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New York Law School

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Who Am I?

The L. Our former student newspaper, and its staff are no more. Instead we bring you De Novo: a refreshing new approach to student papers. We are not law school investigators looking to uncover every administrative mishap. While we will have articles concerning school, we want to offer more; more De Novo will be a break from the day, a chance for you to breathe a little and smile. Look for articles about life, love, the city, original stories, random information, games and mayhem. Law school can get pretty serious, De Novo wants to lighten things up a bit.

Welcome you all to participate. The paper is our community paper and so it can only be at its best when the community participates. There is room for everyone and whatever talent you may have to offer. The only prerequisite is enthusiasm and commitment. Law school goes by fast and before long the current editors will be gone. We will want people to carry on the De Novo name.

Most importantly, WE NEED WRITERS! If you are here then you can write. So take up your pen or sit at your keyboard and start writing. Something, the time to get involved is now.

On behalf of De Novo we welcome the class of 2005 and 2006. Have a great year and remember this moment is always new.

De Novo

Moot Court
THE CHARLES W. FROESSEL COMPETITION
2002

The Four Finalists:

PETITIONERS,
JOHN TATULLI, AND
SUSAN EYWARD
RESPONDENTS,
NOAH MELNICK AND
CHRISTOPHER YAPCHAN YK

By De Novo Staff Writer

The only thing missing from the final round of the Froesssel competition was a play-by-play announcer and maybe 40,000 fans. However, it felt like a game of a subway series with the same energy, excitement and on a's and oh's. Between the judges trumping each other by asking harder and harder questions and the advocates coming back with pointed and articulate answers it was hard to figure out who was actually competing.

It was obvious that the final four advocates deserved to be there. Other than rare moments in class where student and teacher debate back and forth one does not usually get to see his or her classmates in action. Watching friends and fellow students argue with the passion, intelligence and charisma that they did was inspiring It was a fine display of oral advocacy that made all who attended proud. As 1L Daphne Schlick, asked me "these are only second years?"

Honorable Denny Chin, District Court Judge for the Southern District of New York; Honorable Sydney Stein, District Court Judge for the Southern District of New York; Honorable Berle Schiller District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; Dean Matasar and Professor Nadine Strossen served as Justices in this year's competition.

The four finalists, Petitioners Susan Eyward and John Tatulli, and Respondents, Noah Melnick and Christopher Yapchan Yk, emerged from 84 competitors. The Froesssel Co-Authors were Adam Brown and Marina Hoppas and the Co-Chairs were Mya Johnson and Dawn Kuck. While the respondents won Best Team and Noah Melnick walked away with Best Speaker, to say that Petitioners lost would be injustice.

De Novo wishes all the new members of the NYLS Moot Court Association all the best.

As I Was Saying

by Richard A. Matasar,
Dean and President, NYLS

I love the summer. It's hot outside, but we have air conditioning for relief. We go to work, but everyone is on vacation. The Friday of Labor Day weekend is a day of emptiness, but it's easy to find parking. Life goes by slowly. There are flowers to smell. Baseball (when it isn't on strike) is the sport of the day, ambling along on a three hour pace. Restaurants have reservations available without the need to book a month in advance.

Frankly, I'd rather have my eyeballs poked with sticks. Give me the movement the excitement, the lightening pace, the life of New York Law School at full tilt. The best part of the summer is that it ends and gives every action junkie a fall back-to-school, pick up where we left off, welcome new students, begin new initiatives, and face daily challenges. That's the real life!

As I was saying last spring (before the summer rudely interrupted), this is New York Law School. We're on a mission to get better. We can't wait to get there. And we're having fun every inch of the way. We begin this school year with the largest entering class in New York Law School's history. With 700 more applications, 300 fewer acceptances, and 120 more students, we're a "cozy" (a nicer word than overcrowded), yet law school that people are recognizing for its fearlessness. New students are joining a student body that has overcome adversity, embraced the rigorous of professional study, and committed to professional development. Together with the faculty and staff of the law school, those students are part of a great experiment in moving legal education forward.

The editors of this newspaper have announced that it will have a new name and attitude - De Novo. New filling, De Novo means "another," "fresh," and "second chance." This is New York Law School itself. We start anew this year with new faculty, an innovative honors program, comprehensive curriculum program, evolving curricular niches, and administrative liaison program for first-year students. The emerging Office of Professional Development, an aggressive approach to career planning, a new logo, and our own new attitude.

