B-Ball Fever Hits NYLS

By Jaques Nazaire

This is the time of the year when NYLS students are getting geared up for — no, not finals — basketball tryouts, of course. After a successful last season with the team touting a 7-3 win-loss record, New York Law School Basketball Association is participating in The New York Lawyers' Basketball league, which fields teams from every law firm and law school in the city.

The league is one of most popular recreational forums among the New York legal profession and the school's participation helps publicize NYLS throughout the city and fosters good public relations. The league, which has been in existence for more than 25 years, is so popular that its standings are published in The New York Law Journal. Many well-known people have played in it including Mario Cuomo, George Pataki, Alan Hevesi and others. This year over two hundred schools and firms will compete.

The league is divided into several subdivisions. In addition to having a law school division which is opened to all currently enrolled law students, it also has: 1) firm sponsored divisions which are opened to lawyers, law students, and paralegals; 2) The Women's Division which is opened to any women connected in some way to the legal profession, including law students; and 3) The Corporate League which is designed for clients and friends of lawyers.

As part of the basketball league, The NYLS Basketball Association gives students a recreational outlet and the opportunity to represent the law school in athletic competition. Last year ten members were selected to represent the team. This year the team is...Continued on page 7

Ace Finals and Keep Stress to Minimum

By Antonio Trotta III

I can tell it's almost exam time again. The faces of first year students are ripped with tension, and I see the computer rooms filled with people working on their Torts, Civil Procedure, and Contracts outlines while mumbling quiet obscenities underneath their breath. Have no fear my poor brethren, I've been there before, and you will get through this. However, there are some tips and techniques that can actually make studying for your first year exams more productive.

I'm sure every 1L has received many flyers in their mailbox about some course out there that can get you in the top 30% of your class guaranteed or your money back. Don't believe the hype. If we all signed up, 70% of the class would be asking for their money back. They all teach the same thing anyway: Law school exams are not answer oriented, they are analysis oriented. Those persons who can recognize the issues that apply to a given fact pattern, concisely state how the issues could affect the outcome, and do so under an often stressful time limit, will do well. So now you're probably saying, "Yeah, I've heard this all before, but what do I do to get good at taking these exams?"

The first piece of advice that I can offer (surprisingly enough, it is also the one I consider the most important) is to keep any outlines that you prepare to a reasonable length. I never understood why someone would prepare a 52 page outline and then try to memorize it — a purely self defeating act of masochism. It has been my experience that an outline needs to be no longer than 10 or 11 pages of single space type in order to fit the necessary information for any class. (This is just my experience, and since discretion is the better part of valor I will leave it in your hands to judge what "reasonable" means. (Which is what you will be doing for much of your Torts exam anyway.) If you listen to your professors' advice only once this year, listen when they tell you to actually make an outline. Making an outline, although time-consuming, will increase your chance of recalling the rule of law quickly during an exam, and start you thinking analytically about where and how such rules can be applied.

In regard to study groups, the rule is to keep it simple. Here is where opinions vary, but I believe mine to be of great value (big surprise). Keep your study group small and serious. A study group is...Continued on page 5
New Kitchen Mng. Offers More Choice, HigherPrices

By Valerie Armstrong-Barrows

Chick-n Cor Don Bleu, yellow rice lightly sprinkled with fresh cracked pepper corns, salad, cheese cake and seltzer water. Lunch at the local restaurant? No, at New York Law School! A merger between the former cafeteria service, Morrison Company, and Gardner Merchant Food Services in 1994 has both benefited students and affected their pocketbooks. Although prices are noticeably higher students have a greater variety of food choices.

The fare has expanded from the usual hamburger, french fries and coke, to include fresh baked pizzas, side order pasta salads, sandwich combo specials, and full meat and potato meals. In addition to the new array of desserts, including cherry pie, double chocolate cake and lemon meringue pie, students can enjoy one of the several flavors of coffee. All of this comes with a new attitude and a new look: bright-colored uniforms, friendly assistance, smiles and courtesy.

While most of you have already noticed these improvements, you have also noticed the increase in prices. Six weeks into the semester I met with Kitty MacLeod, the Director of Business Operations and Dennis Cosgrove, District Manager of Gardner Merchant Food Services, Inc. to address student concerns.

Cosgrove makes all the decisions as to menus that will be offered, prices that will be charged, and changes that will be made. He meets with both MacLeod and Joe Carone, the NYLS site manager, on a regular basis to discuss the successes and failures of menu ideas, and feedback from students. Neighborhood trends, health consciousness, and quality are factors considered when making a menu.

It is important that the cafeteria provide a healthy, affordable meal for the students, Cosgrove said.

Due to the financial diversity of NYLS students, one of the major concerns is the affordability of the food served. Cosgrove explained that the prices are competitive based on the area, the quality of the food, and the costs incurred. The markup is basically the same as was formally used. Cosgrove noted that sandwiches in the area are sold for about $4.95 each, while sandwiches here sell for about $2.35 - $2.50. Now I am not going to contradict this statement, but the menu does not reflect that a significant number of the sandwiches listed sell for those prices. Perhaps a breakfast sandwich, or a grilled cheese sandwich, or a hamburger, but not a typical cold cut sandwich.

When I questioned him as to whether a lunch could be bought for under $3.00, he stated that a meal, consisting of an entree, combo, or meat and vegetable, could be bought for about $3.00 - $3.50. However, these items tend to be priced more in the $3.75 price range, and usually do not include a beverage. Cosgrove also stated that while they listen to the concerns of students, they have not received any complaints about the prices of the menu items.

Graciously, he did suggest that perhaps as a result of the interview, they may decide to offer a combo item or combo that is less expensive because it is not as costly to make. He is "willing and open to making changes."

"We listen to our customers," Cosgrove emphasized. "But there is a cost attached to everything."

Cosgrove recognizes that "this is a hard group...we have very diverse guests, age, ethnic back-grounds and its hard and you try to have something for everyone and also be trendy. [They] thought in the beginning they were going to be very healthy oriented. But that's not what [the students] wanted. They want junk food."

So Cosgrove adjusted by changing its menu. It is their intention to put in items that are going to move, but that will also make people happy. Cosgrove further stated that although its space is limited, they do offer a buffet menu: entrees, specialty sandwiches, grilled items, soup, and pizza. They want to keep everyone coming back. Throughout their seventy locations around the city, their policy is: to listen to their guests and become part of the culture of the location.

The survey form that was handed out in the cafeteria, inquiring about student’s interest in Kosher food being served. The results were 17 respondents; 16 somewhat interested, but most not expressing by students. However, if a set number of students did not like a menu item, he remembers, and considers it when making up the next menu.

You may remember the survey form that was handed out in the cafeteria, inquiring about student’s interest in Kosher food being served. The results were 17 respondents; 16 somewhat interested, but most not expressing by students. However, if a set number of students did not like a menu item, he remembers, and considers it when making up the next menu.

Most food services, including Gardner Merchant, have a clause in their contracts that give them “right of first refusal,” which has been an issue on campus. MacLeod explained that the food services contractor always has had this “right” in their contracts with the school. She emphasized that it would be difficult to contract with a food service provider if they were not given this contract right. Basically, all catering needs must first be brought to the attention of Gardner Merchant. They will get the bid, unless you can find a caterer that will provide the same items for a lesser amount, and Gardner can not meet that bid. There appears to be only two exceptions to this clause: 1) the student organization can do it cheaper themselves by not using any caterer, and 2) there is a need for several chefs with specialties in different cultural areas for one event. I mentioned the Multi-Cultural Festival that was jointly produced last year by several of our cultural organizations. The food presented was from several cultures. Cosgrove expressed a doubt that they would be able to handle a request for several different cultural chefs preparing food for the same day.

If a student group does not use Gardner Merchant to provide the food for their event, the organization must complete and submit a student release form to MacLeod’s office explaining why they are not using Gardner, how much it is going to cost them, and releasing Gardner from any liability in case someone gets food poisoning. Another purpose is to make sure that the organizations have considered all of the costs involved in catering the program. MacLeod stated that they may realize that it is actually cheaper to have it catered than to do it themselves. This can save the organization from last minute running around.

I also spoke to Cosgrove about those students who due to special dietary or religious needs, cannot eat the majority of the food offered. He stated that this is not a problem because they are receptive to the needs of the students; either meet with Carrone in the Faculty dining rooms during the day, or Kelly during the night in the cafeteria. An agreement can be worked out where certain foods will be prepared for you on those days that you will definitely eat in the cafeteria. However, they cannot prepare 100 separate entrees! But they are willing to try to address the special needs of the students.

