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The L, vol. 1, no. 8, March - April 2000

New York Law School

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Duly Noted

Vol. 1, No. 8

March/April 2000



ARTIST'S RENDERING BY EDDIE WESTFIELD

Your Money & How it's Spent

The SBA... The Barristers' Ball... How Student Activity Fees Are Distributed

Susan L Harper and David Resnick

After a month-long investigation, **the L** has discovered that the Student Bar Association uses over one quarter of the total student activity fees to subsidize the Barristers' Ball.

According to the Student Organizations Budgets Report, in the 1999-2000 academic year the total budget that the NYLS Student Bar Association (SBA) was in charge of administering, was \$48,470.64.

During the 1999-2000 academic year, as confirmed by the Office of Student Affairs, the SBA issued approximately \$13,000 from the student organization budget in order to subsidize the Barristers' Ball. According to the SBA, the NYLS administration contributed another \$6000 to further subsidize the event. This means that the total

money spent on the Barristers' Ball this year was approximately \$18,000.

In the Spring 2000 semester, Darrin Ocasio, SBA Treasurer, estimated that student organization requests totaled approximately \$22,000. "Basically our funds would be depleted if we were to allocate the full amount of money," says Ocasio. In the Fall of 1999, the SBA was unable to issue the majority of student organizational requests. According to the Fall 1999 budget report, student organizations requested approximately \$14,618, and the SBA only issued about \$7,300 to student organizations.

Seventeen out of thirty-six organizations made requests, which means that on average student organizations received only \$407. In Fall of 1999, the total student organization budget was \$25,433.04. This means the SBA issued approximately 29% of that

semester's budget to student organizations; the other 64%, \$16,219.18, went to SBA's operating expenses and to subsidizing the Barristers' Ball. A surplus of \$1,952.60, or 7%, was carried into the Spring 2000 semester.

In a February 24th e-mail to the student body, SBA President, Danielle Butler, announced that the SBA had recently submitted a proposal to the administration to increase the student activity fees from \$15.00, for full time students, to \$30.00 and from \$12.50, for part time students, to \$24.00. If this budget proposal is accepted, the student organization budget will increase from, on average, \$24,000 per semester to about \$40-50,000 per semester.

SBA Senator, Charles Dufresne, along with Ocasio, spearheaded the proposal to increase fees because they recognized that the SBA does not have enough money to meet student organiza-

tion demands.

With the fee increase proposal pending, **the L** asked Butler why so much of our student activity fees go to subsidizing the Barristers' Ball. She said, "I justify that... Although we don't have the amount of funds to meet the request of student activities, [the Barristers' Ball] is the most populated event at the school. Is it worth spending the money on? Yeah, we think so."

According to Butler and Ocasio, the Barristers' Ball, has always been funded by the SBA. They also explained that other law school's student governments fund a Barristers' Ball or its equivalent as well. "...it is a traditional event. I think that it is a very important event. It is worth while. It does cost money. It is an event we never hear any negative feed back about," says Butler.

In Butler's e-mail concern-

Continued on next page

Inside:

NEWS 2-3

EDITORIALS 4

FEATURES

Sinkhole 1.8 6

Student Parents 7

Course Selection 8

PIC Update 9

Women in History 9

SBA in Brief 10

Internet Privacy 13

PC Blues 13

A&E

Coffee? 16

Beer? 17

SBA ELECTIONS 18

LETTERS to the L 19



Your Money

Continued from previous page

ing the increase in student activity fees, Butler wrote as justification for the proposal, that the SBA was only able to subsidize 450 out of 600 Barristers' Ball tickets. This seems to imply that some of the increase in student fees will go to subsidizing more tickets for the Barristers' Ball. When the L asked Butler about this, she responded, "I believe that we should have 600 tickets subsidized. Why should 150 students be penalized because we do not have the funding."

When asked if this was the appropriate amount to spend on one event, when student groups are currently asking for \$22,000, Butler said, "I do." Ocasio added, "I think if the turnout was low, then students would say don't spend as much."

The Barristers' Ball is a sold out event each year. According to Butler, 3/4 or 450 NYLS students out of 1,342 attend the event each year, which translates into 34% of the student population.

When asked if they had ever done a survey to find out whether students supported spending this percentage of the budget on the Barristers' Ball, Butler responded, "We have never done a survey."

One student was surprised to learn about the amount of money spent on subsidizing the Barristers' Ball, in comparison to the amount issued to student organizations each year. Diane Robertson, a 2L day student and member of the Black Law Students Association, said "when it

comes to subsidizing organizations, I would prefer funds to go to student organizations. I definitely think that students would benefit more [if the money were spent on student organizations] rather than one night at Tavern on the Green."

While another student, Eric Urbano, a 3L day student, took the middle ground by saying, "The Barristers' Ball seems to be a tradition. If money is still available, money should go to student organizations. The stronger the student organizations, the better it is for the school." Urbano then added, "...unless the amount is necessary, we do not want to ruin the integrity of the Barristers' Ball either."

Not all students are in favor of the fee increase because they are afraid that too much of their money will go to student organizations that they are not involved in. Butler says, "That is an argument that is not well thought out. Student organizations benefit our community on the whole because their events are open to all students, whether you are a member or not."

In a February 23rd memo to Dean Wellington on behalf of the SBA, Dufresne, said "Every other metropolitan area law school charges their students a minimum of \$50 in student activity fees per semester." When asked why the proposed increase was not as ambitious as other school's student activity fees, Butler responded, "We are doubling it, and that has caused enough inflammation."

If the administration approves the SBA proposal, this will be the first increase in student activity fees in 8 to 9 years.

Law Review Holds Mutual Funds Symposium

On February 4, 2000, the New York Law School Law Review and Prof. Jeffrey J. Haas presented the symposium, *Mutual Fund Regulation In the Next Millennium*. The day-long symposium, designed to address ways of improving the mutual funds industry, consisted of four panels.

Prof. Haas moderated the first panel entitled *Fund Governance*. Speakers included Dean Mark Sagent of Villanova Law School, Victoria Schonfeld of Mitchell Hutchings Asset Management, Steven Howard of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison and General Counsel Mark Jacobs of Dryfess Corporation. This panel addressed the roles boards of directors play in supervising the management of mutual funds.

According to Sagent, Mutual Fund Companies are known as Business Trusts, similar in structure to corporations, but with greater flexibility. Sagent and Jacobs focused their discussion on how directors of these mutual fund companies interact with their fund managers.

Sagent distinguished a director's fiduciary duties in a business trust with a di-

rectors' fiduciary duties in a standard corporation. According to Sagent, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, through the Investment Advisor's Act tries to prevent fund managers from influencing the decisions of directors. The 1940 Act required a certain percentage of directors to qualify as "outside directors."

"Outside directors" can not have any relationship to the company or its employees; but according to Sagent, outsiders may still undermine their fiduciary duties and display favoritism toward fund managers. Many times board members ignore such improper use of power. They avoid criticizing the fund managers out of fear that investors will remove them from the Board.

Howard suggested creating a self-regulatory agency—independent from the SEC—to manage the mutual fund industry. Analogous to the National Association of Securities Dealers and the New York Stock Exchange, this agency would oversee the regulation of mutual funds.

The second panel entitled *Dislo-*

Continued on page 6

New York Law School Student Organizations Budgets Fall 1999*

Funds Available, beginning Fall 1999: \$25,433.04

Organization/Event:	Date	REQUESTED**	ISSUED***
Postage and Printing	as of Oct. 99	\$4,000.00	\$383.68
Asian American Law Students Assoc.			
Movie	1-Jun	\$450.00	\$450.00
Alumni Dinner (Reimbursement)	14-Oct	\$311.75	\$287.11
Total		\$761.75	\$737.71
Basketball Assoc.			
Dues	29-Nov	\$1250.00	\$900.00
Total		\$1250.00	\$900.00
Bisexual, Lesbian & Gay Law Students Assoc			
Total		\$0.00	\$0.00
Black Law Students Association			
National Dues	8-Nov	\$495.00	\$495.00
Regional Dues		\$325.00	\$325.00
Total		\$820.00	\$820.00
Domestic Violence Project			
Supplies	11-Oct	\$82.66	\$82.66
Lunch Discussion	13-Oct	n/a [†]	\$24.00
Total		\$82.66	\$102.66
Federalist Society			
Gen. Meeting	n/a	\$65.00	\$46.55
Total		\$65.00	\$46.55
HALSA			
Gen Meeting	n/a	\$81.00	\$70.00
Dinner Dance	12-Nov	\$800.00	n/a
Total		\$881.00	\$70.00
International Law Society			
Jessup Moot Court Fees	3-Dec	\$650.00	\$650.00
1st Meeting	11-Oct	\$70.00	\$70.00
Study Abroad Lunch	27-Oct	\$83.00	\$75.00
Asian Lawyers Lunch	13-Oct	\$200.00	\$169.50
Chapter Dues	11-Oct	\$200.00	\$200.00
Total		\$1,203.00	\$1,164.50
Irish Law Students Association			
Speaker	4-Nov	\$192.30	\$235.75
Speaker Supplies	8-Nov	\$40.81	\$40.81
Total		\$233.11	\$276.56
Italian American Law Association			
Italian LSA Speaker	4-Nov	\$239.48	\$171.06
General Meeting	n/a	\$36.00	n/a
Total		\$275.48	\$171.06
Jewish Law Students Association			
Hate Crimes Lect.	4-Nov(Cancelled)	\$196.00	\$0.00
1st Meeting	14-Oct	\$130.00	\$62.00
Hanukkah event	6-Dec	\$55.00	\$55.21
Total		\$326.00	\$117.21
Latino Law Students Association			
Judges Reception	6-Oct	\$250.00	\$276.80
Total		\$250.00	\$276.80
Legal Assoc. of Women			
Annual Lunch	Nov	\$770.00	\$550.00
Total		\$770.00	\$550.00
Law Enforcement LSA			
Total		\$0.00	\$0.00
MESLA			
Lunch Panel	12-Oct	\$220.00	\$220.00
Lunch Panel	13-Oct	\$220.00	\$147.00
Lunch Panel	14-Oct	\$220.00	\$220.00
Printing	n/a	\$1800.00	n/a
Total		\$2,460.00	\$587.50
NYLS Civil Liberties Union			
Protest Mayors Art	18-Nov	\$6.50	6.50
1- Dec AIDS Day	1-Dec	\$60.00	40.44
Speaker Reproductive	26-Nov	\$24.00	139.90
Slossen Event	26-Oct	\$150.00	319.00
Total		\$240.50	\$505.84
Phi Alpha Delta			
Total		\$0.00	\$0.00
Phi Alpha Phi			
Initiation	20-Oct	n/a	\$27.00
Total		\$0.00	\$27.00
Public Interest Coalition			
Resume Workshop	28-Oct	\$63.00	\$15.00
NAPIL Conference	29-Oct	\$937.00	\$280.00
Total		\$1000.00	\$295.00
South Asian Law Students Association			
Speaker Panel	21-Oct	n/a	\$275.19
Total		n/a	\$275.19
Student Bar Association			
Work a Day	6-Dec	\$200.00	\$201.38
Barrister's Ball Card Stock	28-Nov	\$70.38	\$70.38
President's Round Table	17-Nov	\$97.00	\$97.00
Dawn Falco Reimbursement	2-Nov	\$108.80	\$108.80
Supplies Inkjet	8-Oct	\$24.00	\$24.00
Welcome Back Party	15-Sep	\$1,414.00	\$1,414.00
S.O. Supplies	5-Nov	\$189.30	\$189.30
ABA Meeting	9-Oct	n/a	\$574.00
Barrister Ball Subsidy/Deposit	16-Nov	\$8,740.00	\$12,825.00
Speaker Event	23-Nov	n/a	\$24.00
End of the Year Party for Senate	3-Dec	\$478.50	\$638.00
petty cash (M.Longo)	3-Dec	n/a	\$9.00
parking food drive			
Volar Reg. Table	9-Nov	\$43.81	\$43.81
Total		\$11,365.79	\$16,219.18
Grand Totals:		\$25,984.29	\$23,480.44
Starting Budget			\$25,433.04
Balance at 1/5/00			\$ 1,952.60
Spring 2000-funds available			\$23,037.60^{††}

* Information based on Fall 1999 and Spring 2000 Budgets received from Office of Student Life.