New York Law School rightly claims that it is a place to Learn Law and Take Action. What is demonstrated every school year is the breadth of this credo. Students, faculty, and staff are engaged in every aspect of the profession. They are involved in public interest. In the corporate world, in voluntary action, in profit-making entities. In making the city and country a more just place. The range is stunning. It happens here a simple point: New York Law School offers the right program for each student. Welcome back.

Evidence for Sale

The Los Angeles Times reports that lawyers are bidding, often against each other, for evidence on eBay. The eBay items most popular with lawyers are commercial and household artifacts, historic corporate documents, product catalogs and maintenance manuals that can be used in connection with proving the performance of a product. Asbestos attorneys are especially active eBay users. There are dozens of auctions every day relating to asbestos. Recently, a 1949 plumbing supply catalog with a section on asbestos products went for $350. A wiring materials catalog with advertisements for asbestos products went for $1,320. Said one plaintiff's attorney, "there is no better place to shop and buy real evidence than on Ebay."
AND THE REASON IS?

By Lisa Petito

As I started the second year of law school, I realized I was not the only 2L with the burning desire to know the reason why. At first years we were innocent, naive novices who did not know any better, we believed everything that was taught and were golden. Who knows, maybe for the third year the question has been answered. But for all the 2L’s who are still in the dark, maybe we can get an answer.

Last year we took two semesters of legal writing classes, and another year of legal research. It was drilled into us that citations are important. It was clear we had to learn citations in order to be successful lawyers. Every space, period, and capital letter was crucial. It was imperative to learn citations, and we did. The problem was, we learned citations the wrong way. So the million dollar question was, "What happens to those who do not belong to those organizations, those who believed they were taught the essentials to be a successful lawyer during their first year of law school, only to find upon employment, that they were badly mistaken?"

REFLECTIONS...

By Dwight Day

It's the beginning of another school year when we look forward to whatever we lower 3L’s, staff members, administrators, and the rest of the NL&L community look forward to. It's especially exciting for me because it's my final year. In nine months, another class of students will graduate. Two months later that same class will graduate. So I’ll be off to BAR and wait to see if they are satisfied...maybe for the third years the answer will be known...especially the real legalease of the act. Myclass especially frustrating than that. Maybe I'm not sophisticated enough. Maybe my mind is too small to get around the fact that this human being is actually carrying an animal up the wall. Not a sick animal or a weak animal, but one that is supposed to be walking. They carry it like it's a baby, but it's not. It's a DOG! I don't know why they do it. Is it because the dog's legs are too small to make any real progress? Is the owner important with the dog? If that is the case why have the dog in the first place? I am writing more questions than answers, because I cannot make up my mind about that! When you leave a restaurant and you leave the dog down and let it walk or just get rid of it. Get a hamster. It's about the same size and you don't have to take it out of its cage.

ARE YOU SERIOUS?

By David Steingard

Most people don't bother me even if they do have the same traits that would generally drive the population up the wall. If someone is uncouth I don’t take it personally. I figure they have to live with themselves and life has a way of working things out. However, there are things that get my blood boiling. I hate when I'm walking down the street and I see someone carrying a really small dog in his or her arms. I can't think of many things more frustrating than that. Maybe I'm not sophisticated enough. Maybe carrying your dog is just wrong and I'm just out of the loop. Maybe it is the inherent absurdity of the act itself. Maybe my mind is too small to point of the walk is to get the dog to exercise. By carrying the dog you provide no reason for the walk in the first place. Put the dog down and let it walk or just get rid of it. Get a hamster. It's about the same size and you don't have to take it out of its cage.

Manuel? The rest of the legal profession uses the Blue Book citation format. Most Court, Law Review, the Journal, and most importantly the real world use the Blue Book citation format. So why are we not taught the Blue Book citation format?

