9-1996

The New York Law School Reporter, September 1996

New York Law School

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.nyls.edu/newspapers

Part of the Legal Education Commons

Recommended Citation

https://digitalcommons.nyls.edu/newspapers/47

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the NYLS Publications at DigitalCommons@NYLS. It has been accepted for inclusion in Student Newspapers by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@NYLS.
Staff Reports

As law school applications drop and the costs of running a quality law school rise, it becomes increasingly difficult to keep up with the Jones'. Law schools must either let in more students (and subsequently less-qualified students) from a smaller applicant pool or they can raise tuition on those here to pay the bills. Fortunately, NYLS has not opted for the first choice. In an effort to defray some of the added tuition costs, NYLS is auctioning off the use of our parking lot to the highest bidder. Commercial parkers are currently vying for the right to manage the lot, which physically would essentially remain unchanged.

The new management is expected to park "jockey" style as opposed to self-parking, which would increase the number of spaces available. As part of the arrangement, NYLS faculty and staff have 50 spots reserved, which will be taken on a first come first serve basis daily. Although there are 70

### South African Amnesty

"We tied his hands and feet together and hoisted him upside down from a tree branch. We applied a shocking device to his private parts and finger and began to shock. We did this with the intent to gather information that he had concerning the robbery. After a while, we became thirsty and sent one of the black assistants to get some cool drinks. I got some liquor from the car because no right thinking person could do this kind of business with his conscience."

The above testimony is from one applicant in what may turn out to be hundreds of Amnesty Hearings in the new Republic of South Africa. The hearings purpose is to absolve certain individuals for criminal acts.

### Moot Court Welcomes Justice Scalia

The 1996 Froessel Moot Court Competition will have the distinct honor of welcoming Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia to sit as Chief Justice. Moot Court Chair Michael Griffin is extremely excited, saying he "could not imagine a more prestigious final round bench for any competition in the country."

Justice Scalia, a native of nearby Trenton, New Jersey, attended Harvard Law School earning a position as editor on the Law Review. A self-described textualist on constitutional matters, Mr. Justice Scalia was plucked from the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia by former President Reagan and instated on the Supreme Court in 1986.

While he never sat on the Supreme Court, NYLS alumnus and former professor Charles Froessel was a member of the New York State Court of Appeals bench. Winners of the Froessel Competition go on to compete intermurally as members of the Moot Court Association.

### DIAL 1-800-WE'RE #1

By David A. Drossman

Summertime can be a stressful time for law students. Internships, connections, networking, and wearing a suit in 90 degree temperatures can cause high blood pressure and premature grays. Now that we are back for another year, the key to avoiding all of the stress pitfalls that many fall into is not to take everything too seriously.

Success happens for a reason, and most of the time you have no say in the matter. Pure luck and chance control our fate. You may put in 15 hour days of studying, seven days a week. Or you could work two jobs and take classes at night for four years of law school, but you may not get the right job or make as much money as you thought you would. You still might decide after it's all over that law is not for you.

Most law students have not wanted to become lawyers for as long as they can remember. However, most of us have written that on their law school applications and resumes in one form or another over the years (don't knock it, it really works). And having those dreams for the last 20 years it doesn't make...
Traditional gender roles are dying, but not all the new forms of sexuality are for the weak of heart, or mind. The coming of men in drag and boys in nylons is a rebellion by a generation of men who are not afraid to express their feminine side. It is a new kind of靚性的时代，人们对传统的性别角色感到厌倦。一-个时代，男人可以穿上裙子，男孩可以穿上丝袜。这种新的性行为并非对勇敢的人来说不可触及，而是对那些勇敢的人——那些敢于表达自己女性化的一面的人。
AFRICA, Continued from Page 1

committed under apartheid. To receive amnesty the applicant must show their crime was politically motivated, proportional to his committed under apartheid. To receive amnesty at his place of employment. The white ‘baas’ claimed the action he took was political and proportional in that he felt the money stolen was to be used for the “onslaught” of black liberation movements. Eventually, the young black worker being tortured by his white boss died of multiple gunshot wounds.

Death, however, did not come easily as the young worker was continuously shocked while suspended over a scalp searing fire from nine in the morning until well into the night. He was eventually executed and set afire. (The Committee has not ruled on this application yet, but it did not look good for the applicant when one of the Committee members shouted “This is murder!” at the applicant during testimony.)

By holding these hearings the nation hopes to help the post-apartheid healing process and avoid the continuing divisive racial strife in places such as the United States. While the concept of granting amnesty to people responsible for murder seems incomprehensible to certain Western thinkers, there seems to be a genuine feeling of hope for the process in South Africa, especially among blacks.

Many blacks feel a need for the Amnesty Hearings as a route to freedom for certain liberation fighters and former political leaders from the 1980’s. Most of the educated blacks I talked to proclaimed the Amnesty hearings a good thing but pragmatically confessed there would have to be political trade-offs between the white National Party and the black African National Congress if the process was to succeed.

