its simply a perpetual phenomena of the mind.

Both your physical and spiritual bodies need their fair share of nourishment. If you listen close enough your body will tell you exactly what it needs.
humming © catboy 1997

by catboy, ese.

would you call this a classic case?
grrrl: i wish you’d called me earlier during the week, so i wouldn’t have had to cancel on joan, she’s so emotional these days.
boy: i would’ve but,
g: but, what?
b: you know how it is, i wanted to call you
g: yes,
b: but i didn’t want to bother you.
g: what?
b: well i thought about how you said you were always tired at night, and i didn’t want to disturb you.
g: you wouldn’t have.
b: thanks. it was also something else.
g: what?
b: well, nyc, the blocking...
g: yes,
b: defense mechanisms
g: yes,
b: i couldn’t stop thinking about you, but i didn’t know what you were thinking.
g: i was thinking about you.
br: really?
g: yes,
b: i’m sorry.
g: kiss me.

a classic example of how the american dream doesn’t discriminate:
the windows of martier on the upper east-side are filled with expensive silk lingerie draped over skinny mannequins. one saturday afternoon, two homeless men are lying on top of the subway vents underneath those display windows. one man is black and the other is white, and they still cuddle up like brothers underneath the american dream.

a classic case of beauty being in the hands of the rich:
at 5pm on a hot saturday afternoon a late model ivory jag xj6 is parked a few car lengths from the corner of 45th and 10th. the wuhmin in the passenger seat is wearing white pants and a white blouse with rhinestones, and she is leaning out of her door as she is vomiting onto the sidewalk.

the post office on 42nd street between 8th and 9th is classically understaffed at 8:45am on a monday morning:
i am waiting on line for a while, and the on-their-way-to-work-bunch are on a line out the door. the postal workers take their time, and people are pissed.

finally, i step up to the counter to make my purchase. “i want to celebrate womyn artists,” i announce, “i’d like to celebrate womyn artists with a roll of self-stick stamps, but if you only have the womyn artists stamps in a booklet, i’ll take the booklet, but either way, i want to celebrate womyn artists!”

“that’s nice to hear,” replies the wuhmin behind the counter.
“it’s only the right thing to do,” i say, “a few blocks over we’re persecuting womyn” (i’m really into it now, and it’s pretty obvious that i’ve been spending too much time alone—everyone in the post office is staring, but i continue). “yes, in times square we are persecuting womyn with bizarre ideas of beauty, but right here, right now, we are celebrating womyn artists with stamps. and it’s about time too. we’ve only been a country for how many years?”

amidst the thunderous applause, the rioting mob of people, who’ve been waiting on line, chase me out of the post office as i run west down 42nd street.

a classic out-of-town shopper:
as i walk by the levis store on lexington avenue one saturday afternoon, i see a grrrl posing with a pair of levis in her arms. her companion is photographing this nyc moment.
a classic illustration of agents amongst us: walking through times square that same afternoon, i spot this crew type talking rapidly into a pencil case. as i get closer to him, i realize that he’s speaking into a walkie-talkie that is within the case. no else notices him, and this worries me slightly.

a classic good agent (maybe): so there i am, labor day weekend in the jewish section of boropark, walking to the b-train after visiting grandma. a hassidic man in a gray import pulls up beside me, honks his horn, and starts motioning to me. i step up to the car, he rolls down the window and says: “i want to wish you good luck. i don’t know who you are, but i just wanted to say good luck. good luck to you.”

“well, thank you. good luck to you too, and have a nice weekend.”

a classic story of boy meets grrrl: so there you are boy, partying your ass off in the various downtown lounges and bars on a saturday night. to make a long story short, you meet this beautiful grrrl who takes you back to her apartment and plays music for you. then she takes you into her bedroom, and the next morning she asks you what your name is three times. she doesn’t know, and she doesn’t care. she wins.

your classic couple with the perfect relationship:
as i walk by the muscular boy and skinny grrrl he has his arm around, i hear the grrrl say in a singsongy voice: “but why can’t we have fun all the time?”
tell her why, boy!

