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New York Law School

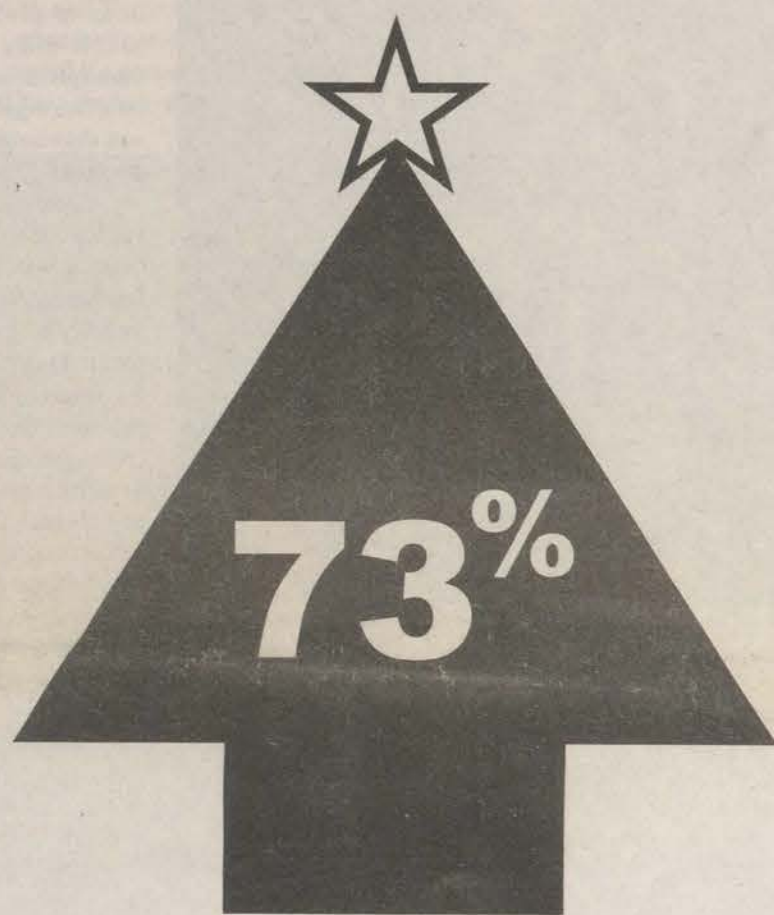
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Miracle on Worth Street



Bar Passage Rate Up This Year

School estimates pass rate for first time exam takers.

Eddie Westfield
Founding Editor

The number is in. NYLS estimates its pass rate to be around 73% for first-time test takers of the July 2000 NY State Bar Examination. Professor Joseph Marino shared this figure with his New York Practice section on November 20.

"Professor Marino's numbers are our current best estimate on overall pass rate," confirmed Dean Richard A. Matasar.

If accurate, this figure serves as a marked improvement

from last year's first time pass rate of 58%, which was then the lowest among law schools in NY State. This year's 15 point increase fell just short of the statewide first-time average of 75%, as estimated by the *New York Law Journal*.

"The improvement is a tribute to the very hard work of last year's graduating class," remarked Dean Matasar, "and the full commitment made by Dean Harry H. Wellington and Associate Dean Ellen Ryerson to support bar passage activities at the Law School."

In his statement to **the L**, Dean Matasar also commended

the NYLS Bar Passage Committee, which includes Professors Aleta Estreicher, Elaine Mills, William LaPiana, and Marino for their work with students. He also cautioned against celebrating too soon.

"We cannot be too happy until New York Law School consistently outperforms its peers," Dean Matasar noted. "Real success will not be reached until every student who works hard passes on his or her first try."

For now, NYLS plans to revamp the bar passage program it put in place last year, with a few

modifications, in its attempt to provide students with guidance on taking the Bar Exam. Dean Matasar has set this as one of the School's major goals.

"We have to create an atmosphere that places the exam in proper context." He added, "It is a rite of passage that all must endure."

When we get back, pick up our next issue for more in-depth coverage on NYLS bar passage rates.

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news

Professor Leonard Honored at JHR Symposium

Laura J. Tils

On Saturday, October 14, 2000, New York Law School Journal of Human Rights sponsored, "Chronicling A Movement: A Symposium to Recognize the Twentieth Anniversary of the *Lesbian/Gay Law Notes*," edited by Professor Arthur S. Leonard. The Ernst C. Steifel Reading Room was filled to capacity.

The ten panelists provided an overview of the last two decades of the legal struggle against discrimination and inequality based on sexual orientation and gender. The speakers discussed diverse topics and current issues of human rights. Topics included the Civil Rights Act, family law, AIDS law, public perceptions created by language choice and sex and gender stereotyping.

During the morning panel, Professor Arthur S. Leonard discussed the inception of the *Lesbian/Gay Law Notes* in 1980, and his efforts to disseminate legal information about Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) issues. Two decades ago he started the venture as the sole writer, filling and stamping envelopes late into the night. Finally, in the 1990's Professor Leonard's hard work paid off and he began to gain contributing writers. His



Professor Arthur Leonard with his award from the Journal of Human Rights

current goal for the *Lesbian/Gay Law Notes* is to expand coverage internationally.

From 1960 to 1980, 21 states had repealed their sodomy laws. In the following two decades, only 11 additional states plus Washington D.C. have repealed their sodomy laws. Professor Nan Hunter, of Brooklyn Law School discussed the insufficiency of morality alone to justify anti-gay lawmaking, specifically, sodomy law litigation. Professor

Hunter elucidated how sodomy law legislation affects public perception by creating anti-gay bias, stating, "Sodomy laws label people as criminals just waiting to be caught."

According to Kevin Cathcart, Director of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, a current GLBT issue is whether the state can pay money to religious organizations to proselytize. According to Lambda, both presidential candidates, Governor George

Bush and Vice President Al Gore support plans which would effectively allow religious organizations to propagate their own beliefs using Federal funding. These plans would not require the religious organizations to remain non-discriminatory in their use of the funds.

Additionally, Professor Paula Ettlebrick, of the National Gay/Lesbian Task Force, Policy Institute, addressed the issue of the inability of gay and lesbian couples to marry in most states. She continued by saying that in court, marriage should be argued as a civil rights issue, not just a family benefits issue. The inability for gay couples to marry also has a perceptual impact on the community, because denial of the right to marry carries a sense of devaluation and exclusion, and reinforces the validity of a heterosexual society.

