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A Time to Finally Relax

Career Services Under Fire
Reaches out to aggrieved students
Louis J. Russo III

In an effort to provide graduating students with the best opportunity for finding employment, the Office of Career Services emailed the entire student body on Dec. 5 requesting all graduating seniors to provide them with 50 resumes by January 11, 2001, two hours after being contacted by the L.

Several journal students expressed their concerns with this practice, as well. One student felt that this is an unfair practice and that historically Career Services caters more toward Law Review Students. Last year, the students stated he not a top ten student and that he was actually discouraged from applying for a high-level clerkship position. After being told he would never receive an interview, he not only received an interview but also the job!

So, is the Office of Career Services providing the best opportunities to all the students who walk through the office, or are they holding back the more desirable jobs for the more desirable student?

Some students have realized this stark reality and found a back door to enter top firms and in order to possibly get an interview or top ten percent GPA's should apply.

Some students have realized this stark reality and found a back door to enter top firms and in order to possibly get an interview or top ten percent GPA's should apply.

For career strategies, see page 3.

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**State Bar Pass Rates High**

**Ninowtzka Mier**

New York State experienced the highest bar passage rate since 1997, reports the New York State Board of Law Examiners. On November 21, 2001, the Board announced on law.com that 6,475 out of 9,194 applicants who took the July Bar Exam passed.

However, the Board revised and raised the passage rate from 6,475 to 6,644 after an error was discovered in computing scores. Yet to be released is the adjusted figure for New York's first time passage rate, which stood at 79.6 percent before the correction, a level not seen in four years. Professor Joseph Marino stated a couple of reasons for such high numbers.

"It is not a science," Marino explained. "Essay scoring involves a discretionary process when rewarding points." He added that although an applicant needs a score of 660 to pass the exam. Any score between 650-669 is automatically in the appeals range.

**Special Town Meeting with Dean**

**Kelli Brownewell**

On Tuesday, November 9, 2001, Dean Richard Matasar held his monthly Town Meeting. At these meetings, the Dean asks students to raise any issues, questions, comments, or concerns they want to discuss. Issues ranged from transportation difficulties during finals to the air quality of the school (which, by the way, is still safe). At this meeting, the students seemed to focus their questions and comments on the pass/fail option, the dissolution of first year small sections, and the implementation of an Individual Career Services Plan for all students.

The pass/fail option the school is offering students, has been a key topic of discussion. The Dean said that the pass/fail option could be exercised after final grades are in. Then, after seeing their grades, students can exercise the option for a class they are interested in.

Students also asked whether the school was seriously considering eliminating the first year small sections. Dean Matasar commented that the school is very serious, and that the decision would be an economic one. From this topic, the Dean commented that the school would like to implement an Individual Career Services Plan for all students. He said that the goal of beginning such a program would be to require each student to go through a mandatory continuing education program whereby students attend a certain number of career services and law school programs (i.e., law in TriBeCa series, City Law Breakfasts). Evening students, for instance, would have one big blow out weekend of programs.

Crisis counseling, health insurance, bar exam results, and Student Bar Association issues were also discussed at the meeting. Should you desire a comment or answer to any of these topics or some new ones, stop by the next meeting with the Dean. He takes all questions, comments, and concerns—and there’s free food!

Marino described the process as a form of due process for those who almost or barely passed. The essay portion of the exam is re-evaluated by a grader who didn’t originally grade the essays. These fresh set of eyes score the essay for a second time, and averages both the new and original score together for a final result.

For example, an original score of 657 is a failing score, but it places the applicant in the appeals range. So if the student comes along, re-evaluates the exam and the candidate now gets a new score of 668. If the average of both scores is 660 or more, then the applicant passes. The appeal level also causes a candidate to fail. An original score of 661 is a passing grade, but after a re-grade if the score averages below 660, the candidate now fails.

