

# The Justinian

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## The Justinian

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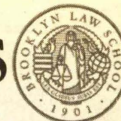
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## BLS Students Evacuate Clinton Street Dormitory

**Carbon Monoxide had been detected.**

**School says dorm is now safe.**

by Ian J. Gaynor, '03

On November 5, Brooklyn Law School students at 148 Clinton Street awoke to the blaring sounds of fire engine sirens outside their windows after a student's own store-bought detector alerted her to dangerous carbon monoxide levels in the building's third and fourth floor apartments. The sirens were followed by fire fighters' stern warnings to immediately evacuate the building.

"I was just waking up when all of a sudden five fire fighters came rushing into my apartment and yelled at me to get out now," said an incredulous Ron Goldstein ('03), who lives with his girlfriend Alicia Camron ('03) on the building's third floor. "I said to myself: 'I think maybe I ought to get out.'"

BLS student Laurie Dick ('03) and her husband Greg Johnston, an NYU law student, had been suffering headaches a week before the evacuation. Johnston had heard about a Park Slope couple who had

recently died from carbon monoxide poisoning after complaining of nausea and headaches, two of the condition's symptoms.

After experiencing these same symptoms, Johnston and Dick purchased a carbon monoxide detector and used it in their apartment. The apparatus' alarm went off at about 9 a.m. after it detected carbon monoxide levels of 350 parts per million, far above the normal acceptable levels. Students on the fourth floor detected levels as high as 400 parts per million, a level considered extremely dangerous.

Goldstein and Camron detected levels of about 160 parts per million in their apartment.

"My air conditioner was taken out of the window on Saturday morning [the evacuation occurred the following Tuesday]," said Camron, alluding to her belief that the air conditioner's vents may have helped lower the carbon monoxide levels in her apartment. "I started getting these migraines and my head was killing me."

"I started suffering headaches the Monday before [the evacuation]," said Goldstein.

Johnston immediately notified the New York City Fire Department and law school authorities. Five fire trucks and two ambulances

quickly arrived at the scene. The Fire Department closed off both Clinton and Livingston Streets and asked residents to evacuate the building. Medical personnel attended to the evacuees in ambulances where they examined them for carbon monoxide induced elevated blood pressure levels.

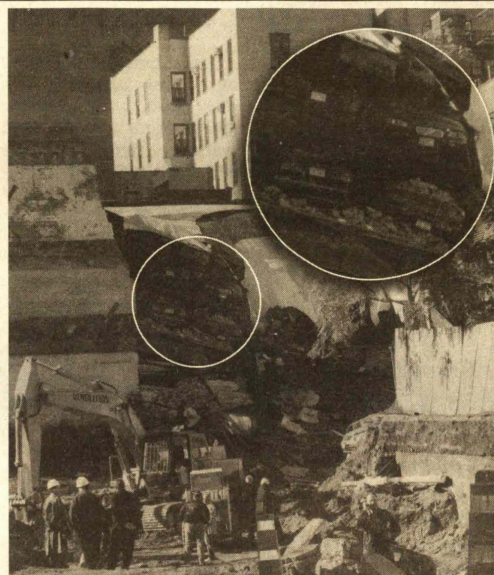
The FDNY, Keyspan and George Alway, Operations Manager for BLS, inspected the building and determined that the fluids from the gas heater were not venting - a process whereby gases are released up the chimney and out of the building. The venting problem arose because of a buildup of waste in the chimney - caused by the venting process over time - clogged the vents that allow the gas to escape from the building. Instead of exiting the building, the gas accumulated inside, causing the high carbon monoxide levels.

"The chimney had to be cleaned," said Alway.

Students were asked to remain outside the building while Keyspan checked all the stoves on the premises.

"The head of Keyspan said that no one would be permitted to go back into the building until they checked the stoves. They did a very thorough job," said Alway.

See EVACUATION, pg. 4



Ian J. Gaynor/BLS News

**Construction crews assess damage to parking garage as demolition proceeds.**

## Collapse Cleanup Delays Residence Hall Construction

by Ian J. Gaynor, '03

Pedestrians traversing State Street and Boerum Place could not help but be struck by the sight of cars spilling out of the walls of a condemned parking garage next to the Brooklyn Law School construction site. Demolition crews tore away at the building's facade as about 100 cars remained parked inside, totally inaccessible to the vehicles' owners, some of whom looked on with utter dismay.