White South Africans had less overt faith in the process, but when spoken to privately they seemed to hope it would work if for no other reason than to help move the country forward and put the past behind them. Some whites even welcomed the hearing as an investigative and educational tool.

During a conversation with a middle age white woman in Kayaos (on the eastern coast of South Africa) she explained how she was born and educated in South Africa yet had never heard of Nelson Mandela until his election campaign. This woman was by no stretch the liberal but she felt it was something to learn.

Overall, the social position of the Amnesty Hearings is the same as that of most things in South Africa: confusing and chaotic with an eye to the future.

Next month the Reporter will feature a profile of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, a sister program of the Amnesty Hearing meant to focus on the victims of apartheid crimes, not the perpetrators.

Barry Block's 8 Step Guide to Getting an "A" in Law School

By Barry Block '91

This will be the most important article you read during your law school career! By reading and following the advice in this story, you should be able to get an "A" on every exam you take.

I use the special qualifier "should" because of the special grading curve at NYLS. It seems that a dean decided that the way to improve our school’s academic standing among the hiring community would be to institute a severe grading curve, with a "C+" grade as the median.

However, hiring partners know the magic number is class rank, not GPA. Nevertheless, a transcript loaded with "C's" looks bad when compared to another school’s "B" or "B-" curve.

Given the almost insurmountable obstacle of getting an "A", one might be tempted to ask, "If only eight to ten percent of any class will receive an "A", why should I keep on reading?"

There are two answers: 1) It is very possible to get an "A" grade (my first grade was a "D" in Legal Method, but I succeeded in getting fifteen subsequent "A's") and 2) Even if you fail a little short of an "A", your overall GPA may be improved.

My Suggestions:

(1) Go to class. This might sound a little obvious, but it's not. There has been the occasional student who rarely attended class but still received an "A". This is possible in cases where the student found a good line, or where the professor expected the student to recite black letter law.

The problem with not attending class is that you lose the opportunity to get the "flavor" of the instructor. An outline can abstract everything that the professor says, but it cannot capture his or her intonation.

(2) Pick up the "vig". That's the slang expression I have for the extra 1/3 grade you can get for class participation. From an appearance standpoint, an "A-" looks a lot better than a "B+".

How to get the vig is an article in itself. In the meantime, keep in mind that you don't get it if you sit in the back of the class and never open your mouth. It's better to make a fool of yourself in law school than in court. So ask your questions now and save some embarrassment later.

(3) Prepare a good outline. You cannot possibly remember all the miscellaneous odds and ends that you learn in an entire semester. The challenge is to separate the wheat from the chaff. A good outline is short and concise. It should condense the really important cases and rules of law.

If you do not have the time to make up your own outline, look for someone else's. Caveat: Make sure the outline you get is from a superior student. I have seen many, many outlines that have serious factual errors in them. A bad outline is worse than no outline at all.

Continued on Page 5

DON'T GET CAUGHT WITH YOUR PANTS DOWN...

READ THE NYLS REPORTER!

MEDIA LAW & POLICY

ML & P will be accepting applications for 1996-97. See Carl Billek or Eric Slater in Room L2 in the lower level of the "C" Building for more information.

THE PASSWORD: BAP'BRI
Advice For First Year Students

By Alexis Troy

Although according to the calendar there are a few weeks left to summer, let’s face it: summer is over when school begins. So as we say goodbye to summer and hello to New York Law School, let me, as a second year student, give some friendly advice to the 1L’s who are probably scared out of their wits at the prospect of starting law school. First I will offer advice about each first semester class, then I will offer some advice about the first year in general.

Okay, you’ve made it through the first three weeks, and if you can sit through Lawyering for five days, twice a day, you’ve already won half the battle. Lawyering is basically a test of your patience, and by the time you are finished with that class (which mercifully ends around mid-October), you will wish the granite had fallen on Patrick Glennon’s head so this lawsuit would never have been started.

"Lawyering is basically a test of patience..."

What everyone says is true for the most part—if you are into Lawyering and participate you will get a lot out of it. But if you’re not into it and couldn’t care less if the granite was white, red, orange or purple, bring plenty of crossword puzzles to fill your time as the clock slowly ticks. Torts was a subject that I actually enjoyed. Here you will learn that if a midget threatens to punch a six foot tall bodybuilder he is liable for assault, that a six year old chair-puller can be sued for battery, and that if you are blind and fall into a hole on the street it’s your fault. In torts, negligence is the most tricky topic you will encounter. Other than that, it is a really good class.

Civil Procedure, on the other hand, is a really important class but it is boring and difficult to grasp. My advice for this class? If you don’t have Professor Belly and his infamous jurisdictional triangle, this subject is a lost cause. Good luck (you’ll need it).

Contracts was another subject that was pretty good even though some of the concepts were difficult. All you really need to know first semester is offer/acceptance, consideration and also the millions of things that go along with them. Oh, and I cannot forget the infamous UCC! If you do not know that you’ve pronounced the Uniform Commercial Code it sounds like “uck.” But do not despair—the exam is only 3 hours and it is usually open book.