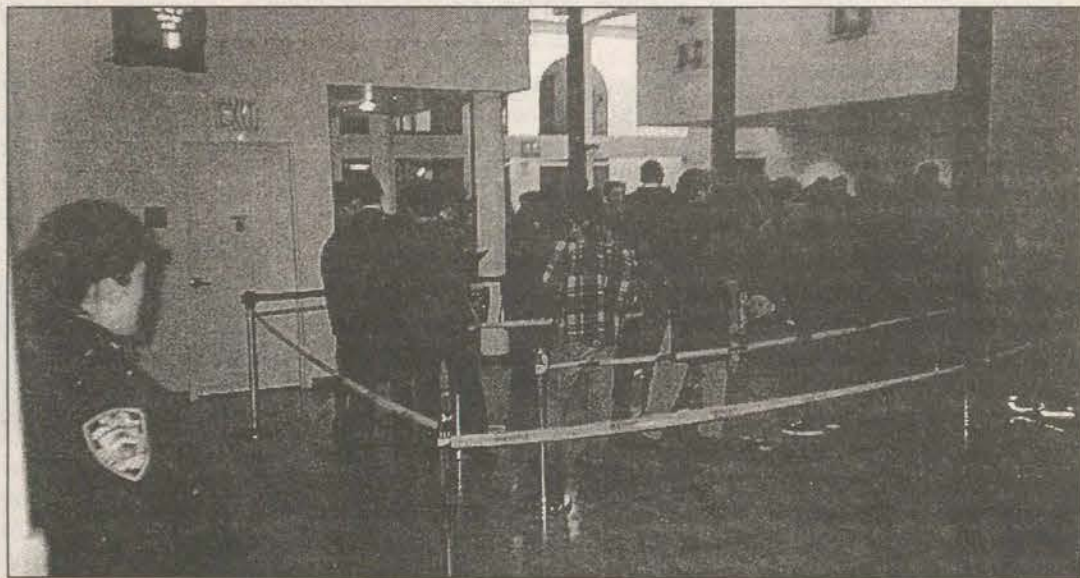
Professor Nancy Polikoff of American University, Washington College of Law, continued by comparing the differences between the United States and Western Europe in terms of relationship recognition and parenting rights. While Western Europe has more extensive legal recognition of gay and lesbian relationships than exist in the United States, parenting rights policies in Denmark, the

Netherlands, Finland and France are generally worse than those in the United States.

During the afternoon luncheon, former New York Law School Professor Armando Belly, General Counsel for Soros Fund Management, spoke warmly about Arthur Leonard's life and accomplishments. His well-disposed speech was received with a standing ovation from the audience. Following the gracious introduction, Professor Leonard was presented, on behalf of New York Law School, The Journal of Human Rights and the GLBT community, with an Award for Outstanding Contributions and Lifelong Commitment.

In the end Professor Leonard provided the audience with well needed information as well as insights into the possible resolution of issues in the future. He exclaimed that there has been tremendous progress made in the legal community since the 1980's. Although things appear to be moving in the right direction many more steps are needed in the future to ensure that the GLBT community continues to see the progress they have fought for continue.

Comfortable?



Before the Recount: New York Law School on Election Day

Inside Campus Security:

Addressing Property Theft within NYLS

In recent months, students have questioned the level of security at NYLS. After a laptop computer was stolen from the Stiefel Reading Room, during the Spring 2000 semester, and a culprit was not apprehended, student awareness of personal property theft within the School became heightened.

The Office of Security and Safety at this school consists of 17 staff members, consisting of 10 full time security officers. Half of the officers come from traditional police background in the Caribbean; the other half come from non-law enforcement fields. Some of the security personnel are retired, going to school, and have families.

In an interview with *the L*, George Hayes, NYLS director of Security and Safety, addressed some of the security issues facing the school.

"Security at this institution is handled by the staff in a personable way with an emphasis on communication and documentation," Hayes explained. "It is a challenge of balancing out a feeling that this is a comfortable environment, yet educating people that they need to be aware and on guard."

Hayes shares that the mission of the security is a well-founded practice.

"Our primary concern is for people and property."

While most students feel relatively safe within the School, students have expressed concern about how secure their property really is.

In the unsolved Stiefel laptop theft case, for example, students were annoyed that a camera caught a picture of the thief, yet the photo provided no clues to the person's identity. Hayes explained that the surveillance system used for security is not like a rolling movie camera, but takes snapshots on a time-lapse system.

Currently the School is looking into upgrading the system.

According to the New York Law School's official Campus Security Report, there was a total of 7 larcenies between the period of September 1, 1999 and August 31, 2000. On average, 6 to 7 larcenies over the past three years.

Incidents however are not only con-

finied to outside the classroom. Hayes recounted an incident whereby a student got up for a minute to talk to the professor at the end of class and turned around to discover personal items missing. Only students and the professor were in the classroom at that time.

As an employee with NYLS since 1982 and a Columbia University graduate who has worked for the City of

New York and Fortune 500 companies, Hayes understands students concerns and has expressed the commitment that he and his staff have made to the students' needs.

Students have also expressed annoyance of having to show identification when entering the School, only then to walk a few more feet and then produce identification again to enter the library.

Hayes explained the reasons for such redundant security measures.

"Outsiders have more access to the library and it is for the students safety," Hayes mentioned. "Years ago people could just walk off the street and go into the library and steal. A lot of people are screened before entering our facilities, but that does not mean they are not a possible suspect."

Hayes points out that the responsibility for personal items often falls to one person -- the individual.

NYLS is a graduate commuter law school there are no models of other schools from which a security plan can be copied.

"We are an unusual situation," Hayes explained.

In addition to handling claims of criminal activity, the Office of Security and Safety sponsors educational programs during the year in the areas of domestic violence and crime prevention. One program recently sponsored was on personal safety led by NYPD Detective Persall of the Special Victims Crime Unit. Security personnel also recently ran videos in the lobby and provided students with pamphlets on protecting your laptop.

Any problems or possible crimes should be reported to security personnel immediately.

"If you are victim, respond by reporting it to us so we can address it, and let the community know," Hayes pointed out. "Safety is first here at NYLS."

In compliance with the Federal Campus Security Act, the School's Annual Crime Report is available to students from the Office of Student Life and on the NYLS Intranet site. First aid materials are also available at the guard station near the front entrance in the lobby. Lost and found is inside the Office of Security and Safety, located in the basement of the A Building (57 Worth St.) near the Copy Center.

In mentioning lost and found, Hayes suggests that if you lost a cell phone recently, quickly head down to his office because he has several on hand.