The parking garage partially collapsed at about 7:30 on the morning of October 31, while contractors were excavating at the Brooklyn Law School construction site. Police closed off Boerum Place and State Street and directed traffic as far away as Adams and Joralemon Streets near the Brooklyn Law School main building. Fire trucks camped outside the garage as a precaution against possible fires caused by leaking automobile fuel tanks. Fortunately, the collapse did not cause any personal injuries.

Construction at the residence hall site came to an immediate halt when the collapse occurred and remains suspended.

"There is a stop order on the site," said Evan Thies, Press Secretary for Councilman David Yassky.

According to Thies, engineers have to examine the structural integrity of neighboring buildings and determine whether they are safe before the stop order can be lifted. Thies noted

that the contractors had been cited for four different violations in the past.

Though the property damage did not originally appear too extensive - the only noticeable external damage appeared to be a sunken roof at the top rear section of the garage and a steel beam protruding from the building's base - the City's

Buildings Department condemned the building by midday and ordered its immediate demolition.

See CLEANUP, pg. 3

## Democrat Senators Cave on Conservative Circuit Judges

**Two Judicial Appointments will Likely Obtain Senate Approval**

by Kristin Harrison, '03

Just one week after the Republicans took back the United States Senate, Senate Democrats were already looking to cooperate with their new Republican leaders. The Democrats, who regained control of the Senate after the defection of Vermont Senator Jim Jeffords last year, had blocked many of President Bush's nominees to federal judicial benches. However, it seems that two nominees of Bush could

Appeals seats will likely be confirmed even before the new Congressional session begins in January.

The two nominees are Dennis W. Shedd, a federal district court judge, who was nominated to a fill a Fourth Circuit seat, and University of Utah Professor Michael McConnell, who was nominated to the Tenth Circuit. Judge Shedd is a former aid to retiring Senator Strom Thurmond (R-SC). Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), the outgoing chair of the Judiciary Committee, scheduled hearings for these two appointments on November 15 as a gesture of goodwill.

These are the types of

concessions that Democrats will have to make during Congress' next session. White House Press Secretary, Ari Fleischer mapped out some areas where the President will try to push policy initiatives: pension protection, a Homeland Security Department with flexible workforce rules, federal assistance for charities of religious groups, changes in welfare rules, energy legislation including oil drilling in the Alaskan wilderness, a "patients bill of rights" to govern health maintenance organizations, an expansion of community health centers to serve the uninsured, and a ban on human cloning.

See JUDGES, pg. 6

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## CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

### MIKETZ

Friday, 12/6 4:09

Saturday, 12/7 5:27

### VAYIGESH

Friday, 12/13 4:10

Saturday, 12/14 5:28

### VAYICHAH

Friday, 12/20 4:12

Saturday, 12/21 5:31

### SHEMOT

Friday, 12/27 4:16

Saturday, 12/28 5:35

# Bill Stropkay, BLS Facilities Manager

## Familiar Faces

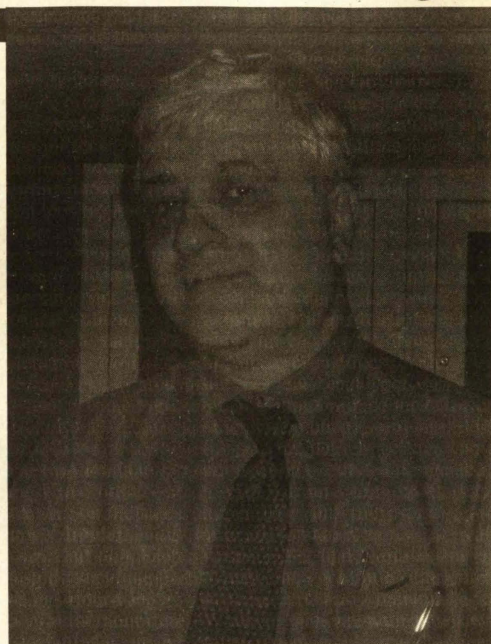
by A.D. Kramer, '05

It is funny how the days at school can seem so uneventful, walking in the same front doors, and waiting in the same seemingly stationary elevators, all to get to another class where you sit in the same seat every day. But that consistency can be misleading – for there are many people hard at work from the early morning until late at night making sure that door are guarded, the elevators wait for people, and the classrooms are clean and orderly. Each month I try to open a window into the world behind Brooklyn Law School, to get a glimpse of those responsible for keeping the school running at the high standard we've grown accustomed to, and probably take for granted. This month, the last of the semester, I would like to introduce the man who manages the people who allow us to comfortably enjoy our surroundings every day. That man, this month's BLS Familiar Face, is Bill Stropkay.