"This class is the most likely reason why people say first year is so hard."

Finally there is Legal Writing and Research. Unfortunately, legal research with Professor Reuscher only lasts a few weeks. This class is not only helpful, but Professor Reuscher manages to make it funny! Legal writing, on the other hand, is not very fun or funny at all. Here is a two credit class that should be at least three. This class is the most likely reason why people say the first year of law school is so hard. This semester, you will do memos and a legal letter.

My advice? Listen to everything your teacher says. Forget what the book says—the authors aren’t giving you your grade for Pete’s sake! And speaking of grades, remember that a poor on your first memo is an excellent grade! The best thing about this class is that you will learn a lot. Also, be thankful that you don’t have the horrendous book we had last semester. And one more thing—DO NOT BUY BEDFORD BASICS!! It is a waste of money.

If you don’t know the difference between an adjective and a verb by now, you may as well save your money and go to Stan’s.

If you don’t know the difference between an adjective and a verb by now, or if you don’t know where a comma goes, you’re hopeless anyway. You may as well save the money and go to Stan’s.

So there you have your fall semester in a nutshell. Here are some more parting words to make your first year more enjoyable.

"Lawyering is basically a test of patience..."

- Do not go crazy in the bookstore buying every study aid and book that says “First Year Help Guide” or something to that effect. Believe me, I know from experience, you will never have a chance to read everything. Just buy Emanuel’s.

- Resist the urge to throw your book at "Hypo Man" or "Question Boy," or the person raising their hand to answer every question and rambles on, never getting to the point, just to hear the sound of their own voice. They will be in your classes, and senseless violence is never the answer. Writing notes on your dividers will make your neighbor laugh and help you ignore what these long winded time wasters have to say.

- If you should get called on, do not turn red and proceed to say “umm” fifty times in a row. Try to answer the question as best you can. And if you can’t, simply say “I don’t know.” What’s the worst that can happen? So you look like a moron for a few minutes—big deal. It’s happened to me many times, and I’m still alive. Your professors are just people, and they’re pretty forgiving if you don’t know the answer. Just be better prepared next class.

Finally, probably the best advice I can give is to RELAX! It is only school! There is no reason why your life has to be over. The school is nice enough to give you a day off for crying out loud! Just remember that everyone is in the same boat and that no one knows any more than anyone else.

If, after you have been reading a case for over two hours and still don’t know what is going on (Pennoyer v. Neff anyone?), do not stress. Get up from your desk, close your book, get your frustrations out by dancing to a little Madonna, and go to bed. Choices are, no one else knows what the case was about, and you can be happy with the knowledge that you are no more clueless than anyone else. Believe me, they are. Good Luck, and have a great first semester.

Ombudsman,

continued from page 2

Remember, this is an all out war on fliers. I am planning midnight raids, camera surveillance, undercover agents who will get into the clubs and organizations, and find out how they operate. There will be special copy machines on campus which will automatically fingerprint the people who make duplicated fliers. I promise to get these people off of the streets and away from our children. I will also send people into our schools, and teach children about the dangers of this practice. I will petition the president to make it a felony to distribute fliers within one hundred feet of NYLS, and I will set up special detoxification centers, so that these people addicted to fliers can seek counseling and education. My plan, if completed, will rid our country of every single flier (except for Eric Lindross), and it will once again be safe to peruse the halls of our campuses, and make NYLS the outstanding flier-free institution that it once was.
NYLS HOUSING UPDATE

By David Drossman

After a year of complaints and problems with student housing a year ago, the NYLS housing Office has made the switch from the Henry Hudson Student Residence to the St. George Hotel in Brooklyn Heights. Out of 100 rooms initially leased from the Henry Hudson, slightly more than half were taken by NYLS students. After the first semester, that number dropped to only 46.

An unresponsive union staff and bureaucratic management combined to drive many NYLS students away after the first semester. The tight quarters (8' X 12') of many rooms, roach problems and phone rates that cost more than clearing out the courtesy bar in a room at the Plaza also compounded the problems.

Located at 353 West 57th Street, location was a redeeming quality for the Henry Hudson. To the east is a posh, touristy area with close proximity to Central Park allowing students to enjoy the yuppie crowd, the area surrounding the St. George Hotel, nestled into what has been called the best neighborhood in Brooklyn Heights. Out of 100 rooms initially leased from New York University dormitories, NYLS chose the new location based on its convenience (two stops on the 2, 3 trains to Clark Street) and the newly renovated rooms. Rooms at the St. George are available in two sizes for different prices. Small singles are 115 square feet and cost $650 a month, while large singles are 150 square feet costing $820 a month. Both room types offer full furnishings, including bed, desk with hutch, full private bath, air conditioning, carpeting, refrigerator, etc.

In years past, NYLS had leased vacant rooms from New York University dormitories. Unfortunately, increased enrollment at NYU forced them to take back their rooms and purchase additional buildings to accommodate their students. Left high and dry, NYLS quickly found a term solution: This year promises a whole new student housing solution. This year promises a whole new experience for NYLS students taking advantage of student housing.

