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First Impression*

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*case of first impression. A case that presents the court with issues of law that have not previously been considered within a given jurisdiction.
After the Verdict

Representation of a "Guilty Client"

Ara Michael Mesrobian

The ideological, save the world attorneys are all either still in law school or on television. Only a select few attorneys will ever have the opportunity to become "Perry Mason," through defending a "framed client" and finding that one piece of exculpatory evidence or key witness, who is essential in setting their client free. In all reality, the vast majority of attorneys never set foot before a jury at trial, nor have the desire or ability to represent their clients before an adversarial tribunal. Rather, the new age egalitarian practitioners are "select few" attorneys who will ever have the opportunity to become the big red book, "a professional" for the government as to what evidence the prosecution or else the judge must prepare a written declaration explaining why such sentence imposed must be within the statutory prescribed range of the USSG, or else the judge must prepare a written declaration explaining why such sentence did not conform with the guidelines. Still, where is the judicial autonomy here?

Has the legislature lost confidence in the Federal Court's ability to individually assess defendants? If so, then the founding fathers' sentiment, "All men are created equal," becomes a misnomer. Through the legislative determination of a defendant's sentence does the power of the Judge's perspective of the evidence count for nothing at all? Is this practice of adhering to the USSG violates the tripartite system of government? The Supreme Court, the ultimate arbiter of the United States Constitution, thinks not. This very issue was presented before the courts on a number of times, with a result-based decision being made each time. This left the majority of Federal defense attorneys with the false security that the USSG would not be followed, and they dismissed their efforts to study and master the system, believing their efforts would be in vain. This train of thought proved valid until, U.S. v. Mistretta came before the court.

In U.S. v. Shtetl, the Supreme court held, contrary to prior precedent, that the USSG was constitutional and did not infringe on the separation of powers between the judiciary and the legislative branches of government. The Supreme Court in one fell swoop changed the entire practice of the Federal Criminal Defense Attorney. The belief, prior to Mistretta that the USSG would be overturned, proved costly to a great number of clients who relied on their attorneys' "professional" judgment. This judgment was anything but professional. The USSG is a book; the size of a phone book with so many intricate and reliant sections that it would require months, if not years to master. Moreover, you can't teach an old dog new tricks. The outcome and byproduct is what you see in the above example; attorneys plead out their clients in favor of an acceptance of responsibility and the ensuing downward departure, without even realizing, or understanding that neither the probation department nor the judge is bound by such plea-bargaining agreements. Furthermore, plea-bargaining is the norm in Federal Defense work! This situation of Plea-"bargaining" is so iniquitous that it should be deemed illegal to enter into. Can one imagine signing into a contract with the Federal Government then finding out after the work has been completed that the government decided to pay only half the agreed upon price? An individual would claim breach of contract and win in such a civil case. Why is the federal criminal system a different situation? Is it effective assistance of counsel to recommend copping a plea at the Federal criminal level? Apparently, the Bar Association believes it is.

Ninety-five percent of all federal cases in the 2nd District, New Jersey, have been determined by plea-agreements. That is a staggering number. In light of such statistics how can attorneys charge the inordinate fees that they charge? The typical Federal defense attorney who "bargains" a plea-agreement, does nothing more than write one brief and a couple of letters, makes two thirty minute court appearances and a few phone calls. Imagine if the bar association required attorney's to document their billable hours in relation to their fees. There would either be a significant drop in the number of Federal Defense Attorney's or a new Bar Association. The financial implications would be enormous, and the safeguard currently in place called, FEB Arbitration, is neither effective nor widely used.

It is not fair to jump to any assumptions or conclusions until all the facts are presented, after all, some attorneys do take their cases to trial. These attorneys are not very successful in the Second circuit, where 98% of all criminal cases that do go to trial end in a "guilty" verdict. Can one fathom paying a "professional" for services knowing that such professional has a better chance of getting into a car accident, than winning your case?
Politically Erect

Sex, Cigars, The Oral Office, Lies... & The Videotape.

Cynthia Litman
Executive Editor

Over the past seven months, American's have been bombarded with the sexual liaison between our President and a young starry-eyed intern, Monica Lewinsky. Just when you thought you heard it all, special prosecutor Kenneth Starr took it one step further. Starr submitted a steamy account of the lurid affair to Congress which will soon decide whether to impeach the president.