a classic example of what happens to me when i let my nyc guard down:
everyone knows how much i hate metrocards, but when the man with the brown paper bag is standing near the token booth trying to sell a $3 card one morning, i make the purchase. the shit about having to catch a bus to new jersey never impresses me, so i cut him off before he gets on that pitch. as i slip my first metrocard through the turnstile, i smile and think about how life and technology evolve. the man with the brown bag smiles to he is thinking about how he just suckered me into buying a metrocard, and how the government will now have the ability to track my every move.

and finally, a classic response by mr. haskeli: on the night in question (of her majesty’s ruling class), mr. haskeli and i come rolling out of around the clock on east 9th street. a panhandler steps up to us and starts giving his spiel. “no change? don’t worry, i accept, visa, master, american express, and discover.” “sorry, we’re not nyu students,” mr. haskeli gently responds, as we walk deep into the night.
"I wanna sex you up"
-Color Me Badd

by cathboy, ese.

This article is not about sex-workers, it is not about people who agree to engage in sexual encounters as a means to an end, and it is not an attack on individuals who have been pressured into sexual encounters in the past.

Men who pressure womyn into sex are creeps. In fact, this "pressure into sex" dynamic is both self-defeating and indicative of the sexist stereotypes rampant within the heterosexual community.

Why do some womyn (Obviously, we are talking about a range of womyn from all strata of society) allow themselves to be pressured into sex? Here are some of the explanations I've heard:

1) I have a sense of justice and I don't want to mess with his emotions. (of course)
2) (in other words) "I led him on."
3) If I don't have sex with him, he won't like me anymore. (This sounds outdated, but I hear this one all the time).
4) He'll think that I'm "frigid."
5) Of course, I really did want to have sex.

With ideas like these floating around, it is surprising that we are only as sexually stigmatized and maladjusted as we are. Moreover, each of these "explanations," and any variation of these explanations defy logic and utility.

The biggest problem: Mainstream America consistently defines womyn as objects and not as people. This definition viciously permeates society and arbitrarily miscasts both men and womyn sexually.

"We started to get intimate, or we agreed to go back to my place to have sex. Then we gotta do it. If we don't, something must be wrong. How am I supposed to feel? Come on, once she says yes, she has no right to change her mind. (Mind? What mind? Womyn are only machines, and all they want is sex.)"

Explanations (1) and (2) most accurately reflect this attitude. Womyn feel that they owe it to men to sleep with them. Men, on the other hand, feel inadequate if they are not having sex. Society rates men by how many notches they have on their penises, so they pressure womyn into sex to overcome this "inadequacy."

When a wuhmin allows herself to be pressured into sex, she is no longer a person. She has given up her freedom, her individuality, and her sexuality. And when a man pressures a wuhmin into sex, he makes that wuhmin subservient to his sexuality. I may be a little radical, but I would much rather be with a grrrl who does what she wants, whenever she wants to. Why would I ever be attracted to someone who constantly sacrifices and compromises herself because of what I want. Subservience is boring.

Sex is a two-sided experience with people who have minds and make decisions. It does not involve controlled mentally inanimate objects.

Some men do not care, or they are just too self-centered to notice that the womyn they are with are passive. Moreover, when a wuhmin actively engages in sex against her better judgment, she makes herself subservient to the man she's with, and to all men.

Society's pressure on womyn "to not be frigid" (whatever that means) and to want sex whenever the men want it, compromises womyn and relieves them of their beings. These forced stereotypes are the thinking behind explanations (4) and (5).

The bottom line and why explanation (3) is self-defeating: A man who successfully pressures a wuhmin into sex will eventually spurn that wuhmin because of her lack of individuality. Moreover, succumbing to that pressure sets a precedent in those relationships, and defines that wuhmin and all womyn as subservient.

This whole discussion is all too ironic, because the typical het-male fantasy is to be mauled by and "over-sexed slut." We've Times Squared and pornographed womyn into "sex-objects," but we still consistently place womyn and men in passive and active roles respectively. Millions of womyn never have orgasms and do not even enjoy sex. If they do, well then, they must be nymphos. And some men think they have a confirmed right to pressure "these nymphos" into having sex.

You have never had sex until you have had it with another person (not with an "object"). The best sex you can have is with a partner who knows when s/he wants it and is conscious of whether her/his partner wants it as well. Otherwise, pressures, expectations, and all sorts of arbitrary and artificial mind-twisting-stuff comes into play.