Just across the Brooklyn Bridge lies the St. George Hotel, nestled into what has been called the closest students to enjoy the Manhattan skyline and a friendly view of the Manhattan skyline and a friendly atmosphere. Working at the Henry Hudson, which turned out to be a short-term solution. This year promises a whole new experience for NYLS students taking advantage of student housing.

In years past, NYLS had leased vacant rooms from New York University dormitories. Unfortunately, increased enrollment at NYU forced them to take back their rooms and purchase additional buildings to accommodate their students. Left high and dry, NYLS quickly found a term solution: This year promises a whole new experience for NYLS students taking advantage of student housing.

Just across the Brooklyn Bridge lies the St. George Hotel, nestled into what has been called the closest students to enjoy the Manhattan skyline and a friendly atmosphere. Working at the Henry Hudson, which turned out to be a short-term solution. This year promises a whole new experience for NYLS students taking advantage of student housing.

In years past, NYLS had leased vacant rooms from New York University dormitories. Unfortunately, increased enrollment at NYU forced them to take back their rooms and purchase additional buildings to accommodate their students. Left high and dry, NYLS quickly found a term solution: This year promises a whole new experience for NYLS students taking advantage of student housing.

Just across the Brooklyn Bridge lies the St. George Hotel, nestled into what has been called the closest students to enjoy the Manhattan skyline and a friendly atmosphere. Working at the Henry Hudson, which turned out to be a short-term solution. This year promises a whole new experience for NYLS students taking advantage of student housing.

As an additional improvement NYNEX phone service will be offered, promising reasonable rates and phone bills that won't be confused with the rent bill. Out of 100 rooms leased by NYLS, 56 have been filled. Another concession achieved by NYLS Housing is greatly discounted membership at Eastern Athletic Club, only a few blocks from the St. George. This appears to be a promising year for NYLS Housing, but eventually the school needs to provide its own housing by purchasing a building to be converted to dorms. Although rumored about for years, it is time to show students that their tuition increases are going somewhere besides silk-lined pockets.

Block, Continued from Page 3

(4) Consider commercial outlines and flashcards. These are not substitutes for your own work. They can, however, serve as an effective method of putting a topic or subject into perspective. There is also a considerable reinforcement value in seeing the same cases and rules restated in a different form.

(5) Read the professor's old exams. You can find them in the library. Make copies early in the semester, before less ethical students steal them. If they are already stolen, ask the librarian or professor for copies. Old exams allow you to really get into the head of the professor.

In many cases, the same issues recur in subsequent exams. Practice taking these exams under test-like conditions. Afterwards, dissect the exam to see what issues you missed. Discuss your analysis with other students or ask the professor about any areas of which you are unsure.

Check to see if your professor bases his questions on recent or pending Supreme Court decisions. This is likely, because such cases provide for good fact patterns involving topical issues.

"Given the almost insurmountable obstacle of getting an 'A', one might be tempted to ask, 'If only eight to ten percent of any class will receive an 'A', why should I keep on reading?'

(6) Sign up with a good bar review course in your first year. You will eventually be tested on most of your law school courses after graduation. Courses such as BAR/BRI have prepared outlines and other materials which you can receive as early as your first year.

In addition, some courses provide video tape lectures which condense an entire semester's work into a four or five hour session. In these sessions, the speaker often clues you in on the favorite trap questions that professors love to ask. These materials can be very useful, and you will eventually have to sign up anyway. Why wait until after you graduate?

...you will eventually have to sign up anyway.

Continued on Page 6
NYLS SELLS OUT

Continued from Page 1

spots available for faculty and staff now, on most days only 50 spots are filled at any one time.

The major impact will be felt by guests, vendors, and students who use the lot during the week. Although the 10 student spots which had previously been auctioned off will be eliminated, there will still be unlimited student access on weekends.

The NYLS Director of Finance chose to go this route because of the additional revenue it will bring to the school, the minimal inconvenience and the added security.

The property is one of the few areas where the school has the flexibility to maximize the space economically. Expected to bring in over $100,000 a year, the new lease is expected to begin sometime in October and it will run for 3-6 years.

The leasing of the lot will bring added security as someone will be outside the building most of the time. In addition, snow removal will be done by the lessee and NYLS will save money by the elimination of security guards posted at the gate.

The anticipated short term lease would give NYLS the option to regain management in only a few years if the arrangement caused problems. Or NYLS can test the marketplace again for potentially higher bids.

At any point in the lease NYLS can automatically terminate the arrangement if a decision is made to build on the property. At this point there is not enough of a demand for new space to justify spending $20-$30 million on a new building, but it is a possibility if the situation and space needs of our school change.

The money to build this new building could come from the parking concessions or through a capital campaign, but the NYLS Director of Finance said it would be funded by student tuition. Ideas on construction of a new building, which is a long way away, include one student spot which had previously been auctioned off will be eliminated, there will still be unlimited student access on weekends.