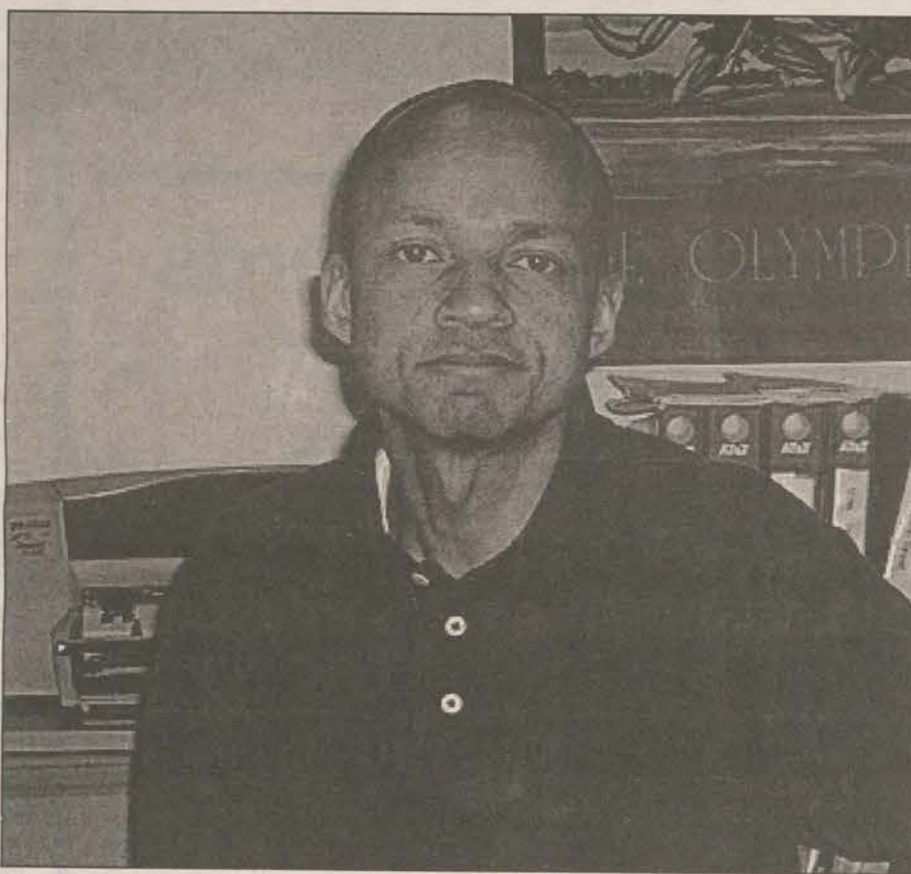
As we approach finals and the holiday season, many preoccupied students may not worry about theft. In order to make the school an even safer place, Hayes reminds us that students' need to respect shared student areas and keep an eye on their own property.

"Do not give potential thieves the opportunity," Hayes noted.



Edward Maggio

News Editor



Security Director George Hayes

Hayes noted that personal items such as laptop computers, cell phones, and palm pilots are potential targets of theft.

"Due to the amount of things students bring, it is often a game of chance what to take and what to leave even when going to the bathroom. Do you grab everything?" Hayes questioned.

"Most thefts could have avoided by being more aware. Just because you get up for a minute in an area with a friend or with people from your section doesn't mean your objects won't walk," Hayes commented. "The potential for students to be vindictive through stealing also is a possibility."

Hayes also stressed that because

Note: To access the security report, go to NYLS intranet site (intranet.nyls.edu) and click "Students" and then click "Campus Security Report." You may also contact the Office of Security and Safety at ext. 4184 for general inquiries. For emergencies, only call X2123. The Director of Security and Safety, George Hayes, may be contacted at X2820

Sleep. Study. Read the L.

editorial

We Love Your Feedback

This past month, we received an incredible amount of feedback from our last issue (Vol. 2, No. 2; Oct/Nov 2000). Some of the comments we received from students, administrators and faculty members included: "This was a well balanced issue," "Enjoyed the different articles this month," "You guys are right on target," "Excellent content, focus more on editing," "Get the other side's opinion," "Your cover piece was too soft, my college newspaper could have done a better job," "We love your newspaper we read it from cover to cover," "We always read the Final's Success piece to help understand what heck is going on here!"

We also received word from various groups clarifying their policies, including the Moot Court Association's press

release and the Mendik Library informing us that answer keys to exams are on the NYLS Intranet.

Your feedback, whether positive or negative helps us make a better publication. It is *very important to us* that if we have misquoted you, omitted certain facts in article, or if you see something in the newspaper that could lead to its improvement, that you let us know. We do not shrink from criticism; we welcome it! **The L** takes your comments *very seriously*. You will often see your feedback take shape in future issues. We therefore encourage the entire community to keep the feedback coming.

Wishing you good luck on your finals and a joyous holiday season!



Susan Harper

Editor-in-Chief

Membership Has Its Rewards

Now that my law school career is nearing the end, over the next two semesters I will be concentrating my efforts on recruitment to **the L**. Our newspaper went from a two-person operation to what now is the "Voice of the New York Law School Community."

So far this semester we have been able to showcase some new contributors that we all hope will continue to write interesting and informative pieces. While **the L** is the "Voice of the NYLS community," our writers are not limited to topics relating to the School. We encourage students and faculty to write about topics that interest them. The editorial staff will sit down carefully to listen to and discuss all ideas with you, the potential writer.

Upon agreement to your story idea, you are then off and running. You do the research, you do the fact checking

and you meet the deadline. The only reward given for all of your hard work is seeing your article in print. Writers for **the L** do not receive academic credit, compensation or a waiver for the writing requirement.

So why would any one want to write for **the L**? Simply because you will see all your hard work amount to something in print. You will bring issues and articles to life. You will fight with yourself over what to keep in your article and what to cut from it. Moreover, your hard work contributes to our community.

My experience writing for **the L** has been by far the most rewarding venture I have undertaken since I started Law School. Once again, I invite all students to join our special team and feel the reward from something you create. Enjoy the holidays and good luck on finals.



Louis J. Russo III

Managing Editor

Corrections

• In our last issue (Vol. 2, No. 2, September 2000), **the L** misquoted Gregory Gonzalez as saying he was voting for Ralph Nader because he was for "...ending drugs." (p. 10). Gonzalez actually said, "...ending the war on drugs."

• On page 14 in our last issue, we mistakenly referred to Democratic Presidential candidate Al Gore as "Sen. Al Gore," and not by his current title of Vice President.

These are Words

"Hey everybody, we're all gonna get laid!"
—Rodney Dangerfield as Al Czervik in *Caddyshack*.

This movie quote might or might not be entirely true for most of you. It might have even bothered some of you. But I'll bet it took your mind off finals for a sec. I hope it did.

Words can hurt. But thank the good Lord that we live in a society where we are entrusted with the privilege and responsibility words entail and may write words that both enlighten and even enrage our-



Eddie Westfield

Founding Editor

selves at times.

As lawyers in training we are taught that words are our tools. They are the sum of our achievement. Our character depends on them.

For this, we must not be afraid of words. It is true that the pen is mightier than the sword. Nevertheless, it is also the strongest of shields.

Anyway, don't worry about this now. Let's get through this semester so we can all have a little time to relax.

Don't stress out and God bless us, everyone.



... for the rest of us!

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The L is the voice of the New York Law School community. We keep the community informed of relevant school news and events and provide a forum for students, alumni, faculty, staff and other members of the NYLS community to express their views and opinions. **The L** also features content dealing with legal issues and other topics of interest to members of the NYLS community.