So if you have a particular desire for what you would like to see offered in the cafeteria, tell the food service assistants. Cosgrove states, while it is hard to please the masses, he would rather listen to that one complaint than to lose a customer. Welcome to NYLS, Gardner!
The Deadline for all Article and Valentine’s Submission’s is Monday January 29th.

GET AN EDGE

- IMPROVE YOUR STUDY SKILLS
- IMPROVE YOUR GRADES
- ONE ON ONE TUTORING
- HELP WITH PAPER WRITING
- HELP WITH STUDY SKILLS

FOR AN APPOINTMENT OR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE LAW TUTORIAL SERVICE
(516) 485-5133
OR (212) 886-5427

The Reporter is accepting submissions for the valentines issue due out in February, 1994. Your submission should be addressed to a person with both the first and last name, your name and a brief message.

Valentine

To: ___________________________
From: ___________________________
Message: _______________________

Editors Note: The Reporter reserves the right to edit any messages.

DECEMBER 1995
Dear Ombudsman,

What is up with the slobs who attend your school?? I was visiting NYLS to attend a seminar and was amazed at the number of students who use your cafeteria and leave their garbage behind. I thought your trash cans were marked pretty clearly. How is NYLS going to address this problem.

Signed,

The guy who wrote the letter

Dear Ombudsman,

I will not be able to name names because this whole Dershowitz thing has me pretty scared.

First, take any professor that has been denied tenure. They're gone, they don't care, say no more.

Second, don't take any professors that were responsible for another professor being denied tenure. If they are that petty in the committee room, imagine what they are like in class.

Third, take a minority professor... oh, hell, take 'em both.

Fourth, take any professor who was once a dean of the school. At least you know that they know that you know what they are talking about.

Fifth, take Art Law no matter who offers it. Rationalize: its Art Law.

Sixth, take female professors unless they can be cross referenced with suggestion two. Seriously.

As for how the wait list procedure works, I don't know.

Signed,

Dear Ombudsman,

What do they actually do in the Law Review office. I have yet to see it cited in any of my law books. If they are supposed to be so smart why don't they make a name for our school?

Signed,

Top 11%
By Cristin Flynn

Preparing for final exams is a bit like preparing to meet Jack Kevorkian: You know that the process is painful, but once it’s over, it’s really over. Studying for finals is an intensely personal experience, and even if one goes through their own individual traumas during this time. It is important to share these events—not only for your own peace of mind—but also for the entertainment of your friends and classmates. Call it decompression, venting, or just plain freaking out; regardless of its label, it hits every student at some point during the finals’ process. When the stress level reaches critical mass, however, don’t fight it. Remember nobody could stop Mount Saint Helens from exploding, but afterwards life returned to normal.

last year a fellow first year related the following story to me. After a long day of studying for Torts and Civ Pro, two exams that can push the most mellow of people over the edge, she finally got into bed around 1:30 a.m. Her boyfriend, sleeping innocently beside her, was in a deep trance oblivious to the tense body crawling in next to him. As he tossed and turned she became enraged at his movements until finally she stood up in the bed, ripped off all the covers, and screamed, “If you don’t stop moving, I swear to God, I’ll kill you!” Quickly awakened from his deep sleep, the unexpected boyfriend asked, “Do you feel better now?” “Yes, much,” she replied and finally fell asleep.

If this seems extreme to you now, it’s only because you have not gone through finals yet. Do your friends and family a favor. Before you begin finals, call home and warn your loved ones. Tell them, “I would like to take a minute to tell you that I am about to undergo a transformation. I am no longer going to be the supportive and caring family member you know and love. I am about to begin finals, and so this is your warning. Do not call me, do not write to me, don’t even send me smoke signals. I am going to be in hell, and I don’t want visitors.” That way, anyone who is crazy enough to stop by for a relaxing cup of coffee and instead gets their head bitten off will have reasonable notice. If you’re studying for Civ Pro, you will remember that notice, like presence or subject matter jurisdiction, is an absolute must.

If you follow my advice you may be able to avoid what happened to another friend of mine. During exams his mother sent him a big box of candy and sweets to snack on, a common gesture when you feel there is absolutely nothing you can do while someone you love is suffering unbelievably. In a stress fit (or was that sugar high), the student called her up and screamed, “Why are you sending me all this sugar? You know that I am already tense! What are you trying to do to me?” Of course, what she is trying to do is what anyone forced to witness someone they care about suffer would do: try to make life easier. What is to be remembered by the law student is that your suffering also effects friends, family, loved ones, and fellow classmates. So be kind. It’s not their fault you decided to go to law school.

Continued from page 1

For open book exams and rule-intensive classes such as Civil Procedure, it is wise to be able to locate your material fast. This requires some creativity on your part. Develop a map for your material. I saw one outline that wasn’t too long that had a table of contents so the person could just flip to the rule of law when he needed it. He did very well on that Suave. Pro. exam. Of course this is not the only way to do it, because some people respond better to tabs in their books or colored markers on their outlines.

Please be aware that you are human and require more than just a book to survive. Exercise will take the edge off, good company for a couple hours during finals doesn’t hurt either, and often will help you overcome those diminishing marginal returns that comes from studying for twelve hours straight. For example, I had a roommate last year that didn’t do anything but study sixteen hours a day. You could literally feel an aura of stress around him that would just repel most intelligent creatures. The moral of the story is that nobody likes a stressed-out “high-toned son-of-a…” The day of the exam will produce anxiety, but deep-breathing and a healthy “I’m just going to do the best I can attitude” will get most of you through.

The last thing that I must emphasize is try to be as clear as possible when you write. In other words don’t be long-winded like this article and ramble on for so long when I could have just wrote: Keep your outlines as short as possible, focus on the applicable rules and analysis in your study groups, and don’t stress out!

Question of the Month

By Ben Shatzky and Chris McGee

The other day I was in the grocery store, and I came across a can of W-D 40. I looked at the label, and on the can were numerous suggested uses for it. What started out as a mere lubricant, has quickly become a panacea for the problems of modern day man. Ben and I happen to agree that this is one of the best inventions ever made. We also thought of squeeze cheese, wrinkle-free pants, and the human thumb. We were curious as to what our fellow students would say when asked what the best thing ever invented is, and that is this edition of the question of the month.

Peter Lagonikos 1L
“Music”

Jaci Pickens 1L
“Disco”

David Drossman 1L
“The Jersey Turnpike”

Deborah Meyer 1L
“Thigh-Master”

Erik Levin 1L
“ESPN’s SportsCenter”

DECEMBER 1995
Alum Rembered: From Immigrant To Judge

September 15th through October 15th marked the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month in New York City. This tribute was not available in time to meet the deadline for the October issue of The Reporter. However, we considered it important enough to be printed in this December issue to honor the struggle of all immigrant groups in this country, and the pioneers who made the struggle of future generations a little easier.

Betty Rodriguez
LaLSA President

(This speech was originally delivered by Frank Torres, Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Bronx County, on September 28, 1995 at the Installation Ceremony of the Officers of the Association of Hispanic Judges. It is being reprinted in The Reporter with the permission of the Honorable Frank Torres.)

It is appropriate that at his evening's Installation Ceremony of the Officers of the Association of Hispanic Judges, we pause to honor the memory of a distinguished lawyer and jurist, the late Emilio Nuñez, who passed away this July 6, at the age of 91. Having had the privilege to know, campaign with, and litigate before Judge Nuñez while he was on the bench, it is a privilege to participate in this tribute to his memory.

Like countless millions before him, who have enriched this country with their presence, Emilio Nuñez lived the classic American immigrant story, and blazed the trail for the many Hispanic-Americans who followed him into the ranks of the New York State Judiciary.

Born in Bilboa, Spain where he worked as shepherd and received little, if any, formal education, he came to this country at the age of 11, lured by the promise of a better life, greater opportunity and happiness. At the sunset of Emilio Nuñez's illustrious career, he had earned a place that no other Hispanic before him had ever achieved: he had become the first Hispanic judge in the history of New York.

Emilio was educated in the public school system in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Upon graduation from high school, and having neither the time nor the money to attend college, he worked during the day as a Spanish interpreter in the courts, and attended New York Law School at night.