For those lucky enough to make one of the organizations mentioned above, they are forced to learn the correct citation format. But what happens to those who do not belong to those organizations, those who believed they were taught the essentials to be a successful lawyer during their first year of law school, only to find upon employment, that they were badly mistaken?
It's no time to manage your work. Competition. This year's topic is entertainment and dismal from members of the www.abanet.org/lsd. For further info on the Law Student Division's three make room for further info on the Law Student Division's three writing programs, please contact the director. The best way to avoid being called on is volunteering answers. Jumping out at a few easy questions may be enough to keep the professors away and you don't even have to say anything remotely intelligent. People volunteered some airline stories last year that only made class a little easier to sit through and occasionally amusing. Then there's the threat of comments. People go outline crazy-I definitely did. Mine ranged between 60 and 160 pages...drawing gaps and laughs. Did it help? Yes...was it worth it? No. I put so much into those comments...there were so many important for me to learn. You would be better off summarizing key points and putting it into a few pages to glance and review. Not to mention--it wasn't taken you forever to do. So don't stress, don't panic and pace yourself. Remember to breathe. Just remember that law school is not for those who finish first but rather for those who endure till the end. Along the way, you forge friendships, discover new career paths and test your limits. For me, I was a good learning experience where many of the best lessons come from outside the classroom. Does it get better after first year? Well, I am not sure it was as bad to begin with. There's one in every place. Undergraduate lectures often leave a lasting impression. Some asinine comment may just be coming from a neighboring class. But prior to another student's written outrage (as presented in the body), I would like to find out? opinions from all students who attended such a program, if run in the same manner, but more instructive and more fun. Finally, we would like to hear from law schools where there is an extra community in this program. These professors hired to teach the current JLs didn't get this "set you up for failure" speech. If you did, please write and let me know. Seriously, most teachers cannot tell you emphatically enough how important legal writing is. Yet, why is it that so many students attend their classes, do their readings, and assignments, meet with their legal writing professors and still do not do well in year one and year two? I would like to know, wouldn't you? Opinions from all students are appreciated. I will pass on this request to the De Novo. We would do a disservice to leave such a program, if run in the same manner, behind for those who come after us. Please feel free to contact me at omotolu.idowu@nyls.edu with your comments and experiences with the writing program.}

**THE WRITING PROGRAM: FRIEND OR FOE?**
by Omotolu O. Idowu

The New York Law School writing program is a necessary evil and students must endure it if they are to graduate from the law school. This program has been criticized widely among the student body, but prior to another student's written outrage (as presented in the body), I would like to find out opinions from all students who attended such a program, if run in the same manner, but more instructive and more fun. Finally, we would like to hear from law schools where there is an extra community in this program. These professors hired to teach the current JLs didn't get this "set you up for failure" speech. If you did, please write and let me know. Seriously, most teachers cannot tell you emphatically enough how important legal writing is. Yet, why is it that so many students attend their classes, do their readings, and assignments, meet with their legal writing professors and still do not do well in year one and year two? I would like to know, wouldn't you? Opinions from all students are appreciated. I will pass on this request to the De Novo. We would do a disservice to leave such a program, if run in the same manner, behind for those who come after us. Please feel free to contact me at omotolu.idowu@nyls.edu with your comments and experiences with the writing program.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**NATIONAL APPRAISAL ADVOCACY COMPETITION**
Registration deadline is Oct. 15.
For further info on the Law Student Division's three national competitions, visit www.abanet.org/lsd
by David Stengard

I want to be a trial lawyer, stand on the front lines and persuade judges and jurors that my clients are in the right. Using language to elevate, motivate, and agitate, to change people’s minds and to persuade the court that what I want to do. Had it not been for the Unemployment Action Center (UAC) I would have never had the opportunity to practice litigation this early in my law career.

The UAC is a necessity for anyone interested in trial work or labor related law. Currently NYU, Fordham, Hofstra, Brooklyn and New York Law all assist the UAC by providing advocates from their student body. The UAC offers free legal representation to employees who are seeking unemployment benefits. As an advocate, one works with clients to represent them. The process is an abridged version of judicial litigation. As an advocate, one works with clients to represent them. The process is an abridged version of judicial litigation.

The sooner one begins, the more effective the result. Sometimes they are just trying to see what is going to happen and cross-examine them. They may speak broken English or not speak English at all. They tend to be intimidated by the process and so as advocates we are their guides. The claims are represented in hearings with a couple of strikes against them, mainly for the reasons mentioned earlier. We help them appear credible by crafting their story and practicing with them. Also, by showing up with representation they appear more credible. It is very important to undermine the other side’s story. For this task cross-examination can be very effective.

Cross-examination can either be the highest form of fencing where grace, poise and strategy leave you victorious. It can also be a "meat pit" where brute strength and random movements leave you bloodied and on the floor. Physical wounds heal quicker than emotional ones. Once again the aim is to discredit the employer’s testimony or evidence. The satisfaction of this task depends on the strength of the claimant’s case. If the client’s case is particularly strong it means that the opposition is lying about something. The key is having good questions, both prepared and ones that have come up during the hearing. On "cross," one has never spoken to this witness before. One has no idea what they are going to say. So a cross-examination is uncharted waters. There is a sense of pride when one accomplishes this task well. It evokes feelings of being a soldier sent to the front lines and returning home with your shield not on it. Cross-examination is a sensitive aspect of the hearing.