I never intended on intellectualizing sexuality. In this country our sexuality is legally off-limits, or at least it should be. Within a sexual relationship/encounter, no one can tell us what should or should not get us off. If you are into someone, then make a move, because you only live once. On the other hand, I have no problem stating that no one has a right to pressure anyone into having sex. Finally, I have difficulty seeing how pressuring someone into having sex is any different than date rape or female circumcision.

October 1997
Dear Dr. Joel,

On weekends, my boyfriend only wants to lay on the couch in his underwear, drink beer, and watch sports on the television. What can I do make him show more interest in me?

Sincerely,
Bored on weekends.

Dear BOW,
First, you light a Marlboro. Then, you go to the supermarket, buy a couple of cases of beer, some chips, dip, and salsa. Then, you sit on the floor, keep your mouth shut, watch the game, and bring him a cold beer as needed.

Dear LOA,
First, you light a Marlboro. Then you tell your loser husband that HE can call his parents "Mom" and "Dad" because he was adopted. Let him put that in his pipe and smoke it! In the mean time honey, feel free to call me your "Daddy."

Dear LIW,
First I light a Marlboro. Then the babe comes to my place with dinner. After she does the dishes, a load or two of my laundry, and dusts, she can expect my undivided attention for fifteen minutes. Then I light another Marlboro, tell her to make me a sandwich, and to get out.

Confused? Curious? Need Advice?, or just plain stupid? For a insightful and sympathetic reply, send your questions to: Dear Dr. Joel, c/o the Reporter, 57 Worth St., New York, NY 10013.

October 1997
Keys To Financial Success

THESE FIVE INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL MISTAKES CAN COST YOU DEARLY

by Jeffrey Eichner, Esq.

Everyone wants financial success for themselves and their families. The dreams that we spend long hours working towards — whether it's a first home, a college education for the children, or a retirement home some place warm — these are all goals on the path to financial security. Unfortunately, it's all too easy to stumble on the way to your destination. I've compiled a list of what I've found to be the most common errors people make in their insurance and financial planning. They're all potentially costly, and they could mean the difference between financial success and failure.

1. Failure to plan — An old saying goes, "Most people don't plan to fail, they fail to plan." This is particularly true when it comes to insurance and finances. If any planning is done it's on a piecemeal basis, but that's just not enough. To have a shot at accomplishing what we want, we must first set our goals, analyze what it will take to achieve those goals, and then implement a plan. The plan should include everything from savings and checking accounts, to longer term vehicles like annuities, CDs, and IRAs, and the protection provided by life, health and disability income insurance.

2. Insufficient Diversification — another old adage still rings true: "Don't put all you eggs in one basket." Diversification is generally considered a key to reducing risk and enhancing potential return. Some people believe that because they have CDs in three different banks they're properly diversified. True diversification cuts across product types, lengths of maturity, and asset categories. With a well diversified portfolio, you're never too dependent on how well one product performs.

3. Insufficient Life Insurance — We're quick to insure our cars and our homes, but too often we overlook our most important asset — ourselves. With mortgages, tuition, and bills to be paid, it's important to have proper coverage on all income earners. Some people may have group term life insurance through their employers, but this alone may not be sufficient. Be careful not to be overly dependent on group term, for these plans can be inflexible, may not be portable, and may not be available when you need it most — after age 65. Look into purchasing individual coverage than can be customized to suit your particular needs. How much life insurance in enough? That depends on a number of personal factors including income and number of dependents. It's best to sit down with a professional to go over your needs and look at the available options.

4. Inadequate Disability Income Insurance — Your earning power is the generator that keeps the wheels of your household running smoothly. But what if that generator breaks down? The risk of disability, as well as its potential cost, is simply too great to ignore. Once again, a company-sponsored plan may be too limited for your needs. Typically, disability income insurance plans will cover 50-60% of your annual income for a predetermined period of time. You'll want to study the policy carefully to understand all of the provisions, including the definition of disability, the waiting period following disability before you can collect, and the length of the payment period.