His struggle typified the fight for a better life; he knew that education was the key to advancement. There were no government insured loans in those days. Emilio Nuñez did not have the networking opportunities, and the climate of support that we have today. Success and achievement depended on raw determination and persistence. His graduation from New York Law School, and admission to the Bar in 1929 reflect the character and strength of will that would typify his life and carry him to unique heights of personal achievement.

His intelligence, manner, grace and dedication contributed to his early success in his chosen career. At first, he worked for an established older, private practitioner until he felt confident to go out on his own. When he did, he pursued a practice centered around Hispanic interests. Not only was he counsel for many South American governments, including Colombia, Panama, Peru and Chile, but he served as General Counsel for the Spanish government as well as for Spanish officials and business interests. Emilio also counseled La Prensa, the New York daily Spanish newspaper that preceded El Día. His involvement in the political life of our city led to his appointment, in 1951, to the Magistrates' Court by former Mayor Impellitteri, and, thereafter, in 1952 to the Court of Special Sessions, a trial court similar to our Criminal Court today. In 1956, he was appointed by Governor Averell Harriman as a Judge of City Court, and later that year he was elected to a ten year term.

The year 1961 presented a milestone in Judge Nuñez's life. A reform movement had started against the Tammany Hall slate of the candidates for the Supreme Court and he was asked to be one of the independent candidates to run against them. It was a tremendous risk for him, especially because at the time, there were no politically elected or appointed Hispanic officials. Going against his instincts for survival, and knowing that running against the then "powers-that-be" might mean the end of any hope of judicial advancement, or reappointment, Judge Nuñez fearlessly took the gamble and agreed to run. As a judge, he felt he had the obligation to take a stand against what he perceived as "political corruption"—regardless of the price. Well, he lost. But his loss became a victory because it did not put an end to his career.

One year later, after the Tammany Hall leaders were overthrown, Judge Nuñez was again nominated for the Supreme Court position he was elected to the previous year. Some time later in 1968, Judge Nuñez was appointed by Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller as a Justice of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, First Department, thereby becoming the first Hispanic to achieve this recognition. By now Judge Nuñez had a formidable record of "firsts"; he was the first Hispanic to be appointed to the Magistrates' Court and the Court of Special Sessions, the first to be appointed to the City Court and the first to be elected to the Supreme Court, and to the Appellate Division. He was also the only Hispanic judge to serve consecutive terms on these courts.

In the midst of all of his success and achievement, Emilio Nuñez internalized his original language and culture, and never forgot where he came from, who he was, and the values he represented. He saw his personal struggle as just a small part in the greater struggle of Hispanic-Americans to achieve a more prominent role in society. He made himself available to all Hispanics, regardless of ethnicity, background, or country of origin, as a cooperative participant in the effort to integrate and pursue the American dream.

One recollection that vividly comes to mind when I reflect on the kind of person that Emilio Nuñez was, is the day that he and I marched together in the first Puerto Rican Day Parade some 35 to 40 years ago. It was raining that day, as we marched along Fifth Avenue from 86th Street to 110th Street, but Emilio seemed oblivious to the weather. He was there, proudly marching in the front row, alongside another distinguished lawyer, Felipe N. Torres, not as a Spaniard or even as a Puerto Rican, but simply as a Hispanic reaffirming and embracing his cultural heritage.

Judge Nuñez was also actively involved in the affairs of New York City's Hispanic legal community. He was a founding member of both the Puerto Rican Bar Association and the Association of Hispanic Judges, the two organizations hosting tonight's ceremony. Active in community affairs, he was president of several civic organizations devoted to the welfare of Hispanics in New York City. He was vice-chairman of the Citizens' Commission on the Future of the City University, chaired by former Mayor Wagner.

His pioneering spirit and outstanding leadership have been recognized by organizations from which he has received many coveted awards. Among them are the New York State Trial Lawyers Association, The Association of the Bar of the City of New York, The Queens County Bar Association, The New York County Lawyers Association, New York Law School, and the Puerto Rican Bar Association which established an award in his name.

Judge Nuñez also never forgot the most essential and basic institution of Hispanic culture, "La Familia"—"The Family." He was married to Carmina Garcia for more than 60 years, six times the length of the average marriage today. During their long and happy union, they were blessed with 3 children, Carmina, Robert, and Richard. The addition of 5 grandchildren and later, 6 great-grandchildren brought joy and light to his later years. His life personified not only that of a respected member of the Hispanic legal community but also that of a dedicated family man, husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

As we pay tribute to his memory today, we must appreciate his example as that of a role model to Hispanics struggling along the difficult career that we have chosen. To those of us who continue to labor in this profession as beneficiaries of his courage. Emilio Nuñez's achievements reflect the deed of a unique talent, fearlessly challenging the de facto exclusion he faced. Judge Nuñez's success opened the door and encouraged us to follow into the full participation in the American justice system.

This evening I urge all Hispanic members of the New York Judiciary to follow the example of the late Judge Emilio Nuñez: be brave in your struggle to advance, never forget who you are or where you came from, always do everything with determination, courage, and persistence.

Haydee Corea, Fordham University School of Law Class of 1997, assisted in the preparation of this speech.
Peace Process Will Continue

By Greg Black

Nearly 100 NYLS students gathered in the Ernst Stiefel Reading Room on November 16 to honor the death of Israel's Prime Minister Yitzak Rabin and learn where the Middle East peace process goes from here.

The panel which was co-sponsored by the Jewish Law Students Association and the Journal of International and Comparative Law, featured two prominent Middle East experts from Israel and Egypt, who emphasized their confidence in the peace process and in the leadership of Shimon Peres, who succeeded Rabin as Israel's Prime Minister.

Egyptian diplomat Elsayed Zaki Ali Ibrahim is currently the Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations as well as the head of the Egyptian Press Office. His last position was as the Chief of Staff for the Office of the Chairman of the State Information Service. Mr. Ibrahim passionately expressed optimism that the Middle Eastern peace process will continue to be strengthened and stabilized. He feels that the assassination will not produce its desired result, and that it will actually "embolden the drive for peace."

Mr. Ibrahim also briefly discussed the type of leader that Yitzak Rabin was, calling him "a great warrior." He noted that Rabin had accomplished in death what he could not do in life. Bring together the Israeli people, even if only for a moment.

Finally, Mr. Ibrahim discussed Egypt's role within the entire process. He explained that Egypt's most important diplomatic goal during times of peace is preventive. This can only be accomplished by "identifying issues before they become problems and identifying problems before they become a crisis." He also stressed economic development and more productive uses of resources. While acknowledging Egypt's internal struggles with religious extremists and precarious position among the Arab world, Mr. Ibrahim reiterated his country's commitment to other countries to join the process. "(Egypt) will not try to force anyone's hand, but they will keep reminding those of what still needs to be done," he told students.

Mr. Ephraim Ben-Matityahu, who is the Consul for Academic Affairs in the United States and the Consulate General of Israel, gave an extremely emotional speech and shared Mr. Ibrahim's confidence that the peace process will be carried on. He feels that the former Secretary of Foreign Affairs and new Prime Minister of Israel, Shimon Peres, is highly qualified to carry on the peace process, since he is one of its key architects.

Mr. Ben-Matityahu spoke about the peace between Egypt and Israel, which dates back to the 1979 Camp David Peace Accord. He also spoke about how the assassination has effected the Middle East and the entire world, and how the next rational move is the continuation of the peace process. He expressed confidence that even if the Likud Party comes to power the peace process will not falter. It was the Likud Party who first drafted the guidelines for peace with the Palestinians, he reminded students. The plan was part of the Camp David Accord.

Continued on page 18
Dear Editor:

I hope whoever wrote the letter about Professor Strossen and me gets his or her facts more accurate when he or she begins to practice law, or else that person may need one of us to represent him or her. I never, ever miss classes and am rarely away from Harvard Law School. Indeed, as of this date, I have not taken a single trip out of town during this entire semester. That having been said, I am honored to be in the same company as Professor Strossen.

Sincerely,

Alan M. Dershowitz
Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law

---

African American and Aware of America's History
By Valerie Armstrong-Barrows

Last month's issue of the reporter ran an article written by a 1L, Dave Drossman, entitled "Titles, Do They Divide or Unite?" Due to the intense lack of knowledge of American history, legal analysis, reasoning and common sense evident in this piece, I found it necessary to address the bald and irrational statements.