That’s not what happened. "They didn’t average the grades," said Marino. According to Marino, the Board noticed the oversight after announcing who passed the bar.

"The Board passed anyone who originally failed but now had an average of 660 or more, but the Board did not lower the grades of those who originally had a 660 but after averaging, technically failed," Marino Explained. "They didn’t want to fail them after having made the announcement."

Additionally, 17 more NYLS students moved into the passing category after the Board averaged the scores.

Furthermore, the Board of Law Examiners added a new component to this summer’s exam, the Multistate Performance Test. Marino thought the Board may have been a little lenient in its grading procedures since it was a significant change to the bar.

"They may have been a little cautious in the grading process," Marino said. "They don’t want something new to have a negative impact on the students taking the exam."

As we went to press, NYLS has not released the pass rates for its alumni who sat for the July 2001 New York Bar Exam.

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Student Assaulted**

A 2L female student reported that she was assaulted and verbally harassed in the basement area of the School by a fellow male student. The female student claims she was pushed by the male student, following a dispute over several different issues arising out of shared office space within the basement.

The victim has filed an official complaint report to NYLS’s administration as confirmed by the Office of Student Affairs. In the spring semester, a NYLS committee will convene to review the matter.

**Interested in becoming Santa’s Helper?**

Through the New York Post Office’s Operation Santa Claus you can pick up a letter addressed to Santa and help New York’s neediest. Letters are at the James Farley Building located at Midtown Post Office at 33rd Street and 8th Avenue. Also, check out Undercover Mother, an organization that distributes Letters to Santa received from Operation Santa Claus. www.undercovermother.com.

**New Contact for Intellectually Property Law Students.**

Melvin Simensky, NYLS Visiting Scholar in Intellectual Property Law, is available to meet and work with students interested in IP law. According to NYLS’s Media Center, Mr. Simensky comes to NYLS from private practice with 30 years of litigation and negotiation experience in the IP field. His academic work includes 17 years as an adjunct professor at New York University School of Law where he taught courses on the Intellectual Property aspects of the entertainment business. For more information, or to arrange an appointment with Mr. Simensky, please contact Anna Abrigo in Media Center at ext. 2160.
SBA President: I was Misquoted

Susan L. Harper

SBA President, Edward Maggio, said that his comments in the November 2001 issue of The National Jurist were “misconstrued” by law review members, complaining that he did not make the comments as reported. Law review members, however, acknowledged that Maggio swiftly addressed their complaints by stating in an email, that he was misquoted and that a plan was in the works to contact the publication for a retraction.

However, this never occurred.

The L contacted the author of the article, Christine Willard, a reporter for The National Jurist, on December 3, 2001. When asked if she received any complaints about the article, a shocked and very concerned Willard replied, “This is the first I have heard of it.” Willard stated that no one from the NYLS community either directly or through her editors filed a complaint about the story.

On commenting on the questions raised about the story, Willard said, “I wrote this piece because I thought this was a tribute to how well things went.”

As to negative community feedback on the article, Maggio stated, “Other than the law review people, I haven’t heard a thing. Since then, I have attended at least 20 student meetings, no one has brought it up.”

Altagracia Dilone Levat, associate dean for public affairs, pointed out that since this was quote from Maggio, and not the school, it would have been inappropriate for the School to demand a retraction. “If Ed was misquoted then he has every right to demand a retraction,” stated Levat “A letter to the editor would be appropriate.”

Levat further said that she was in and outside the school that day and that no one heard or experienced any threats towards Arab Americans.

“After the tower collapsed, people were distraught. No one, I am certain, that no one was a target of ethnicity that day. Certainly that day we were all Americans.”

In reference to the anti-bias comments she reported, Willard said, “He had a concern about Arab Americans and that seemed reasonable to me.”

After the L’s phone call, Willard contacted Maggio directly to discuss the matter and according to Maggio, he reviewed his concerns with her. He is currently working on his next steps to handle the matter.