5. No Estate Plan — Some people have the impression that estate planning is just for the rich. Unfortunately, that view can be costly to their heirs. Your estate includes such items as your home, cash, investments, personal property, and other assets you and your spouse may own jointly or as community property. These may add up to a lot more than you thought you were worth. Federal estate taxes begin at 37% for estates valued at more than $600,000 and can climb as high as 60% for larger estates. Add in state death taxes and final expenses and your death can be quite costly to your loved ones. You owe it to your family to have an estate plan in place. An effective will, a trust arrangement, and adequate life insurance are some of the options available to you to help your heirs get what they deserve. Consult your tax, legal, and financial advisors for help in putting together an estate plan.

'To err is human" is yet another pearl of wisdom. Sure, everyone makes mistakes, but all of the ones outlined above can be avoided. With proper insurance and financial planning you can steer past those costly blunders and be on the road to financial success. For more information, Jeffrey Eichner, a NYLS Alumnus and a member of the NYLS Alumni Association Board can be contacted through the Reporter's Office or Alumni Affairs.

Write for the Reporter—We'll Make You Famous

Stop in Room L2 in the Student Center for More Details or call (212)431-2100 ext. 4202.

October 1997
the idea of being stupid. As an adult, I had gotten used to the idea of being a boss. When I went back to school, I had a staff of six reporting to me and I was the go-to guy, the bottom line, get it done, I’ve got broad shoulders type. But at school, none of that mattered. The last time academics meant something to me, I was back in high school. My undergraduate degree was a BFA from NYU, making me one of a legion of so-called highly educated university arts graduates with a trade school education. Ask me about the classics or literature and watch my idle stare float blankly past you.

But then came school. Then came the ignominy of a wealth of C pluses and B minuses, of (half) a scholarship lost, of stupid questions and even dumber answers, of falling asleep in class, citing the wrong cases and reading the wrong pages. But, somehow, I learned a valuable lesson. I realized that I would never work again for anyone but myself, that, even if I wanted to do, I couldn’t make the grade at those large firms who were my clients in my earlier life, that I wasn’t going to be an appeals lawyer or a great constitutional scholar; And you know something? So what! I learned that it’s ok to be stupid, it’s ok to struggle, and it’s ok not to know. In fact, it’s wonderful. It’s opened a wealth of challenges, fun and knowledge for the sake of learning, not for the sake of grades. It’s made 4th year (I’m a night student) really easy to deal with.

There’s one other thing that I’ve learned - the law firm of Baum (my father-in-law) & Hymowitz (as it will be called as it can be) will somehow thrive in a world of too many lawyers. And that may be the best thing that 3 years plus has taught me so far.

The New York Law School is entering the age of technology. We are one of the few Law Schools nationwide that have eliminated the use of Job Listing Binders and are providing students and alumni with job listings online on our Job Listing Database. This is exciting news for a number of reasons:

Improved and Easy Access to Job Listings: Having the Job Listing Database dramatically increases student and alumni ability to access job listings even when our Office is closed. The Career Services Job Listing Database is easily accessible from any computer terminal on the Law School network. And, when our Office is open, the Database is also accessible from one of three computer terminals in our Resource Room dedicated to student and alumni use.

Capacity to Save the Database Onto Disk: Students and alumni need no longer drag the Job Listing Binders to copy machines to record job listing information. Now, they can simply save the entire file, or any portion of it, to their own computer disk. This has the added benefit of eliminating the need to retype contact information when applying to a job listed on the database. And, of course, students and alumni can print specific job listings as well, by clicking on the “Print Page” icon on the top left of the screen, or by blocking the desired text and printing it.

Updated Information in All Locations: The database is updated at the end of each day. Whether you access the jobs from our Office, the Mendik Library, or one of the Computer Labs, the listings you receive will be the most up-to-date listings available. Further, unlike pages of the Job Binders, job listings can not be torn out of the database.

How to Access the Career Services Job Listing Database:
To access the Career Services Job Listing Database:
- Log on to the Law School network using your login ID and password. In the NETAPPS window, double-click the Career Services icon. If you do not see this icon, you can either: (1) scroll down in the NETAPPS window (click on the up or down arrows in the scroll bar on the right-hand side of this window to move up or down), or (2) click on the maximize button (the up arrow on the upper right-hand side of the title bar) to view all of the icons in this window.
- Double-click on the Student Job Listings icon.
- When the document first appears on the screen, you will see a window informing you that the document is in “read-only” format. This means that you can review the document but cannot edit it. To continue when you see this window, click “Yes”.
- One you enter the database, there are further instructions on how to utilize it.