** Requested = Student Organizations filed out form requesting this \$ amount.

*** Issued = The amount of money disbursed to student organization.

† n/a = Information was not available on the budget.

†† Information pertaining to funds issued in the Spring 2000 was not available.

NYLS Bar 2000 Kickoff a Success

David Resnick
Managing Editor

On March 07, 2000, both faculty and students packed the Stiefel Reading Room to attend NYLS's Bar 2000 Kick-Off. Part pep rally, yet mostly informational, students were informed of the many programs they could take advantage of in order to prepare for the process of the taking the Bar.

The program was delayed for ten minutes due to a minor fire caused by students smoking in the 10th floor stairwell. Two fire trucks arrived on the scene and the A Building (57 Worth St.) was closed off as a precautionary measure. According to NYLS Security, no one was hurt.

Prof. Armando Belly opened the

night's event by reminding everyone how "the Bar exam was one of the most difficult experiences of his life." "It is difficult, but not impossible," said Belly.

Prof. Belly, like the other four speakers, felt all students could pass, as long as they worked hard. "I would be willing to put each of you up against any law school, if you work hard," said Belly. "Working hard," according to Belly, means participating in a Bar review course four hours a day, devoting at least another 6-8 hours to study each day thereafter, including Saturdays and Sundays, for two months prior to the exam. Dean Wellington was in agreement with this too.

Speaker Bryan Williams of the NY State Board of Examiners (the board that writes and grades the bar exam) was in

agreement with Belly. "The only way to prepare for the Bar is to study, study, study," says Williams. "You have to come up with a system that works for you." In order to demystify the entire test taking process, Williams shared with the students how the exam is created and graded, what Bar examiners are looking for, types of subjects covered and specific approaches to gaining points on the exam. (See Demystifying the Bar).

Robin Wakefield '99 shared with the audience that "the exam is doable." Wakefield said, "I worked full time and have a six year old daughter." Wakefield, along with other alums, formed a group of recent bar test takers who will be talking about their experiences and providing encouragement and support to new graduates.

Three of these programs (Bar Orientation Program, Bar FAQ's and Exam Study Skills Workshop) was discussed by Prof. Joseph Marino, a recognized expert in NY State law and Bar examinations. Marino stressed the Bar 2000 Program was not a substitute for Bar review courses.

Marino explained, however, that the programs "were designed to help you prepare for the process of taking the exam."

"The better prepared you are for the process, you will hit the ground running," said Marino. Other interesting programs include a Faculty-Mentor Program and a Bar Buddies program.

All audience members received a yellow folder with information pertaining to upcoming events.

Demystifying the Bar

Bar 2000 Speaker Bryan Williams of the NY State Board of Examiners shared with students how the exam is created and graded. Take a quick glance at some of the highlights of his speech. Note that this list is not exhaustive.

Who writes and grades the Bar Exam?

The Board is comprised of 5 people appointed by the Court of the Appeals. Each person has 3 assistants who help draft the exam. Three more assistants are brought during grading. The assistants who grade the exam are regular practicing attorneys.

Preparation for the Bar

You have to come up with a system that works for you. For 2 months, plan to go to a Bar course 4 hours a day, then study 4-6 hours. What ever works for you. Get into a system and stay with it for two months.

Purpose of the Bar

Examiners are seeking competence in legal analysis and application and knowledge of the law of the state of New York.

Set up of the Exam

The 2 day exam is 60% New York State Law and 40% Multi-State.

6 core subject areas covered include Criminal Law, Corporations, Real Property, Constitutional Law, Evidence, Partnership and Family Law. Essays are probably on these subject matters.

Specific Suggestions to Approach the Exam

Take practice exams under timed conditions. Write clearly on the exam.

Find the PRINCIPLE of LAW and APPLY IT TO THE FACTS of the situation. In every essay there are probably four issues then a query. Answer the questions in the order given.

Remember, Principle-Application. Give back

to the reader the way the question is asked of you.

Remember, most of the questions will have substantive and procedural issues of law. Don't write down a list of the principles of law or give a broad overview of the law.

Take a position in your answer. You can come up with a wrong conclusion. If you have the principle of law and apply it to the facts you will get points.

Take one position only. Don't argue, A would say this, and B, would say that.

Grading

The Committee comes up with different model answers. If for some reason no one gets a model answer on the exam, they take that answer out.

The exam has 1000 points. To pass, you have to get a 660. Note however, since a test taker may no longer appeal an exam, if you receive a grade between 650-669, your exam is reread from a different reader and the two grades are combined.

Main Things to Remember: Principle-Application; Answer the questions asked; Study for the Exam for a full 2 months of your time.

"If you do this," said Williams, "then I guarantee you will have no problem passing the exam."

Spotlight on Evening Division 2000

Joanne Olson
Copy Editor

The Wellington Conference Center was the setting for Spotlight on Evening Division, as presented by The Office of Development and Public Affairs. Several evening division alumni were on hand to talk about their experiences at NYLS, and their present careers. Featured at the program were Paul Casowitz '89 who was a Deputy Commission of the NYC Dept. Of

Sanitation while attending NYLS; Leatha Sturges '93 who was an Emmy Award winning actress prior to attending NYLS; Anne Taylor '87, who worked in several different fields, even working for a while in Africa before attending NYLS; Paul Porretta '95 who worked at a large pension fund while attending NYLS; and Mercedes Revelo '98 who was working in security management while attending NYLS.

These five alumni, although they came from different backgrounds, had

something important in common. They were all able to balance their full time jobs and families while still attending law school at night. It was enjoyable to listen to these alumni who made it through the rigors of law school and lived to tell about it.

It was a shame, however, that there was not a larger turnout. The brunch that was provided free of charge was well worth the trip to the school on a Sunday morning. There was a real chance to network

with former alumni and staff members of the school. Those who attended were even given a small gift just for being there.

Next in the Spotlight series will be Spotlight on Women on Wednesday April 5th. This time, lunch will be served. I urge those of you who can get to the school on that day to attend. The connections you make at these events can be a starting point for your career after law school.

Editorial

A Simple Message...

I have a simple message to all members of the Community who like to complain about the state of affairs at NYLS. We may not be in the best law school, but we are better off than most. Stop and take a minute to ponder how lucky/blessed/privileged you are to be here.

Once you've realized that, you should *a fortiori* realize that making this school a better place starts with you. Sure the administration, faculty and staff must do their part.



Eddie Westfield

Founding Editor

Yet it is our duty to meet them halfway and accept this challenge of bettering this institution, each other and ourselves.

There is no guarantee that a positive outlook will bring about desired results, but negative thinking surely does not. In short, I ask every student—day, night, young, old,

1L, 2L, 3L, 4L, Journal people, SBA people and everyone—to do whatever it takes to make our law school experience is a positive one. We've come this far...

Student Organizations Need to Manage Their Own Money

The current method of funds disbursement to student organizations at NYLS needs an overhaul. Presently, a student organization must fill out a form requesting funds along with an itemized list of expenses each time it holds an event. The SBA Treasurer then determines on a case by case basis as to the amount of funds each organization should receive.

At other schools, organizations receive block grants of money at the beginning of the semester or academic year; each organization is required to submit an annual budget to a Student Financial Review Board (SFRB) headed up by the student government treasurer. The SFRB, after careful review, makes a determination once a year on how much money a student group gets. Upon their decision, a student group is allocated a block of money and is free to spend their budget on what they want. The student activities office manages each account separately, relieving the treasurer from the duty of reviewing separate requests throughout the year. Funds that the student group do not spend by the end of the year are rolled over to the next annual budget. NYLS and the SBA should seriously consider this method.

The current set-up of how to obtain funds from the SBA does not seem equitable. First, as a matter of funds disbursement, too much discretion (and burden) is placed in the hands of one individual, the SBA Treasurer. Second, it seems

that many student organizations are deterred from requesting funds because they feel that they have to beg for their own money—a process which is demeaning. From looking at the Fall 1999 Student Organization Budget, it is obvious that student organizations are not receiving a fair share of the funds that they paid dues for. These funds belong to the students—not NYLS or the SBA. NYLS and the SBA are only in charge of administering the funds. Part of the low student organization funding is probably attributed to our less-than-average student activity fees. The other part of the problem, however, lies with this disbursement process.

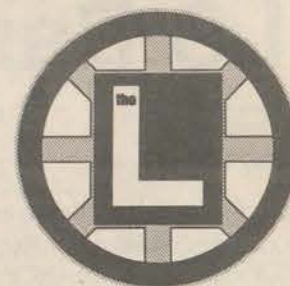
Lastly, the current set-up sends a message to students, that they do not trust you with managing your own budget. As future lawyers, developing money management skills is paramount. We are entering a profession where we will be held to high standards of accountability. Thus, it seems, that teaching students how to manage budgets, even at a student organization level, is worthwhile.

By NYLS and the SBA restructuring the funds disbursement process, the issue of fair funding can be addressed. More importantly, students may be able to gain an important money managing skills—tools that will be useful in all of our future careers.



Susan Harper

Editor-in-Chief



Fight for It!

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Printed at Instant Newspaper
 Long Island City, NY

All Design, Layout, Artwork and Digital Manipulation by
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The L is independently published by its student members and is released on the first Thursday of the month while school is in session. Contributions from students, faculty, alumni, staff, and all members of the NYLS community are always welcome.

The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the L, any of its editors or staff members, or the students, faculty, or staff of New York Law School.