The single worst thing an advocate can do on "cross" is to ask the "silver bullet question," think "A Few Good Men" "did you order the code red?" It is the question that one wants to ask. The one that spells it out very clearly for the judge and leaves nothing to the imagination. It is the reason everyone is batting in the first place. The problem is that it does not exist and one must learn that it does not exist. It never happens like it does in the movies. The opposing side will never repent even if asked in a really serious way. The danger is that the witness is unpredictable. It asked the burning question and they do not answer in the affirmative, the case is over. What a good cross will do is bring the witness right to the point where the only reasonable question is the silver bullet. The testimony elicited up until that point should leave the judge with only one inference or conclusion, that the claimant is right. The benefits of being a UAC advocate are limitless. The quicker law students put theory into practice the better they will become. The sooner thank you from a client who can now live a little easier, pay the rent or feed their children is a wonderful gift. It is these experiences that make one appreciate the power of being a lawyer and a zealous advocate.

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In mid-September it is hard to think of securing a summer position for the summer to come, but for many of us it is not so hard to think back to the summer past, when we started our first work experience in the legal realm. Each student has had a unique experience in a wide array of positions ranging from working in a firm, to working for a corporation, to working as a judicial clerk, to reviewing and filtering attorney resumes, to working for the Unemployment Action Center.

I worked for the sole attorney of a chemical company in New Jersey. Initially, I thought I had secured the job when I worked in the accounting department at the same company the previous summer. Before I left, I spoke to the attorney telling him of my adventure to law school, and my desire to work for him next summer. "No problem, just let me know about a week before you want to start." Wow, that was easy enough! What a relief. One less thing I had to worry about during the academic year.

The "eager beaver" that I am, I contacted the attorney in early April, just to confirm my summer position. The response that I got this time was not so promising. He informed me that he may not have enough work to keep me busy all summer. Now what was I going to do? I thought the best way to find law firms was in the Yellow Pages. So that is what I did. I spent a whole day going through the phone book just calling all the firms in my area. This proved to be less fruitful. Most places were either not interested, or had already hired their interns. I sent my information to those firms that threw me a bone and acted interested only to never hear from them again.

I needed a back up plan for my backup plan, but I did not have one. It was April, I had to start preparing for my exams. I had wanted a job that paid but I needed legal experience too. I had to accept the fact that I might get either or neither. I knew my cousin was friendly with a judge, and my brother's friend worked as an attorney in a bank. It was time to start pulling strings. I asked them if they could put in a good word for me. I was given an interview at both places, but of course neither position was paid. However, I would be getting experience and at this point it was fine with me. One week before school let out I received an email from the attorney at the chemical company saying he had enough work for me. Yes! Now I could get legal experience and get paid!

The first day at work was kind of light. I was actually filling and organizing documents into different binders. I had hoped this was not the kind of work he had in mind for the entire summer. But the second day when I arrived at 7:30 a.m., I found a note on my chair that read, "Please review this contract and let me know in what ways we can get out of it, and what the consequences will be if we breach." I panicked when I read the note. The first thought that ran through my head was "Oh no!" I wanted real work but I can't do this." Although that was the exact question on my Contracts II exam just one week earlier, I had studied for that exam but if I did poorly it was my problem. This was real life with real consequences, and someone was counting on me for the correct answer.

I sat down to read the contract, and thankfully understood what it was saying, but if we are deemed to breach what happens? After reading the contract over a few times, I racked my brain for most of the day on what happens if we breach because it was pretty clear we could not get out of the contract without breaching. Finally I took from memory what I knew about remedies. I went through each type, expectation, reliance and restitution, just like a Contracts hypothetical. I wrote down what the remedy would be for all three: I even added what little I knew about the Uniform Commercial Code for remedies, which I was asked to make an argument for when I went in to present my thoughts to my boss. "Make an argument? I have no argument, all I know is that this contract is for things that are movable therefore they are "goods," which fall under the Jurisdiction of the Uniform Commercial Code, right? I tossed out a few terms like "buyer/seller remedies" and "cover" and my boss seemed to be satisfied. I never actually found out how the situation turned out, which proved to be the most disappointing part of my summer work experience, but none the less I completed the task.