More specific instructions are available in our Resource Room and on our Bulletin Boards.

October 1997
WHO, Continued from page 9

Professor Strossen played the part of Auntie Em. We also get help from alum in writing the case file. Students get to act as attorneys and witnesses, they can let their hair down because they’re not being graded. They have fun with it.

Q: So, what about the Mock Trial for this year?
A: A lot of people seem interested in it. I’m giving serious thought to doing Adam and Eve, where Eve will have filed a habeas corpus motion after being punished with painful childbirth.

Q: What is the most important part of your job?
A: The First Amendment is probably the most important part of the Constitution and the person who defends that the most is probably Nadine Strossen. However, she couldn’t do it if I didn’t make sure her microphone worked. So, I probably have the most important job in America.

Q: What kind of music do you listen to?
A: I like intense, emotional music. From classical to Courtney Love.

Q: You have seen a lot of students come through this school, do you have any advice?
A: Law school is going to present you with a lot of tough times. But there are many students I see at graduation who I can remember having conversations with where they wanted to quit. But I told them to just keep plugging away.

I recently had the opportunity to get to know one of the members of the NYLS community. His name is Johnny Pastor. You probably know him as one of the guys in the cafeteria wearing a big white hat. In addition to his duties at the Food Service Department, Johnny acts as an interpreter for conversations with employees who do not speak fluent English. He has a reputation for having a good sense of humor and helping out the new guys on the job. However, do not be fooled by the ominous white hat and his innocent smile, there is a lot more to Johnny.

Age: 23
Astrological Sign: Capricorn

Q: So, how long have you worked here Johnnie?
A: Two years.

Q: What do you do outside of work?
A: I write, I write rap songs.

Q: Do you perform anywhere?
A: Performing? No, not yet. I’m still basically just learning, so I’m just getting my start on. So, maybe in the future I’ll come out with a show.

Q: I know you hang out at the studio, what exactly do you do there?
A: At the studio, we lay the tracks down, make our music and put everything together—our beats, our vocals.

Q: Do you guys have a name?
A: Their name is Rockefeller and our name is Enclave.

[Editor’s Note: Enclave is a foreign country existing within the borders of another country] So, being that we’re all different and y’know what I’m saying is, we have these people here and we have another group over here and we all put ourselves together, we got like two projects to work on.

Q: How many people are in Enclave?
A: “Six guys and two girls. The two girls are called Protoge, they’re R&B; that’s another project we’re working on. So, we’re building them also. But my other friends, they’re already under a record label. In the studio I help ‘em make the music, make the beats, that’s it. And I’m just following right behind my friends. This industry y’know it takes time, you must have what they want.”

Q: Is that your dream, to break into the music industry?
A: “So far, I would like to make that come true. I’m a protoge myself—I’m a project.”

Q: Can you give me a sample rap right now?
A: “Not really, ‘cause I have a little profanity in there and I don’t really want to use too much.”

Q: Profanity is a good thing?
A: “Basically, what I really want to do is to bring back our music where it came from, which is from the Bronx. We’re just lettin everybody know where rap really started, y’know. It’s a lot of work.” I remember back in the ’80’s when Dr. Dre was wearing eyeliner and doing new wave stuff, now he claims to be a gangsta. It sounds like Enclave is pretty sincere and not into any gimmicks. We don’t wanna give too much gangsta rap. We’re honest, more sincere. Basically, we just want party music, we want everybody to have a good time including ourselves, y’know what I’m saying?”

Q: How long have you been working on your music?
A: “About two and a half years. I just caught the feeling; and when you catch that, you gotta keep on with the flow.” (I didn’t want to keep him from his work, so, we shook hands over the deli counter and parted as friends).