From the first paragraph through the last, there was an attempt to distort American history or to view it through extremely, rose colored glasses. The statement: "America, land of the free and the home of the brave" was the first misstatement. For over 400 years, America was the "home" of millions of tortured, victimized, raped, eviscerated African slaves, whom had been stripped from many countries within the continent. These were the "fortunate" millions that lived through the death voyages over the oceans; the millions that were not thrown overboard after being murdered by starvation, disease, torture and inhuman cruelty. These people did not see America as their home; they were far from free; and how brave is it through extremely, rose colored glasses. The state­ment that the racial problems in our country stem from "fundamental" divisions between races and ethnic groups, indicate that this, in fact, was an intentional result. Fundamental is defined in Webster's Third New International Dictionary 921 (3d ed. 1986) as: "producing, supporting, regulating, or conditioning something (as a development or system): basic, underlying..." Therefore, Mr. Drossman recognizes that the racial divisions in America were purposely developed to establish this system of racism.

The assertion that the racial problems in our country stem from "fundamental" divisions between the races and ethnic groups, indicate that this, in fact, was an intentional result. Fundamental is defined in Webster's Third New International Dictionary 921 (3d ed. 1986) as: "producing, supporting, regulating, or conditioning something (as a development or system): basic, underlying..." Therefore, Mr. Drossman recognizes that the racial divisions in America were purposely developed to establish this system of racism. Since American history teaches us that the minorities in this country were not in political power, it would be impossible to imply that the African American was responsible for creating, or expanding on the existing system of racial division.

America was founded on the search for religious freedom for a particular group of English people, based on strict, conservative rules made by men only. There was no diversity. Diversity came in the form of prisoners sent to America to work as servants; Ab­originals who were here before the English arrived; and the African slaves brought as property. We have not divided, rather then unite us. Myself, and many Property Law book in order to identify how diverse people were treated.

My use of the term African American does not serve to divide. Instead, it is my choice of terminology connecting me to my heritage. All Americans recognize with pride their connection to the country their ancestors came from. I have been denied that ability, because I do not know what country I came from. Africa is a "continent" encompassing several countries. Due to the mass attacks at annihilation of the African race, we have lost our ability to feel pride in an entire continent. So I must cling to an entire continent.

Furthermore, since everybody else has chosen to define me as "Nigger", "Colored", "Black", and "Gigaboo", why should I not have the right to choose my name; to choose to define myself? And when I choose my name, do not conclude that I do not accept America as my country. I am here. This is where my immediate family roots are entwined - in American history. And it is my job to contribute to the elimination of any racism.

For you see, I live it everyday. Not just after the O.J. verdict.

Dear Editor(s):

My name is Marc William Pepe and I am a first year student/senator at New York Law School. The main reason that I am writing is because of two recent articles written by Dave Drossman.

The first article was about how the Student Bar Association (SBA) does nothing else but allocate money for beer that it consumes in large quantities at any SBA meeting and then wanted to write an article about the happenings that went on, I would have had no qualms about it. However, he did not do so to my knowledge.

Therefore, to write an article about the SBA, when he has no facts to base it on is absurd.

The second article was about hyphenated-Americans that are "...adding fuel to the fire of racism..." I give Mr. Drossman credit on his prose, but I think that again his article lacked fact and substance.

Why should an Italian-American, African-American, or Irish-American not be allowed to call themselves same? According to Mr. Drossman, these titles divide, rather then unite us. Myself, and many students at the school, found this to be extremely offensive. I am proud to be Italian, and because I live in America, I am also an American. I am therefore an Italian-American. My ancestors are not American, they are Italian.

Mr. Drossman correctly states that America is a melting pot. However, this pot does not melt us into one culture. This metaphor is symbolic of how many different cultures and peoples are living in America. These cultures and peoples do not melt into Americans, they instead simmer with the other cultures. If everyone in America were just Americans, there would be no melting pot. America is a great country because we have so many diverse groups from all over the world living here.

Getting back to his lack of substance, Mr. Drossman says that there is a racial divide in America. Is there? Well, thank him for me, if I didn't read his article I would have never have known this. I got the impression that he thinks that all the black in America are African-American. If this is the case, I suggest he take his graduation gift that he uses to write these articles and put it back in the box it came in.

Just because someone is black, it does not automatically make them African. We have Haitian-Americans, and native Haitians. We have Caribbean-Americans, and native Caribbean's. We have Japanese-Americans, and native Jamiacians. They are all living in America. These different ethnic groups are not hyphenating their names to cause racial divides, they are hyphenating their names so they can identify themselves. They are proud to be what they are, and if someone thinks that this is causing a divide, that someone should take a step back and examine themselves, who are the people who are creating the divide by saying that hyphenated names are a catalyst to racial tension in America.

Each individual has a right to call themselves and identify themselves whatever they like. Just because those individuals are living in America, does not mean they should have to forget who and what they really are.

In conclusion, please make every attempt to see that the quality of your paper improves so that myself and other students can read it and enjoy it without having to get this upset.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Marc William Pepe

---

This letter is written in response to the myopic article written by Dave Drossman, entitled "Titles, Do They Divide or Unite?" It is frightening to think that law students analyze issues as shallowly as Mr. Drossman analyzed the title African-American. I hope my letter educates him and makes him realize that he must look before he leaps.

His first mistake is that he infers that other citizens do not refer to themselves with a title similar to African-American and that such a title suggests allegiance to another country. Technically he is correct, because if you ask other citizens from strong ethnic backgrounds, they will readily tell you that "I'm Italian," "I'm Jewish," "I'm Polish" or "I'm Greek." I think using the term African-American would suggest more of an allegiance to America than the naked titles previously mentioned. Also, Mr. Drossman must be ignorant of, or must have forgotten the unique history of African-Americans. We were never intended to be citizens and were legally thought of as 3/5th of a man. Additionally, he must have forgotten that the founding fathers such as George Washington and Thomas Jefferson were slave holders and treated the Africans like livestock.

African-Americans have been named by other people throughout the American experience. We have been called Nigger, Colored, Black, and when we finally define ourselves by an accurate term such as African-American, Mr. Drossman complains. To limit ourselves to the term American would be to limit

Continued on page 9
Continued from page 8

ourselves to a legacy of slavery, torture, rape and beatings, instead of the ancient legacy of Africa. He must understand that when the Africans were brought to this land the slavers separated them in order to totally wipe out their culture and identity. If two slaves spoke the same language they were separated, slaves were punished if they practiced their religion, children were sold away from their mothers, husbands were sold away from their family’s. Africans were not allowed to gather in groups and a host of other techniques were employed to wipe out their identity as a people. Also, the title African-American is not as accurate a title as Italian, Jewish, or Greek. Africa is a continent while the others titles are derived from the countries of European continent. Our sense of where we were from was so annihilated that we, as opposed to other groups, must cling to an entire continent because we were stripped of the knowledge of where we came from. Mr. Drossman says that people may think that he is reading to much into the phrase African-American. Conversely, I think he is reading too little into the term and that he needs to read and analyze in more depth, and more carefully before he writes uninformed articles.

The second glaring mistake is his statement, "The more we define each other like this, the less we will understand other people." He was referring to the title of African-American. Correct me if I am wrong Mr. Drossman, but I thought defining something brought about a deeper understanding of it. The American Heritage Dictionary’s definition of define is 1) To state the precise meaning of a word. To describe the nature or basic qualities of; 2) To explain; 3) To delineate the outline or form of; 4) To specify distinctly; 5) To serve to distinguish. I think defining people gives one a better understanding of people and how to relate to them. For example, an employer should not ask Jews to work overtime on Saturday and offer him a pork chop for dinner or ask a Sikh to cut his hair to conform to company policy. Definition brings understanding and understanding of people can bring the races closer together.

Lastly, Mr. Drossman’s idea of America as a melting pot is foolishly sentimental and outdated. If he has an imagination he would realize that things that are melted in a pot look the same. If you take black, white, yellow, and red and melt them in a pot the resulting color is homogeneous and lacks diversity. The melting pot works better for people of Euro­pean stock than for people from Africa or Asia. America is better called a “tossed salad.” The beautiful orange carrot, sits on the lovely green bed of lettuce. The crisp white onion is next to the bright red tomato. All of the beautiful colors side by side forming a beautiful peaceful mosaic. The “tossed salad” is more realistic for America. How boring New York would be without Chinatown, Little Italy, or Harlem Week. Beautiful ethnic areas with diverse foods, smells and sounds. How beautiful and exciting is the “tossed salad” concept of America and how dull the melting pot.