My next assignment was to draft a contract. Okay, I learned how to interpret contracts during my first year of law school, but I never learned to draft one! Again I approached this task with little confidence, but since my boss thought I was capable to draft a contract after my first year, then I should be able to. I found some sample contracts, and tried to think of the different parts that make up a contract. We need the parties, the terms, and some sort of consideration. The task proved to be easier than expected and after reviewing it with my boss, adding and deleting things here and there, the contract was completed. I actually had drafted a sale of goods contract that the company was going to utilize.

Working for a chemical company, I had the opportunity to work on many different types of projects, some more interesting than others, but all proved to be good learning experiences. It is a great feeling when you come to the realization that you possess certain knowledge or skills and people value your opinion because of that knowledge or skill. When my boss asked me what I would do in certain situations, or how I would proceed with different problems, it was an awesome feeling. It was even better when his response was "I think you are right," or "I agree." I learned a lot from my summer position as a law clerk, but the most important lesson that I learned came from the words my boss said to me last day on the job. "It is more important for you to give your opinion than for you to be right." I will always remember that advice especially at times when I am unsure of myself. Even if people do not agree with you, they will see that you know how to think.

The question: What do you think about the new school logo?

PEOPLE’S OPINIONS ON POINTLESS PROBLEMS!

NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL

"It’s not that I dislike the new logo, but I prefer the old one because it has more character."
- Christine
- Phil

"I like the new logo, but it looks more like an undergraduate logo. The old one is more conservative and professional."  
- Angelina

"The old logo is so parochial, graphics are out. The new logo is much more modern."  
- James

"I like the old logo because it preserves the tradition of NYLS. The new one looks more like a trademark than a logo."
- Percy

"I think it’s ugly. I think the old logo looked better. It was sturdy and it symbolized the oldness of our school."  
- Glenn

"I think the new logo has no character, the old one had character and it was symbolic of our school’s heritage. It doesn’t fit with the school. The new one just looks like a bold print, it’s too ordinary."
- Biondo
HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE BAR EXAM WHILE YOU ARE STILL IN LAW SCHOOL

1. Find out now what subjects you have to master for the bar exam, and take those courses. The list of subjects on the New York Bar Exam appears at http://www.NYBarExam.org/barexam.htm.

2. Wait to say that you “know” a subject until you know it well enough to teach it to someone else. Flash cards are invaluable study aids for learning the basic principles really well. Start now, and don’t stop reviewing.

3. Earn the highest grades you can. Bar passage correlates with grades in law school.

4. As early as the summer before your final year in law school, take bar review courses. The only book specifically for the bar exam essays is Scoring High on Bar Exam Essays, by Mary Campbell Gallagher, J.D. (Harvard), Ph.D. It is one of the textbooks in the LTS - Law Training Schools 7-Day Essay Intensive/Retaker School, for the New York Bar Exam. The St. John’s Law School Forum called Scoring High on Bar Exam Essays “The best [money] you can spend on bar exam preparation.”

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September
ADVICE & ANGST
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I: NUMBER OF PEOPLE KILLED ANNUALLY IN TEXAS PAINTING THE STRIPES ON THE HIGHWAYS.
NEW MODEL RULES

Lawyers Licensed In One State May Soon Be Able To Practice Temporarily In Another

by De Novo Staff Writer

By the time we become lawyers, the current rules might no longer be the same. In August, the ABA House of Delegates passed a far-reaching proposal to make it easier for lawyers to practice law across state lines.

According to the ABA Journal, the House of Delegates has approved nine recommendations to reform the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct so as to allow attorneys licensed in one state to practice in another state temporarily. The recommendations, known as the "new Model Rules," would make it easier for lawyers to gain admission to practice in another state, without having to take the bar exam. The new Model Rules are intended to create a more flexible and efficient system for lawyers to practice across state lines.

Among the changes proposed by the new Model Rules are:

- Allowing lawyers to be licensed in multiple states without having to take the bar exam in each state.
- Providing a more straightforward process for lawyers to gain admission to practice in another state temporarily.
- Allowing lawyers to practice in another state if they meet certain conditions and requirements.

The ABA House of Delegates is expected to vote on the new Model Rules in August, and if approved, they will likely be adopted by the ABA House of Delegates in October. If the new Model Rules are adopted, they will provide attorneys with more flexibility and opportunities to practice law across state lines.

NEWEST TREND: BANKRUPTCY?

by Anna S. Park

These days one can’t help but notice the current bankruptcy filings making the headlines of the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times. First it was Global Crossing, U.S. Airways, Ames Department store, and these are just recent examples. The frequency of the filings is overwhelming and frequenting the bankruptcy courts.