The L is independently published by its student members and is released every 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.

Advertising rates are available upon request. Subscriptions are available at a rate of \$12 per year.

All submissions should be on disk with a hard copy attached and either mailed or placed in our submissions' box in front of our office, room L2 in the lower level of the NYLS student center. Submissions may also be emailed to L@nyls.edu.

All submissions are due by 5 pm on the Thursday two weeks prior to the release date. Please include your name, telephone number, and email address with your submission.

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features

The L's 3 Month Plan Towards Finals Success

Part III: The Home Stretch

Congratulations, you have made it to the home stretch. If you have not been following this column for the past two months, there is still much you can do.

We hope by now that you have completed your written outline, which includes your class notes, problems and answers completed in class, cases, statutes, and any other supplemental materials.

Final Preparations

If you have not created an outline, we suggest you begin typing one now!!!!

Obtain contact information of your classmates. When classes end and reading and review period begins, people tend not be in contact with each other. It is therefore, vital, that you get the names and contact information of classmates you are friendly with so that you may contact them if you have any questions. Make sure you have your professors' contact information handy too in event you have to contact him/her with last minute questions.

Get copies of old exams. You can obtain your professor's old exams on the NYLS's Intranet site, as well as in the library. Answers to the exams, if supplied by your professor, are available in the library and on the Intranet site. Take the exam under simulated test conditions. If the professor is willing to meet with you this late in the semester try to get their feedback on trouble areas.

Obtain other study aids, if necessary. These include commercial outlines and flash cards. You can buy these in the bookstore in the basement. The library also has an abundant resources. Speak with the Librarians.

To study with your peers or not? This is a very touchy issue. I will give you the typical law school response: *It depends.*

It depends mostly on your study habits. Some people swear by study groups during finals; others like to be on their own. If you plan to join a group during finals it is very important to be familiar with the materials before meeting with the group. At this point in the semester, no one wants to waste their precious final study time. Therefore, to get the most out of your group experience, be prepared with your questions. If anything, one of the most beneficial things you can do for yourself in a group setting is to go over old exams.

The exam review session. Whatever you do, DO NOT MISS the review session. Professors usually review past exams and

respond to questions then. As tired as you may be during finals, do not miss the review. Also, sit through the *entire* review session. Many times, students walk out during question and answer time. Sometimes, professors give extremely insightful exam information just then. If you walk out, you may miss out.

Stumped by questions you don't know the answer to? Some professors do not permit students to contact them with questions after a certain date. It seems that cut off date for many professors is usually after the Exam Review Session. Others, however, may permit you to contact them up until the day of the final exam. If the latter is available, contact your professors in person, call or e-mail with your questions immediately. If you can no longer contact the professor, contact your one of your classmates.

Coping with Stress

Your stress level during finals will more than likely be high. Some of your peers may start acting weird during this time as well. Don't take anything personally that occurs during finals since people cope with stress in different ways.

In coping with stress, you may want to consider the following:

Focus on what you are doing. Don't focus on what everyone else is doing. Just keep pace with what you are doing and what you can accomplish.

Don't procrastinate. Sometimes, it is difficult to get into the study mode. Students have often mentioned that during finals, they all of sudden start focusing on other things such as house work, laundry and personal problems, instead of just sitting down to study. If you feel that you are doing this, *stop it* and *begin studying already*. Your stress level will reduce once you start the process of organizing your materials and studying, instead of just thinking about studying.

Strategy study schedule. To get a handle on stress, write out a study schedule for the weeks prior and during finals. For example, if you have a whole day open write out what you are going to do, or your objectives, during those hours. Thereafter, stick strictly to that schedule. In the morning you may write in between the hours of 8-1 pm, study first half of outline, review all problems and answers for a certain subject. In the afternoon, you may write down review second half of out-

line, review problems and take a simulated test. Check off each goal after you have concluded it. You will feel better when see all of the progress you have made and that you are accomplishing your goals.

Sleeping problems. Go to bed each night *at the same time*. Do not drink a large amount of caffeine at night as you will not be able to fall asleep easily.

Eat healthy foods. You will more than likely feel better if you eat better. Remember, they taught you all about this in kindergarten. Many of us, however, were snoozing during this lesson. Large high fat meals (such as fast food) will make you tired and sleepy. Eating small meals periodically, including your fruits, veggies, and grains, will give you energy and will not slow you down.

Stretch out and take periodic walks: It is quite possible that during finals you could be studying 12-16 hours a day. Sitting for prolonged periods of time may lead to leg, back and neck pain. If you do not currently exercise, you may want to consider light stretching and period power walks in order to get fresh air. As an alternate, you may also want to consider turning your radio on and dancing around your room a bit. You will be surprised how invigorating taking a half an hour mental and physical exercise break feels.

All nighters: I know you may be tempted to pull in all nighter, however, please consider this carefully before you do this. If you stay up all night studying, you may oversleep or be overtired when taking the exam. Getting adequate sleep the night before is therefore extremely important.

Taking Your Exam

Final papers. Most final papers must be handed in by a certain date and time to the Registrar. The registrar will stamp your paper to record that it was handed in on time. If you are in a paper class, make sure you are aware of the *time and date* when your paper is due.

Closed book exams. There is no doubt that taking a closed book exam is possibly more stressful than an open book exam for some. One way to reduce the stress here is to get an idea of how the exam will be set up. Obviously, look at past final exams. Next, ask your professor if relevant statutes will be handed out with the exam or if you will just need to know the general concepts.

Exam Tips

1. Upon receiving your exam, read your exam slowly. Read word for word.
2. Consider making a brief outline of your thoughts before you start writing so that your answers are well organized.
3. Identify all of the individuals within the fact pattern. For example, on a contracts exam, is the person in the fact pattern the buyer or the seller? Who is the plaintiff? Defendant? Read slowly to identify who is who.
4. Pay attention to dates. Write out timelines and diagrams to understand the events in chronological order.
5. Focus on *the call* of the fact pattern or what the professor is asking you to do. Are you asked to be the judge and write an opinion on a specific issue? Are you an associate asked to write a legal memo? Your goal here is to make sure you answer *the particular questions asked of you* using the case law and statutes you have learned in class.
6. Remember, IRAC (Issues, Rules, Application, Conclusion.) Do not just give conclusions – provide solid legal reasoning for your answers.
7. Don't add in facts or assume anything if the professor has told you not to.
8. Note, if the professor has requested that you write out your answers in a certain format, do that!
9. Time—if you have extra time during the exam, review your paper for errors before handing in. If your other classmates are handing in the exam early on, do not fret. Again, do not focus on what others are doing. To ensure your own success, conclude at your own pace and keep focused.
10. Believe it or not, enjoy the experience. You have worked hard for it!