Moreover, the one-sided report is now available to the public and an updated version is coming soon. Can it be considered sufficient grounds to impeach a President, or is Starr's report sufficient to charge Mr. Clinton with obstruction of justice, perjury, or censure?

The scandal touches a sensitive chord in the American conscience. Personal values have taken center stage in the political forum. Private matters are aired in public. Sex has become so important that it pre-empts international news. The Russian economy is on the verge of collapse. The Asian market is in a tailspin. Two American embassies are bombed in Africa by Islamic terrorists and the American public cries foul.

Is the American public so entranced with sex that it has broken its hold with reality? Has the entertainment industry so thoroughly inundated the American mentality that real events are perceived as soap operas and personal acts are seen as grounds for impeachment? Something is terribly amiss.

It should be undisputed that Bill Clinton is a fantastic orator. When he speaks, people listen. He is focused and coherent. When he talks, I am enthralled. His speeches in Northern Ireland, Moscow, and on the democratic campaign trail exemplify his idealism and realism.

Bill looked straight into the cameras and wholeheartedly declared that he did not have sexual relations with Monica Lewinsky. For the most part, the American public believed him. In an unprecedented move, Clinton testified in front of the grand jury. Everyone surrounding the circumstance secretaries, friends, lawyers, mothers and even secret service agents were hauled into court.

Bill Clinton publicly admitted his behavior and voiced his misgivings. We will never know whether Bill mistakenly apologized to the public. Perhaps, Clinton should have conversed with President Bush. Bush cared more about being president and understood the importance of that role rather than public opinion. However, Clinton cares about the people's opinion. However, should Bill Clinton be remembered merely as the President who went after Bush?

Monica "Blewclinsky," as Howard Stern refers to her, is the most famous mistress in history. She brought down the president of the United States. As far as I am concerned, next to John F. Kennedy, Bill Clinton is the sexiest President. The press loved Kennedy and closely followed his and his wife Jackie. One day Camelot sprung a leak: the President is having an affair with a Miss Marilyn Monroe. The public was awestruck. They thought John and Marilyn was an ideal match. At a very public and lavish birthday celebration, to hear Marilyn Monroe sing "Happy Birthday Mr. President" was music to everyone's ears.

Marilyn was the quintessential Hollywood bombshell while Monica is an over weight, star struck, teenager. But should Clinton be crucified because Monica is no Marilyn? What if Monica was Madonna or Cindy Crawford? Would the public be as outraged? Why are we obsessing over this? Are we really surprised that inappropriate acts occur in the Oval office of the White House? Naturally, a distinction exists between the President's work space and his residence, but would we feel better if the President rented a room in a nearby motel instead?

It took me days to read the Starr report and so far it has been like reading a not so great love story. On September 13, I laughed when Howard Stern suggested that Starr had to have others explain the sexual innuendos in the given testimonies. If the contents of the report are so morally reprehensible then why is this smut being posted all over the Internet?

Nevertheless, Starr placed Clinton's fate in the hands of Congress. What options do the public have to prevent or further the impeachment process. If the Republican Congress says yes, can we say no and if we could, would we? If this was the sixties, people, not solely the press, would be openly protesting their beliefs. In thirty years has the public nullified their power to protest?

The impeachment process begins with the House judiciary committee. The evidence presently existing is from the grand jury. The evidence which is customarily under seal is now being fully disclosed. If necessary, the Senate will conduct a trial with the U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Rehnquist (a Nixon appointee) as the judge and senators as the jurors. They must decide whether the President's conduct classifies as a high crime or misdemeanor as the terms were intended by the framers of the U.S. Constitution i.e., if the allegations of abuse of power, etc. is a violation rising to the level of existing criminal law. If impeached, Clinton can still face a criminal indictment.

Other questions concern whether Clinton's actions constituted a malicious attempt to soil the presidency or something else entirely. One plausible conclusion: this was simply an affair. An affair which millions of Americans are guilty of. If he did maliciously lie to the public and to his staff one must then consider if lying is always impermissible. Another issue is whether the President was involved in a conspiracy to obstruct justice i.e. Bill and Monica had an understanding that if ever asked, they would deny any sexual encounters and supplement alternative justifications for Monica's presence in the oval office. Further, it is not clear whether Clinton asked Monica to tell the truth or suggested evasion.