Mr. Drossman; think before you let ignorance flow out of your mouth. Understand and appreciate other people and their experiences, then you will help America become a better place.

Very Truly Yours

James White, Former vice-president of BLSA

Understanding Who I am: An African American Mother

by Valerie Armstrong-Barrows

Do I not breathe air?
Do I not run; walk; stand?
Do I not bleed red when you cut my hand?
Do I not delight in the smile of my child?
Do I not wonder if his strength will endure his trials?
Do I not teach my man-child to be strong - mentally and physically?
Do I not worry when he forgets and leaves his I.D. at home?
Do I not brag about his A in Mathematics; even when another’s B earns the teacher’s praise.

Do I not support his decision to accept the academic merit-based scholarship; while he tries to convince other students that it was not the result of an affirmative action program?
Do I not fit the qualifications; now that you have seen my appearance?
Then why do you judge me by my name?
Then how can you tell me how to define myself? Live my life.
Feel my fears for my man-child. Then tell me again about this “title - African American” that divides.

Divides? No! It wants you to understand me. No! It wants you to give me the ability to understand me.

African American -
Mother.
African American -
Mother.

Copyright protected © 1995

'Don’t Judge Me’
by Dave Drossman

My worst fears are being confirmed in the responses to my article; Titles, Do They Divide or Unite? People are writing these emotional, biting pieces have lost faith in America. They believe that fundamental American ideals like a melting pot are outdated and narrow-minded. This is a result of the brainwashing of the mass-media, liberals, and the radical left-wing groups. Our country is still the best in the world has ever been in promoting liberty, equality, and freedom. A better appreciation of the unique and exciting aspects of our country would help us all find common ground.

Is it a racist view to believe that we can all get along in this country as Americans? Have people lost their sense of justice and equality? Is our generation of Americans really so cynical and closed-minded?
Congratulates our West-Fest Winners!

Christopher Berger  
Lisa Bowers  
Jon Brien  
Tyrsa Cameron  
Chris Carucci  
Kathleen Donahue  
Michelle Langone  
Laura Mune

Jessica O’Kane  
Julia Rivin  
Anthony Ruscayo  
Bruce Schindler  
Barbara Tallon  
P. Terranova  
Sharon Toussaint

Everyone is a winner with West Bar Review!

Stop by our table on Monday, November 20 or next semester to claim your prize.

Law students can enroll now with a minimum deposit and FREEZE the discounted price while saving over $500!  
(Our course is approximately $670 cheaper than our competitor’s suggested retail price)

Good luck on finals and “West” Wishes for the holidays!
Point/Counterpoint: Social Programs

‘From the Right’

by Dave Drossman

Overgrown social programs like social security, Medicare, and welfare are coming to an end in a few years. They are slowly being weeded out in a merciful end to the bureaucracies that have been shackling American politics and govern­ment for decades. These socialist agendas mock the foundation that this great country was built on. It surely was not bureaucratic government programs like welfare, Medicaid, and Medicare. It was also not the big government interference in our lives that comes with these “giveaways.” The country was built on working for what you have. What you put into life is what you get out.

We, in New York City of all places, should appreciate the capitalist ideals that have been lost in this sea of socialism. Look around next time you walk down the street. There are immigrants all around us, diverse cultures working together to make themselves a better life. The cab drivers, newsstand owners, and deli owners of New York are working hard, because they believe they can go as far as their hard work will take them. People from practically every country in the world have come to this Mecca of freedom and justice to live out this dream.

This is the new generation of American immigrants. They still believe that you can go as far as you want to, as long as you are willing to work for it. They still believe in the American dream. It is a concept that has faded to the back of many American minds, but these immigrants have fresh views and enthusiasm in our nation. Their faith in our system is going to bring themselves and their children success.

Overexposure to the hardships of others and dealing with a multitude of their own problems has led many Americans to lose faith in our system. Their minds have been clouded by the media, who seek to increase ratings and sales by promoting negative headlines. They continuously sell an image of an America past its prime. Many Americans are starting to believe in this “downfall,” and that discouragement is why many have fallen back onto the government for support. This has been creating a vicious cycle of dependency that has trapped a generation of Americans. And as the cost of living rises, taxes must be raised to cover the increases in all of these social programs.

We must stop feeding the hungry welfare state. It is only growing larger, while the pot to draw from is getting smaller. These government programs were created in an era long gone to deal with aftermath of severe financial crisis. They no longer have a place in our society. As Republicans in Congress are trying to scale them down, Democrats like Clinton are frightened of the backlash that could occur from the elimination of government social programs.

Democrats defending these programs are promoting bigger government interference in our lives, and are dragging America into bankruptcy at the same time. As I am writing this article, the federal government has shut itself down because of gridlock on Capitol Hill. The Republican congress is trying to cut welfare to balance the budget while Clinton refuses to let go of the outdated social agenda. This agenda has been dragging generation after generation into a sea of poverty and bureaucracy that is creating a nation of dependents instead of patriots.

There is still a place for a welfare system in our society. However, only a greatly scaled down version will help achieve the goal of the rebirth of the American dream. Job training programs and public day care can take the place of food stamps, social security, and a host of other welfare programs. Hard work, patience, and a little luck will help anyone willing to put out the effort to achieve all that this country has to offer.

‘From the Left’

by Jaci Pickens

The portrayal of the welfare state, stressing a lack of family values and the lazy unemployed, is facade created by the corporate media hoping to take the eye of the corporate ball. Politicians are increasingly eager these days to express an open dislike for the poor, to the extent they even compare welfare recipients to animals.

Sure, the corporate world wants a decrease in the welfare state. But it is for their own personal, selfish reasons. Welfare allows people to remain out of the labor market, thereby keeping the labor pool small. This in turn drives up wages, which corporations do not want. They want minimal governmental control. But a higher welfare state gives the government the upper hand over corporations, enforcing them to pay into retirement funds and worker's compensation.

On one hand, American companies complain that the global market threatens the profits of their companies. However, their complaints that they are forced to send our American jobs overseas is just an excuse for wanting to pay lower wages and not worry about environmental protection. While big business profits, what about those at home who are jobless? Shouldn’t the American government protect our citizens who are victims of the global economy by providing certain programs?

Speaking globally… Republicans are continuously working to keep a false panic of national security. The Soviet threat is over. Instead of cutting back on social programs, why not cut back on national defense? Why are Republicans so concerned about protecting our country’s children and elderly, yet feel it is a waste to invest in their future? Republicans give the Pentagon more money than they even ask for, while they insist on cutting social programs by twenty percent.

According to the Center for Defense Information, the Pentagon is the single largest source of economic waste in our country. The cost of one B-2 bomber at $22 billion would cover the health-care costs of 1.3 million Americans. And the national security could be secured until the year 2002 with a Pentagon cut of $510 billion dollars over the next seven years, leaving the Pentagon with a “mere” $175 billion to play with. But perhaps the most absurd figure that CDI and the Defense Monitor quoted was the $14.7 billion unaccounted for; there are no invoices or receipts to trace this sum of money spent somewhere in the Pentagon.

So the Republicans can go ahead and falsely accuse the blacks and unwed mothers for the welfare and deficit problems in this country, while they insist on throwing money into already saturated pot holes. But while you are encouraging the immigrants and speaking of their American dreams and hard work, let us not forget that our companies lure them into this country with visions of grandeur, and then pay them extremely low wages, while Proposition 187 in California works to take their medical and educational benefits away. So much for their, and our, faith in the system.

REMINDER

The Reporter encourages all students to participate and extends a special invitation to interested second years. Elections for staff positions will be held shortly, so get involved now!

Don’t Forget to Place that Message to your Sweetheart!
Deadline for Valentines: January 29!

SEE PAGE 3 FOR FORM FOR VALENTINES
By Robert Zakari

I have heard of the mean streets of New York, but I never expected them to lead through the civilized halls of New York Law School. Before I lament the passing of the days of chivalry and honor, I would like to take a testosterone moment and recount a sad and unnecessary event which occurred last year.