The NYLS Director of Finance chose to go this route because of the additional revenue it will bring to the school, the minimal inconvenience and the added security.

The property is one of the few areas where the school has the flexibility to maximize the space economically. Expected to bring in over $100,000 a year, the new lease is expected to begin sometime in October and it will run for 3-6 years.

The leasing of the lot will bring added security as someone will be outside the building most of the time. In addition, snow removal will be done by the lessee and NYLS will save money by the elimination of security guards posted at the gate.

The anticipated short term lease would give NYLS the option to regain management in only a few years if the arrangement caused problems. Or NYLS can test the marketplace again for potentially higher bids.

At any point in the lease NYLS can automatically terminate the arrangement if a decision is made to build on the property. At this point there is not enough of a demand for new space to justify spending $20-$30 million on a new building, but it is a possibility if the situation and space needs of our school change.

The NYLS Director of Finance said it would be funded by student tuition. Ideas on construction of a new building, which is a long way away, include one combining housing and classrooms.
Continued from page 1

anyone here better than someone who just decided to come here to avoid getting a job. Almost everyone who says that they’ve always wanted to become lawyers are full of it, so don’t feel any pressure to compete with them if you are just here for the money.

Regardless of how we got here or why we first decided to go to law school, the point is that we are all here. We are not all geniuses, we do not all study ten hours a day, and if we read the ‘Post’ or the ‘News’ over the ‘Times’, who cares? Those treating every action or reaction of theirs as if it will make or break their careers will be unhappy people, before and after graduation.

Most law students have not wanted to become lawyers since they first saw one on TV...

It’s easy to get caught up in the fervor of grades, jobs, internships, recommendations, and networking. Often I find myself falling into the same trap. Other students talking about their class rank and influential people they know fosters a more competitive and hostile environment. I get angry when I am not satisfied with a grade, while others who seem to do half the work get double the grade. In the end none of it matters on the bottom line of life, but for a split second I hate that person, then my sanity returns.

What has happened to me, I ask myself. People I respect and am happy for turn to enemies over a letter or number? That is not the type of person I am, and I hope that this disease is not as widespread as I am frightened it is. At Columbia and Cardozo Law pages are ripped out of books at the library and purposefully misshelved to make work more difficult for other students. What is this generation of lawyers turning into?

It is very easy to get caught up in the fervor and forget that we are here to better ourselves.

As an undergraduate student grades were of less importance to me as finding a direction for my life to follow. If I was preoccupied with grades and connections I would never have discovered that I was made for the practice of law. And in the end, grades did not matter when applying to law schools because my desire and focus on this field came through in my writings and interviews.

"And in the end, grades didn’t even matter..."

Now that I am here, the same search continues for direction, with grades as an afterthought to learning. In twelve interviews for internships and summer positions, grades or rankings were never mentioned, because most employers look for enthusiasm and character in their employees over numbers on a sheet of paper.

One of the great things that New York Law School has to offer is its education-friendly environment. That is very important to me, and it is one of the first things I tell people thinking of joining us. If we all fall into the same traps that students at Columbia and NYU Law did, then that user-friendly environment will be lost. We must catch ourselves when jealousy and competitiveness takes over to prevent our school days from becoming a much more unpleasant and ruthless experience.

Let’s leave the whining and pouting to those students on the eighth floor and the rest of us can become professionals...

The reputation of the next generation of lawyers depends on our professionalism and conduct developed in law school. Our personal growth and the improved reputation of our profession begins today, and continues throughout our professional careers.

The next time you have the urge to purge when you receive a poor grade or if you feel a bout with jealousy and hatred coming on, remember that we are all here together to learn and grow, not become bitter, spiteful colleagues. Let’s leave the whining and pouting to the top ten percent of the class and the rest of us can become lawyers.
EVENTS... The Center for New York City Law Breakfast Schedule for 1996-97

All Law Breakfasts begin at 8:30 A.M. and take place in the New York Law Faculty Dining Room. Please enter at 47 Worth Street. Admission is free, though reservations are recommended. For reservations and information contact The Center for New York City Law at (212) 431-2115.

New York Law School Professor Ross Sandler, the Director of NYLS's Center for New York City Law, invites you to the "City Law Breakfast Series", featuring discussions with important decision makers who focus on public affairs and legal issues involving New York City, its governmental processes and its policies.

HON. HENRY J. STERN, Commissioner of Parks and Recreation
Friday, September 27, 1996
Parks: Politics and City Government: In That Order.

RICHARD COTTON, General Counsel of NBC and Chair of The Primary Care Development Corporation
Friday, October 25, 1996
Health Care in New York City: Public/Private Efforts To Improve Primary Health Services.

GRETCHEK DYKSTRA, President, Times Square Business Improvement District
Friday, December 13, 1996
New Year's Eve in Times Square: Running the World's Biggest New Year's Eve Party.

ROBERT F. KENNEDY, JR., Professor, Pace Law School; Chief Prosecuting Attorney, Hudson Riverkeeper
Friday, February 28, 1997
Pure Water for New York City: Protecting the Watershed.