Bill may be the Facilities Manager of our school, but he's a regular guy just like any of us, and one of the friendlier people you might meet in this school. He grew up in Yorkville (for those of you not familiar with Manhattan, that's the Upper East Side). He loves the city, but he has moved on to

the quieter surroundings of Garden City Long Island. Bill has a wife and four children. He is a real family man, which becomes painfully obvious when his eyes water as he talks about how proud he is of his youngest daughter. He is also a sportsman and an archer, who loves to spend time outdoors.

Bill started out in his field by taking an A/C mechanic job after high school with NY Telecommunications. He moved his way up the ladder over his twenty-three years there, eventually becoming the building manager. After retiring early, he took a job here managing our building, as he's done for the last seven years. He says there have been many changes here over that time, most notably the improvement of the quality of staff around him. Bill also said that security changes since September 11, 2001 have been a big concern, and the staff apologizes if anyone is offended by being pulled aside or asked for ID as they walk in the front doors. The reason behind the security doing so is for our own protection and no other reason. Also, the elevator delay is on purpose, it is an old system that doesn't allow an operator to close the doors when they see that the elevator is full. The only advice Bill can provide is to look for the light, otherwise you may be waiting in



A.D. Kramer/BLS News

the elevator for a while. They are on a timer, so relax...the doors will close eventually. The last mystery Bill solved for me is the strange noises that sometimes emanate from the PA system. Apparently each room is hooked up to its own radio frequency and they pick up taxi dispatchers, police frequencies, walkie talkie transmissions, and even sometimes cell phone conversations.

Always looking out for the students, Bill asks that we be careful with our laptops, especially around finals time, and also not to leave valuables in our

lockers. He made sure to mention that he cares about our safety and well-being.

We are lucky to have a man like Bill Stropkay as a part of our school. All he talks about is the great students and co-workers he has around him. He takes pride in our building, and he rightfully should. Thank you Bill for helping make our school what it is, and being a major part of our BLS family.

Happy holidays everyone, enjoy your break, and good luck on your finals. May we all see each others familiar faces next year – in good spirits and good health.

# A Corporate Summer with Scholastic Inc.

by Miri Frankel '04

I have to admit that when most of my friends were sending out resumes, and even interviewing, I was still focusing on keeping up with my weekly work and preparing outlines for my exams. I was not even sure what I wanted to do for the summer. In the months prior to beginning law school, I was an editorial assistant in the trade division of Scholastic Inc., the publishing company that many of you might remember from school bookfairs and that is now known for publishing the *Harry Potter* series. My workdays consisted of tasks like editing Pokeman books and recommending which manuscripts should be published.

During the school year, I kept in touch with my former boss. When she became in-house counsel, I knew it

was the perfect job for me. I couldn't imagine anything better than spending the summer in SoHo working on legal projects that focused on children's education and entertainment. It's hard to dread the start of the day when the office is kid-friendly. It is decorated with Scholastic characters (like Harry Potter and Clifford, the corporate mascot) and there are boxes of books on each floor for children to read – and there are always children in the building either in the offices with parents or in the Scholastic Store for afternoon story time.

Scholastic Inc. has nine in-house lawyers, who each specialize in different areas of law, including entertainment, intellectual property, securities, and copyright, and a separate contracts department. Over the course of the summer I worked with each attorney. There are

also legal departments in each of Scholastic's 70 worldwide subsidiaries. I was able to work with some of them during the summer as well.

The best part about working in-house is being able to see a project through from beginning to end. We coordinated with various business divisions as they solidified their project ideas and negotiated terms of agreements. In putting together a government contract bid, I worked with the bidding department on completing the contract and then helped them put the technical proposal together. We finalized the book list, ordered the books from the distribution center in Missouri, tagged them based on the government's labeling system, and packaged them with the contract proposal materials.

Another benefit to being in-house is that the environment is like a family, and all the members

work together to achieve the goals of the company. Spending 40 hours per week in front of a computer is much more fun when you are contributing to something you believe in. And it doesn't hurt that everyone motivates each other along the way.

There are also the occasional jokes and antics. During my first week, the securities counsel handed me a contract and asked me to translate it from Malaysian to English in an hour. And when the time came to submit OCI materials, everyone in the department passed around the list of employers and shared stories about their experiences at various firms. My papers came back to me with smiling or frowning faces next to the names of the firms.

Working at Scholastic also has certain perks. Free book boxes around the building helped my friends create the best classroom

libraries in their schools. And recently all employees and their families were invited to advance screenings of *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. The company had rented four theaters in Manhattan for us to preview the movie before it opened to the public.