It all happened one fateful evening, while I was walking to my corporate law class. I had just skimmed an article in the Jurist when something in the magazine ticked me off. Instead of throwing the magazine on the floor or in a nearby trash can, I just placed it into one of the plastic trays stuck on the wall outside the Lawyering Skills office in the B building. I was walking towards the pseudo-express elevator when one of my fellow legal scholars began yelling at me to throw the magazine in the trash and not put it in the tray. Under the circumstances, I would have just said "O.K.", but this guy was so unnecessarily angry and rude, that all that came out of my mouth was "Ahh...No."
The guy began ranting and raving about how he works at the office and he is upset that I have a very bad attitude. I generally concurred with his angry outbursts, and I suggested to my fellow legal scholar that we start yelling at one another in the hallways. The aversion to violence went so far that the nuns at my kindergarden forbade us to make fake guns out of Legos and we were not allowed to pretend to shoot at one another with our fingers. Shooting with the fingers is more of a visual thing, but I think you get the picture. The "no fighting" mantra was instilled in me from an early age. As a result of this treatment, I have been interested in fighting. As I stepped into the elevator, the angry young man repeated his outburst, but he didn't stop there. He threw the magazine in the trash and not put it in the tray. I stepped in to the elevator, the angry young man repeated his challenge to fight, and as the elevator doors closed, I saw his eyes boring holes into my body.

As a man, I thought I had two options last year. One, was to get into a genuine bare knuckle, no holds barred, ultimate fighting challenge; or two, walk away as I did. Upon longer reflection, I realize that the latter choice was the only one. Beyond the philosophical reasons for avoiding violence and fighting, there are legal, sociological and common sense ones.

I felt compelled to revisit this symptomatic incident, because it is the only topic which has ever taken place during the first week of November. Apparently, an altercation took place between two students which necessitated the intervention of other students and a faculty member. The details are not important, but what fascinates me is that this occurred in a law school. Even more importantly, the two students this year and the altercation giving rise to it last year had all completed their first year of law school!

As far back as I can remember, I was taught that fighting was not a solution nor an option to problems I had. This wise bit of advice was taught to me by my parents, but was instilled at every institution of learning I attended. The new programs full of violence went so far that the nuns at my kindergarden forbade us to make fake guns out of Legos and we were not allowed to pretend to shoot at one another with our fingers. Shooting with the fingers is more of a visual thing, but I think you get the picture. The "no fighting" mantra was instilled in me from an early age. As a result of this treatment, I have been interested in fighting. As I stepped into the elevator, the angry young man repeated his outburst, but he didn't stop there. He threw the magazine in the trash and not put it in the tray. I stepped in to the elevator, the angry young man repeated his challenge to fight, and as the elevator doors closed, I saw his eyes boring holes into my body.

Here is another important reason for not fighting. We are supposed to be professional. How can we be professional if we have the News & World Report reporter walking through the halls and witnessing a scene out of "Blood Sport" taking place in the Siefel Reading Room. I am not so concerned with the reputation of the people fighting, but rather, I am worried about our reputation as a law school. For those who think I am exaggerating, one of the witnesses to the November incident happened to be a lawyer.

Make Love (responsibly) not War. A timeless phrase, which loses all meaning these days where sexually transmitted diseases threaten to make war the new official alternative. I digress. Although I would like to see the world rid itself of all acts of violence, my lofty dream will probably always remain unattainable. I don't think it is too much to ask, however, that unprofessional behavior like fighting and shouting at one another in law school should be avoided. I don't think it is too much to ask, however, that unprofessional behavior like fighting and shouting at one another in law school should be avoided. If you are tired of the law school stereotype that New Yorkers are rough and violent, then you can remember that we have two solutions. One of these is to move and find a non-smoking school, but we should do something for these people with an addiction. None of the smokers can get very expensive. Hopefully we will have jobs so our wages can be garnished. Imagine this fighting can even cost us the right to practice law. It would seem that after more than twenty years of "no fighting," people should have the common sense to choose other methods of resolving their problems. Hey, who needs common sense, when most of us are blessed with two fists?

As a supplement to my last article on the computer center, we have a new person in the computer center to help the student in their time of need. Her name is Nejla Cadet, she's a first year student, and she has a great background in computers. So if you're in the student center computer room on Fridays and need help, look for Nejla.

Robert Zakari 11/14/95
Music Is Not About Love, But Legal Concepts

By Benjamin Gattegno

It first came to me in early October as I was thinking poor Patrick Glennon. I mean every day as I walked into A900 and listened to his sad story about his discolored building. Neil Young's 1970's Rust Never Sleeps kept popping into my head. When we were finally told that poor Patrick was seeking some sort of Satisfaction, and I kept visualizing Mick Jagger, I knew it was more than a coincidence. Could the enigmatic Stone's classic which bedeviled adolescents for years really be just about a dissatisfied legal client?

I decided to call on my old friend Max. Max was a real Rock and Roller, non-conformist, pre-Yuppie and one of the original menegregatti. He was DSRR before there was DKNY.

When I told him about my legal conundrum, he seemed hardly surprised.

"You think your learning something new in that high falutin' law school" he chuckled.

"It's all been about the music for years. Remember Carol King in Tapestry, when she sang 'Sometimes you win sometimes you lose, but most times you come between the two'?. That was all about the American court system and settlement".

I flashed Max a look of doubt. His eyes flashed with excitement. "Sometimes you win some times you lose, but most times you come between the two...?"

Max advised me to pay more attention to the music and less attention to case notes. Just then he began to look ill.

"Colon trouble again?" I asked.

"Yeah, collateral estoppel," he admitted.

"Well, I've got to go anyway... Finals, just like the Doors said... This is the End".

I walked away from my friend Max with new-found respect for the law... And an irreparable promise to listen more to the music.

CROSSW RD® Crossword

Puzzle Created by Richard Silvestri

Edited by Stan Chess

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD ON PAGE 15

DECEMBER 1995
Anyone For Dodge Ball? Professors’ Invited

By Chris McGee

For the past few weeks, there has been a weird aura circling our school. There has been a stink in the air that reeks worse than the bathrooms of an all boys elementary school. At first I couldn’t quite figure out what it was, but then it hit me. It is the fear of final examinations. That’s right, they are approaching more quickly than Mick Jagger’s 85th birthday, and everyone is so stressed! Students are spending hours reading cases, reviewing old outlines, and trying to grasp the opaque definitions of new terms like “consideration.”

The other day, I was reminiscing about how school used to be so much easier, and I got to thinking about recess. And then I got an idea! An idea so perfect, a woman’s intuition would be jealous of it. An idea so amazing, grace would sing a song about it. An idea so head and shoulders above the rest, Michael Jordan’s vertical leap would be in awe over it. I’m talking about the best way of relieving pre-finals stress since the bubble bath. I propose a student/professor dodge-ball game!

Can you imagine taking a big, red ball, like the ones we used to play kick ball with, and hurling it at our professors? I would love to see professors and students running around as fast as they can; ducking, jumping, bobbing and diving, trying to avoid the sting that the ball makes when it hits you. And who can forget that special “ping” sound the ball makes when it viciously goes by? I bet you could make it a statue of a little kid, being hit with a ball right in the crotch. We could name it the “Hit or Miss Ping Pain Award,” for outstanding achievement in the missile arts.

I know that we will probably never do this, but it is really funny to think about. I hope that this article made you laugh, and I hope that reading this article gave you a well deserved break from studying. At least, I lived on the sour atmosphere at school a little bit. Good luck finding an outlet for stress during finals, and watch out professors, because we may just be lurking around the corner with a big, red ball that has your name written all over it!

Work-A-Day

January 27, 1996

Work-A-Day provides law students with an opportunity to supplement their education with community involvement. Some groups may participate in law related activities, such as Legal Association of Women or participate in interactive activities, such as the Basketball Association giving a basketball clinic at a local Boys Club.

For more information contact your ABA representative.

Article Submission Deadline for the February Issue is Monday January 29th.

Subway Rider’s Shouldn’t Complain About A Quarter

by Dave Drossman

Twenty-five cents is a lot of money to people struggling to make it. It is an extra $2.50 weekly for most daily commuters. In many cases that is a great burden on the pocketbook, and that is unfortunate. This city is tough, and living here can be hard. However, what New Yorkers fail to realize is that living and traveling in the city is actually a bargain.

The best subway system in the world is at our fingertips for $1.25. We can travel from the tip of the Bronx to Coney Island, over 20 miles, on a single $1.25 token. In the suburbs, the gas alone costs more than that. The N.Y.C. subways and buses run twenty-four hours a day, almost any point in the city. However, renovations, increased security, and better maintenance of the trains and stations has its price. A quarter extra is not too much to ask. Even with the fare increase, the majority of mass transit’s operating costs is subsidized by the government. New Yorkers do not appreciate how cheap it is to live and travel in the city.