We hope that our fellow students have benefited from reading this 3 part series column. Upon conclusion of finals, we would greatly appreciate your feedback if these tips were helpful or not.

Write us at L@nyls.edu. Good luck!

STUDY HARD!!

The Sinkhole

To Sip the Devil's Nectar

Louis J. Russo III
Managing Editor

Recently, an evening student informed me of an interesting policy that the school employs. The New York Law School Drug and Alcohol policy states, "[T]he use of alcohol will be permitted on New York Law School premises or at official Law School functions only in accordance with the following guidelines... 3. The Office of Student Life must be informed when alcohol will be served at a student-sponsored event. 4... The student(s) responsible for the event must inform the Office of Student Life of the number of guests expected and the amount of alcohol to be purchased. The Office of Student Life reserves the right to limit the amount of alcohol purchased for

an event. According to the wording of the policy it appears that you only need to inform the school that you are having alcohol. Nowhere in the policy does it state the school reserves the right to deny requests for alcohol at an event.

So tell me then why this particular student was denied alcohol at an event solely because he was a night student planning an event designed to attract fellow night students? After requesting permission to have alcohol at the event, this student was asked which organization he represented and what time the event would be scheduled for. After informing the representative from Office of Student Life that he was from Shield and Gavel and was having the event from 5pm to 6pm, he was informed rather quickly that he would probably be denied permis-

sion. Upon inquiring why there would be a denial, he was informed that the school tends to deny alcohol permits when they feel the students attending may attend classes intoxicated. After speaking with Office of Student Life, I confirmed that this is the School's general policy. Purportedly, the school has had problems when they allowed alcohol before evening classes.

At first glance I thought this wasn't so bad. I mean really, should students be attending classes after having a few drinks? But what is the night division representative supposed to do? Maybe they should have the event at noon so that evening division students have to use their yearly vacation to attend an event. Then again, if the event is held at noon evening students should still be barred be-

cause if they drink too much they will be unable to attend their evening lectures. It looks as though the only solution for the evening division is to have all of their events alcohol free or after 9pm on the weekdays.

So I guess then earlier this year when they had the Public Interest Coalition event from 6p.m. to 9p.m. only day students were supposed to attend? That seems strange because I received an invite and I am sure many other night students did also. In fact, many evening students who are friends of mine attended this event and drank to their hearts content. Did the sponsors who organized this event check if any student invited to this event had class that night? Did they make sure that attending evening students were not drinking alcohol prior to classes?

I highly doubt that this was even considered by the sponsors or Student Life. Once again, we see a vague policy with good intentions administered unfairly and at the whim of the administration.

Night students, as a whole, tend to be older, more mature and more concerned about the consequences of their actions. How many night students would actually drink to a point of inebriation when they know they have to attend classes? Remember, most of the evening students have careers already and want to be in law school. I highly doubt that they would jeopardize all their hard work and future career advancement for a few sips of the "Devil's nectar".

L

From all of us at the L, Happy Holidays.

Colombia Up in Arms

Korea? Check! Vietnam? Check! Colombia? Check? Are we on the brink of yet another American invasion? Uncle Sam says no, but many commentators speculate that the U.S. government is edging closer toward breaking yet another promise: "Colombia won't be another Vietnam." Others, however, believe Colombia is in serious need of American intervention before things get any worse.

On August 30th, President Clinton announced a new phase in the ongoing "war on drugs." It's called the Colombia Plan and it's supposed to help save Colombia's democracy. However, words like "aid" and "democracy" gloss over the fact that this new plan may do more harm than good.

Before we can talk about this plan, we need to have a little background on this South American region. Colombia is a beautiful land covered with rolling mountains and majestic rainforests. The beaches are filled with vendors selling freshly caught Mojarra. It is rich with emeralds, coffee, oil, culture and cumbia (a traditional Colombian dance). Unfortunately, it is also a country immersed in corruption and plagued with drug cartels.

Most citizens struggle just to put food

on the table. Amongst these people are the peasant coca farmers. These farmers usually have no other choice but to grow coca or they'll starve. Growing legal crops will barely support the average farmer and his family, but coca easier to grow and more profitable.

To make matters worse, Colombia doesn't benefit from free trade.

It's easier for some Colombians to export drugs than it is to export legal crops. Secondly, unlike the US and Europe, farmers do not receive government subsidies to keep them from going out of business. So what are the peasant farmers to do? They must grow whatever is going to ensure their survival. All they know is that they need to feed their families and if it means growing a leaf called "coca," then that is what they're going to do.

Enter the Colombia Plan. Essentially, the Plan will provide aid to Colombia. But exactly what kind of aid will be given? Will it rescue these farmers from Colombia's corrupt practices? Will it lead to free trade and alternative crop production?

Well, \$13 Million will be used towards judicial reform and approximately \$150 Million will help implement Colombia's economic development. However, al-

most \$700 Million of the aid will finance the Colombian Army and Police Force with weapons and helicopters.

The fact is that the violence in Colombia is climbing to heights never seen before. Their military is practically powerless against guerilla forces, which control 25% of the countryside. The situation in Colombia is simply out of control.

Five Hundred U. S. military personnel are training the Colombian army on how to regain that control. Once everyone is up to speed with their deadly machinery, the plan calls for the eradication of over 90% of coca growing farmlands. That's right, 90% percent of Colombia's coca farmlands wiped out, and soldiers up to their armpits in weapons for the bargain price of \$860 Million.

There is a problem, however, that is usually attached to these types of tactics. They have the tendency to create a backlash that substantially affects bordering countries. For example, 5 years ago, a similar plan in Bolivia failed miserably. After Bolivia implemented a US funded coca-eradication plan, Colombia's coca production more than doubled. The plan was also a disaster for Bolivia since wiping out their coca production, wiped out most of their economy. Neighboring South American countries fear that the Colombia Plan will have a similar effect and spread, not only

coca production, but the violence that usually follows it, into their countries.

The problem is not only with the coca growers or even so much with the guerilla forces, it's the fact that there's a demand for drugs, an insatiable demand all over the world, including this country. As long as there is a demand, there will always be another "supplier." There will always be another place coca leaves can call "home."

The last thing Colombians need is more suffering. Instead, they need to shed the stigma of being the drug cartel capital of the world. They need constructive alternatives. First, Colombia needs to get rid of the guerillas. Second, they need to participate and benefit from free trade. Third, once liberated from guerilla control, farmers need to benefit from government subsidies. These subsidies will allow them to cultivate agriculture that will feed their country, instead of contribute to the corrupt practices of guerilla forces.

If the Colombia Plan is going to be effective, more funding needs to be directed towards the country's economic development, instead of such a disproportionate amount of it aimed at arms. If the U.S. wants to help save Colombia's democracy, then they need to give the Colombian people "real" alternatives.

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Ninowtzka
Mier

arts & entertainment

Liquid Bar Review

"Cause I'm a Cowboy, Baby!"