What does this suggest about our economy? Is the U.S. economy in a state of collapse? Can Corporate America be trusted?

Bankruptcy laws were created to allow a debtor to divide his assets among his creditors and free him of all his debts. The law allows licensed lawyers who meet certain conditions to gain admission in a new state without taking its bar exam.

Reportedly, a member of the ABA Board of Governors said the proposed rule was contrary to the principle of state judicial regulation of the practice of law. "It would become a national admission-ordination ticket," he said of the proposed "and that's just wrong."

Despite the objections, the House approved the rule. If says lawyers applying for admission by motion should be licensed in good standing in another state and should have engaged in legal practice for at least five of the last seven years. The rule also requires applicants to have a recent transcript from an ABA accredited law school and to meet certain ethical requirements.

None of the changes will be binding on lawyers unless they are approved by the states. But most states pattern their own ethics codes on the ABA’s Model Rules.

Phi Alpha Delta (PAD) is the largest international law fraternity in the world with 181 law school chapters, including the Tiden Chapter here at New York Law School. One of every six attorneys in North America is a member of PAD. Therefore, joining Phi Alpha Delta is important because it will open up a wide variety of opportunities and network and come into contact with fellow fraternity members from all over the United States and currently practicing. PAD is a "full service" law fraternity which provides social, professional, academic and community service programming. PAD’s motto is Service to the Student, the School, the Profession and the Community.

The Tiden Chapter will hold regular meetings to discuss classes, outlines, exams and other issues affecting the New York Law School community. Our Chapter will also participate in District-wide events including "reverse trick or treating" for disadvantaged kids. A traveling carnival night and monthly Alumni-sponsored social events along with students from Fordham, Columbia and Cardozo.

PAD is open to all students who are in good standing. There are no membership requirements. There is a one-time initiation fee and a one-time membership fee. These are paid per year and not per credit taken. PAD membership is required to apply for certain positions at New York Law School. The cost of PAD is $200 per year. There is a one-time credit fee of $25 that is assessed to each student the first year they are a member.

If you have any questions or would like to know more about PAD, E-Mail us at PAD@nyls.edu.

Given the current economic climate, it may be a good idea to consider joining Phi Alpha Delta and PAD. The benefits of membership include networking opportunities, social events, and access to professional development resources. It is an excellent way to gain valuable experience and build a strong professional network. So why not give it a try and see what PAD and Phi Alpha Delta can do for you!
HAS OUR NORTHERN NEIGHBOR GONE NUTS?  
WILL THE U.S. EVENTUALLY FOLLOW SUIT?

by Mr. P.

"By acknowledging that men and women are entitled to make a formal commitment to live together as a couple, regardless of their gender, Quebec affirms its standing as a society that is open and aware that individual differences enrich us collectively."

The Quebec government ran the above newspaper ad to publicize the civil union bill, sponsored by Justice Minister Paul Begin. To outsiders, the case with which Quebec and to a lesser extent, Canada as a whole, have embraced legal equality for same-sex couples is shocking. It was almost a decade after Stonewall, that the gay rights movement began in Canada.

Two months after the Canadian equivalent to Stonewall, legislators in Quebec added provisions banning discrimination based on sexual orientation to the provincial charter of human rights and freedoms.

In June, the legislation which grants same-sex couples full adoption and parental rights, and allows opposite-sex couples a less binding alternative to marriage sailed through Quebec's assembly unanimously. This showed a majority of Quebeccis supporting civil union and same-sex marriage.

Canada as a whole could soon be forced to go further than Quebec with regard to legal recognition of same-sex relationships. On July 12, the Ontario superior court gave the federal government two years to legalize same-sex marriage, declaring that Canada's ban on gay marriage violates the national constitution.

But more is at play. Reportedly, more than 10% of Quebec's children are born out of wedlock and many heterosexual couples are seeking less-formal processes that could take up to five years. Most observers believe it is only a matter of time before Canada becomes the first non-European country to recognize same-sex marriage.

In the United States, the battle for same-sex marriage is far more arduous. While in Canada this is a federal issue, in the U.S. it is a state issue. It will be far easier for Canada's Supreme Court or federal parliament to wipe away legal barriers with a stroke of the pen - not so in the United States where all the states except for Vermont have chosen not to enact legislation providing for same-sex unions.

But more is at play. Reportedly, more than 60% of Quebec's children are born out of wedlock and many heterosexual couples are seeking less-formal legal protection than marriage for their relationships. Quebec's civil union law was crafted with this trend in mind.