Mostly, I recommend in-house corporate work because it is an opportunity to experience different fields of law while gaining a perspective of how a corporation functions from the inside.





# Professor Michael Donofrio Rocks Legal Writing

## Faculty Profile

by David Shargel, 05

Professor Michael Donofrio spends his days teaching first-years the fine points of a memo, the intricacies of using a Blue Book, and the art of legal research. At night, however, when he straps on his Fender bass guitar and heads for music clubs where most Brooklyn Law School probably have never been, he is a changed man.

Last month one of the newest additions to the law school's teaching staff seemed more focused on distributing the first grades to his legal writing students, and less on his second love, playing in a band.

"It's a lot more stressful now that these assignments are graded," he said between conferences with students to discuss their second memo. "Having never done this before, it's tough to have to try to evaluate people."

Teaching is new to Professor Donofrio, who received his J.D. from New York University Law School in 1995 after attending Williams College in Williamstown, Mass.

But Professor Donofrio, born in upstate New York and raised in Vermont, did not take the typical road of

an NYU graduate after receiving his law degree. Rather, he declined a job at Proskauer Rose LLP to spend a few years playing bass guitar in a band called Saturnine, which he and some other law school classmates had founded.

The indie rock group - originally called Learned Hand after the famous judge - played gigs around the country, and even managed to produce 15 records between 1994 and 2001. "Everyone wanted to tour and I just figured when am I going to be able to do this again," he said.

Even while playing

**Prof. Donofrio's indie rock group, originally called Learned Hand played gigs across the country...**

with the band, Professor Donofrio did not completely abandon law. Between tours, he worked at Wachtel & Maysr, where he had interned during his first summer of law school.

"I'd call them up and they'd have me come in and write a brief or whatever," said Professor Donofrio, who was content splitting his time between the band and his budding legal career. "I was pretty happy

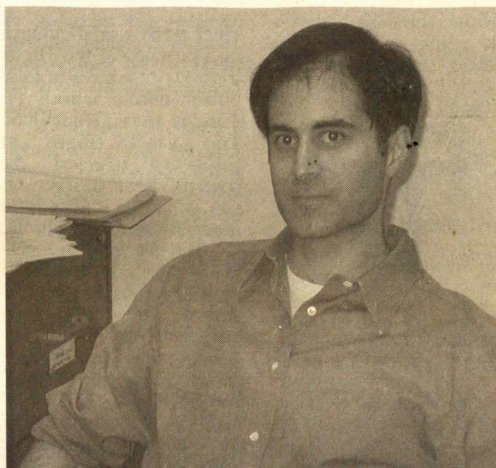
doing some of both."

Professor Donofrio, however, soon realized that the fun of playing in a band nearly full-time could not last forever. "I never got into a mindset with the band that I would make it big," he said. "After a couple of years, everybody in the band started to settle down more. Eventually, the balance just shifted. I was going to wake up every day being a lawyer."

Professor Donofrio began to work more frequently at Wachtel, but soon moved to Holland & Knight, a large nationwide firm with relatively small offices in New York. While there he focused on commercial litigation in addition to white collar crimes.

"It was the sort of place where you were kind of free to do your own thing," he said of the experience. But after about three years with Holland & Knight, Professor Donofrio felt it was time to move on. "For the last year I was there I was feeling kind of unsatisfied about it. The internal payoff for me wasn't justifying the amount of work or time I was putting in."

After speaking to a friend who teaches at NYU Law School, Professor Donofrio decided he might enjoy teaching, and came across a job opening at



David Shargel/ BLS News

Professor Michael Donofrio

BLS. He interviewed for the position in April of this year, but heard nothing. He assumed the job had been given to someone else.

Three months later, he unexpectedly received a call from the law school asking if he was still interested. "I had figured that the opportunity had passed me by," he said. "Luckily, I had already given notice that I would leave Holland & Knight in August."

With one semester almost under his belt, Professor Donofrio finds teaching legal writing enjoyable. "I really like being in this setting and being around students," he

said. "I find it much more interesting and exciting than I felt for the last couple of years at work."

That said, Professor Donofrio has of course not forgotten about his love for music. Saturnine is behind him now, but he's found a new band, The New Year. A group of his first year students even went to see him play earlier this semester at the Knitting Factory.

"The following Monday, I came into class and one of the students who had been there was holding up a lighter," he said. "I don't think that happens in class very often."