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FEATURES

The Sinkhole

Ranking the Professors

Louis J. Russo III
Features Editor

As the year comes to a close, registration is upon us. What class should you take? What professor should you enroll with? It would be nice if an informative decision could be made to both of these questions.

The best way to make this informative decision could be through the faculty evaluation sheets. After an informative conversation with an anonymous source, I uncovered a few things. First, students just don't use them. They are very care-free in filling them out and few if any, ever ask to view them. Second, the school fails to promote and make the evaluations easily accessible.

I was also informed by my anonymous source that after completion, the evaluations are copied and distributed to

numerous places. The promotion and Tenure Committee gets some, the Adjunct Appointments Committee gets some, a copy goes to the professor (after grades are submitted) and the library also gets a copy. There has also been some talk about trying to place the evaluations in a searchable database or possibly the intranet site.

Honestly, during the conversation with my anonymous source, this database idea seemed more like my source's hopes than the faculty's plan.

This conversation did give me hope that there are people who want change. As always though, it appears that the upper management of the school is oblivious to what goes on around them, or they just don't care. For instance, the student evaluation form currently in use has been around for years without revision. The school will say that questions with blank spaces are more valuable than a simple numbering

system. I guess having both blank spaces and a rating system is beyond current technology. Also, is it me, or are the questions so similar that the committees who "review" these evaluations get confused?

Speaking of reviewing evaluations, does the school actually think that the students believe the evaluations carry weight. Why do we even fill them out for tenured professors? If a tenured professor got all bad evaluations would he be fired, suspended or forced to change the problem? How about the Adjunct Committee? It is common knowledge that some writing professors get terrible reviews, but their contracts get renewed. Does anyone remember the pet rock? I know, that was a joke too.

It is time to take the evaluations out of the hands of committees that don't use them and give them to the students who could. In a perfect world the administration would ask a few students and profes-

sors to redesign the evaluation form. Make the questions more specific and end the redundancy. Add a ranking system (i.e. 1-10) for each question. Then add up the numbers and publish the rankings. They are willing to rank you for the curve, why not rank the professors? I could never see the administration allowing the professors to be ranked. Why not? Is the administration afraid to see that students would stay away from professors who don't provide an intellectual experience or prepare them for the bar.

So once again as we "sink" deeper into the "hole" and fade away into obscurity, hopefully a little awareness can enable us to claw our way out of the cellar and correct the faculty deficiencies as well as our own.

L

Symposium

Continued from page 2

sure-Fees & Expenses was moderated by Sagent. The panel included Prof. Haas, Asst. General Counsel Catherine Heron of the Capital Group Companies, Matthew Chambers of Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering, Vice President Ed Rosenbaum of Lipper Inc. and Jason Zweig of Money Magazine; they discussed whether mutual funds prospectuses should be written in standard legal form or in Plain English, as suggested by the SEC.

Chambers and Heron both argued that even though prospectuses are read by lay people looking to invest, it is hard to apply the plain English rule, without losing the true legal meaning of a mutual fund. In contrast, Zweig believes the use of plain English in the prospectus is a non-issue, because many or most investors invest on word of mouth rather than on the material in the prospectuses.

Diana Ambler of Mayer, Brown & Platt moderated the third panel entitled *Investor Privacy-Security of Funds*. The panel included Prof. Larry Barnett of the Widener University Law School, Pauline Scalvino of Van-

guard Group, Prof. Haas and Zweig. They discussed the important issues of false identities of fund holders and whether written consent should really be required in order to obtain an investor's personal file.

The final panel was entitled *Closed End Funds*. Barnett moderated, and panelists included General Counsel Edmund Bergan Jr. of Alliance Fund Distributors, Inc., Kerry McMillan of Shearman & Sterling, Ambler and Prof. Haas. The panel focused on whether open-end mutual funds are more advantageous to closed-end mutual funds.

According to Haas, open-end funds are more desirable because of their liquidity, where a closed-end fund is less liquid and may cost more due to high entry fees. In open-end mutual funds, a shareholder in the fund may redeem shares at anytime for cash. Closed-end funds are restricted because the shareholder may not sell the fund at any time and may only be sold by a shareholder's broker who must sell the stocks individually at their current market value.

After the last panel concluded, Prof. Haas conducted a round table question and answer session.



AS WE WENT TO PRESS: The Hon. Clarence Thomas of the US Supreme Court returned to NYLS to preside over the final round of the 24th Annual Robert F. Wagner, Sr. National Labor and Employment Moot Court Competition on Sunday, March 12. Afterwards, Justice Thomas (pictured here with our Editor-in-Chief, Susan Harper) met with a group of NYLS Student for a brief question and answer session.



Personal Focus

They're Juggling it All!

A Look at Super-duper Student Moms and Dads

Susan L. Harper
Editor-in-Chief

So you think your day is busy as a student? Take a peak at a few of NYLS's super duper student moms and dads. These individuals work all day, sit in classes all night, and go home to spouses and demanding children. Our goal was to find out how they do it? How do they juggle it all?

Crystal Frazier, a second year evening student (2LE), is a single mom of 10 year old Vincent, as well as a full time entrepreneurial coach to women and minority businesses for a financial services firm. Crystal is the consummate professional — dressed for success without a hair out of place. *How does she do it?*

Crystal shares that since starting school, instead of waking up at 5:00 am, she now starts her day at 2 o'clock in the morning and does not procrastinate. (And, you thought getting up at 7:30 was bad.) "I am lucky I am an early riser. I only require about four hours of sleep, so I sleep from around 11 pm to 2 am," says Crystal. From 6 am to about 7, she pals around with her son while he is getting ready for school. By 7:05 they are out the door—she's off to work—he's off to school.

A self-proclaimed, "pop-up" Mom, Crystal often drops in to see her son at

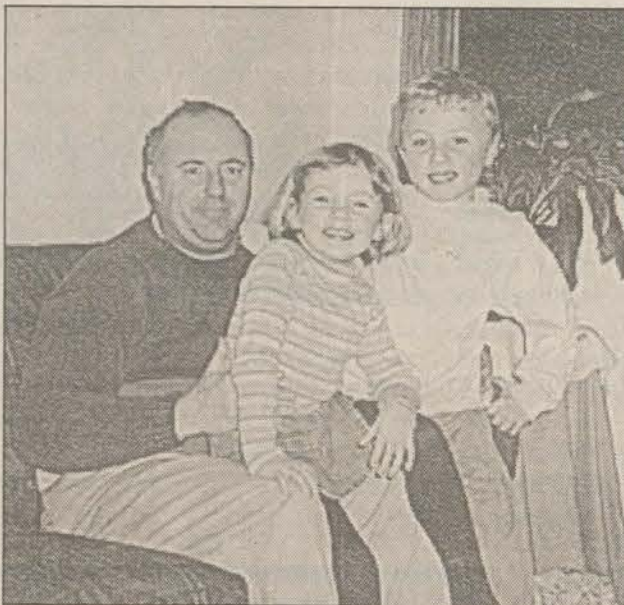
even that little 15 minute ride home [from my Moms]. When we get home he usually goes to sleep. He is a real trooper," she says proudly.

One of the biggest challenges Crystal faces is dealing with being a perfectionist. "I just want to make everything go right. When you are juggling, you realize that something is going to fall. You have to do your best and that is the only thing you can do."

Thomas Farrell, (2LE) is married and the proud dad of Andrew, 7, and Emily, 4 1/2. During the day he manages the physical business and sales of his family retail lumber enterprise.

Tom states that he is lucky that he has a wife who supports him and who has taken over many of the responsibilities he used to do, such as paying the bills. He says that his life has changed since going to law school. "What little time you have with your wife, is no time. I think with the family, with children, you have blocks of time

plans to stay on with the family business after graduation, he senses that his going to law school has created some tension at



Tom Farrell with Andrew and Emily

work. "Everything is cool at home. Work has been more stressful since law school, home has been easier," shares Tom.

Tom blocks out Fridays for the family. On those weekends that he is not working he tries to spend quality time with the kids. Sundays and evenings after school till midnight he usually spends studying. However, there are things he misses. "What I miss is taking long drives with the kids. I kind of feel that I am missing out... Maybe they don't, but I do," Tom says.

One challenge Tom faced with his wife was getting through Principles of Legal Analysis (PLA) class last semester. "I told her that after the first year things would get better. But then the next year I was in PLA and facing one of those tests each week. It was tough. But she was supportive," says Tom.

Tom advises any parent in law school to set up a study schedule and block out time for the kids. "Make that time count. Make it quality. They understand that and hopefully your loved one will be supportive," he says.

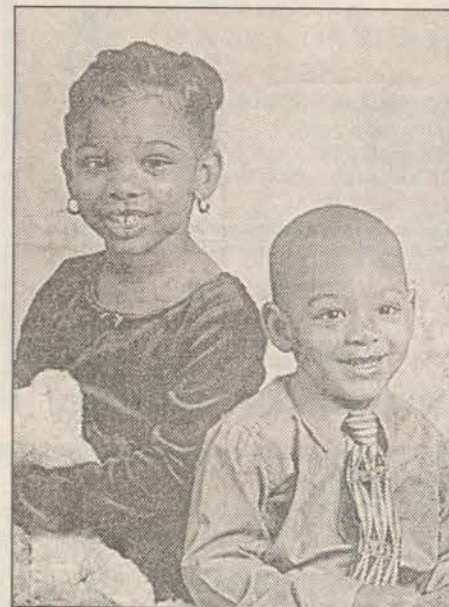
Christa Harper, 2Le, is juggling two toddlers, Khirsten, 4, and Calvin, 2. In between spending time with her supportive husband, managing a household and going to school, Christa is a 6th grade teacher handling 30 or so children during the day.

Christa says that since coming to law school "she now knows what no time means." "It is a lot of planning and hard work. You have your guilt cycles. Your Mommy cycles. Your study cycles," shares Christa.

Christa rises by 5 am, fixes Khirsten's lunch and gets her ready for school. While her husband washes up the kids, she is reviewing the 6th grade lesson plan for the day. The whole family is out in the car by 7:15. During this time, Christa is usually singing little songs and reviewing the ABC's with the kids. After she drops Calvin off at her mom's house, she zips off to work and gets there by 8:15. With only a few moments to spare, she drinks a cup of coffee and enjoys one of the only solitary moments she has during the day. Thereafter, she is teaching class till 3 pm, studying for law school from 4 to 6 pm, in class till about 9:30 and then heads home. "I come home and see my daughter who is usually up. I usually say to my husband, 'What's up? How was your day?' then I go to sleep," says Christa.

Like Crystal and Tom, Christa believes that blocking time out for the kids and her husband is key. "Well, my husband is in school too. But we try to make time for each other. The other day we saw a 3-hour movie, *The Green Mile*. We realize when its time to break down and see each other," reveals Christa. "With the kids, I set up a block of time. We do a lot of crafts

and finger painting. Some days they don't understand waiting. But I understand this, because this is what I chose. So if it means that I have to stay up an hour and be crazy the next day, I will give them the hour now. Sometimes it takes... 'Hey! these are my kids!' The books will always be there, but my kids will not always



Khirsten and Calvin Harper, Children of Christa Harper

be 3 or 4 years old. It takes sometime for me to understand to be the Mommy. Look, I am 28 years old and there are times I want my Mommy!" shares Christa.