November Issue Deadline is Friday, October 19

Announcement
PANEL DISCUSSION:
"Women in Entertainment & Sports Law"
November 5, 1997 at 8:00 p.m. in the Steifel Reading Room
Sponsored by NYLS' Media Law Project
Features panelists from the music, sports, television and film industries

Seating is limited! RSVP at the office of Student Life

October 1997
EXPOSING THE MYTHS

by Viktor Hess


By now, most people have heard something about the crimes committed by police officers of the 70th precinct against Abner Louima. Expectedly, people have reacted strongly to these crimes, but many of these responses distort, dismiss, or confuse the actual issue. At the "Day of Outrage" march and rally to support Abner Louima and to protest the systematic and continuous brutality employed by the New York City Police Department, Norman Siegal, director of the New York Civil Liberties Union, exposed the top three myths concerning police brutality:

Myth #1: The violence against Louima is an isolated incident that does not illustrate the actions employed regularly by the police force. False, the Louima incident was not isolated. In fact, from 1994 to 1996 there were more than 10,000 allegations concerning the use of excessive force by New York City police officers. Many would claim that these allegations are exaggerated or even untrue. For arguments sake, let's assume only one claim out of 100 claims is true or valid. Even with this extremely low estimate, there would still be 1,000 incidences of excessive force used by New York City police departments, which is the equivalent of about one incident every day for the period encompassing 1994-1996. So, in response to those who would claim the Louima incident is isolated, one must ask exactly how many incidences are necessary to prove that excessive force and brutality is a pattern of practice within the New York City police force?

Myth #2: The real problem is that there are just a few bad apples in the barrel. False, this claim distorts and dismisses the painful reality. It is a defense used to ward off an attack on the entire police force, but the Louima rally was not an anti-cop war cry. It was an anti-bad-cop war cry against an estimated 2,000 "bad" cops. It is these violators of our rights that must be purged! Our police deserve our respect for putting their lives on the line to protect us and those that do so within the limits of the law should be viewed as heroes. They deserve nothing less. Those who abuse, rape, and beat the citizens they are paid to protect must be removed.

Myth #3: Police brutality is not a racial issue. Wrong! The numbers prove differently. Police brutality is a problem that is based in racism and bigotry. In 1996 alone there were 5,600 complaints made to the review board that handles police brutality and excessive force. Of these complaints, 53 percent were committed against African-American and Caribbean-American blacks. This is a rather large number considering these groups are classified as minorities. And when you factor in the Latino communities, the numbers shoot to 75 percent. That is three out of four complaints raised by a member of a minority group. And these figures do not include complaints raised by Asian, Indian, gay & lesbian, and other minority populations.

There is a definite problem with the use of excessive force within the New York City Police Department. It is easy to quickly dismiss it by using one of the three myths. In fact, it is easier for some to shield themselves by using one of these myths than it is to think of the atrocities happening in our community. Next time you hear or use one of these yourself, stop and think about what you are hearing or doing. More likely than not, you will find that these myths disguise, as well as bury the real issue.

If you are interested in learning more about these and other issues concerning civil rights and liberties, please contact the New York Law School Civil Liberties Union located in Room L7 in the student lounge.

ORGANIZATIONS, Continued from page 23

which the Law Review plans to make an annual edition.

In January, the New York Law School Law Review will co-sponsor a symposium with the Center for New York City Law celebrating the 100th anniversary of the consolidation of the City of New York and the adoption of the first consolidated City Charter. The symposium will focus on the significant revisions to the New York City Charter and the future of the Charter and New York City in the next century. This issue is scheduled for publication in the Spring of 1998.

Legal Association of Women

The Legal Association of Women (LAW) is dedicated to advancing the position of women in all areas of the legal profession, from public interest to corporate. While LAW welcomes men as members, the organization strives to give women at NYLS the opportunity to meet with other students, faculty and alumni to discuss and learn about the legal profession as well as other women's issues. LAW sponsors several events each year, including films and luncheons. The annual Spotlight on Women Luncheon, co-sponsored by the Offices of Student Life and Development and Public Affairs, is a networking event at which students may listen and speak with outstanding women graduates of NYLS who are featured speakers at the event. LAW welcomes any suggestions you might have for possible future events. If you have an idea or inquiry, or if you would like to become a member, please place a not in Marissa Morelle's(2L, Day) mailfolder.

Media Law Project

The Media Law Project is an organization dedicated to exploring issues in entertainment, sports and media law. Each year the Media Law Project hosts two panels on the lawyer's role in various entertainment related markets. Previous panel topics include the film, television, sports and music industries.