HON. RUDY WASHINGTON, Deputy Mayor for Community Development & Business Services
Friday, March 21, 1997
Minority Owned Businesses: What We Need To Do Now.

HON. ALAN G. HEVESI, Comptroller
Friday, April 18, 1997
The Comptroller's Office: Budgets, Audits and Politics.

The Early Bird gets the worm ... and a $400 SAVINGS!!!!!!!!

When you register for Pieper Bar Review before November 1, 1996, we will automatically give you a $400 EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT!

When you lock in your price early, you will also get:

- The Pieper 5 Volume set on New York & Multistate law, quiz books and the New York Appellate Alert, a digest of appellate decisions from 1984 through today. (With $150 deposit)
- Only one lecturer: John Pieper gives all of the lectures - No rotating professors.
- A Free MPRE review lecture.
- A complete bar review course with no hidden costs.
- The PIEPER personal touch.

Don't forget, the deadline is November 1, 1996
Don't be left out.
Call 1-800-635-6569 today with any questions.
EXPERIENCES

Mission: Impossible

By Cristin L. Flynn

The first few days of a first year's law school experience are spent with Paula Graham and Anne Rasmussen, those reckless drivers in Daddy's Trans Am. Everyone student had read Anatomy of a Law Suit from cover to cover, and were ready to litigate Patrick Glennon's granite problem as if it were the trial of the century.

The beginning of the second year saw a metamorphosis for many students who decided to compete in the Froessel Moot Court Competition. Many a dazed student sat, staring at the computer screen on the second floor of the library thinking, "I am doing this voluntarily?"

The reasonable person would never agree to cut summer vacation short by a month, read 1,000 pages of Supreme Court case law, write and rewrite a brief and then argue at least three times before a panel of judges fresh out of the KGB's Hostile Tactics School.

Other second years were preparing for the hell that quickly became Journal Law Review office hours, and the cite & source hell that is required for publishing any edition of our school's journals. Those that were smart enough to keep their time in school to a minimum spent a tremendous number of hours pursuing internships, jobs, and career-oriented activities.

But the beginning of third year is a thing of beauty. Students who had good enough grades or connections are well rested after two weeks of vacation after the summer associate programs have ended.

Others have taken time off, and are putting the finishing touches on what looks like an already perfect tan. However, the whole concept of doing actual schoolwork won't kick in for several weeks, and that is the pleasure of being a third year.

After two years of briefing cases, preparing reading assignments, and actually figuring out notes into an outline every day after class, it is a pleasure to realize that most third-year students don't actually remember to buy books until after Labor Day. Technically, it would be wrong to start working before Labor Day, the official Day of Work. It's like the Kickoff Classic is for the football season; nothing really counts until after it's over.

Setting in to the third year of school is a challenge. More of a challenge is finding the motivation to recapture some of the back to school zeal from years past. Denial is a big part of being a third year. Knowing that the Bar is Out There, ready to pounce, makes it even easier to find ways of ignoring the concept of "required" or "not optional" coursework.

Temptation comes in just about any shape and form: Rollerblading in Central Park, hanging out on a rooftop, or even wondering why those new benches out in front of the Federal Building at the corner of Worth and Broadway are lime green.

As third year students enter their last year of education, it is with an interest in the same things as in the first year of kindergarten. Lime green benches, where to get lunch, when are loved ones coming home, and all important bedtime.

By the third year, priorities seem to have shifted away from the quest for legal enlightenment to the realization that the most important part of law school is energy conservation. Energy should not be wasted on anything that is not absolutely required.

This concept should be embraced by all third years who have witnessed friends and loved ones recently tormented by the New York State Bar Examiners. We, too, have only 11 months before the epiphany of law required for the bar forces our brains to spontaneously combust on the last Tuesday and Wednesday of July.

This way, all third years take license to eat more, sleep more, study less, take more naps, drink often, huddle with friends on cold days to preserve heat, and take lots of deep breaths and long walks. All of the excess energy conserved this year will be expended on the Bar, which takes about as long to study for as walking from Georgia to Maine on the Appalachian Trail.

As a result of this self-inflicted demotion, third years will live this entire year in fear of the Bar Exam, the two-day, multiple choice and essay exam written by 5 attorneys in Albany who weren't smart enough to get real jobs, and decided that the best way to seek revenge against those who did was to write the New York State Bar Exam.

Our revenge, of course, is that those same 5 miserable people who wrote the Bar have to read 8,000 versions of the same answer to their questions without the pleasure of a handwriting expert.

As for our friends with light years to go on the path towards a legal education, a few words of advice. In your first year, panic. It's a require-

In your second year, run. If you have time to sit down, you're doing something wrong. In your third year, don't move a muscle. You'll need that energy soon enough.

PERSPECTIVES: A LOOK BACK IN TIME

More than 65 years ago, my career as a legal secretary began upon my graduation from high school in the year 1929. Although it was just three months before the Great Crash of the Wall Street Stock Market, inasmuch as I had good skills in typing and shorthand, I had no difficulty finding a position in a law office.