Meanwhile, Levat recognized that many students were upset with the article, because many good things happened that day that were not included in the short piece. Maggio agreed with this sentiment and said that he was especially upset that he acknowledged several other SBA members to the reporter, but they were not included in the article.

Editor’s Note: The L maintains a policy that Student Bar Association officers may not hold comment senior editorial position on our newspaper, due to potential conflicts of interest. Prior to taking office as SBA President, Ed Maggio relinquished his position as the L’s News Editor, which he had held since the fall of 2000. He remains a frequent contributor.

Getting a Job...

Jamie Nobles

There is no question that the economic climate and legal job market bear no resemblance to what the Class of 2002 has expected to face at graduation. When these same students were beginning their first semester just two short years ago, economic indicators and the stock market were climbing to record levels, as were starting salaries and employment figures for law students across the country.

Things have changed dramatically. In the twenty-seven months the students of the Class of 2002 pursued their J.D., the records of the 1990’s gave way to layoffs and a recession. Most students fortunate enough to have held summer, summer internships positions gladly accepted permanent positions. One 3L faced with such a situation said, “I’m hanging on to this job as long as I can.”

Even students who have secured post-graduation employment are worried that their offers might be rescinded -- as many offers have been, as reported by nylawyer.com. One student expressing a common sentiment stated, “I am worried that I may be laid off before I even start.”

Many of these students, however, continue to look for employment.

When the question turns to actually looking for a job, perspectives and approaches vary widely. Most students are actively interviewing and pursuing several options. Other students recognize that the current environment requires a persistent and unique approach.

One 3L displayed this belief stating, “simply sending resumes and cover letters will not do the trick in this economy. I believe that people should be working the phone and knocking down doors. Second and third year students will have to be creative in their searches these next few years. Depending solely on career services simply will not do,” echoed another student.

Lori Freundenderberger, senior director of Career and Student Services, confirmed that the current economic downturn is having an effect on New York Law School students seeking employment. Although the number of firms participating in on-campus interviews this year was average, some newer firms did cancel and preliminary numbers suggest that offers to second-year students for summer associate positions are down slightly.

Freundenderberger indicated that while some corporate firms are hesitant to hire now, there are still many great opportunities available in most government offices and with firms that focus on bankruptcy, immigration, personal injury, and medical
Stand Up and Be Heard!

Since I have been writing for the L, I have always made it clear to anyone I speak with that all information obtained will be kept in confidence.

My sources have always been and will always be confidential. Any student or professor who gave me information about what is or isn't going on in the school has always been promised confidentiality.

My concerns are about opinions. Some students are afraid to come forward and be heard. These individuals are the future of America. Some will be CEO's and possibly lead departments in the law school. Some are even afraid of their future employers reading what they said.

I myself have been one of the most opinionated students at NYLS and I truly believe that the professors, the Dean and the staff, while not always in agreement, appreciate someone willing to voice an opinion. I also feel that most of the staff at NYLS is professional enough to not allow the opinion of a student to cloud their judgment. And if there is one or two who are not, trust me he/she wasn't going to help you anyway. And for the employer who will hold your opinion against you, who the hell would want to work there anyway no matter what the cost. Because of my criticism of the school I have made more friends than enemies. Most of the staff at NYLS appreciates someone who will stand up and be heard. All they ask is that you are fair.

Remember you can please some of the people some of the time but you can't please all of the people all of the time. Stand up and be heard.

GOOD LUCK ON FINALS!

Corrections

In our last issue (Vol. 3, No.1, Oct/Nov. 2001) the L, Kimberly Sparagna's quote in our Word on Worth Street section should have read, "Having worked during the summer at Morgan Stanley, I worked on the 64th Floor. The day it happened, I was on the Brooklyn Queens Expressway and I saw the second plane hit. When the radio said it hit the 60th floor I cried because I thought everyone I knew was dead. I was scared because that day I was on my way to the World Trade Center to speak to someone at Morgan Stanley."