Humans are contradictory beings by nature. Individuals hold one belief now and another later. We constantly change our minds about people, beliefs, and norms. Is it fair to compare Clinton with Nixon and Andrew Johnson? Nixon undoubtedly abused his powers. Although Nixon resigned, most of the impeachable grounds lied in the use of the government agencies to aid, cover up, and to make public statements intended to deceive the public. Unlike Tricky Dick, Bill did not abuse the power of the government agencies per se but did allow his aides to misinform the public.

I find myself wondering which Republicans who are judging Bill grip their bibles in one hand and their subscription to Hustler magazine in the other. Especially since the backlash of this scandal may result in the exposure of every public figure's private life.

This seems to be the biggest playing card for Bill, the fact that no one wants uninvited guests in their bedroom or strict scrutiny of their sexual relations. Moreover, how does this investigation of the President foreshadow future investigations of lay people?

Focusing on sexual relations also stir our basic notions of gender roles and sexual relations in the work place. Americans are sexually repressed in form but in substance we ooze and exploit sexuality, particularly in the media.

The use of the media and the justice system has crippled the presidency forever. The president has been successfully isolated from his advisors, secret service agents and confidants. All the people who served to protect and advise the president have been turned against him. Impeachment and the executive privilege has been denied. The next president who enters office will find himself without barriers to ward off intruders.

Further, the media's extensive coverage of SexGate diminished the line between fact and opinion. The media is responsible for the opinions of many Americans. However, a common response among news reporters is, "they do not create the news, they just report it." Consequently, whenever you state something you inevitably adopt it as your own and often times slant the facts according to your opinions.

Some people suggested that the media's coverage on this issue is another form of yellow journalism if not simply a quest for the highest ratings. In this respect, a correlation can be made between the reactions of specific public groups, such as the moral majority, with the use of the media by the Nazis during World War II. The persistence that there is only one right way of thinking and that Bill is undoubtedly a moral corrupter, illustrates this analogy. There is not a news station or a comedian in the world that has not commented about this affair. As far as I am concerned, the best thing coming out of SexGate are the jokes, which itself raises a bunch of issues.

The Entertainment Channel's "Gossip Show" admitted that it would find this "whole thing hilarious if it weren't so tragic" and reemphasized how news shows need ratings to survive. For example, on about September 10, 1998, Mr. Clinton was speaking at the presidential awards for science, math and engineering. His speech was going flawlessly when suddenly, the newsmen cut in and commented on how Bill neglected to talk about SexGate. When the President met with Boris Yeltsin and, on another occasion, with Britain's Prime Minister a reporter asked, "what

(Continued on page 7)


Editorial

A Few Good Reasons

One day mommy told me I would grow up to be a beautiful person. I took these words to heart and set out to make her wish come true. She repeatedly warned me that beauty is on the inside, outside and all around us. She never constricted the words she chose nor was I permitted to see the world through blind eyes. I was placed here for a part of an eternal life in order to be only me. With that said, I continue on a moment to moment basis to try and fully understand the gaps within the reasons.

Law students have the honor of witnessing the development of America's future lawyers. Professors are exceptionally vulnerable to observation. Sometimes, I stare at a professor and wonder when they are just going to lose it. Other times I do not have to wonder. For example: Dr. Joel, can you please state the facts of Student vs. Professor? Pass. Ok then, you, you, you... (pause) anyone...? Pass.

There are a few good reasons why pass is a favorite. Pass is hom base. In other words, the name of the game is tag and you're it. But, what is it? It... It... It... takes on a bunch of meanings. That is why it became the most prohibited word in English. I mean that is why there are red circles around it. The thing you overlooked, Enter, pass.

However, NYLS seems to be cracking down on passers. Some professors limit the passes you receive before passing you a grade or two. Even if a student does not know the right answer, professor's still look for a sign; a glimpse that a fraction of what they say is sinking in. By process of elimination, we approach what professors (employers/parents) want to hear. Unfortunately, time and life has time constraints.