In those days, the starting salary was $15 a week, live and one-half days a week, with hours from 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. However, [bus and subway] fare cost a nickel; coffee cost a nickel; a sandwich at the Automat cost 15 or 20 cents; no salary deductions; no Social Security.

My first employer practiced general law, wills and probate proceedings and some negligence. He also maintained a collective agency. He employed a small staff consisting of a managing clerk and myself, and eventually employed another clerk and secretary mainly because of the collection work. After some time, I became proficient enough to handle most of the collection proceedings on my own.

At that period of time, manual typewriters were used exclusively in all offices. Old-fashioned uptight telephones were also used. Copies of all written documents were made by using carbon paper, making three to six copies at one time.

About two years later, I advanced to another position in general practice with a good deal of negligence claims. This office also used a manual typewriter; also a small monitor board for the telephone. He employed two additional attorneys, one part-time only, being a member of his family.

From then on, and for a period of about seven years, I changed positions gaining experience in several aspects of the law, including some criminal law. In a few of the offices where I worked, the attorneys maintained a collective agency in addition to their practice.

In those days, it was customary to give up working upon marriage. Thereafter, I remained at home raising my three sons for a period of 27 years. In 1963, I returned to part-time employment because of my husband's illness. (Eventually I returned to full-time employment after my husband's passing).

During those years, I had no difficulty finding positions, either on my own or through employment agencies; accepting whatever was offered in law, business, banking, insurance, etc. By actual count, I reached 156 positions and assignments ranging from one day to 13 years at one position where I am now employed.

In 1961, after returning to work after 27 years at home, electrical typewriters and dictaphones were in use and telephone systems were updated, but Xerox machines were not yet available. In the large law firms, they maintained secretarial pools, proof readers and librarians. Attorneys specialized and formed larger law firms to handle every aspect of the law.

Gradually Xerox machines were used in most legal offices; followed by fax machines, word processors, computers, and the employment of paralegals. Part time secretaries were being used more because of the time saved by use of the various machines. At the present time, some attorneys are working their own word processors, thus eliminating the need for a legal secretary.

I am still employed at the age of eighty-four, and will continue working until such time as my work is completed, when I expect to retire.

Beatrice Levene
A TIME TO KILL
Starring Matthew McConaughey, Sandra Bullock, and Samuel L. Jackson

It seems as though a new John Grisham novel comes to the big screen every other month. The latest adaption is of his first novel, "A Time To Kill".

This Joel Schumacher directed vehicle stars newcomer Matthew McConaughey as Jake Brigance, a young righteous Mississippi lawyer hired to defend a black man, Carl Lee Hailey (Samuel L. Jackson), on trial for murdering two locals who raped and almost killed his daughter. Mr. McConaughey, touted as the next big thing, does have definite "Tom Cruiseish" star power.

Walking with a confident swagger for most of the film and doing his best southern twang, McConaughey commands the screen and wins over the audience with his "I'm here to do some good" schtick. Jackson (Pulp Fiction) is excellent as the distraught father, doing what he believes any other father would do if put in his shoes.

Now I have not read the book as my lovely counterpart Gila has, but I think Sandra Bullock's part as Ellen Roark, the law student is played up quite riveting, so you need to allow for some artistic license.

Ellen, wearing tight-fitting skimpy outfits for most of the flick (not that there's anything wrong with that), is the brilliant young mind who always seems to uncover the perfect case for Jake's cause. It was quite unpredictable that she would, are you ready for this— develop a love interest in Jake. I most definitely didn't see that one coming.

Bullock wasn't nearly as annoying as I thought she'd be, maybe because she wasn't in that much of the movie. I can't say I completely bought the "brilliant law student" bit, but her witty charm won me over.

Kevin Spacey (Usual Suspects) plays the ruthless DA, Rufus Buckley. Donald Sutherland is Lucian Wilbanks, Jake's mentor, and Oliver Platt (Flatliners) is Jake's wise cracking divorce attorney friend, Harry Rex Vonner. Finally, Ashley Judd (Heat) portrays Jake's suffering wife and Kiefer Sutherland (Lost Boys) is one of the local hicks looking for retribution for the killing of the two men.

Schumacher very capably takes a complex racially charged story-line and pieces things together. As law students, it may be a little more difficult for us to accept some of the ridiculous legal banter. Some of the courtroom scenes are quite riveting, so you need to allow for some artistic license.

Does everyone in this movie have to be so damn-good looking? Between McConaughey, Judd, and Bullock the attractiveness meter was through the roof. Aren't there any ugly people in Mississippi? The characters are what I'd call "cookie cutter". Each fit into their very contrived, predictable, defined roles. For fun match up the characters in this movie with the characters in A Few Good Men.

Tom Cruise's role goes to Mr. McConaughey, Demi Moore is Sandra Bullock and Kevin Bacon is Kevin Spacey. For a Hollywood flick trying to please the greatest number of people possible, I'd say A Time To Kill wasn't bad.