The uproar about the twenty-five cent increase was tremendous. In fact, a court order almost restricted the MTA’s increase. In a class-action suit, commuters argued that the increase in subway and bus fare was unfairly biased towards city passengers, because suburban commuters only had a nine percent increase, compared to the twenty percent increase for city transportation.

What the plaintiffs in that case fail to realize is that the costs of commuting from the suburbs increases every year, while the subway only increases every three or four years. As the heavy subsidies keep subway and bus fares low, costs for suburban commuters rises. This is because many suburban commuters have to pay the entire operating cost of the transportation. A weekly suburban bus pass may be raised as much as $10 a year. To drive from New Jersey to Brooklyn and back costs $10 in tolls. In addition, suburban’s must constantly drive because everything is far from home. These trips usually cost a few dollars in gas. Adding to this cost insurance payments, maintenance, and car repairs, an extra twenty-five cents to get where you want to go is not a lot.

Although rents are high in some places, rent controlled and rent stabilized buildings are all over the city. Many elderly people are paying the same rent on an apartment as they were during World War II. These apartments are passed down from generation to generation. Many buildings in New York are sitting empty because the owners cannot afford to maintain the buildings on such low rents. The city also provides free water, sewer, and garbage services. On the other hand, suburbanites must pay for all of these services, and exorbitant property taxes. There are no huge subsidies for transportation, or rent control in the suburbs.

While the cost of living in suburban skyscrapers, New York City has managed to keep these costs under control. This lawsuit alleging bias has no foundation, as the city has made every possible effort to accommodate mass transit travelers at a reasonable cost. New Yorkers should appreciate the bargain of riding the subway or bus and living here instead of complaining about every nickel, dime, and yes…quarter.

Not only is transportation cheaper in New York than anywhere else, living here is also less expensive.
An American President: Sappy Or Great Cinema

By Charles Hymowitz

The American President, Rob Reiner's comic holiday gift to daters everywhere, is a sensational, fun, politically savvy movie. The film, obviously patterned after the Clinton White House, has everything going for it - real chemistry between stars Michael Douglas and Annette Bening, a strong support cast including Martin Sheen and a perfectly casted Michael J. Fox, and a well written, witty script.

The story is a simple, timeless Hollywood tale but the angle is new. Boy meets cute girl. Boy and girl fall in love. Boy and girl are torn apart. Trust me, knowing this does not give anything away. However, unlike the typical Hollywood plot, Michael Douglas, as Andrew Shepherd, plays the president of the United States and the romance must happen in a fishbowl known as American politics. The even newer angle is that Michael Douglas is perfectly casted in a role so unlike his previous performances. President Shepherd is a powerful, intensely bright leader. Michael Douglas brings out a warm, likeable side to him, so unlike many of the arrogantly forceful characters Douglas usually portrays.

It certainly helps that Annette Bening is the hard hitting lobbyist Sydney Wade brought in by the environmental movement to push a major bill through Congress. Her intelligence, warmth, sexiness and beauty make Wade all the more believable. The attraction between the two characters is totally understandable.

What is particularly interesting is how unabashedly this film shows its affection for President Clinton and his politics. (Full disclosure requires that I indicate here that I am a supporter of the President.) The attempt is to make us see how smart, brassy and dedicated the occupant of the White House are. The film's concerns are also the meat and potatoes of the Clinton Administration - a crime bill complete with gun issues, an environmental bill heavily weighted towards environmentalists and a President who never served in the armed forces yet is called upon to lead the forces. Each issue is tackled head on and the President always comes out on top.

The support characters echo particular personalities who have been or still are part of the White House staff. Michael J. Fox in the George Stephanopoulos role of domestic advisor and speech writer, is perfectly casted as the moral center of the film. Martin Sheen, chief of staff to President Shepherd (read Mac McLarty), is the stalwart best friend, political mentor and operative without whom Shepherd would be "the most popular history professor at the University of Wisconsin." Even Shawna Waldron, who plays President Shepherd's 13-year-old daughter, has a very distinct and favorable resemblance toward Chelsea Clinton.

Would I have enjoyed this film as much if I did not share its politics? I think so. Nothing beats an adult, witty, intelligent boy/girl movie. Especially when one of the leads is having an unabashed love affair with the Constitution. As President Shepherd tells his daughter, "Hard to believe, but the Constitution can be exciting stuff."

By Dave McNulty

Rob Reiner has directed some extremely good movies in the past. This is Spinal Tap, A Few Good Men, When Harry Met Sally, The Princess Bride, the list goes on. So it would stand to reason that his most recent feature, An American President, would rest comfortably among the company of those previous releases. With such a wealth of successes behind him, a simple romantic comedy about the President of the United States should be a walk in the park for a seasoned director such as Reiner.

Don't bet on it.

Boy meets girl, boy woos girl, boy loses girl, boy gives impassioned off the cuff speech about the integrity of the American people, boy gets girl back, boy and girl live happily together for the rest of their lives, blah, blah, blah.

Same old story, only this time boy is Andy Shepard, widowed President of the U.S., and girl is Sidney Allen Wade, lobbyist for an environmental action group. Ultimately, the President finds he must choose between his crime bill, which he believes must pass for him to win re-election, and Wade's environmental proposal.

The big problem here was, I didn't care. Nobody made me care. Nobody even asked me to care. Actually, the only one who even cared if I cared was Michael J. Fox, Chief Administrative Aide to the President, played by Michael Douglas. Fox is the best thing about the movie, simply because he did everything the other actors didn't do. Most of the (largely predictable) dialogue came without any thought or emotion, supposedly to give us the impression that a day in the White House is so busy, no one is allowed the luxury of thinking before they speak. The result is that I didn't believe that the actors believed what they were saying.

Annette Bening, on the other hand, had just the opposite problem as lobbyist Wade. She cared so much that she might as well have had a big neon sign bolted to her forehead that said, "I'm ACTING!!! WATCH ME EMOTE!!!" Of the greatest mis-cast roles in history, hers takes the cake. Douglas didn't do a bad job, but he was just too perfect. Young, handsome, fit, sensitive Democratic incumbent, striving for those re-election poll figures, always perfectly lit in the cheery, regal, can't-do-no-wrong glamour of the White House up against an aging, gray, balding cigar-smoking, pot-bellied, truth-twisting Republican, who we meet in darkly paneled rooms filled with foreboding and character-bashing. Are you getting it? Remember to slam down in your seat so the symbolism won't keep whacking you in the head.

I was kind of looking forward to this movie. Most people have given it favorable reviews, although most people like Budwiser, McDonald's, and Steve Urkel. If you go, I suggest that you wait until you're really tired, drunk, or have recently had a frontal lobotomy. Enjoy the sap.

RATING KEY

[1 gavel] Don't be home when this movie comes on TV
[2 gavels] Be sure to catch it on HBO
[4 gavels] Definitely rent it
[4 gavels] See it at a matinee or discount movie theater
[5 gavels] Shell out the $8.00 for a first-rate movie

O003

ANSWER TO CROSSWORD

CROSSW RD 9 Crossword

Cape LotS Posed ORAN ITEM RHODA
LEA TIME OILED DARKNESS AINNO EAR TOT
FIR DATE HOUSES ADE JHOLD PITTA CAPTAIN MIDEIGHT TREE BING MAT
SOLDIER REST ANY NCB KES
TWELV CAN ANGRYFEN IRANI SCA ROTO
SILOS BRIE UTH CO HOLS TEK PEK

ANSW0 003

DECEMBER 1995
Brad Pitt...Don’t Call Me Chick...Strossen Rules...

By Cardozo & Hughes

It's true that when we were in law school at the turn of the 21st century we never once took over the Dean's Office. In those days we were mostly concerned with sucking up to the right people and getting a job...

Ah, the security of formulas and elements of the prima facie case to be plugged into the hypo. But professor, when you make us wrestle with the development and purpose of the elements, we feel like you've left us out in the hallway with no clothes on...

Good God, where did all these books, supplements, notebooks and papers come from that are strewn across our desks? How does the professor think we have room enough left to take notes?... We guess we better make partner early in our careers so we get one of those big comer offices to store all this stuff...