Some professors implemented a more intensive attendance program. Therefore, dodging class seems to be out the window. Maybe the reasons behind these policies lie as an answer to professors needing a reason to wake up in the morning. School is an institution dedicated to creating and solving puzzles. Hence, a few good reasons to create a nurturing environment. Attention spans are shortening while tuition is rising and there is too much to think about at any given moment.

I was talking with a professor (i.e.: a reason to egg for courtesy points) and during the discussion we brainstormed ways to improve NYLS and student performance (mine naturally excluded). Curiously, some rooms in NYLS were designed to cram in students. Cramping was simply a means to an end. The end was to create certain rooms to handle hundreds of students. The means chosen produced a few good reasons why portions of class are missed, including discomfort.

For the past two years I have been whining over NYLS's aesthetic appearance. Since my fallback is interior design, I do not know the reason why shopping for NYLS is not a worthy cause. Surprisingly, NYLS improved over the years. The emblem, library, computer consuls, plants, ashtrays and an overbooked first year class, are new.

Apparately, NYLS plans to construct the parking lot. Fine, great, raise tuition and go for it! First, consider a few good reasons not to utilize the space for student housing. As lazy as I may be, people, especially law students, should not be confined to one block. Further, there are no good reasons to omit a parking garage in the process.

For one reason or another late night happens. The worst is when the alarm clock cops an attitude. It has a few purposes in life and its main job is to go off. Another reason; the car and my keys got lost. When I found them, I got lost. Then there are more complicated reasons i.e.; dinner appeared at breakfast or could not get out of bed... I am not the best morning person. Never have been, never will. My brain does not function until, at best, noon. I don't know a reason why classes/exams aren't given to suit our disabilities. For the above stated reasons is why I average a C on all morning exams.

Last year, I escaped from Alcatraz; hence, I have a few good reasons to really know someone before living with them. Personality disorders are common nowadays and display warnings often too subtle to detect. It is too late when for unknown reasons you take on another's negativity. The best precaution is to pick up a hornbook on psychos and learn all the reasons. You never know, one day you might need it so be prepared! Especially beware of borderlines. Borderlines are the worst of them all. You may have the joy of representing a borderline. Therapists can state a few good reasons to avoid borderlines. Besides lacking a medical cure they are the most destructive personalities.

Borderlines suffer from a severe identity crisis, insecurity and lack of a reflection creating a transparent energy sucking vampire. Recent studies indicate that the disorder may begin during the early stages of childhood. Usually, beginning around two years old. Normal development at this age results in the child understanding a separation exists between themselves and their mother. The child also learns individuality. However, if development is faulty the child will have trouble adjusting to the next stage; the anal stage. This stage confronts control and aggression. Now if development is faulty what do you think can accumulate next? Here's a hint. Picture a brat who mastered the art of utterly repulsing others. These are a few good reasons to think about the kind of parenting you want to do with your kids and clients.

I have a few good reasons for a few million things. Some of them may be distasteful, others are well thought out and others are complete bull. But it keeps life interesting. Law school was a chance to further my intellectual pursuit. I came here because when college ended, I thought, wow this can not be all there is for me to do. And it was right.

One day mommy told me I would waste time. She never constricted these words to heart and set out to make me grow up to be a beautiful person. J, took portions of NYLS's aesthetic appearance. When I found them, I got lost. Then I became the most prohibited word in English. That is why it lost. When I found 'them, I got lost. Then I became the most prohibited word in English. That is why it lost. That is why it lost. I stare at a professor and wonder when he/she are Just going to lose it. Other times pie, especially law students, should not be confined to one block. Further, there are no good reasons not to utilize the space for student housing. As lazy as I may be, people, especially law students, should not be confined to one block. Further, there are no good reasons to omit a parking garage in the process.

鸡汤

Welcome/Welcome Back

Although we are creatures of our uniforms and our surroundings, we can still direct our own evolution. Like any society, law school presents its members, the students, a variety of roles. The students decide how these roles will shape their respective evolutionary processes. We all have our own ideas about this stuff, but we share common experiences, we can usually gain from other people's perspectives.