A look into the NYC Cowboy/Biker bar scene

Edward J. Maggio

In this city of sports bars and elegant yuppie hangouts, a growing bar scene has developed in Manhattan as a sort of counter-culture to our familiar surroundings.

With movies like "Coyote Ugly," and more city dwellers becoming adventurous and daring, the cowboy/biker bar scene has grown quite popular. Where else can people in suits mingle and chat with residents known as "Snake" and "Weasel" to their friends. Like Wild West Saloons, the crowds are definitely wild. The untamed female bartenders are outgoing, full of tricks, quick witted, and the experience is definitely memorable. Here is a quick guide to some of the crowd gathering haunts.

Hogs and Heifers, 13th Street 10th Avenue

This is the landmark institution that pretty much started the whole scene. In the heart of the Meat Packing district, this little drinking establishment draws regulars, celebrities like Julia Roberts, Bon Jovi, or Paul McCartney, and a line of people around the corner who want to get inside and take a peek. And what a peek they will get on a Friday or Saturday night. A crowded pickup scene with country and hard rock music playing is the first thing that hits you. This is followed by the image of girls dancing on the bar throwing bras. The wild lady bartenders shout with a megaphone various hilarious remarks for all to hear, "Hey you at the end of the bar, if you want to take home that girl you are talking to, you better bring your stingy ass up here and buy her a #@%&*! drink." The megaphone yelling and the crowd laughing at you are nothing compared to such daring tricks you will witness. The wild employees do crazy dance numbers on the bar, lighting the bar on fire with 151, and breathing fire. The crowd is filled with people in blazers or biker jackets, but everyone is there for a good time and no trouble, though they might ask you to take off your tie. **Hogs and Heifers II**, is the sister bar on the Upper East Side at 96th and 1st Avenue. It is not as wild or crazy as the main bar in the meat packing district, but this bar features live music and local bands, and the bartenders are just

as friendly, outgoing, full of bar tricks and drinking with the customers. This is a place to visit when you want to have a great time listening to good music, while being in a sizable crowd that wants to have fun. No matter which one you visit; both offer a wild and exciting time for your drink time merriment.

Red Rock West 17th Street and 10 Avenue

A recent addition to the drinking scene in the meatpacking district, this is probably the wildest of all the cowboy bars in the city. Even in the early afternoons this saloon is packed with people. It seems kind of an unfriendly of place at first. It is up to you to make friends quickly, which isn't a hard task here. In addition to girls dancing on the bar, the wild lady bartenders do some freaky dances, pour liquor down patrons throats, and some very erotic fooling around for all to see. Asking for more ice in your mixed drink or a glass of water might result in the bartender pouring ice down her shirt first, before putting it in your glass. Country, rock, and 80s music is blasted out, and the bartenders pass out hats and whigs for patrons to wear, and encourage sing alongs with the music. If you go on Friday evenings, you'll see Tracy, voted on many of the NYC bar sites as the best bartender in the city, and definitely one of the wildest and cutest cowgirls you'll ever meet. You never know what those crazy ladies are going to do next. I watched as one of the bartenders grabbed an American flag, and did a dance routine to Born in the USA on the bar. It made me feel proud to be an American. If you want a wild evening, stop on by. Though if you wear a tie to this place, they'll probably cut it off.....No joke.

Coyote Ugly Btm. East 7th and 8th on 1st Avenue.

First off, this place may have the name of the recent cowboy bar movie, but don't expect to see walk in and see Tyra Banks and a flaming bar. This is more a laid back East Village dive, with the occasional bartender on the bar encouraging some noise. The ventilation isn't very good, but after a couple of drinks it gets kind of cozy. The locals can be very friendly, Many

a night I ended up dancing with some lovely ladies to the music and had a good time. Lately due to the movie hype, the barstaff has been catering to the tourists and this place goes nuts on weekends. My friends didn't seem to mind, especially after they were up on the bar dancing. Drinks are poured strong at this institution, especially anything with Jack Daniels as an ingredient. Unlike the other cowboy bars, they do have drink specials, and 2 for 1 happy hour during the week, making it the cheapest cowboy bar to drink at. This is one of those places that you will ever love, or want to leave quickly. Either way, it is worth visiting if you are in the neighborhood.

The Village Idiot 14th Street and 8th Avenue

I mention this place because it is in the meatpacking district near Red Rock

West and Hogs and Heifers, but is more of a NYU college bar. It is a decent place to get cheap beer and drinks, or just a place to gather with some drinking buddies. The lady bartenders are not as dynamic as you might expect, and the bathrooms are kind of scary. But if you are like me, give me cheap beer and I am a happy person.

I know most people are already scared of the bar descriptions I have just mentioned. My suggestion is that instead of going to someplace trendy or mentioned in the Zagat survey, be daring and try something new. Hey you never know, some biker girl/gal might take you home on the back of a loud Harley.

Well that's it for me. Any comments, suggestions, requests, send the to L@nyls.edu. Till then enjoy life and drink when you can.

L

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The Movie Maven Reviews

The Holiday Picks

Hey NYLS! It's the Movie Maven back again. The holiday movie season is fast approaching, and it's my mission in life to keep you informed of what's worth your hard earned \$9.50 (we are all poor law students, after all!). With that in mind, here are some flicks worth (or not worth) checking out....



Jenna Anderson

The Movie Maven

hilarious scene with Lucy Liu posing as a dominatrix/corporate efficiency expert). My advice: do not be swayed by the awful trailers of this movie – definitely

check this flick out!

MEET THE PARENTS

Starring Robert DeNiro and Ben Stiller

Directed by Jay Roach

Dreamworks SKG

CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Starring Drew Barrymore, Cameron Diaz and Lucy Liu

Directed by McG

Columbia Pictures

If you've seen the ridiculously cheesy trailers for this movie, you probably will go into this movie with the same pessimistic attitude that I did. However, you are in for a big surprise: this movie is actually pretty fun! The film brings a 90's spin on the hit 70's TV show, with Drew Barrymore, Cameron Diaz and Lucy Liu filling the shoes of Farrah Fawcett, Kate Jackson and Jaclyn Smith. The plot is simple (software theft), the action huge (most of it ripped off from "The Matrix"), and the jiggle-factor high. But you cannot help liking this campy, fun-filled, action-packed romp (look for a

Ben Stiller and Robert DeNiro star in this farcical comedy about a man desperately trying to get in his girlfriend's parent's good graces – but Murphy's Law takes over and everything goes wrong. With all the hype surrounding this movie, I was expecting a lot of laughs – but was sorely disappointed. The jokes were flat, the physical comedy predictable, and the performances stale. I will admit that there were a few chuckles here and there, but they're all in the trailer – so if you've seen the trailer, you've seen all the laughs this movie has to offer. As a theatre major at University of Southern California my acting teachers stressed the cardinal rule of doing comedy: don't try to be funny. And this is the main

Continued on page 11

New Copyright Book Arrives

Professor Samuels chronicles copyright and technology revolutions throughout time.