The MLP is committed to assisting students in their search for employment in entertainment law. We have previously sent out resume books containing the resumes of our members to over 100 employers in the industry.

This year promises to be just as exciting, so please look for announcements of our upcoming meetings. You may also leave a note with your name and phone number in Alison Finley's mailfolder. Best wishes for a successful school year.

Public Interest Coalition

Our mission is to raise funds to compensate students for their work in public interest law, to generate widespread concern for public interest issues among legal professionals, to provide information to educate professionals, to encourage the pursuit of legal careers devoted to public interest issues, to engage those committed to public interest in an active and ongoing dialogue on current issues and to create an opportunity for students to network with public interest professionals. We meet every other Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in room B500.

October 1997
Joint Degree Programs Offered by NYLS

by Karen Berliner

Many students are not aware that New York Law School offers joint programs with Baruch College and The New School for Social Research. Although both of these options are listed in the course catalog, only a small number of students have been taking advantage of these joint programs. Because New York Law School is not affiliated with a University, the office of Academic Affairs has promulgated these programs to offer students more diversity in legal education. Some students already feel that there is not enough time to take all the classes they are interested in. For those of you who are looking towards certain areas of specialization or specific interest, you might wish to look into the programs with Baruch or The New School to broaden your particular area of interest.

The Baruch College program allows a student to transfer up to nine credits towards a J.D. degree. Up to twelve credits may be applied toward fulfilling Baruch's requirements for a Masters in Business or a Masters in Public Administration. There is one caveat; the Baruch Program is subject to renewal or discontinuance every school year. In order to determine the status of the program, students must contact Cynthia Juco in Academic Affairs or Professor Ed Samuels, the Faculty Coordinator of the Program.

Some of the areas of specialization offered with the Baruch College program are in Advanced Accounting, Business Administration and Policy, Economics, Finance and Investment, or Taxation. Students must apply to New York Law School and Baruch College in order to be admitted to this program. GMATs are required. For this reason, first year students are at an advantage with regards to this specific approach.

The JD/MBA is specifically tailored for people who want to specialize in such areas as investment banking. There are presently 3 students participating in this program. Cynthia Juco of Academic Affairs pointed out that "your career options and opportunities are enhanced through this experience. It makes you look that much more attractive to employers and increases your marketability."

The joint program with The New School for Social Research began this past spring. No students are registered for this program as of yet. The time to do so would be during registration for next year's classes. Students must register separately at The New School. Courses must be approved by New York Law School. Academic Affairs has already pre-approved a number of courses in areas such as Urban Policy Analysis and Management, Nonprofit Management, Health Services Management and Policy, and Human Resources Management. A maximum of 10 credits may be applied towards a student's J.D. degree. Credits for classes with a grade of "C" or above will be transferred to New York Law School.

The New School program offers graduate level classes that may be substituted as a second or third year elective. Students may also enroll in classes outside the areas listed above so long as such classes somehow enhance legal education and are approved by Academic Affairs. This program is available in both Fall and Spring semesters. This allows for more flexibility and diversity within the law school curriculum.

Any students interested in these programs should contact Cynthia Juco in Academic Affairs for more information.

PIEPER
FREE ETHICS
MPRE REVIEW

Announcing our locations for the M.P.R.E. Review Class for the November 14, 1997 Exam.

NOTE: All classes will run from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

LIVE LECTURE
New York University

Sunday, October 26, 1997
Vanderbilt Hall - Room 110
(40 Washington Square South)

VIDEO TAPE LECTURES
Albany Law School
Saturday, November 1, 1997
Law School - Room 17
Buffalo University
Law School - Room 212
Hofstra Law School
Law School - Room 230

VIDEO TAPE LECTURE
New York University
Sunday, November 2, 1997
Vanderbilt Hall - Room 110

Walk-ins are welcome or call 1-800-635-6569 to reserve a seat.
Each student that attends will also receive a free 240 page M.P.R.E. Review Book containing the text and 150 M.P.R.E. questions.

TEST DATE
Regular Application Deadline: October 17, 1997 ($45.00)
Late Application Deadline: November 5, 1997 ($60.00)

THE PIEPER BAR REVIEW
1-800-635-6569

October 1997