Although the Canadian government is appealing the ruling, a legal process that could take up to five years, most observers believe it is only a matter of time before Canada becomes the first non-European country to recognize same-sex marriage.

In the United States, the battle for same-sex marriage is far more arduous. While in Canada this is a federal issue, in the U.S. it is a state issue. It will be far easier for Canada's Supreme Court or federal parliament to wipe away legal barriers with a stroke of the pen - not so in the United States where all the states except for Vermont have chosen not to enact legislation providing for same-sex unions.

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**Virus Hoaxes—Crying Wolf Online**

by Dwight Day

Many of us will remember the constant e-mail traffic regarding viruses that were sent out last semester. The other side of the coin is what is called a “virus hoax.” While there are a lot of viruses out there, some aren’t really out there at all. Virus hoaxes are more than mere annoyances, as they may lead to dangers, and from there the film focuses much of its topic on the dangers of the virus.

The key is never open an email attachment unless you know what*/it*/is even if it’s from someone you know and trust. They could have been unknowingly affected and the virus (which is “smart”) sent itself to you.

Remember that virus writers can use known hoaxes to their advantage. For example, AOLFREE began as a hoax virus warning. It then became a distributed virus attack that the original hoax virus warning.

Always remain vigilant and never open a suspicious attachment. These are some tips from PC World on how to identify virus hoaxes:

1. **Detect the Undeniable:** Beware of warnings that claim a virus is unetectable. In general, if you keep your antivirus software up-to-date. your system will not be infected with a hoax.

2. **Study the Subject:** If the e-mail message’s subject line includes words such as “Urgent,” “Warning,” or even “Virus Alert!” it’s often a hoax.

3. **Scrutinize the Instructions.** Beware of messages that insist you delete a file manually. True, at times you should do so, but in the context of the other tip-offs, this instruction should raise a red flag.

4. **Check the Sources.** To create an aura of credibility, a hoax often quotes a well-known company or agency, such as Microsoft, the Federal Communications Commission, or an antivirus company. Check the Web sites of the sources quoted (or see your vendor’s site). Remember also that Microsoft never posts virus alerts via e-mail.

5. **Scrutinize the Instructions.** Beware of messages that insist you delete a file manually. True, at times you should do so, but in the context of the other tip-offs, this instruction should raise a red flag.

6. **Don’t Spread the Word.** False alerts always urge you to tell everyone you know. Genuine alerts never do. Ignore the instructions, delete the message, and don’t call anyone on your mailing list.

**Know Thyself**

Stop this day and night with me and you shall

possess the origin of all poems,

You shall possess the good of the earth and the sun,

You shall no longer take things at second or third

hand, Nor look through the eyes of the dead,

Nor feed on the spectres in books,

You shall not look through your eyes either, nor take

things from me,

You shall listen to all sides and filter them from

yourself.

- Walt Whitman
by Frank Raphael

Okay, I'm almost there. I thought to
myself as I waited for the elevator. I
stood on the ground floor of the B
building, waiting for the slowest
elevator ever invented to come get
me and carry me to my office. Once
I'm safely behind closed doors I will
finally be able to do something I've
been dreaming about all day. My
legs are rubbing together, my heart
is racing, and all I can do is stare at
that stupid red arrow that's pointing
downward. I've pressed this button
four times, and it all will do for me
is show me this freaken arrow
promising to lower the elevator to
come get me. I know it will come
eventually. But when? I don't have
all day, I think to myself, so I turn
around and look at the steps. The
Steps! They are steep and ominous,
and to someone who gets no
exercise (like me) each step becomes
a painful ordeal. To my eyes, it
looks like mountain climbing.

Finally, the elevator doors swing
open and I breathe a sigh of relief.

Dozens of first year students pour
out of the elevator, each with a look
of horror and regret painted on their
faces. This is the year innocence is
lost, I think. This is the year optimism
turns to pessimism, and hope turns
to hate. Eventually, all life will
draw from their faces and they will
become nothing more than paper
pushing robots, doomed to a life of
eating, sleeping, and pairing legal
B.S. I want to grab them by the
shoulder and warn them to turn
back now—it's not too late! Oh well, if
I have to suffer, they have to suffer.

Screw 'em.

As the elevator door closes, I see
a bunch of students running towards
me shouting at me to hold the
elevator so I do the only sensible
thing and pound on the DOOR
CLOSE button as many times as
possible until the door shuts inches
from their faces. Thankfully, I
avoided a crowded elevator ride. I
press my floor and tap impatiently
on the elevator walls—I'm just dying
trying to get to my office now. I
simply can't wait another moment.