Due to a layout error, Jessica Lupo's quote was inadvertently omitted and was displayed under Ms. Sparagna's photo. Ms. Lupo's quote should have read, "I got to school early that day and was running errands in that area. After the collapse, I began running. When I got to Canal, I noticed people were calm yet dazed. Some people were covered in soot, some were bleeding. The area looked like a war zone. Yet, there were so many people helping (like handing out water) that a different side of NY emerged."

Congratulations to our chief copy editor, Cecilia Blackburn, for winning Runner-Up for the L in the Best Humorous Article category in the 2001 ABA Law Student Division Newspaper Competition for her editorial, "Who Wants to Win a Lawsuit?" (October/November 2000).
Firesfighters Bike Across America

Ninowtznka Mier

"3 NYC firefighters from Engine 33 Ladder 9 are biking 3000 miles across America, and at every stop they are repeating names of friends and coworkers lost in the September 11 terrorist attacks of the World Trade Center Towers," announced the FDNY Thank You America web site, www.fdnythanksamerica.citysearch.com.

Cannondale, one of the country’s largest bicycle manufacturers, created a new series of red, white and blue road cycles for each rider. The new USA color scheme is now a part of its 2002 line, and the company will donate $50.00 from the sale of each stars-and-stripes R700 to the Uniformed Firefighters Association Scholarship Fund.

"As an American bike manufacturer, sponsoring this ride is really a privilege for us," said Cannondale’s Tom Armstrong. "These guys, their stationhouse, and the entire New York City Fire Department have all given so much. It’s very gratifying for us to help out on such a great event."

Since, bicycles don’t usually arrive pre-assembled, Gotham Bikes, the city’s largest Cannondale dealer, built the bicycles and outfitted the firefighters with jerseys, shorts and helmets. "I was glad I could be a part of it," said Ismael Torres, assistant manager at Gotham Bikes.

The pack left Ground Zero on November 11th at 8:48 am, exactly two months after the September 11th WTC tragedy. They are scheduled to arrive in Pasadena, CA in late December 2001.

For more information, visit www.fdnythanksamerica.citysearch.com.

NEVER FORGET!
The Merchant of Church Street

Marcus Allison

If you haven’t had a conversation with him then you are absolutely missing out. For those New York neophytes looking for a bit of grit to yap about, I suggest a visit and a little commerce to our neighborhood street seller I call “Mr. Man at the Corner.” Located along Church Street, directly opposite the Ernst Steifel Reading Room, he is out early in the day and offers to NY pedestrians his wares, including books, CDs, and more.

During my latest visit, what did I see? A small soft-covered copy entitled, Letting Go, Morrie’s Reflections on Living While Dying. It’s a book of aphorisms that author Morrie Schwartz composed while he was dealing with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, better known as Lou Gehrig’s disease.

Two weeks ago a dear friend loaned me a copy of Tuesdays With Morrie, an insightful book about Schwartz, the then-aging Brandies University professor struggling with ALS. The book lays out the facts of life, the need to take one day at a time, and to enjoy our time on this realm. Each night, before going to sleep I will pull it out and read 4 or 5 pages. You know, just to have some salient thought in my brain before falling out.

When I came across Morrie’s book, directly across the street, you can only imagine I was extremely excited. Mr. Man at the Corner had come through with another gem. But then again, because I visit him often, this was no surprise to me. In my first year he had some great cloth art that, in retrospect, I wish I had bought. He didn’t know me then, and when I asked him on two separate occasions what the cost would be he said twenty dollars with a deadpan serious face.