The L (as in IL, 2L, or 3L) seeks to present the New York Law School Community with an amalgam of unique perspectives from within and without the community. Hence, it purports to be "the voice of the NYLS Community." It is a voice that is constantly evolving, however.

On behalf of the entire staff I welcome the new students and returning students to NYLS. Good luck in your quest for your respective legal roles. Remember, you choose your roles and ultimately direct your lives. Your life is a canvas in the world's library, small and slanted, but severely important to you the writers. Have a good time. Be nice.
A Message to All Students from Phi Alpha Delta

Suzanne A. Ascher  
Justice of Phi Alpha Delta

Greetings everyone. It is now the end of the fall semester. You have adjusted to your schedule and the demands of this semester's classes. In addition, if you attended school on Club Day on Thursday, September 3rd, you probably considered what organizations you should or should not join. Well, one organization you should join — if you have not done so already — is Phi Alpha Delta.

You may be asking yourself, "What is Phi Alpha Delta?" To answer that question, please let me mention a few things.

Phi Alpha Delta is an international legal fraternity with a chapter here at New York Law School, that is, the Temple Chapter. Our chapter of Phi Alpha Delta is basically an organization trying to provide academic and professionally oriented programs and events which law students will find helpful. We believe in providing students with an opportunity to participate in community service programs at school.

In addition, Phi Alpha Delta, as an international organization, provides its members many benefits, including first year survival manuals and rental car discounts.

Well, if you are pleased or at least intrigued by my brief rendition of what Phi Alpha Delta is all about and are interested in joining, please call our office at extension 4021 and leave a message in the mailbox of Suzanne Ascher for further information.

Also, just in case you were wondering, please note that Phi Alpha Delta is open to BOTH day and evening students regardless of their year of study. In addition, Phi Alpha Delta has NO grade point average requirements for membership.

I wish you the best of luck for the school year and hope to see you soon as a member of Phi Alpha Delta. Thank you.

The First Year Perspective

There is Napping in Law School

Deana Ardente  
Staff Editor

Having survived my first few months here at New York Law School, I have decided to celebrate. In order to celebrate, I have decided to go to bed by 2 a.m. I am sure that everyone can remember their first month in law school here and what it all meant. The phrases "mandatory curve" and "anonymous grading" are ones that run through my mind daily, dare I say hourly basis. Anonymous grading foils the plan I used in college which was make your face known to the professor and your grades will reflect it. Here, I can hang out everyday and it would not matter because they don't know me when they grade my exam. Sure, it may help to prevent the professor from being biased. Who said being swayed in the grading is a bad thing? The idea of a mandatory curve gives me a good idea of how many A's are given out? This can only mean at exam time a wave a terror and fear comes over you and suddenly plans to sabotage notes or rip pages out of reporters. Of course, careful thinking, you may not actually go through with it.

The word stress has taken a completely new meaning to me. I thought the stress I felt in college was worse than I could ever imagine. What a surprise it was to me when I came here. The stress felt by a first year student cannot even be defined. I can tell you that the stress is made up of elements, such as, "Will I be called on today?" or "Why did I understand this case last night but not today?" or most importantly "What the hell was the holding in Panavoy v. Negre?" I am already having sleepless nights and we are not even mid semester. The second and third year students have had such perils of wisdom like "oh, you won't fail out." (Which makes sense because of that damn curve). My personal favorite has been the look on their faces when you tell them who your Contracts professor is. The worst has been the levels of exhaustion I have gone through. The main topic of conversation among my first year cohorts has been how much sleep we were able to get the previous night. By mid week, we're so tired that we are straining to keep our eyes open. When I sit in class, I am almost as if gravity takes over my life. Keeping eyes open in class becomes an Olympic event at times. I have begun to curse those who get more than five hours of sleep. My first week here, at the orientation, second year students assured us we would get decent hours of sleep. They lied. All of them. There is no time when I am in bed before 2, unless I collapse. To be honest, when I do go to bed, I am usually thinking about the different grades of granite or whether there is jurisdiction based on the International Shoe case. I keep telling myself that someday, I'll wish my life were this easy. Thing is, I do not think I'll ever believe it until it's too late.