3 GAVELS

Hey kids! I hope you all had a pleasant summer. Now that school has started, it's back to the books and into the library. As busy law students, most of us don't have the time to see every movie out there. We must choose wisely before investing two or more hours of our precious time for entertainment purposes. That's where we come in.

As self proclaimed movie experts, we have been known to argue with each other around school or via the Internet (check out Law School Online's Exchange area) about the good, the bad, and the ugly of what Hollywood has been dishing out.

We feel that our movie knowledge and opinions printed on these pages will serve to enlighten you when it comes to choosing that perfect 'flix.'

If there's a movie we don't get to review, feel free to approach us or drop us a note—chances are we'll have something to say about it.

SBA NEWS:
To the Students of New York Law School,

My name is John Brien and I am the President of the Student Bar Association (SBA). I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the first year students to NYLS as well as extend a warm welcome back to all upperclassmen.

For those of you unfamiliar with the SBA, I will explain our purpose. We are YOUR representative body, and we work for YOU. You have been gracious enough to elect myself and the rest of the executive board to positions that we do not take lightly. If you have any problems, suggestions, or questions about anything that affects student life at NYLS, we are your voice to the administration.

You are free to visit the office of the SBA located in the student center, Room L5, during the Executive Board's office hours, which will be posted outside the office as well as in the Counselor. You are also free to speak with your section Senators at any time. Your concerns will be aired at the SBA Senate Meetings which are held once a month.

ANY student, whether a Senator or not, is free to attend the meetings and address the Senate. These meetings are open to ALL students. This brings me to my second point: How to become a Senator.

Senators are elected at the beginning of each academic year and serve for the entirety of that year. Elections will be held on Tuesday, September 24th and Wednesday, September 25th. To run you must complete a nomination form. These forms, as well as additional information regarding the Senate elections will be available on Club Day, September 10, at the SBA/ABA-Law Student Division table.

Please visit us so that we can answer any questions that you may have. Also available will be applications for enrollment in the Law Student Division of the ABA. I urge you to join the division and take advantage of the many benefits that accompany membership.

I now stress the most important thing I will ask of the student body this year: YOUR VOTE. Unfortunately, the voting turnout over the past several years has been poor. If we are to have a strong voice in New York City, we need your support.

Gila Garber

TRAINSPOTTING
Starring: Ewan MacGregor
Directed by: Danny Boyle

This off-beat Scottish film has become this summer's most popular movie import. The story boils down to the not-so-nice side of heroin use. At a time when rock stars and Hollywood actors are filling headlines with their use of this 'in' drug, this movie appropriately serves its purpose of de-glorifying heroin.

Ewan MacGregor and his buddies are heroin junkies. Their simplistic lives are consumed by when, how, and where they'll get their next fix. MacGregor's character decides to wise up and kick his habit, though it's easier said than done.

Trainspotting has a nice variety of cinematic techniques. Some scenes use special angles, giving visual hints that MacGregor's character is a little 'better' than his friends. There's a lot of focal music flying around in this film (literally), serving as somewhat of an analogy to the crummy habit of heroin use. Despite its depressing subject, Trainspotting is a bizarre and creatively funky film. Rating: Three Stars
SBA, continued from page 10

the past few years has been dismal, but this year we need your vote. Last year the Judiciary Committee drafted an updated and revised version of the Constitution which will change the face of SBA. This Constitution puts us in line with other New York City law schools and allows SBA to function in a far more efficient and successful manner.

However, we cannot ratify this Constitution without your help. Over the course of two days we need at least 51% of the student body to vote. That is just over 600 students. I simply cannot stress the importance of your vote enough. Unless we get the requisite number of votes, the Constitution will fail, and we will continue to take a backseat to the rest of the law school community.

Finally, I would like to share with you some of my goals for the academic year. Students will see a far greater presence of the SBA in student life. I believe we have been grossly underutilized, and that must change. Communication between SBA and students will be greatly enhanced so there will be no more mystery about the workings of SBA. Working with Amy Mellon, your ABA/LSD representative, I look forward to much progress this year. I, along with the Executive Board and the Senate upon election, will seek to make substantive, wholesale changes at NYLS.

These changes shall be in the areas that matter most:

TUITION, THE LEGAL WRITING PROGRAM, and PARKING, to name a few.

These goals are within our grasp and I urge every student to run for a position on the SBA Senate. This year shall be a breakout year for the SBA and I want everyone to be part of it. If you decide not to run for a position, you can still participate in this year of wholesale change. All you have to do is cast your vote. Together we can make NYLS a better place for all.

I am truly grateful that you have given me the opportunity to be your President, and I wish each and every one of you success this year, both inside and outside the classroom.
First We Get You Through Law School... Then We Get You Through The Bar Exam!

Gilbert Law Summaries
Legalines
Over 4 Million Copies Sold

BAR/BRI Bar Review
Relied On By Over 500,000 Lawyers

Our Only Mission Is Test Preparation

Call Toll Free
(800) 472-8899
or visit our web site at http://www.barbri.com