Besides, a family, school, and work, what else could Christa be juggling? Dare I say, Moot Court? "Moot Court demands a lot," says Christa. "You have to do a brief

Continued on page 12



Crystal Frazier and her son Vincent

school during the mornings. Saturdays are usually spent studying, while on Sunday, she tries to give Vincent the larger chunk of her time. Crystal believes (like the other students featured here) that working while going to school and having a child may be stressful, but that a supportive family structure is instrumental to juggling it all. "I don't know what I would do without my Mom. She cooks my son dinner and then I pick him up from her house," says an appreciative Crystal. One thing she learned while at school, was that her son really looks forward to the time they spend together. "I didn't realize that he relishes

that you make, whether it is 10 or 20 minutes, you have to make that time count. You don't have the luxury of reading a newspaper while the kids play," says Tom.

Up by 6 am and out of the house by 7:30, Tom says what little time he has in the morning, he spends getting ready for the day and sharing a few precious moments he has with his wife and children. He reveals that his professional life has been more of a challenge since going to law school. "My wife is pregnant now and at home with the kids. I work from 8 am to 4 pm. I did not think that there would be such an effect at work." Although Tom

Getting Behind the 8 Ball

Course Selection: A Guide for 1L's

Now that exams are behind you, many of you are considering which elective courses you should select to complete your undergraduate legal education. Every spring, I discuss course selection with first-year and upperclass students, one of whom has asked me to write this article expressing my views on the subject. I am happy to do so with the following caveat: **this is only one professor's "take" on course selection. I strongly advise you to talk to other professors to hear their views on the subject.** In any event, it is wise not to delay mapping out your course load because, even with careful planning, it will be surprisingly difficult to cram everything you want to take (plus the courses people like me say you "must" or "should" take) into your remain-



Aleta G. Estreicher

Professor of Law

ing semesters of law school.

I believe it is best for many students to envision law school as "a liberal arts education in the law." At the end of your three years, if all goes according to plan, each of you will emerge a fairly well-rounded generalist. This is the safest route to follow given the unpredictability of life and the job market. (I speak from experience: in law school, I was certain that I would become a litigator and avoided like the plague nearly all business-related courses. Of course, as soon as I joined a law firm, I was assigned nothing but corporate and securities work, all of which I had to teach myself (and quickly, too.) Your learning curve after graduation does not have to be that steep!)

In planning your course sequence,

take note of which courses are *prerequisites* within a specialty. Those courses should be given the highest priority — i.e., taken as soon as possible — in order to give yourself the greatest flexibility later on. Many introductory courses provide the foundation for more advanced courses in a particular field of law, and not all advanced courses are offered every semester. Therefore, it is important to determine the sequence of course offerings in areas of interest to you. For example, Corporations is a prerequisite of virtually all other business law courses, including Securities Regulation (e.g., the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934); the latter is, in turn, a prerequisite of Securities Arbitration, Practice and Theory. In order to complete that sequence, then, you should plan to take Corporations no later than your second year (preferably in the first semester for full-time students).

I will try to organize my course recommendations into three illustrative categories: (1) basic essentials (if possible, *all* students should take *all* of these courses); (2) valuable courses (very useful, and highly recommended, particularly if you are interested in that area of practice); (3) valuable, but arguably more specialized or advanced courses. **Let me repeat that other professors may (probably do) disagree with my groupings and/or priorities;** also, I may have inadvertently omitted valuable and interesting courses. Be sure to talk with professors who teach in your areas of interest before committing yourself to a program. (Remember, too, to consider the *exam schedule*: you are responsible for avoiding scheduling conflicts.)

1. BASIC ESSENTIALS

As you know, the Faculty has recently made Evidence a required course. Had it not done so, I would have included evidence as one of these "foundation" courses. All of them introduce students to areas of law that are important, complex and difficult to "self-teach."

Accounting for Lawyers

[this is the course for you if you have never studied accounting — I guarantee that you will thank me when you are in practice]

Administrative Law

Commercial Transactions

[prerequisite or strongly recommended for many commercial law courses]

Corporations

[prerequisite for virtually all other business courses]

Federal Income Tax — Individual

[prerequisite for all other tax courses]

Wills, Trusts and Future Interests

[I think everyone should take this, but see below, also]

Writing

[as many writing experiences as you can manage: paper courses, seminars, independent research papers, journals, etc. I will say more about writing below.]

2. VERY VALUABLE

Antitrust

Bankruptcy

Conflict of Laws

Corporate Finance

Copyright

Criminal Procedure

[Adjudication or Investigation]

Environmental Law

Family Law

Federal Courts & the Federal System

Human Rights Law

Immigration Law

International Law [public and private]

Labor Relations/Employment Law

Land Transactions and Finance

Legal Research, Advanced

[particularly important if you know your skills need improving]

New York/ New Jersey Practice

[useful for the bar exam]

Remedies

Securities Regulation

[Securities Act of 1933; Securities Exchange Act of 1934]

Statutory Interpretation

Wills, Trusts and Future Interests

[see above]

3. SPECIAL INTEREST AREAS

Admiralty

Advanced Topics in

Corporate and Securities Law

[various specific subject matters]

Advanced Tort Law

[Medical Malpractice, Mass Torts, etc.]

Alternative Dispute Resolution/

Securities Arbitration,

Theory and Practice*

American Slavery and the Law

Art Law

Comparative Law

Complex Litigation

Criminal Appellate Clinic*

Criminal Law: Criminals and

Our Urge to Punish Them

Derivatives Market Regulation

Seminar & Workshop*

Feminist Jurisprudence

Jurisprudence

Law and

[courses like Law and Literature; Law and Popular Culture, Law and Social Change, etc.]

Legal History

Media and Entertainment Law

Mental Health Law

Mergers and Acquisitions

New York City Law

Quantitative Methods

in Legal Theory & Practice

Securities Regulation

[Broker-Dealer Regulation; Federal Regulation of Mutual Funds]

Sexual Orientation and the Law

Trial Advocacy*

Workshops*

[see Academic Catalog]

**Trial Advocacy; the Criminal Appellate Clinic; the various "workshop" courses; the Judicial and other Externships; Negotiation, Counseling & Interviewing; ADR (also Securities Arbitration) are all valuable opportunities to develop your practical lawyering skills, including oral exercises in addition to writing and research.*

4 WRITING/RESEARCH

The last (and two of the most critical) curricular areas I want to address are writing and research. First writing: There is no more important skill for a lawyer to develop than the ability to write clearly, logically, and persuasively. A lawyer is, after all, a professional writer. Unfortunately, most students consider writing of secondary importance in law school. In fact, ironically, those students who need the most help with their writing are often the very students who deliberately avoid taking "writing" courses. I urge you not to make this mistake. Make every effort to practice and improve your writing skills while still in law school.

NYLS provides many opportunities for you to write, including: (1) memberships on student journals; (2) seminars and paper courses; (3) independent studies (research papers, under the supervision and direction of faculty members); (4) one or more of the advanced legal writing courses (e.g., Drafting — General Principles/Legislation/Commercial Documents/ Litigation, Memorandum and Brief Writing, Writing Skills for Lawyers, Advanced). All of these activities involve writing and then rewriting after receiving feedback. Although NYLS only demands that you satisfy the writing requirement once, it would be a serious miscalculation to believe that one writing "experience" in law school is enough. Improve your writing now, while you have the time to focus on it. You will increase your value to your employers and clients a thousandfold. (And you will almost certainly improve your grades on exams, at the same time.)

Finally, be honest with yourself about the level of your research skills, both computer-based and library-based. Take advantage of the Lexis/ Westlaw tutorials being offered by the talented librarians, but remember that you will not necessarily have access to — or be able to afford — Lexis or Westlaw in practice. Therefore, brush up on your traditional research skills, as well. Consider taking the advanced legal research course, or simply picking the brains of our remarkable library staff. They are eager to impart their nearly encyclopedic knowledge to you, if you are willing to make the effort.

PIC News

Public Interest Coalition Update

Shani R. Friedman

As a member of the Public Interest Coalition (PIC), I recently had the opportunity to attend a public interest conference at Tulane University, sponsored by NAPIL (The National Association for Public Interest Law). Over the course of the weekend, I realized with increasing certainty and alarm what a critical and uncertain time this is for public interest law. This year's graduates who go to work for top firms will be making over \$120,000 to start while those who go into public service are not likely to receive a salary of over \$35,000 and that's a generous estimate. More importantly, already saddled with such a low salary, these graduates still have to pay off as much as \$1200 per month in loans because few schools have any sort of loan repayment assistance programs (LRAP) or public interest schol-

arships.

In certain respects, the situation at NYLS is almost as bleak. Unlike other schools in New York, this School does not offer any sort of loan assistance or other financial support for students who specifically want to study public interest law at NYLS. This in turn has caused a number of students who wanted to go into public interest, to specialize in other areas of the law that will allow them to live above the poverty line.

PIC's mission, simply stated, is to support those students who want to dedicate themselves to making a positive impact on so-



NAPIL 2000 Conference Attendees

ciety, despite the financial hardships. PIC carries out that focus by assisting current students in their pursuit of public service employment through summer fellowships which are subsidized in large part by the annual PIC auction proceeds. Without these scholarships, most recipients would have been unable to work for their employers because of a

York in the public defender and DA's offices.

I'm writing this article to inspire and challenge the NYLS community to show their enthusiasm for PIC in an unprecedented way. We need students, faculty, administration and alumni to both donate items and come to the event, which is being held here on April 11th. We need this show of

lack of funding. Recent scholarship recipients have worked at local, national and international levels: in Israel furthering international human rights, in Washington, DC for the U.S. Marshals Service; and in New

encouragement for two essential reasons; so that PIC can fund a greater number of fellowships, and to give NYLS the chance to demonstrate that it is concerned about the future of public interest law at this law school, and is vested in that future. Popular past donations have included gift certificates, books, sports memorabilia, homemade goods, etc. PIC received tremendous support last year from both the staff in their donations, and from students in attendance last year, but we need much more from all of you. Please bring donations to the Student Life office. Finally, I would like to use this forum to thank the SBA, Student Life and the NYLS bookstore for their financial assistance so that I could attend the conference.

L

They've Come a Long Way...

The President of the NYLS Civil Liberties Union makes her picks for Women's History Month.

Mickey Ronan

Bella Abzug

Bella Abzug (1920-1998) was elected to the US House of Representatives in 1970 after a 23 year career as a labor lawyer, civil-liberties advocate, and peace activist. During the two terms she served in Congress (1970-74) she challenged congressional decorum by bluntly denouncing her male colleagues as a privileged elite of white, middle-aged men who were out of touch with the needs of most Americans. She took strong positions in favor of women's and minority rights, and federal aid to cities.