The Evening Perspective

Law School Zombies of the Night

M.A.

Is your professor truly a chairman/chairwoman of the bored? Here are 9 ways to boost your attention span or at least stay attentive everyday:

1. Think of it as being behind the wheel of a speeding car. If you fall asleep, you'll fall off the Allegheny Mountains at the same time (and rather than having to worry about taking the final, you'll be worrying about keeping the surgically inserted pins in your femur squeak free).
2. Pretend that at some point during the lecture, winning lottery numbers for the next drawing will be clearly revealed by the cryptic lecturer.
3. Ask yourself, "If you don't stay awake to provide accurate notes, who else will assist those who missed class with the minutia and intricacies of understanding vague and ambiguous Constitutional text?"
4. Try letting the oh so nutritious prepackaged food at the student cafeteria help you. One trick is to overeat pretzels.
5. Similar to the last one but with a microscopic twist. Drink several glasses of fluid before class. The urge to urinate all class long combined with the desire for a dry and odor free seat will surely keep even the most fatigued from counting sheep.
6. Think of your prof as Lawrence Olivier (while you are Dustin Hoffman) in the movie "Marathon Man," who keeps asking, "Is it safe?"
7. Repeat the mantra, "No pass, no degree. No degree, no loan pay," over and over prior to class.
8. Think of how you'll be called a hero for having withstood the soporific onslaught most others would have succumbed to.
A Swell So Large and Powerful

Oralva Cocolo

“One day there will be a swell so large and so powerful it will destroy everything that came before it...” The Bear

Located in the northeastern tip of the island of Puerto Rico, the usually quiet town of Aguadilla has become the center of a heated confrontation between surfers and developers. The dispute revolves around what many consider to be one of the Caribbean’s most spectacular waves. It is not surprising that this beach has caught the eye of greedy developers. Cliffs to one side, white, virgin sands to the other; what more can a tourist want?

Well, tourists can’t swim there, unless they want to get closer to God. So developers want to build a pier, and a hotel, and little plastic restaurants. The future looks something like this: seven dollars for beer and four dollars for hot dogs, and lobster faced, sunburned fat guys looking out to the ocean and thinking how great their lives are at that particular moment when the mustard dips onto their red bellies. They will look to the humbled surf at the foot of the pier and have no idea what had gone on over those rocks decades before their charter flight touched down on Puerto Rico.

This particular beach is known as “Wilderness” or “Wildo” although some like to refer to it as “Heaven.” Perfectly situated by Mother Nature and The Angels to catch every swell traveling from the west, it makes walls of water and foam so large, that grown men have craved from the realization of their lack of power in the ocean. The Wildo Ocean takes no prisoners and pounds its surfers like the whores they are.

However, developers want to put it into a cage, a closed gate with chains. Surfing will be prohibited, but capitalism will thrive. Anyone who has felt that raw power under one’s board, on top of one’s head of all that water rolling in a giant avalanche ready to die against the sand, knows the futility of their plans. “Don’t mess with Wildo, man, you don’t want to,” says Franco under his sun bleached Afro. He should know. He has seen a twenty-five foot tall mammal stampede in from the horizon.

Wildo brings the crowds when she breaks. Like a shrine or an altar, people pay homage by surfing or simply watching. In fact, since the mid-sixties people have come from all over the globe to test their skills at the fabled Wildo. Some have touched the highest glories, while others have left not wanting to ever ride again.

It is hard to miss the power of the place. But its vibe is completely missed by the developers in their tan suits and their top sides. They look at the sand, the view, the palm trees that wave like hands in the breeze, (the sweet breeze), and they see money. They taste money in the salty air. They want to destroy what God has been slowly building one wave at a time.

As you read this article, the evil plan has been set forth. Bull-dozers wait like hungry beasts ready to silence the roar of the Wildo. Koenninger Development Inc. is the name of a tortoise that roams the Caribbean like a shark ready to take a bite that will scar forever. Held back by weak environmental groups like the Puerto Rico Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation and La Liga Ecologica Del Noroeste, it has regrouped and prepared a second assault on our precious Wilderness.