Ernest Hemingway wrote good and true and succinct and organized and logical and analytical active tense memos early in the morning before the legal writing teachers even ordered the first of their 24 steaming, dignified, graceful, immune-to-pressure cups of coffee that caked with the grounds at sunset after the long struggle to teach the writing students the correct and exhausting and seemingly impossible task of framing the question presented. Hemingway never wrote passive tense briefs like those wimpy Frogs, and Krauts and Limes, who questioned the hard ass style of red, white and blue barristers. Old Hem showed those yellow bellied gung-ho users a thing or two and shot his brains out through the thesis paragraph and all the way through to the probable conclusion...

Since we're on macho stuff, isn't it great that Ohio State and Notre Dame each played 42 times on national tv this fall, leaving us a lot of time on Saturdays to study? And think of the study time we gained when the Yankees didn't get to the World Series...

If a fellow student's oral performance is so extraordinary that you don't feel you belong in the same classroom, you should:

a) become a bartender in Key West
b) take out a contract on the student through 007
c) ask for the student's autograph
d) propose marriage to the student

The correct answer is c) ask for the student's autograph...

Isn't law school an emotional rollercoaster? One day we think we're really understanding our cases and we're ready to kick back, open a brew and begin writing our memoirs. But the next day, we mix up the promisor with the promisee and we fall into a panic...

How exciting that the holiday season has arrived. We've already strolled along Fifth Avenue and enjoyed the Christmas decorations. The Rockettes are showing off their legs at Radio City Music Hall. The New York City Ballet is performing "The Nutcracker" at The New York State Theater at Lincoln Center. And most exciting of all, we get to rewrite Problem 2 in Legal Writing over the vacation...

In wishing you all a happy holiday season, we want to thank you for indulging our free form thoughts. We share our wandering perceptions because we are inspired by the experiences we share with each and every one of you.

For those who have had a great semester, congratulations and keep up the good work through finals...

For those who have sometimes struggled, let us not forget the call of a young president of this century who told us that we have to do will not be accomplished in the first 100 days, nor in the first 1000. Let us remember King Solomon's wisdom who advised us that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intellect, nor favor to the skillful, but time and chance in all. And allow us also to paraphrase Jesse Jackson and urge you to KEEP YOUR HOPES ALIVE, KEEP YOUR HOPES ALIVE...

We end the semester the way we began it, by quoting Dean Wellington, because we still believe that "law is a noble profession."
The Rouse Family
Arthur, Sabrina, Bobbi Lyn, Kari Ann, and Bret.
Lived together, loved together.
Killed together
August 20, 1991
Gansevoort, NY

If you don't stop someone from driving drunk, who will? Do whatever it takes.

FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK.
Get Foot in Door, Alumna Advises

By Kimberly Auerbach

Bonnie Erdheim did not make law review. She did not make a journal or participate in the school’s Froessel Moot Court Competition. She did not work during her first year of law school and she devoted that first summer to anything but the law.

She was also one of the first in her class to get a job. Even better, a job of her choice.

"The fact is after the first year my grades were horrible, but I didn’t panic," said Erdheim, who is now Assistant Corporation Counsel at the Brooklyn Family Court Division of Corporation Counsel. "I knew I had the determination to do what I wanted to do."

What she wanted to do was public interest, a field so popular that even if you volunteer there is a good chance you won’t be able to get in the door. Erdheim was not deterred.

In her second year of law school she gathered any information she could get her hands on having to do with public interest and began writing letters.

"I was very disheartened," she recalled. "The public interest organizations were not very organized. I didn’t get a warm reception to my wanting to volunteer. They had an attitude of, ‘Oh, we get so many volunteers’ or ‘We don’t know how many volunteers we’re going to take.’ You’d call and they wouldn’t call back. You had to constantly track them down."

Finally, Erdheim attended a Career Services government panel, where she got the idea to send a letter to the New York City Law Department Office of the Corporation Counsel. After a follow-up phone call and an interview, she got the job, where she now works prosecuting juveniles.

In part, she attributes this success to interning with New York Supreme Court Judge Frederic S. Berman during her first semester, second year, an experience she calls “invaluable.” Not only do you get to see the inside of a courtroom and learn how the system works, but you make connections. It is something every student should do, she said.

The internship also led to a rare opportunity. Erdheim stayed on and helped research and write a law review article by the Judge that was recently published in the New York Law School Law Review.

Although initially the job at Corp. Counsel did not pay, Erdheim once again hit the books, did her homework and worked out a Work-Study program that made her more than $12 an hour.

Most people do not realize it, but if you work for the government there is money available for you, she said.

Once inside, Erdheim had the chance to prove how good she was. After working through the summer, she was soon promoted to Senior Student Legal Specialist accompanied by a raise, medical and dental benefits, sick days and annual leave days. Of course there was a trade-off.

"You definitely have to put in more time and more hours," she explained. "But it's worth it. By the time I graduated I successfully prosecuted three juveniles. This is a rare opportunity for a student to have."

Working 20 hours a week, juggling six classes and heading the Public Interest Coalition in her third year, Erdheim knew there was no guarantee she would be hired come graduation. More than 1,000 people apply for only 28 spots with Corp. Counsel.

Not wanting to put all her balls in one basket, Erdheim began applying all over the place for permanent employment.

"That's when I started getting rejections—lots of rejections," she recalled. "I was getting rejected left and right just like everyone else."

In the end, her work at Corporation Counsel paid off. She will never forget all the people that wrote recommendations and pushed for her from the inside. There is no doubt in her mind that that is why she was hired.

"It was 110 percent why," she said. "I had a lot of people behind me who knew my work. Law review might get you in the door, but it doesn't guarantee you a job."

By third year, every student should be working she said. She also added that the reputation of the school only helped her. Students, she said, were so apathetic that it gave those who wanted "to show their stuff" a chance to be able to.

"It's all where you worked before that will get you a job," she said. "It's the connections you make that really can help you in the future."
By Dave Drossman

America, land of the free and the home of the brave. I am proud to be an American. I believe in our system of economy, freedom, and justice. Unfortunately, those systems often do not work for minorities, and we are constantly trying to figure out how to change them.

These racial problems stem from fundamental divisions between our country's many races and ethnic groups. Seeing a spectacle like the OJ Simpson trial shows how Americans increasingly define each other by the color of their skin. This is not an aspect of our country that I am proud of, and it needs to be changed.

I am not trying to deny the obvious differences that exist between black and white America. Instead, I am wondering why some races try to differentiate between themselves even more. This is a problem that is only fueling the fire of racism in America. The less we understand people who are different from us, the more we stereotype each other. The social and economic separation of the races only stands as a roadblock to trying to understand each other.

One aspect of the separation dividing us stems from one common aspect of life that we all share. This is the language we use. In the past I was simply an American, like the rest of my fellow countrymen. However, in recent years the term "African-American" has come into use. Where did this change come from? As we try to bring our races together in this country, phrases like "African-American" seem to drive us further apart.

Americans are people of all different colors, shapes, and sizes. A person may have roots in France and Poland, but they are still an American. Immigrants who come here from all over the world take pride in calling themselves Americans. Everyone here is part of a social, religious or ethnic group, but there is no reason to begin calling US citizens Jewish-Americans, Russian-Americans, or even Mexican-Americans. The more we define each other like this, the less we will understand other people.

It is already confusing enough for most people to keep up with the political correctness and oversensitivity in our country. Ironically, however, the more groups distinguish themselves, the more they separate from the country's foundations of liberty and equality. Calling myself "African-American" suggests allegiance to another country or set of ideals. This goes against the idea of a melting pot, the idea that many diverse peoples could live together peacefully. An idea this country was founded on.

What we need to do in this age of stereotypes and racism is grasp the fundamental links that join us all, not just labels unifying one group. As we attempt to reconstruct the foundation of mutual respect and understanding for everyone, it only makes it more difficult when some people go off in a different direction. As Americans, we all need to work together to solve our problems instead of creating new ones.

Some people may think that I am reading too much into the phrase, "African-American." However, it is in these types of unexpected and often overlooked places that show why we see each other as so different.

Am I different from you? In certain ways I am, but it would surprise some people to find out how much we all have in common. We need to put emphasis on those similarities, not the differences. I might be black, white, blue, or green, but it should not affect how you think about the ideas I have written. If it has, maybe that is something that you need to look at inside yourself.

Happy Holidays from all of us at the Reporter to all of you.
Good Luck on Final Exams

New York and the nation’s largest and most personalized bar review course
(800) 422-8899

BAR/BRI
BAR REVIEW