Susan L. Harper

Finally, a lively book on copyright has arrived that both the layperson and those involved in the legal field can read with ease, enjoy and learn a great deal from.

The Illustrated Story of Copyright by NYLS Professor and copyright expert Edward Samuels is an upbeat first of its kind illustrated account of the history of copyright law. Professor Samuels debunks the myth that with the rise of the Internet, copyright, as we know it, is dead. Instead, he takes you on an amazing and engaging two-century journey of the evolution of copyright and explains in easy to understand language how copyright has and continues to respond to emerging technologies.

Key industries highlighted in order to illustrate this point include the industries of publishing and photocopying, music, sound recording and radio, theater and dance, fine arts and photography, movies and television, computers and software, telecommunications and cable, as well as the Internet.

The book is supplemented with over 200 historic and contemporary photographs from some of copyright's most famous cases, along with the infringing works, making it more interesting for readers to determine for themselves the copyright challenges faced within a particular case.

Some of the fun photos to look out for include: Sid & Marty Krofts's Pufnstuf and McDonald's Mayor McCheese; Andy Leibovitz's famous *Vanity Fair* cover photo of a pregnant Demi Moore along with photos of a pregnant Bruce Willis and a pregnant Leslie Neilson; Rodin's *Hand of*

God sculpture and replicas; Victor Decosta and CBS's *Paladin* series character; and the many album covers of Beatle rip-off artists.

The latter part of the book sheds light on the tenuous history of US international copyright protection. Historic examples include the incredible plight of Gilbert & Sullivan and their clever attempts to protect their operas within the US, Charles Dickens's famous Boston speech regarding the United States' non-recognition of foreign copyright and a me-

morial signed by famous American authors urging the passage of international copyright law.

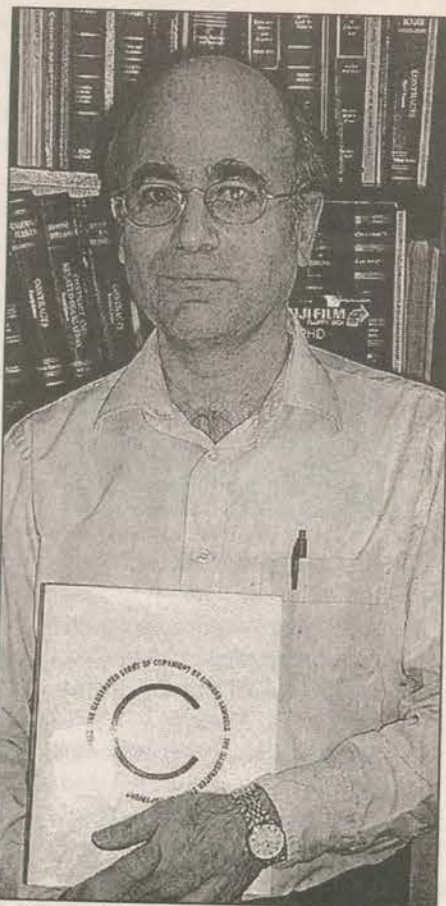
Of course, *The Illustrated Story of Copyright* explains the mechanics and legal principles of copyright. However, unlike most copyright books—where the law is the sole focal point—Professor Samuels touches upon this sometimes dry and difficult-to-understand area and presents it in an engaging, non-confusing manner.

Handy cross-references to important subject matter, such as the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, are also provided at the bottom of the book's pages to whisk the reader to other book sections dealing with the same subject matter.

For those interested in learning about how copyright has continually responded to technological revolutions and the challenges of protection faced by some of the world's greatest creators, *The Illustrated Story of Copyright* is a must read!

For more information visit www.nyls.edu/samuels/copyright.

Professors: Share with us your upcoming publication! Contact us at L@nyls.edu.



Professor Edward Samuels

Cyberscope

Has Napster signed its death certificate?

Christopher Ross

I'm sure by this point you have all heard of Napster.

Napster signed an agreement with Bertelsmann, Inc., which owns the BMG record label on October 31. The word on the street is that as a result of this agreement, Napster will begin charging users a membership fee. That will be the beginning of the end of Napster.

For Napster, it is a catch twenty-two situation.

On one hand, Napster offers a free service to a large group of users that simply trade songs of their favorite bands. Fans of the Grateful Dead have been doing this for years. The trading of recordings of performances helped catapult the Dead to success. Similarly, the free exchange of songs by users of Napster is what has made its site so popular.

However, Napster may now have to charge their users a fee to placate record companies. Napster needs to foster relationships with the record companies to avoid litigation and bankruptcy.

The artists are therefore the wild card here. Most artists, as of right now, are siding with the record labels. The bands, such as Metallica, are screaming about money that is being taken out of the pockets when users utilize services like Napster. They claim Napster is aiding people in trading these non-licensed copies of their copyrighted material and therefore aiding in the infringement of their intellectual property.

Guys, open up your eyes a little. Ask a Grateful Dead fan when was the last time he or she paid for a bootleg copy of a Dead show and how many bootlegs do these fans own? Chances are they have never paid for any of their numerous bootlegs. Unless of course, you count the \$2.99 they paid for each of the blank tapes.

The Grateful Dead are considered one of the most successful bands that have ever toured and still have one of the most devoted fan bases in music. Further many bands make the bulk of their money through concert tours and a minimal through record sales. Ex-

posure of bands through fans trading and sharing non-label copies of songs have therefore helped in the success of such groups rather than hurt them.

The Grateful Dead, have never forfeited their intellectual rights, they simply have chosen to not enforce their exclusive rights to some of their performances.

For those that have not heard of Napster, they can be found on the Internet at www.napster.com with any Internet browser. They offer a venue for Internet users to trade MP3 files.

Before one can actually trade files in the Napster community, you must download Napster's proprietary software onto your PC. This process on an average PC with a 56K modem takes about 45-60 minutes for a technically savvy individual and about 60-90 minutes for an inexperienced user. Once you have installed their software you're your computer you may log on and in the simplest terms, trade MP3 files with anyone who has listed their MP3s with Napster.

It is this point in the process that the record companies have become concerned with. The MP3 files which Napster users trade are more often than not, a non-licensed copy of the song, which the recording labels own a copyright interest in and are looking to protect.

The record labels earn their monies from the sale of records to fans. These fans are the same users that make up the Napster community. The record labels are better off in the long run with Napster.

In order to be successful at making money from Napster the artist, record labels and Napster should keep in mind that this is an Internet business and not a traditional medium. All of these parties, including Napster, are forgetting, that the most successful businesses on the web, outside of pornography are free: Internet portal (Yahoo!), News (abcnews.com), Discounted airline tickets (priceline.com).