But I have always bought something. Instead of the artwork, I bought an old Seal CD for, and a paperback copy of David Garrow’s Pulitzer Prize-winning Bearing the Cross. My most recent catch including the Morrie Schwartz book was an instrumental Hip-Hop CD that I bought solely for the creative artwork on the cover. Also, I picked up a 1988 copy of the scholarly leftist publication, Monthly Review, which in this particular issue recounts the efforts of some American doctors setting up health care services in then (and now) war torn El Salvador, amidst the terrorist (ah, ‘freedom fighter’) bombings of that socialist run government.

So I went back to him with all the booty in hand and gave him a questioning glance, because there are no set prices here, but Mr. Man on the Corner always seems to give you a price concomitant with your character. “Four dollars,” he said, and I said really, and then he said yeah, four bucks.

Cool. If you may have noticed, there is some construction (or reconstruction) going on across the street, at the corner of Worth and Church Streets. Mr. Man at the Corner used to occupy the little nook. He used to set up his stuff on the windowsill of that building, old books, vintage clothing, old LP’s, used CD’s, and an odd assortment of eclectic technology and pop art.

You still don’t know who I’m talking about? Well, think of being in a classroom in the A building, and in a quiet moment when your professor takes a long breath, in comes a radio blaring some old song.

I remarked to him that he was losing his space as a result of the ongoing construction and he said simply, “Progress.” Yeah, progress. Life goes on.

Bar Prep Online

Christopher Ross

Technology has finally caught up with bar review. As graduation approaches for both December and May graduates, some are asking the question, which bar class are you taking? Bar Bri or Pieper? Did you know that there are others? Micro Mash is one of “those others,” but it is not a traditional bar review class.

Micro Mash is a self-study review that is divided into two sections, multistate and state bar. The Multistate Bar Exam (MBE) review section of the course is a software package that is installed on any computer, including Macintosh. The software allows you to set the schedule, study criteria, and then test you based on those criteria with any number of the 2,200 MBE questions. You don’t have to wait until bar review classes begin to start your review. Once the software is successfully installed on your computer, you can begin your review immediately. After each test and session the software provides you with tools to evaluate your progress or lack of progress.

Part two of the Micro Mash is the state bar review section. This section is available for 22 states including New York. This section includes written materials with the current tested issues specific to your jurisdiction. Your essays are then reviewed by an attorney. Micro Mash’s state review section then takes the grading one step further and offers feedback through its unique “mentoring” feature. This feature allows you to practice and improve your essay writing skills while guided by an attorney mentor. The mentor will hand grade your assignments and give personalized feedback which will help improve your style, sharpen your ability to identify issues, and mold your essays to bar examiners’ expectations.

There are some downsides to the course; it’s not all peaches and cream.

If you are someone who tends to procrastinate or get easily distracted at home, this type of study program may be a disaster waiting to happen. The Micro Mash system lacks the regimented review schedule that Bar Bri or Pieper sets out and reinforces each day in class. However some may find that flexibility in scheduling to be Micro Mash’s biggest asset.

The kicker is the Micro Mash “Pass now, pay later” guarantee. In the unlikely chance you do not pass your Bar Exam(s), you do not pay for the course. Micro Mash does have some simple requirements to ensure that you have in fact completed their course before you qualify for the guarantee, but they are reasonable. Now, wouldn’t it be nice if New York Law School offered the same guarantee for at least some, if not all, of your tuition?

The L would like to thank NYLS for its End-of-the-Semester Holiday Party on December 6. It was a thoughtful gesture. Happy Holidays.

Job

Continued from page 3

malpractice. When interviewing, Freunderberger suggests that students should focus on the skill sets they have to offer their prospective employer and highlight their practical experience.

Freunderberger feels that students need to utilize the services that her office provides, but students also need to create their own opportunities. She stresses the importance of proactive networking through programs offered by Career Services including, mentor matching, alumni events, panel programs, and other activities. Freunderberger suggests to students, “don’t be shy” when speaking about utilizing personal contacts, attending bar association meetings, or even joining a bar committee for purposes of networking.