While in Congress, Abzug became a highly visible, flamboyant figure, with her trademark wide-brimmed hats and feisty manner. She helped produce the "Government in the Sunshine" law, which gave the public greater access to government records. Abzug co-founded the National Women's Political Caucus in 1971 and authored numerous bills intended to prevent sex discrimination and improve the status of women. She also devoted much of her time to local issues, securing federal funds for New York City during the city's fiscal crisis in the mid-1970s.

Her flamboyant personality, staunch feminist positions and ubiquitous hats will always be remembered.

Belva Ann Lockwood

American lawyer, reformer, and women's rights advocate. Belva Ann Lockwood (1830-1917) was admitted to the bar in Washington, DC, in 1873. In 1879 she drafted a law, passed by Congress the same year, which admitted women to practice before the US Supreme Court, and became the first woman lawyer to practice before the Court. She was successful in securing congressional enactment of a bill providing for the payment to female federal employees, of wages equal to those paid to male employees. In 1884 and in 1888 Lockwood was the candidate of the Equal Rights party for the presidency of the US.

She was also author of the congressional enactment in 1903, granting suffrage to women in Oklahoma, Arizona, and New Mexico.

Hillary Rodham Clinton

America's First Lady graduated from Yale Law School, where she served on the Board of Editors of the Yale Review of Law and Social Action. While at Yale, she developed her special concern for protecting the best interests of children and their families.

In 1973, Hillary Clinton (b. 1947) became a staff attorney for the Children's Defense Fund. A year later she was recruit-

ed by the Impeachment Inquiry staff of the Judiciary Committee of the US House of Representatives to work on the Watergate Impeachment proceedings.

Hillary left Washington and followed her heart to Arkansas, marrying Bill Clinton in 1975.

As First Lady of Arkansas, Hillary continued to work tirelessly on behalf of children and families. In addition to chairing the Arkansas Education Standards Committee, she founded the Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families. She introduced a pioneering program called Arkansas Home Instruction for Preschool Youth, which trained parents to work with their children in preschool preparedness and literacy.

Her devotion to families, children, education and health care is evident from her long history of social action and awareness. Ms. Clinton is running for the available Senatorial seat for NYS in the upcoming election.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

The Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg of the US Supreme Court has worked toward ending institutionalized discrimination against women. She was born in Brooklyn, New York, on March 15, 1933. She attended Cornell University and the law schools at Harvard and Columbia universities. Despite graduating from Colum-

bia at the top of her class, she encountered difficulties in finding a job in a traditionally male profession. In 1959 she secured a clerkship for the US District Court of Appeals in New York.

Ginsburg taught at Rutgers University School of Law from 1963 to 1972. She then returned to Columbia Law School and became the first tenured female professor at that institution. Ginsburg attracted notice in the 1970s for her teachings and litigation aimed at ending institutionalized discrimination against women. Between 1973 and 1976 she argued six cases on women's rights before the Supreme Court, winning five of them. Ginsburg received an appointment to the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in 1980. On the Court of Appeals, she was known for her scholarly, balanced opinions. As a moderate-liberal, Ginsburg sided with both liberal and conservative wings of the court.

President Bill Clinton (1993-) nominated Ginsburg to the US Supreme Court in 1993. Ginsburg became the second woman appointed to the Supreme Court, after Sandra Day O'Connor, who was nominated in 1981.

Eleanor Roosevelt

Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962) was the wife of US President Franklin D.

Continued on page 12

SBA in Brief

So what is the Student Bar Association up to? Take a quick glance at some of their current projects in progress discussed at their March 3, 2000 meeting...

SBA Sponsored Forums

The SBA has set up a number of forums to address students' ongoing concerns. Previous forums have focused on such areas as the Office of Student Life, the Copy Center, the Cafeteria and Career Services

Upcoming forums will address concerns with the Office of Academic Affairs and the Registrar

For Graduates Only

All graduates are invited to an upcoming mixer hosted by the SBA on April 3rd from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. Look out for graduate packets in the mail. Any unused tickets will be distributed by lottery to students in need of additional tickets. Graduates must return packets by March 24th.

Mock Trial

SBA sponsored the Dillinger Trial and received positive response.

SBA at Deans Luncheon

The SBA recently participated in the Dean's Luncheon on February 23rd. All but one dean attended. During the luncheon SBA discussed the increase in the student activity fee, student forums, students major dissatisfaction with PLA, organizing a trial advocacy team and the bar passage rate. Incoming Dean Matasar was not in attendance.

SBA Executive Board Elections, April 4-5.

In the past, the SBA received a number of complaints about posters. This year, the SBA will be requiring each candidate to submit a resume and their goals. They will post this on a bulletin board. Results of the election will then be posted on April 6th.

Bar Passage Committee

Initially, the SBA was invited to sit on the all faculty Bar Passage Committee. SBA reports, however, that the committee seemed to change their mind. SBA is creating their own Bar Passage Committee and will make another request to have a seat on the faculty committee. Professors Aleta Estreicher and Elaine Mills are the faculty co-chairs of this committee.

Meeting with the New Dean

On March 27th, SBA President Danielle Butler will be meeting with incoming Dean Richard Matasar. She encourages the students to send issues of concern to the SBA.

Blood Drive

The SBA will be hosting a Blood Drive on Thursday, April 6th. Contact Dawn Falco, SBA Day Vice President, for more info.

Prisoner Assistance

Did you know NYLS frequently receives letters from people in prison and forwards them to the SBA? A letter was recently received by a man serving a 10 year sentence in the Great Meadow Correctional Facility for armed robbery. He is looking for assistance and advice. Contact the SBA for information if you want to help out.

NYLS ABA Representative

Thomas Prol, SBA Representative to the American Bar Association Law Student Division, shared that the ABA is having their annual meeting in New York. Prol chairs its Social and Leisure Committee and is also involved with the ABA Diversity Committee.

SBA Fee Proposal

SBA Senator Charles Dufresne spearheaded an effort to raise the student activity fee, reported Darrin Ocasio, SBA Treasurer. Associate Dean for Student Affairs Matthew Wilkes requested a more thorough proposal from the SBA regarding where the increase fees will be used. The SBA reports that they have received 10 negative and 3 positive responses to this matter.

SBA Senator Christopher Ross, commented that, "The fact that we got only 10 negative responses out of 1500 students is pretty good. We should all be happy that we are taking positive steps."

SBA sponsored events

SBA President Butler reminded everyone at the meeting, that students are supposed to put "Sponsored by the SBA" on posters of student organization events.

New Student Organizations

The SBA officially recognized the Unemployment Action Clinic and the Cyber Law Society as chartered student organizations.

Getting Involved

This semester, the SBA participated in the following programs: Have a Heart Campaign; Meals on Wheels; and the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program.

PLA Class

SBA President Butler reports that after her discussion with Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Ellen Ryerson, NYLS is not looking to get rid of Principles of Legal Analysis (PLA) or make it mandatory. Supposedly, no results of the experimental program have been disclosed as of yet; a memo from Dean Ryerson will issue soon. Additionally, next semester, PLA will not be offered at the same time as required courses, such as Evidence.

Many SBA Senators expressed dissatisfaction with the School's handling of the matter—especially how students were chosen for the class. One Senator said, "we need candor from the school so that the people do not gossip and speculate." The SBA reports that the administration said that one's GPA is a factor, but that the SBA has not received a 100% response.

PLA is four year faculty driven pilot program presumed to enhance students skills in order to prepare them for the Bar exam. Launched last semester, many students feel the mandatory for-credit program unfairly assisted a targeted class of individuals, students in the lowest 30-40% of the class.

Trial Ad Team

SBA President Butler reports that Dean Ryerson shows support for establishing a Trial Advocacy team at NYLS. The team could be set up as a cocurricular program, like the Moot Court Association.

Stamp Machine

SBA is looking to install a US Mail postage stamp machine on campus.

Intramural Sports

The Basketball Association will participate in a tournament later this month. An Ultimate Frisbee event is scheduled for April and possibly football events for next fall. All of those interested contact SBA Senator Michael Arcati.

For more information contact the Student Bar Association at (212) 431-2899 ext. 4203

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Juggling

Continued from page 7

and the writing requirement anyway. I don't know how I am doing it. I definitely think it is a force greater than I keeping me going. But my family is very supportive they make room for me. There is never a day where I cannot drop my kids off at my Mom's or grandparents."

Like Crystal and Tom, Christa agrees that the family is the backbone to juggling it all. Besides her own mom being a big help, she credits her husband's support and efforts as well and says, "They [spouses] are forced to deal with everything we are not dealing with."

Christa advises law school parents to deal with the issues they are going through and not to be in denial. She says, "If you miss your baby, deal with this issue and go spend time with her. Plan or block out time to spend time with your child or to study. Then you will have a better hold of your life and not feel like you have play catch up at one time, especially at the end of the semester."

Author's after thought...

While most of the above principles shared could be applied to all of us, parents in law school, unlike day students or working evening students, do have special

needs.

We asked all three students if they felt NYLS was supportive of student-parents. Sadly, the response was what we expected. None felt NYLS was supportive of parents or had any type of outreach to them.

Crystal shared "At Pace University, they had a whole series of programs prior to coming into law school. If you were married or had kids you were required to attend so that the school could discuss what it would be like for that individual." Tom and Christa shared that they wished they had that too. Christa said, "I wished they could have had an outreach program or family awareness program, calculating how many minutes this was going to take out of your life." Additionally, she felt that it would be helpful for the school to have some sort of playroom for kids. Tom agreed with this also.

On the positive side, all three felt that their children played a large role in motivating them while attending law school. Christa summed it up best by saying, "What motivates me, when I graduate and I'm working, is that I will be able to provide so much more for them. Many times I think, oh god, what am I doing? Then I say, later on it will pay off."

Women

Continued from page 9

Roosevelt. In her early adult years, she bucked the tradition of her wealthy class by practicing social work in NYC before marrying. Later on, she became involved in the League of Women Voters and the Women's Trade Union League. In 1921, Eleanor began to work politically on behalf of Franklin, who had been stricken with poliomyelitis after his unsuccessful bid for the vice presidency in 1920. She became active in Democratic party politics as a means of keeping her handicapped husband's political career alive. When he was elected to the presidency in 1932, Eleanor continued to assist him, and although she held no office, she soon became an influential figure in his administration. The Great Depression during the 1930s broadened Mrs. Roosevelt's concerns. Widespread unemployment, particularly among youth, led to her support of the National Youth Administration, a program for youth employment, and of the leftist-dominated American Youth Congress. More liberal than the president, she worked to promote racial equality, and in a famous incident resigned from the Daughters of the American Revolution when the black singer Marian Anderson was denied the use of their facilities. During World War

II, she visited American soldiers around the world, championed desegregation of the armed forces, and at the war's end urged admission to Palestine of Jewish refugees from Europe.