Koenninger has put together an Environmental Impact Statement required by the government that consists of computer models and meaningless calculations. The company has refused to do a proper hydrological study. Why should it? The colonial government is more than willing to sell off pieces of the island like Patsy’s sells slices. The President of the Puerto Rico House of Representatives has proposed to amend Puerto Rico’s Environmental Protection Law to eliminate citizens participation prior to approval of the Environmental Impact Statement, and to strip the Environmental Quality Bureau power in the process of approval of E.I.S.’s. At least this law proves that surfers protesting in front of Congress did have an impact. It informed Congressmen that people actually cared about Wildo, so they decided to take the proper precautions to insure that this concern did not affect their desired outcome.

They’re selling off the Wildo, and they’re lunching with developers and laughing.

humming 1.1

my friend frederique is very much in love with her boyfriend jhoe, as their relationship progressed over the past six months, i formed a friendship with jhoe as well. on saturday night i called fred to see what’s up, and i end up speaking to jhoe for about fifteen minutes. jhoe tells me that his friend dani is in from austral ia, then i talk to fred, and we make a plan to all spend the evening together, when i arrive at fred’s apartment i meet dani, and then the four of us walk up avenue a to pick up dimity and theresa. we all take the f-train to a party in brooklyn, where the lights go out and two baggy-shirted guys begin to play a piano like mad to keep everyone calm. when we finish doing this party, we crash a bunch of parties in manhattan before going to my apartment to eat, chill, and conclude the evening.

i’m sitting in a local bar on a saturday night, and i’m only there to talk to the waitress. the waitress goes home, and this film-maker sort starts telling me how he fell in love with the “star” of his most recent movie. “it’s the nature of the filmaker’s work,” he tells me, “for directors to fall in love with the stars of their movies when they are directing love scenes. and that is when i fell in love with the star of my movie, who is this famous model, etc.”

jhoe is about to leave new york for two months, and throughout the evening he and fred are very much into each other. they kiss, hold hands, and wish that they knew each other earlier and longer. none of the rest of us feel left out whatsoever. we smile, and we all have a collectively wonderful saturday night.

riding the subway uptown one night, i meet the inventor of “myachi” (a hackey sac for your feet) and he gives me a leopard print myachi for free and tells me to spread the word. i play with it when i want to stay awake.

he’s been married for fifteen years, and although he cheated on his wife twice during this period, both times were “meaningless one night stands” and he never told her. this time he didn’t sleep with the wuhmin, but he’s in love with her, so he told his wife. this time it was a real piece of his heart, and he’s still in love with her, etc., etc. i tell him that he reminds me of f. scott fitzgerald.

he asks me for a cigarette, but i’m out. then he offers to go to the deli next door to purchase cigarettes for both of us. i try to give him money, but he says, “we’ll settle up when i get back.” soon he returns with the smokes, he tells me more about his great love affair and his parents’ farm, and then he leaves. i leave too, and halfway home i realize that i never paid him for the cigerettes.

mr. haskeli flies in from boston to spend a random weekend in my apartment. he claims that he is in new york for his parents anniversary. he sits on my grandfather’s vomit green recliner, and he demands food. finally he leaves for a few hours to hang out with jessica, heather, and tina. i go for a walk in times square and i meet this wuhmin who makes documentaries about the natives on various islands off the coast of fiji. her documentaries usually have a return of about one-twentieth of her initial investment. she’s living in california, but she’s living off her parents who live in new york. naturally, she maintains a very spiritual view of the world.

she comes over to my place, and mr. haskeli finds us chatting when he walks in. of course mr. haskeli has no reaction to her presence, because he’s too composed and he knows me too well. the wuhmin keeps on insisting to mr. haskeli, however, “don’t you want to know how we met,” like the real spiritual and spontaneous person that she is, she feels the need to impose her perspective on the unimpressed and jaded.

at 3:30am on a saturday night juanita and i are sitting next to each other in rudy’s. juanita slowly turns to me and says: “everyone who is still here is just trying to get laid. i’m only here because i’m bored.” “i’m bored too,” i respond.
The Reagle Beagle

Proving to be More than Just Another Pretty Face

Upon first hearing the name, Reagle Beagle, one might think of the local watering hole from the "Three's Company" TV sitcom. Although this was an intentional reference, the name is now gaining more fame as that of the Best Singing Dog in America.