In this rapidly evolving Internet age, all of these parties must choose carefully who to pick

fighters with and with whom to make alliances. I'm not suggesting that record labels or artists should forfeit their copyrights to their creative products, especially if it seriously injures their means of income.

I'm all for supporting the arts in any form. However I am suggesting that charging a membership fee will destroy Napster and the clout they have established with their user base. Those same users are the artist's fans.

Since Napster offers access to a tremendous audience that is already interested in the product it would be wiser to choose a resolution which would allow record companies and artists to profit from these fans in a manner outside of the traditional monetary agreement.

There has to be arrangement that has the interest of all parties involved here. Think out of the box!

Is this worth a fight for the artist? Record label? Napster? What will constitute winning for each? E-mail us at L@nyls.edu with your thoughts.

Word on Worth Street

Compiled by Yadhira Gonzalez

What Good Luck Charm Do You Bring to a Final Exam?



Karen O'Reilly, 2L

"I bring a crucifix, a scaplar, crucifix earrings, and crucifix necklace...and a rosary...I also dress all in black. Why? Because I am highly nervous, and once you have studied and there is nothing else—then I bring a little extra help."



Jean Bliss, 1L

"I bring a picture of my nephew Ben because he makes me happy and clam. He is so peaceful and reminds me to be the same—peaceful and calm."



Jenna Conti, 2L

"I bring my dad's wedding ring... because he is my guardian angel."



Angelos Doukas, 2L

"I bring handcuffs... I always wear my favorite necklace and I bring my favorite handkerchief... because I had a very superstitious childhood."

student life

Students and Faculty Team Up to Help NYLS

Elizabeth Valandingham

The Student Affairs Committee addresses all aspects of student life at NYLS, including but not limited to the Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP), Dean's list and graduation awards, the student survey, work study, SBA funding and fund distribution, faculty-student interaction and faculty involvement in the admissions recruitment process. The committee is comprised of faculty, administrators, deans and students. Mike Bigelow, the SBA day vice-president, and I, Elizabeth Valandingham, are the student representatives.

One of the committee's primary goals is to improve the quality of applicants to NYLS by increased advertising and public exposure of NYLS's faculty and programs. Unfortunately, many people confuse NYLS with NYU Law School or are unaware that NYLS even exists. In an effort to reach out to prospective applicants, the Student Affairs Committee, along with Admissions, hosted an event where under-graduate students were invited to attend a lecture and given the opportunity to ask questions and receive admissions materials for NYLS.

Professor Robert Blecker visited Montclair State University, located in Up-

per Montclair, NJ, and offered a stimulating interactive lecture on the death penalty, entitled "Who Deserves to Die, and Why!" After informing students that they shouldn't hold his views as generally representative of the NYLS faculty, Professor Blecker urged the death penalty as a retributivist—for all but only those who deserve it. He gave a brief history of capital punishment from the Old Testament to today, and spoke on a variety of death penalty related topics including his recent experience on death row at Florida State Prison, using convicted killers to discover the "worst of the worst," racism, punishment and current events.

The student turnout was impressive and their participation spirited and insightful. At the conclusion of the lecture, I distributed admission packets and answered questions about classes, programs, location, job placement and life in general at NYLS. The Chair of the Legal Department, a NYLS Alumna, Norma Connolly, has requested that NYLS continue to visit Montclair State University.

I hope this experience becomes a model, and would urge other NYLS students who wish to connect NYLS to their undergraduate institutions to contact me at evalandingham.s@nyls.edu. **L**



Prof. Blecker



The Italian American Law Students Association

Seeking Italians and Italians-at-Heart

Jennifer Gebbia

Ciao Love! This was how my homeroom teacher, Vinceza Villano, greeted me every morning at 7:30 a.m.. Mrs. Villano also served as my Italian teacher and mentor. High School, to me, was not only the place where I learned about history and math, but it was also the place I learned about life, love and heritage.

I was fortunate enough to have a school that offered Italian as a second language. From the first day of school, until the day I graduated, Italian was a big part of my life. Coming from an Italian family made my passion for learning about my heritage that much stronger. Mrs. Villano not only taught us the Italian language, but she also taught us about the culture, the arts, the heritage, and tradition as if we were studying in the College of Urbino.

Unfortunately, my parents do not speak the language and after high school I forgot almost every Italian word I learned. However, the passion for Italy has never left me. Vivid memories of Mrs. Villano taking us on trips to the opera, watching Cinema Paradiso, folk dancing in the Columbus Day parades, and participating in October's Italian Heritage week are lasting impressions. Moreover, when I attended college, this passion stayed with me and I took such classes as Italian literature, writing and film.

But in Law School? What sort of Italian related activities could I partake in? I walked around the School's Club Fair with my good friend Francis Uzzi, and to our sur-

prise, we spotted the Italian American Law Students Association. (Up until this point I thought Frank and I were the only Italians in the school!)

I went home and told my parents that I couldn't wait for our first meeting. Would we discuss law related items affecting Italians? Would it be a social group? I was not sure of what to expect.

My appetite was satisfied when we went to the highly anticipated social meeting which consisted of 30 members and the board. This year the club's numbers have grown to 50. The club is open to anyone who would like to join—*Italian and those who are Italian at heart*.

Some of the programs the Italian-American Law Student Association has participated in, include, a Columbian lawyer networking dinner, events at the Italian Consulate, a bake sale the only way Italians know how—with real food. We have also hosted dinners where prominent Italian Judges and District Attorneys speak to us about their lives, professions, and about being Italian. I don't think I would have survived my first year without the special friendships I made through this club.

On behalf of our Board comprised of Adrienne Guinta (President), Francis Uzzi (VP), myself, Jennifer Gebbia (Secretary) and Ed Maggio (Treasurer) we invite you to join our group and make new friends. We meet most Thursdays at 1:00 pm and all our events open to members of the NYLS community. For more information, please write to Jens2place@aol.com. **L**

Good Luck!

Movie Maven

Continued from page 9

problem with this movie—everyone is trying too hard to be funny, and it comes off forced and awkward. A good rental, but don't waste the \$9.50.

REMEMBER THE TITANS

Starring Denzel Washington
Directed by Boaz Yakin
Walt Disney Pictures

Denzel Washington stars as a high school football coach in the midst of racially turbulent times who fights to bring his integrated football team together to win a cham-

pionship. This movie comes from Disney, so a fair amount of schmaltz and cheese is to be expected, but it's a really heartwarming story and a great family flick. I'm a total sucker for sports movies, and there is a lot of laughs, tears and gridiron action in this film—which makes it a movie for everybody. The whole movie tugs at your heartstrings and leaves you with a warm, fuzzy feeling—look for a great locker-room scene where all the players sing along to "Ain't No Mountain High Enough"—and I highly recommend checking this one out.

Till next time, film fans.....happy moviegoing!! **L**



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