Fortunately, the elevator ride is
not quite as long this time around
and I run into the office and I flub
the door. I throw down my bag and
reach behind my computer for my
smokes. In a moment, I open the
window and deeply inhale the run
of nicotine I so desperately need.
This takes me back to college when I
first started smoking—I fondly recall
the instant head rush I would get from a
pack of Marlboro lights (lights,
I'm sure...), and the door shuts inches
below. I've gone to college.

Now that I have my Camel, my
mind wanders to other important
aspects of my life. I've had an
unfulfilled life thus far—so I went to
law school on a whim, and I got sucked
into the legal profession thereafter
because of student debt. Well,
student debt and my credit card
cards combined have a fondness
for shopping. Anyway, I went to
Yale, and I was offered a high
paying job at a top New York law
firm that shall remain nameless.
I married one of my law school
classmates, and realized my dream
of living the yuppie life I had always
wanted. Now I had money, a great
career and marriage, there were no
problems in my life... for a while. Soon
I began to realize that everything
I had been taught in law school,
marriage, etc—had been a lie. My
husband was perfect in every way,
even he led a double life like one
of those secret agents. I had always
known him to be a quiet, nice guy,
but like the wife who discovers her
husband is a CIA agent I stumbled
on my own discovery—my husband
was an asshole! He talked behind
my back all the time and apparently
had little respect for me. He then left
me for a siliconed stripper named
Bubbles. Next I realized I hated my
job. No one told me that the longer
you practice law the more boring it
gets. After a while, I just got sick
detailing with other people's legal
problems all day, every day. So
cuit, and came here to New York
Law School. Now I teach students
and encourage them to go into the
career that I my self ran from. Make
sense?

Anyway, I realize that something
is missing from my life. I take another
cigarette, and realize that I need to
get laid. Soon. Very Soon. I love the
term, "getting laid" because its so
much better than the other phrases.
"Having sex" is a little too technical
for me, too scientific. "Making love"
is way too sappy. I used to make
love to my husband. It was so nice
and emotional, except he did his
thing and I was left there unfilled.
Now getting laid is just what it sounds
like—sex, followed by orgasm
(hopefully), and a nice goodbye.
Now I need to get laid.

Just at that second I hear a knock
on the door. What luck! A sexual
delivery! Maybe God has heard my
prayers.

"Just a minute," I say, and I put
out my Camel and flip it out the
window on some kids standing
below. I adjust myself and fantasize
as to who is behind the door. I turn
the knob and hope for the best.

To be continued...

An Affair to Forget

by De Novo Staff Writer

This summer Reuters reported that a
massive asteroid could hit Earth in
just 17 years time, destroying life,
as we know it. The asteroid—the most
threatening object ever detected in
space—would be big, very close, and
apparently on a direct collision
course with our planet.

According to an asteroid expert
at Liverpool John Moores University
in northern England, "Objects of this
size only hit the Earth every one or
two million years. In the worst case
scenario, a disaster of this size
would be possible. It could create a
meltdown of our economic and
social life, and would reduce us to
dark-age conditions.

However many space experts say
they are pretty confident this
nightmare scenario will not come
about. This collision is the highest
threat that has been catalogued, but
there is still a remote likelihood of
it happening.

This asteroid-named 2002
NT7—was first detected earlier this
month by the United States Linear
sky survey program.

Scientists at the U.S. National
Aeronautics and Space
Administration's (NASA) near-Earth
object team, and the University
in Italy have carried out orbit
calculations to work out the
probability and potential date of
impact to define the risk it poses.
Their calculations show it could hit
the earth on February 1, 2019.

So what's the good news? Well,
the impact probability is below one
in a million, but because the first
impact date is so early—only 17 years
from now—and the object is very
large, it's been rated on the impact
risk Palermo Scale as a positive. It
reportedly the first object that has
ever hit a positive rating.

Space experts across the world
will continue to monitor 2002 NT7.
Hopefully, over time, these
observations will probably erase the
threat it poses.

NOT HA HA FUNNY BUT STILL...

A woman drove a mini-van filled
with a dozen screaming kids
through the mall parking lot, looking
for a space. Obviously frazzled, she
coasted through a stop sign.

Hey, lady, have you forgotten how
to stop? yelled at frate man.

She rolled down her window and
said, What makes you think these
are at mine?
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