As a US delegate to the United Nations from 1945 to 1953, she chaired the commission that drafted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Susan B. Anthony

Susan B. Anthony's (1820-1906) Quaker upbringing greatly influenced the role she played in nineteenth-century America. As a teacher in rural New York, she began to realize the great pay disparity between herself and her male counterparts. When she protested this inequality, she lost her job.

At a temperance meeting in 1851, Anthony met women's rights leader Elizabeth Cady Stanton. They formed a deep personal friendship and a political bond that would last for the rest of their lives. From this point on, Anthony worked tirelessly for the women's suffrage movement. She lectured on women's rights and organized a series of state and national conventions on the issue. She collected signatures for a petition to grant women the right to vote and to own property. Her hard work helped. In 1860 the New York state legislature passed the Married Women's Property Act. It allowed women to enter into contracts and to control their own earnings and property.

During the Civil War, Anthony and most other members of the women's movement worked toward the emancipation of the slaves. The Fourteenth Amendment, adopted in 1868, had declared that all people born in the United States were citizens and that no legal privileges could be denied to any citizen. Anthony decided to challenge this amendment. Stating that women were citizens and the amendment did not restrict the privilege of voting to men, she registered to vote in Rochester, New York, on November 1, 1872. Four days later, she and fifteen other women voted in the presidential election. All sixteen women were arrested three weeks later, but only Anthony was brought before a court. At her trial, the presiding judge opposed women's suffrage and wrote his decision before the trial even had started. Refusing to let Anthony testify, he ordered the jury to find her guilty, then sentenced her to pay a \$100 fine. She refused, but no further action was taken against her.

Anthony continued to campaign for women's rights after this. Through Anthony's determined work, many professional fields were opened to women by the end of the nineteenth century. At the time of her death in 1906, however, only four states—Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho, and Utah—had granted suffrage to women. But her crusade carried on, and in 1920 Congress adopted the Nineteenth Amendment, finally giving women throughout America the right to vote.

fill your head.



Ride Ipsa Loquitur: Founding Editor Eddie Westfield embarked on the first outing of the NYLS Snowboard and Ski Club, March 5-7 at Whiteface Mountain near Lake Placid, NY. Other students on the trip included Joe Altavilla, the L's own Mark Demetropoulos and Robert Gerage.

Cyberscope

Is Privacy on the Internet an Oxymoron?

Christopher Ross

One of New York's largest Internet companies, DoubleClick, is in the center of the most recent online controversy, consumer privacy.

Less than a year after the Federal Trade Commission stated that self-regulation was the most efficient and least intrusive means to maintain consumer privacy online—like many things on the Internet, this policy may have become outdated in less than a year.

DoubleClick, an online advertising firm, collects every possible piece of data from users on the Internet, including, but not limited to what they click on, where

there are coming from, what kind of computer they use and what operating system they are using. DoubleClick has also been accused of collecting personal information (name, address, age, income, and education) when possible.

Although the current policy of the Federal Trade Commission is to encourage commercial online businesses to use their four-point model mission of notice/awareness, choice/consent, access/participation, security/integrity when collecting this data, growing concerns about consumer's privacy prevail.

The FTC has recently launched an investigation into the ad serving and data collection practices of DoubleClick. Dou-

bleClick's Chairman and CEO Kevin O'Connor said in a statement to the press, "We are fully cooperating and we applaud the FTC's efforts to keep the Internet safe for consumers."

DoubleClick has recently started their own consumer privacy rights awareness, creating its own five-point model and by launching www.privacychoices.org.

In the latest statement Mr. O'Connor said, "We commit today, that until there is agreement between government and industry on privacy standards, we will not link personally identifiable information to anonymous user activity across Web sites."

DoubleClick, is also being investigated by the New York, and Michigan At-

torney General's offices, and is a defendant in at least one civil action regarding violation of a California consumer's online privacy.

Amazon and Yahoo also have been named in pending privacy violation suites.

To find out more, check out: The Center for Democracy and Technology (www.cdt.org); Online Privacy alliance (www.privacyalliance.org); Federal Trade Commission (www.ftc.gov); Electronic Frontier Foundation (www.eff.org); and the American Civil Liberties Union (www.aclu.org).



Has Political Correctness Gone Too Far?

Ed Maggio

In the last few years, historians and sociologists have begun renaming things and events in society in a way that doesn't seem displeasing to anyone. In the light of the campaign season, and Super Tuesday, our distinguished candidates have followed the trail of historians, and gone out of their way to de-sensitize unfavorable things in American society; using new vocabulary terms not heard by most voters.

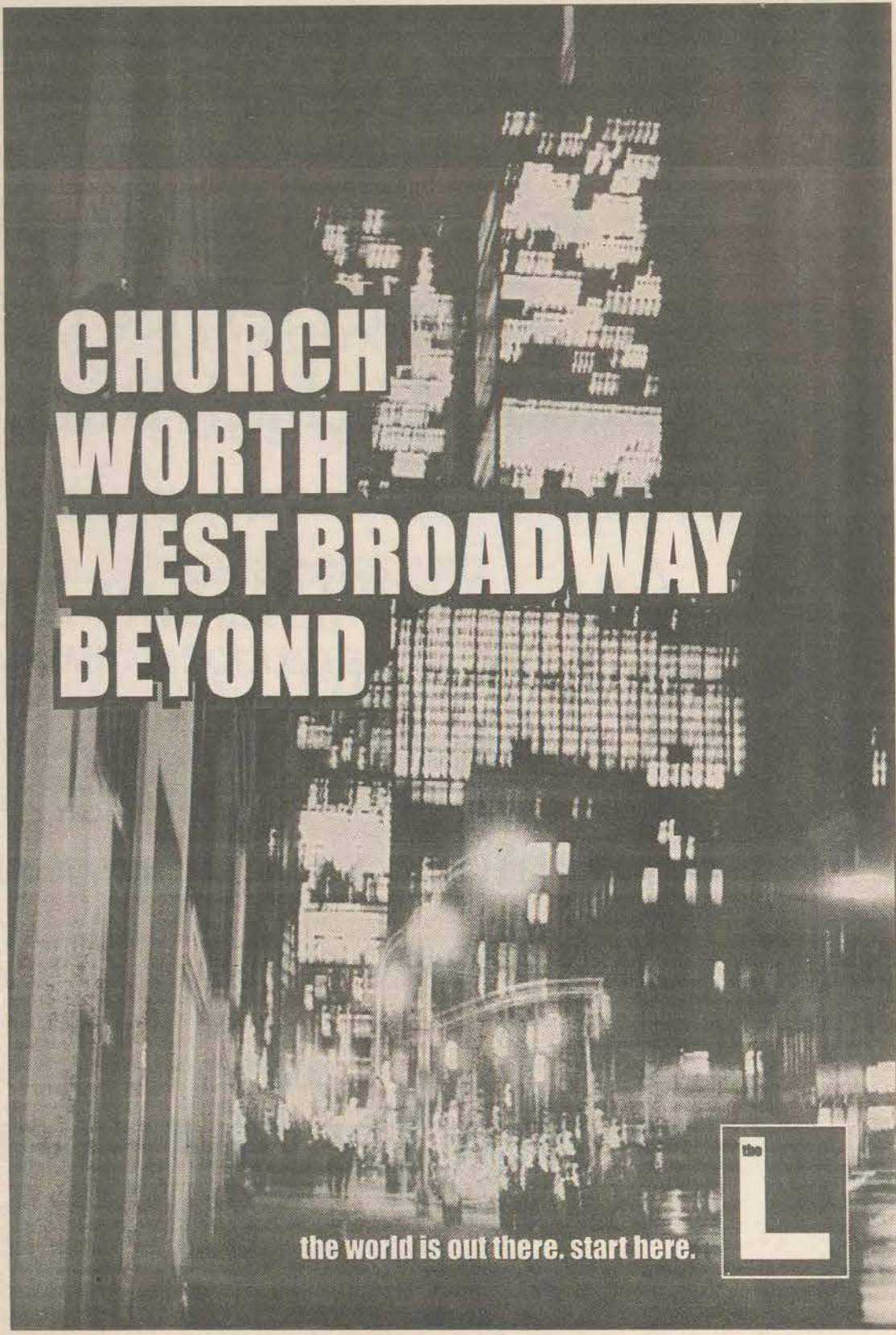
If politicians could refer to a poor harvest in Idaho as an "agricultural miscalculation" or lowest test scores in public schools as "academic shortcomings," what's next? Imagine what a politician walking around lower Manhattan could come up with:

Spray painted wall – A *open-air calligraphy art exhibit*; Nasty phone booths – *Non-designated public restrooms*; Subway – *A mobile steel disease containment unit*; Street pothole – *A vehicular alignment tester*; Topless

Joint – *A reformed clothes optional silicon cabaret*; Hot Dog Vendor – *A processed meat distributor*; Ticket Scalpers – *Economically readjusted concert entrance middlemen*; Chinatown Street Vendors – *Relocated missing merchandise providers*; Poor street musician – *a self employed melody maker*

The point is that some things in life are not meant to be described in a manner that it is positive. How would people react if journalists referred to a tenement fire as a "urban renewal blaze?" It would be a breath of fresh air for a politician to call something as it is. A poor steel plant town is a poor steel plant town. It is not to be referred to by a candidate as a "potential economical situation."

There are exceptions to the rule I will admit. Referring to a school computer when it breaks down on you, as a "self-contained frustration device" might be applicable.



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Arts & Entertainment

Coffee House Diaries

Ed Maggio

"A coffee house in NYC is a recreation of the French philosophical salons of old, combined with an atmosphere full of artistic and intellectual Bohemians."

Okay, that's how a history professor would describe a coffee house. For a law student, deciding to visit a place for coffee requires very simple information about such an establishment; 1) is the coffee good 2) is the food good 3) will I be served quick 4) is the atmosphere conducive to studying/work. Taking a quick walk from school on a lazy afternoon, here are some local haunts that might be worth a visit and meet such criteria:

*The Lotus Club (Books and Café)
Church and Lispenard Sts.*

Not many people realize there is a "hippie" coffeehouse just a quick walk away from school. The Lotus Club features

all your favorite organic food, bagels, salads, and smoothies. Their house blend of coffee is quite good, and strong enough to keep you awake, even in your worst class. They feature all your favorite espresso, cappuccino, and caffeine filled drinks. The place features a spacious and comfortable environment, with leather booths and couches. The staff provides an assortment of magazines and books all over the surrounding walls and they don't mind if you read an entire magazine and put it back on the shelf. The people who come and visit, well let's just say you get all sorts of different people walking in, from the TriBeCa banker to the starving artist crowd. If you are looking for conversation, people tend to talk to one another and engage in friendly conversation. Watch who you talk to. You never know whom you will meet! My last visit I ended up chatting with a charming NYU graduate, who just happened to practice witchcraft. Yikes!