Four years ago, my sister Rachelle found a scrawny, pathetic dog in a restaurant parking lot off of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. He was a beagle that was abandoned by some hunters, for reasons we later realized were probably due to his inability to travel without getting carsick. My sister brought the dog back to our "no pet's allowed" college house, where five women, four men and two cats already resided. More than likely because of his environment, Reagle began to exhibit certain qualities more akin to the feline persuasion, such as walking on the backs of couches, sitting on windowsills, disliking dogs, loving cats (especially kittens) and FooT. Generally: he prefers the more sad.

In the life of parties, a regular at the student bar, Reagle did not let the emotion flow out in a bellying howl.

He first gained notoriety in Ohio when he won the Greater Cleveland area competition. With that win under his belt, he qualified for the national competition to be held in New York City at the South Street Seaport. Against some pretty stiff competition, Reagle amazingly won the National Title "BEST SINGING DOG IN AMERICA." Since that win he's been the quite the setetter; Los Angeles one week - New York the next. Among his credits are appearances on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," "The Ricky Lake Show" and "Live with Regis and Kathie Lee." Television audiences adore him and now know what my family and I have known for years, that Reagle Beagle is more than just another pretty face.

Last month, Reagle was flown back to New York City to give up his crown. With a beautiful rendition of "That's Amore," a Dean Martin classic, Reagle mesmerized the crowd and was saluted by the crowd during his final performance as reigning National Singing Dog Champion with tears and mad applause.

Although Reagle seemed slightly saddened after giving up his title, he is the type of creature that takes everything in stride, and is optimistically looking toward the future. Hopefully this is just the beginning for young Reagle. The possibility of TV commercials and movie deals is very real and Reagle has not let his celebrity status go to his head and has managed to remain fairly grounded through it all. Although he has been refusing his dry dog food lately, it's not quite filet mignon time yet!

If it matters to NYLS, it's in the L!

Politically Erect

Continued from page 3

about Monica? Should we be extracting subliminal messages? Is he not entitled to a private life?

The morning after Mr. Clinton spoke nationally and admitted to an improper relationship with Ms. Lewinsky, Omasa Bin Laden essentially declared war on the U.S. Further, Laden sees no difference between an American soldier and a civilian. Understandably, many Arabs reacted to the U.S. retaliation by protesting, burning American flags and pledging to exact revenge on the U.S. Is America ready for retaliation—is Israel—is the world?

The news reporters discussed the issues of threats, possible attacks on the U.S. and the conceded fact that the CIA aided in building and organizing the terrorist camps in order to train them to fight against the Soviet Union. However, most of the reporters focused more on the possible "Wag the Dog" theory. This alternative theory accuses Clinton of merely trying to distract the public from SexGate to war. Which is the distraction? Which poses the real challenge to the President? Unfortunately, the populace nowadays cannot distinguish between what is and what is not real and is leading to the dullying of America.

Other people express fear about explaining this matter to American children. After hearing, "judge not let ye be judged," Reverend Jerry Farwell responded by saying, "I am not judging but responding to what I hear." By acknowledging that a "moral bar" exists is essentially issuing a judgement. The other night at a family dinner, SexGate came up and the adults could not say enough whereas the teenagers when asked their opinion, could not care less. Are America's children incapable of disseminating facts and drawing their own conclusions?

We have a situation that challenges the bedrock of our constitutional society. The public has been overexposed to sex, lies and now the videotape. Clinton defenders are trapped because the fact that America is doing so well is irrelevant to SexGate. One thing is for certain, crimes in this country do not go unpunished.

Undeniably, the President screwed up. If he is so brilliant then he would have at least discontinued the liaison while under investigation in the Paula Jones case. After all these months and over forty million dollars later we have broken his spirit. However, can America withstand the impact of being without a leader in this unstable time? Does the fact that Bill admitted to sin automatically waive forgiveness? If apologies and a few hail marys are insufficient how can he repent? In this world, god cannot save, only the people who judge his fate can. Let justice be done.

Gettin' doggy with it: (left to right) Jay Leno, Rachelle DiVitto, and Reagle displaying his talents on "The Tonight Show."
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