In the end, everyone seems to agree that although job opportunities are scarce and the environment may be less than desirable right now, students graduating in May can find employment if they are resourceful, creative, and persistent.
Gone Fishing

Herb Moore

With the pressure of approaching exams and depressing commutes to lower Manhattan, fellow third-year Dennis Donovan and I needed to get away. Sure the MPRE was a week away, but the sea was calling.

This was the perfect time of year for a fishing trip. Each fall, as the leaves begin to turn and the temperature begins to drop, some of the best tuna fishing in the world begins to heat up far off the Jersey Shore. Hordes of hard-fighting yellowfin and longfin tuna swim north following the Gulf Stream, foraging for food, such as butterfish, sardines, and squid. The tuna follow tropical eddies that spin off the Gulf Stream.

“The Canyon”, as it is known by fishermen, is about 100 nautical miles east of the central Jersey Coast and sports depths of more than 600 feet. Oceanographers say its structure rivals that of the Grand Canyon. This time of year the Canyon often provides ideal conditions for tuna and as a result, sport fishermen have the opportunity for the catch of a lifetime.

That is exactly what Dennis and I had in mind when we planned a trip aboard the 80-foot charter boat, Deep Adventures III. The trip was scheduled to leave Belmar, NJ on a Friday at 6 P.M. Twenty-four hours at sea! Making the trip in November is also a case of “tuna-on-the-brain!” When I called Captain John Larsen at noon, I heard the two words I was hoping for, “We’re going.”

We left the dock at about 6:30 in the evening under the cover of darkness, and set a course for the Canyon exactly 98 miles east of Shark River Inlet. On our six-hour journey out to sea, the captain pushed the Deep Adventures III through a steady barrage of six-foot high waves. So much water poured over the front of the boat with each wave we hit that it looked like someone was spraying the whole boat with a fire hose.

With all preparations made, the only thing to do was try to reach the fishing grounds at about 1 AM, the crew set the anchor and threw small chunks of butterfish into the water to draw in the tuna. There was not another boat in sight. It was just us, the full moon, the stars, the sea, and—with hope—the tuna!

Sometimes it takes all night to get even one bite. Not this trip. After about an hour of drifting hooked baits back with the chunks, I had the first bite on the boat. The fish took my bait and my line screamed as it unwound. It felt like I had hooked a torpedo! Tuna can swim upwards to 40 MPH and for prey. However, because of the direction of the wind and the current, we could not get our baits out to these feeding tuna. It was driving us crazy!

So, I ran into the cabin and got my secret weapon: a red party balloon. I blew it up, tied it to my line and let the wind take my bait right to the tuna. Twenty minutes later, my back and shoulders ached and my heart was pounding, but I had a beautiful 90-pound yellowfin on the deck! I shouted, “That’s the one I’ve been looking for!”

It was only 7 a.m. but the fish holds were full. We were a tired, yet happy, bunch of guys. The fish were still ready and willing to bite, but when Dennis asked me if the one kid on board was a boy or a girl I knew it was time to head back to land!

As we arrived back at the dock, a large crowd had gathered to see how we did. Dennis summed it up best when he said, “Oh, we took some major scores together.”

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The Movie Maverick Premieres

Cory Garcia

Greetings! Last year's Movie Maven has passed the torch to yours truly, the Movie Maverick. I will be your guide. Ladies and gentlemen, allow your mind to momentarily drift away from the uneasy in the Middle East and the lingering domestic threat of bio-terrorism. Let us escape with the mesmerizing medium of movies. Let us celebrate the fact that we can actually make and watch movies. Here are a few...

SERENDIPITY
Starring John Cusack and Kate Beckinsale
Directed by Peter Chelsom
Miramax

Who doesn't enjoy the eccentric John Cusack? Ten years ago, two individuals who met while shopping, instantly fell for each other then went their separate ways to test the truth of their love. Does their love withstand the test of time? Well, it's worth checking out! Speaking of Love, you may just fall back in love with New York City because it was fabulously displayed throughout this funny romance; A perfect dating movie.