The Grey Dog's Coffee

Carmine St. bet. Bleeker and Bedford Sts.

From West Village trendsetters to caffeine starved pet owners frequent one of the busiest coffee shops in the city. This place always seems to have a crowd, which adds to the excitement. You are allowed to bring in your pet dog, as I discovered after fending off one of those Taco Bell dogs with a property casebook. Either that or I would have had to go home like a one legged pirate. It is a little cramped in this place with the small wood furniture, but don't let that stop you from enjoying some of their giant sandwiches and other gourmet cuisine from their large menu. I gave the Taco Bell dog some of my lunch, and now we are best of friends. Their coffee is quite mild, unless you go for their heavy-duty espresso or cappuccino. At night, the coffee shop workers bring out lit candles transforming the place into a romantic wine bar for couples, supplemented by the artwork of couples kissing all over the walls. If you are in neighborhood, it is worth dropping in for a visit. If you are on a date, definitely stop by in the evenings.

New Fung Lung Bakery

41 Mott St.

A few blocks away from school in the heart of Chinatown lies one of the best pastry bakeries that only the locals have knowledge of its existence. Don't feel embarrassed that you don't speak Chinese, because inside for fifty cents apiece, you can procure some of the most delicious desserts you'll ever find. From chocolate sponge cake, to a cookie shaped like Bud-

dha, your sugar / dessert needs will be met. The coffee is about average, but good enough if you are on the go. The Chinese lady bakers make sure your cup is filled quickly, and bring those desserts to your table as fast as they can bake them. If you want to learn a little history, talk to the elderly locals who hang out and will tell you stories of "Old New York" from a Chinese perspective.

Starbucks

Whether you go to the coffee shop in Astor Place, on Broadway, or anywhere else in the city, who hasn't heard or tasted Starbucks coffee? It's served quickly, and tastes the same no matter what location you visit. Personally for me their brand of coffee, depending on what batch of coffee the employee brewed, can end up tasting like industrial sledge from a place called "Green Mountain." But like McDonalds, it's the same no matter where you go, and you can always depend on it. For a strange reason my last visit had tourists from Seattle (Home of Starbucks) taking pictures of the inside. Go figure!

Sal the Coffee Guy

Coffee booth on Church St. near the A/C/E subway entrance

Okay, he has no chairs, no furniture, no fancy artwork, but you will get a strong cup of coffee, a fresh baked bagel/donut, and he'll tell you the weather, news, and anything else you want to know. Hey, for a cheap cup of coffee, that's a bargain.

No matter where you go, sometimes it is just good to disappear from studying at the stacks in the Mendik library, and go for a good old-fashioned cup of coffee.

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AALDEF: Taking Action

John Kang

The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), a non-profit organization, began its long journey with a small group of law students, community activists, and lawyers gathered in a legal rights workshop at an Asian American conference in April of 1974.

Today AALDEF is dedicated to protecting the legal rights of Asian Americans through litigation, legal advocacy, and community awareness.

Over the 25 year history of the organization, AALDEF has provided free legal representation for victims of hate crimes, police brutality, garment workers with wage/hour claims and minority immigrant voters. Major law firms such as Kaye Scholer and Paul Weiss have contributed their great assistance in these cases as pro bono co-counsel.

AALDEF has been active in speaking out against hate crimes and police brutality, co-sponsoring memorial marches, rallies and vigils for victims of such violence.

To address the problems surrounding Asian American civic participation, a major initiative called the Asian American Democracy Project was launched with the objective of facilitating the voting process. Upcoming events include the Community Survey Project, designed for reform in redistricting and protection of voting rights, and the Asian American Exit Poll, focusing on the voting patterns of Asian Americans and ensuring that such voters are treated fairly at the polls.

For more information on AALDEF, contact Glenn Magpantay, Esq., at (212) 966-5932.

ATTENTION CLASS OF 2000

For the first time ever, The Student Bar Association is hosting a "Graduate Reception" on Monday, April 3, 2000 from 5:30-8:30 pm in the Wellington Conference Center. Personal invitations will be in all graduating student and faculty mail folders during the week of March 20-24, 2000. The reception will bring together the graduates and faculty to mingle, before the graduates exit New York Law School. The reception will offer a relaxed atmosphere; hors d'oeuvres, wine and non-alcoholic beverages will be served. This reception is not formal; students are welcome to come and go around their schedules. The

reception is open to all June, September and December graduates. The members of the SBA look forward to this event and hope to see every graduating student there, as this event is for you. We look forward to seeing you on April 3rd!

Sincerely,
Danielle Butler
SBA President

Whooooo's Out There?

Joanne Olson

Are you an OWL (Older Wiser Law Student)? Do you feel left out of extracurricular activities in Law School because you have a spouse, children, and a full time job? Would you like to join a group of other students who have the same responsibilities as you? Do you wish there were a group of students like you who are balancing home/work/school responsibilities?

The Older Wiser Law Students at New York Law School is in the planning

stages. OWLS are older students, students with children, and any nontraditional law student who wants to be part of a fun, supportive group who will help to keep law school in perspective. The group will be plan activities where family and friends can join in.

If you are interested in joining this informal group who understands that you need a break now and then from the rigors of law school, please e-mail me at joanneo@aol.com.

Computer Problems?

Lisa Compagno

As some of you may know, the SBA has been working with the Office of Information Technology (Info. Tech) to address the computer problems plaguing our school. Info. Tech has been going through some changes and has recently acquired a new director - Margaret Perley. In order to assist her in getting acquainted with NYLS and our system Dean Fred DeJohn forwarded a memo addressing our concerns about the computers to Director Perley. The memo discussed the problems surrounding the age of the equipment, the software, the cleanliness of the equipment and the continuing problems with the printers. In response to these problems Director Perley has: (1) instituted a program that

directs staff members to clean all machines on a weekly basis, (2) affixed permanent numbers to the computers to correlate with the printing process, and (3) informed us that all of the computer equipment will be replaced with new equipment in the summer.

We would like to thank Dean DeJohn and Director Perley for addressing these issues. We would also like to welcome Director Perley to the NYLS Family and look forward to working with her in the future.



Liquid Bar Review

Pilgrims in an Unholy Land

Ed Maggio & Susan Baddour

As law students, the headline above illustrates how we felt upon entering the bars we reviewed this time around. Even though at first we didn't fit in with the crowd, we managed to celebrate the daily ritual of happy hour after having a hard day of studying and classroom antics.

The White Horse Tavern
Hudson Street at West 11th

People claim this to be a Village landmark, and I understand their reasoning. The inside of this place resembles an old school gentleman's club. The barflies also reflect the atmosphere. While enjoying a good burger, I thought the cast of "Cheers" was going to walk in at any moment. If you are a guy, bring along your best buds and drink one of the many beers they have on tap. Don't be surprised if one of the regulars strikes up a conversation with you and tells you about his many accomplishments.

Despite the almost all-male patrons, it is a good place to relax and enjoy some good bar food.

Mo's Caribbean
76th and 2nd Avenue

The crowd in this place is without a doubt, for the Upper East Side, posh and well-dressed folk. On a Friday night, this place is usually packed with people there for happy hour (4-7 pm) or for the seafood and Caribbean cuisine from the kitchen. Tuesday features Live Reggae music at 8 pm. If you want to have some real fun, try the Volcano, a huge drink meant for three people, then try and find your way back to the subway.

Hogs and Heifers
96th and 1st Avenue

Wild, that is the best word to describe this place. If you are looking for a crazy time, this is the place on the weekend. It is a Biker bar, but the staff of scantily dressed

barmaids and muscle heavy country boys makes you feel right at home; especially after they use a megaphone to order you to come to the bar and take off your tie and jacket.

The bar staff goes out of their way to get to know you by first name; they will drink with you. We asked them if they were aware that drinking and doing shots while working is against the law. They responded loudly that they didn't give a flying F#@. If you are a lady, you are going to get special treatment.

The female staff dances on the bar, and they pull all the girls in the bar up with them. Don't be surprised if they pour liquor down your throat. If you are a guy, get ready to dance to one of the live bands every night (No cover). They don't have a huge beer selection, this is a hard liquor bar. Susan and I don't dance to country western music, but Heather the bartender took my beer away till I danced. What choice did I have? I didn't feel embarrassed

for too long, Susan was pulled up on the bar to dance. The staff also does bar tricks.

We watched them pour 151 on the bar and light the whole bar on fire. On Friday all hell breaks loose. While we were there, the Howard Stern Show crew showed up giving everyone T-shirts and CD's, some of the NY Rangers showed up a little later, and then the police showed up. Luckily the boys in blue didn't break up the party, they just wanted to request a song from the band, and look the other way. Whether you are a guy or girl, this is a place to forget about the law, and have a good time.

Till then the Bar review continues to the Upper West Side of the city. If you are interested in having us review a bar, want to know daily bar specials, the location of the next rave, or want to come along on our next adventure, email us at gilesem1@excite.com. Till then, study hard, and drink harder.

SBA Update

SBA Executive Board Elections

SBA will hold its Executive Board elections on April 4 and 5, 2000. Results will be posted on the SBA bulletin Board April 6, 2000. All students can run for the SBA Executive Board. There are no restrictions on qualifications based on a student's year, division or experience. SBA encourages any student to take the challenge of representing and serving the NYLS community. The procedure for those students interested in running for an Executive Board position is as follows:

1- Obtain a SBA Executive Board petition on March 21, 2000 from the black mailbox located directly outside the SBA office in L5 of the Lower Lobby of the C building.

2- fill out the petition completely by indicating the required personal information and obtaining 50 student signature. The signatures must contain at least one day and one evening student signature. The day and evening vice president positions must obtain 50 signatures from day or evening students only.

3- Return the petition to an Executive Board member for their signature and approval that the petition has been satisfactory completed.

4- Campaign from March 27 - April 5, 2000. The petition will inform each potential candidate of the campaign rules.

5- Vote on April 4 and 5, 2000 from 10:00 - 8:00. (Voting hours are subject to change)

6- Look for results on April 6, 2000 by 6 pm.

SBA consists of an Executive Board and a representative body, the student Senate. The Senate is elected in late September of each academic year. The Executive Board is elected in April of each academic year. The Executive Board is responsible for the coordination of SBA day-to-day operations as expressed by the SBA Senate and student referendum, making of policy initiation, meeting with the administration

and emergency or minor decision-making. The Executive Board consists of the president, day vice president, evening vice president, secretary, treasurer, attorney general, ABA representative and when held the ABA 2nd circuit governor. Each position requires a potential candidate to be motivated, a leader, reliable, outgoing, sensitive to the needs of others, and able to communicate well. The following is a job description of each Executive Board position:

President

The president is the primary officer, administrator and liaison between the SBA, the NYLS students, the administration and the faculty. The presiding duty entails assuring that the government meetings and business sessions proceed in an organized and orderly manner so as to enhance the conduct of necessary business. The administration duty entails seeing to it that the business of the government is carried out in an efficient and coordinated manner. The president shall provide for the supervision and coordination of all committees and organizations of SBA. The president represents NYLS at the ABA/LSD circuit meetings and ABA annual meetings. The president holds a seat on NYLS Alumni Association Board and Student Affairs Faculty Committee. The president is the chairperson of the SBA Election Committee and SBA Senate Meetings. The president is required to attend these meetings and also meet weekly with NYLS administration. The president must maintain open communication with the students and answer all comment, concerns and questions of the students. The president must issue a report to the NYLS community at least once a semester on SBA activities. The president represents NYLS and must attend outside events. The position requires at the minimum about 12 hours of work per week.

Day Vice President:

The day vice president position requires the planning, organizing and assisting of all NYLS social events. The day vice president must be familiar with all of the faculty departments and their functions in order to direct students to the correct place or person. The day vice president is the chairperson of interpersonal relations among student organizations and the administration and SBA Student Life Committee. The day vice president must be able to handle all details in planning and executing successful social events for students. This task requires contracting with an establishment, advertising and encouraging student participation. The day vice president is in charge of Co-Chairing the President Roundtable Meetings which includes planning, getting food, advertising, securing guest speakers, creating an agenda and running the meeting when the president cannot attend. The day vice president is the secondary officer, administrator and liaison at NYLS. The day vice president must assist the president. If and when the president cannot fulfill his or her duties or make meetings the day vice president must take on the presidential duties and obligations. This position requires at the minimum about 9 hours of work per week.

Evening Vice President:

The evening vice president is responsible for assisting the other members of the Student Bar Association Executive Board. The evening vice president is solely responsible for chairing the newly created Evening Division Committee, which is responsible for addressing the concerns and issues related to students that attend the NYLS Part Time Evening Program. The evening vice president participates in SBA executive board meetings and Senate meetings, where he or she is responsible for reporting to SBA any issues, concerns or projects which needs to be addressed. The

evening vice president shall participate in other SBA activities, which concern Evening Students. This position requires at the minimum about 9 hours of work per week.

Executive Secretary

The role of the secretary is that of the "keeper of the records and aide to the president." An effective secretary is imperative for a smoothly functioning government. The maintenance of records involves updating and decorating SBA bulletin boards, taking minutes at each SBA meeting, transcribing and publicizing the minutes, reporting all SBA occurrences and news to the "L", keeping track of SBA member attendance, compiling and continuously updating SBA contact lists, email address lists and committee meetings list. The secretary also corresponds all information to the SBA senators, publicizes all SBA meetings and events, reserves room for all meetings, attends weekly meetings with director of Student Life, attends all Dean's meetings and chairs various other special projects. The organization of SBA files should be complete so as to be accessible and useful for the present and future SBA's. This position requires at the minimum about 8 hours of work per week.

Treasurer

The treasurer is the authorized custodian of the organization's funds. The responsibility entails the receipt and disbursement of student activity funds, presentation of regular financial reports and maintaining records of all financial activities. The treasurer shall submit a report to SBA at each Senate meeting of the receipts and expenditures of the student activity fees. The treasurer has weekly meetings with the administration and SBA president. The treasurer is the chairperson of the SBA Budget Committee. This position requires at the minimum about 6 hours of work per week.

Attorney General

Attorney General should be used when there is a quarrelsome atmosphere at NYLS. The attorney general shall assume the role of chief legal officer of the SBA. The attorney general shall advise SBA on questions arising under the SBA Constitution. The attorney general shall represent the SBA in proceedings before the Judicial Board. The attorney general shall maintain and update the SBA Constitution. The attorney general is the chairperson of the judiciary committee. This position requires at the minimum about 5 hours of work per week.

American Bar Association Representative

The ABA representative shall represent the interests of the SBA at ABA conventions. ABA representative shall inform the SBA of all ABA news. The ABA representative serves as the link between the ABA and NYLS. The ABA representative is the key component in sustaining the growth of the ABA. The ABA representative responsibilities at NYLS are to increase ABA membership and develop an ABA action plan. The ABA representative organizes the ABA Work-A-Day, VITA, NY Cares Day, Have a Heart Campaign, Food and Clothing Drives and Toys for Tots. The ABA representative is the chairperson of the SBA ABA Committee. This position requires at the minimum about 7 hours of work per week.

NYLS student body is filled with capable leaders who are filled with great ideas in improve NYLS. SBA encourages interested students to run for the Executive Board. If you have any questions, please e-mail me at dbutler516@bigfoot.com or contact the SBA office at 212-431-2899 ext. 4203.

Sincerely,
Danielle Butler
SBA President



Letters to the L

On Blood Drive: Don't Abandon our Human Rights Policy

To the Editor:

After reading the article about the Blood Drive debate in the last issue of the L, I think you left out a great deal of the information that was presented to the SBA as well as to the author of the article, Mark Demetropoulos.

I respect Mark a great deal, and I am very familiar with his work both as an editor on the L and as an officer of the Federalist Society, so I found it strange that the L would ask him to write a news article since the Federalist Society is the main proponent of the Blood Drive being held on campus.

I was more concerned that the article seemed to focus on a discussion of gay anal sex, to the detriment of a "bigger picture" discussion of the irrational discrimi-

nation against Haitians and gay men posed by the current blood collection infrastructure. As I noted when I addressed the SBA on this issue, the NYC Blood Centers' (NYBC) prohibition on blood donations by Haitians, gay men or any of a number of selected classes of people represents an example of stark discrimination based on irrational fears and popular bias.

Despite the popular misperception that Haitians and gay men are more likely to carry the HIV virus, medical science has advanced well beyond our dangerous and unfounded prejudices. Screening mechanisms for HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C, as well as a host of other pathogens present in donated blood have been successfully employed by national blood donation organizations for years. Thus, the NYBC, albeit under force of federal law,

promotes discrimination against gay men and others. Such a policy is inconsistent with what we all have come to expect on the NYLS campus.

There is a vital need for blood, especially in this time of shortage, and I feel very concerned that my position appears rigid to the point of stubbornness. But for New York Law School to "okay" specific acts of harmful discrimination every time a good cause even a noble cause comes along would be an abandonment of our school's human rights policy. The human rights policy was enacted by the faculty to create a safe zone of tolerance and open academic discourse for all individuals at this school.

It is regrettable that this region finds itself in a desperate need for blood. However, it is also regrettable that the NYBC

continues to operate under an antiquated federal law. That law was developed in an era when politicians answered too quickly to fear and prejudice to the detriment of disenfranchised minority groups. The answer to such harmful discrimination is not for us to ignore our policies, close our eyes and hope it goes away. No, the answer is to maintain this safe zone where academic discourse and everyday life mingle without the threat of intolerance and, inevitably, silence.

Sincerely,

Thomas H. Prol, M.P.H.

SBA representative to the American BarAssoc. Law Student Division

Grades, Guidance and Schedules

To the Editor:

Before I stage my numerous gripes about NYLS, I want to begin by noting the positive aspects. I am extremely grateful to most of the professors that I have had. The faculty at NYLS is among the best. I believe that my legal education is on the same level, if not above, the more "elite" schools.

There are so many areas that need to be changed if this school is going to have a better reputation. The main reason we are all here, is to obviously, become lawyers. Law school is hard enough, without added stress.

Professors have a deadline for when the grades must be handed in at the registrar. In my experience, most do not adhere to such a deadline. Knowing that they were once in our shoes, they know what it was like (or, they just forget). It is absolutely mentally taxing to start a new semester without putting the last semester behind. You cannot really commit yourself to a new semester because your mind is on the previous one. Also, the professors expect you to hand papers in on a specific date. What happens if you do not? You will probably receive an F. So, what can we do? I just hope that those professors reading this understand that each day they are late with handing grades in, add another day of unnecessary stress into our lives. And, it prevents us from delving into the next semester.

Another area that is extremely deficient, is the lack of guidance. Remember your first week at school, you were assigned an upper-class advisor. I never met mine nor knew the person. He or she

never contacted me. And, being that I did not know a single soul, it would have been really helpful. I understand that it is partially the student's fault. But, there is no enforcement of such advisors by the administration.

This is related to another area—class schedules. In the midst of second semester of first year, we are asked to make a schedule for the entire second year. Who helps you with that schedule? It seems that you are on your own. I had no idea where to begin with making that schedule. I am extremely grateful to a graduate from NYLS and for helping me with the schedule. She spent four hours with me devising my schedule. What about those who do not know any upperclassmen? Who do they talk to? I am sure that some professors will help you, if you ask. But, they have enough to do. There should be somewhere to go or someone to talk with about the schedules.

In response to the last two complaints, I believe that some type of guidance department should be established. At the very least, an existing office should take on these additional tasks.

As I am sitting here typing this, many students are expressing their qualms. But, we agreed to keep our complaints to one page. Unfortunately, if everything was going to be addressed, it would take much more than one page. I think that the new dean should have some type of forum in which these issues can be addressed. NYLS cannot afford to sit idly by and let our valid concerns go ignored.

Allison Cummings—2L

Holding the Administration Accountable

To the Editor:

When I was asked to write about my criticisms of NYLS, unfortunately I felt it was necessary to take advantage of the opportunity. As a third year student who is about to enter the very competitive and aggressive legal job market, I feel grossly unprepared to compete with my fellow attorneys just beginning their careers. The truth of the matter is very painful to say, but also very clear — a degree from New York Law School places its students at a significant disadvantage in comparison to students from other New York law schools.

With our bar passage rate significantly decreasing and the tuition steadily increasing, it is time for students to demand accountability. I feel that the root of this problem is neither with the faculty nor the students, but with the administration. The faculty at NYLS is top rate. We have been very fortunate to have professors that have graduated from top rate law schools and have been very successful in their own legal careers. I feel the students, too, are dedicated to both their education and legal careers. I don't know one student who does not work hard and in return, expect the law school to make him/her a marketable commodity in the legal community. Law school

is too expensive of an investment to take lightly.

In my opinion, the administration has done a very poor job of creating a better reputation for NYLS. With its outstanding faculty and fascinating history, NYLS should be a solid institution of legal education. Unfortunately, within New York it is considered a mediocre school at best and outside New York it is barely even heard of. I have found that many of the staff have been unresponsive to students' needs and in some situations, openly hostile. For instance, the Office of the Registrar has been extremely unaccommodating with regard to its' interaction with the student body. Additionally, I believe Career Services is remarkably unorganized and has done little in aiding students in their job search.

I understand NYLS is presently going through a transitional period. However, it is very unfortunate that its present students have to suffer as a result. I hope the new Dean can recognize the challenges that face our school and propel NYLS into the next century. NYLS students have invested a significant amount of time and money in their school. It is now time for NYLS to invest in its students.

Lisa Impson—3L

Your opinion matters.

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