TRAINING DAY
Denzel Washington and Ethan Hawke
Directed by Antoine Fuqua
Warner Brothers

The day in the life of a LAPD rookie police officer (Hawke) receiving some on the job training from a Narcotics supervisor (Washington). On the "Tonight Show with Jay Leno", Denzel said the studio advertised for and employed actual Blood and Crip gang members to capture the reality of South Central Los Angeles. Although it was entertaining and Denzel turned in another Oscar worthy performance, the authenticity of the movie was compromised because they casted Hawke, who looks like a member of NSYNC, to portray a super cop in South Central. Mr. Hawke, stay with your grungy "Reality Bites" type of roles and please stay out of the hood! Despite Justin - oops I meant Hawke, the movie is worth your time.

LIFE AS A HOUSE
Kevin Kline, Hayden Christiansen, and Kristin Scott Thomas
Directed by Irwin Winkler
New Line Productions

In general, I avoid any movie with Kevin Kline. However, this performance of a lifetime forever changed my perception. If your tired of the stereotypical tuff-guy roles, Kline's character is really refreshing. The relationship between Kline, his son, (Christiansen) and his ex-wife, (Thomas) will remind you of the importance of your loved ones. Take your family to see this.

The Lower East Side on Tap

Edward J. Maggio

The holiday season is a time to reminisce, celebrate, and most importantly, put back a few alcoholic beverages with family and friends. What better place to spend the holidays than in the bars on the Lower East Side. A 5-minute subway ride from city hall puts you in a much more vibrant and relaxed neighborhood to spend your nights out:

Max Fish. 178 Ludlow Street bet. Houston and Stanton Streets. A Lower East Side institution, this always eclectic and artistically decorated bar always attracts a decent crowd of laid-back locals and wild partygoers in the early evening hours. Bright and unusual modern art makes for good conversation. The bartenders are not in a rush, but then again neither is the customers. If they're not drinking bottled beer, they're drinking some vodka drink. Albiet tacky, Max Fish is always energetic and comfortable.

Motor City Bar. 127 Ludlow Street bet. Rivington and Delancey Streets. Hello Detroit! This barely lit local joint blasts hard rock and country for its low-key leather-clad clientele. I don't recommend walking into this place in a suit and tie unless you want angry and strange looks from the local male gentries. Then again, these Finnish cowgirl biker fans kissed me on the cheek for violating the dress code. By eleven, the place is packed with still enough room to move and find your own spot. If you're not staring at the car memorabilia, you're staring at the female bartender pouring your very stiff drink. No surprise that the motto of Motor City is "Drink, Rock and Fuck!"

Iggy's Kettle Bar and Lounge. 132 Ludlow Street bet. Rivington and Delancey Streets. The best kept secret in the Lower East Side! This place offers ample space in a candle lit environment. The Lounge's comfy couches and English style booths in provide pockets of relaxation, while up-front, the bar caters to a livelier, fast-paced crowd. Affordable prices and an outgoing staff add to the air of this hybrid of an Irish pub and yuppie lounge. The result: you will always meet friendly people here like it or not.

Lansky Lounge. 104 Norfolk Street at Delancey Street. Classic bars never die. They just get new management and go yuppie. Named for the infamous hit man, this old mafia speakeasy has become in recent years one of the trendiest and sophisticated evening spots south of Houston. Jazz and upbeat lounge music fills the air in this large and expensively decorated establishment. The dress code is simple: Look sharp! Come here to be seen and to impress as you drink from a fully stocked bar with all your top shelf favorites. Some of the staff tries to keep with the mob theme, so don't wear a dark suit and tie with to this place. While waiting outside, some inquiring yuppies came up to me and showed me their ID's. I didn't know whether to take this as a compliment or as an insult.

That's it from me. Study hard, but don't forget to enjoy life.
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