## LAW REVIEW

by Alyson Mathews '04

In honor of the new animal rights organization at BLS, here are some laws governing our treatment towards animals and even some that govern animal behavior.

Klamath, Oregon forbids people from walking down the sidewalk and knocking off a snake's head with a cane. Is this the most efficient way to rid the city of snakes? Maybe Stanfield, Oregon had it right when they made it illegal for animals to procreate within the city limits. Hopefully, the animals received some notice of this statute. If they decide to fight this law, though, they better be aware of a particular law in Myrtle, Oregon...or at least kangaroos should be aware. No one may box with a kangaroo here. (Bonus points for anyone who knew that kangaroos existed in Myrtle, Oregon.)

Just a little east of Denver, Colorado makes it illegal to mistreat rats, a law that would never pass in New York City. On the other side of the Mississippi - where we apparently do not care much for the likes of the rat - Michigan awards a ten-cent bounty for every rat's head that is brought into a town office. Isn't it kind of an insult to rats that their heads are only worth a dime? Don't think that



Michigan is completely heartless, though, when it comes to animals. In Clawson, farmers are permitted to sleep with their pigs, cows, horses, goats, and chickens. Hopefully, the other farm animals are not jealous that they are not privy to the warm comforts of the farmer's bed. Disguising themselves as

different animals, however, is not always permitted. Harper Woods, Michigan makes it illegal to paint sparrows and sell them as parakeets. (Again, bonus points for anyone who knew of the vast shortage of parakeets in Harper Woods.)

Lastly, let's cross back over the Mississippi to Kansas where no one may catch fish with his hands or use mules to hunt ducks. Derby, Kansas forbids people from riding any animal down a road and Dodge City requires all places of business to provide horse water troughs. The citizens of Kansas may be the most animal-friendly of all. They seem to care for just about any animal. Just to warn you, please do not let this spirit go to your head, especially if you intend to make the trek back across the Mississippi with your new pet and friend, the skunk. Tennessee forbids anyone from carrying these little creatures into the state.

## Collapse Cleanup Delays Residence Hall Construction

CLEANUP  
Continued from pg. 1

Among those witnessing the demolition process were car owners who had the misfortune of parking their cars in the building before the collapse occurred.

One onlooker said, "I would hate to be the poor guy who parked his car in that garage," to which another replied, "I am one of those poor guys."

Another car owner clutched his cell phone and told the person on the other end that he "might be a little late coming home tonight."

Days later, in a scene reminiscent of Ground Zero, twisted metal sat upon red brick and splintered wood in a massive heap. Automobiles, crushed like beer cans, lay scattered across the construction site that only days earlier was the hotbed of much excavation activity. Dump trucks entered the lot to take away debris as flat bed trucks carried out the crushed cars.

Brooklyn Law School

began construction on October 10 and had been moving at a fairly swift pace until the collapse occurred. Workers were completing excavation and hammering steel beams into the ground to provide a foundation for the 20-story structure. One worker at the site had said cleanup could take up to a month to complete. Cleanup, however, has recently been completed.

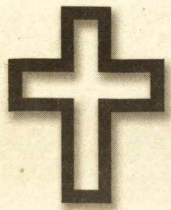
Brooklyn Law School officials did not know when construction would continue and did not comment on the situation.

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# Christian Legal Society Invites Con. Law Litigator



by Karen Chang, '04  
and Hae Jin Shim, '04

On November 4, the BLS Christian Legal Society (CLS) invited Jordan Lorence to speak on Practice and Ethics in Litigation. Mr. Lorence has been a Constitutional Law litigator for over 20 years and currently works for the Alliance Defense Fund. He came to speak at BLS directly after he argued on behalf of the plaintiff in front of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in the matter of *Bronx Household of Faith v. Board of Education of the City of New York*.

Mr. Lorence discussed the background of the case, the morning's trial arguments, and his experience as an attorney whose faith in Jesus Christ forms the foundation of his career.

The *Bronx Household of Faith* case first began in

1997 when a small church in a poor area of the Bronx tried to rent space at a local public middle school for Sunday worship services. The City's Board of Education rejected the request, while indiscriminately granting access to other private organizations.

The church brought suit in the Southern District of New York to enjoin the Board of Education pursuant to the First Amendment's Free Speech clause and the Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 4071-74. Defendant Board of Education based its argument on New York Education Law § 414, which grants equal access to public schools for "social, civic and recreational meetings . . . and other uses pertaining to the welfare of the community."

The Board argued that the state law gives public schools the authority to deny equal access to religious worship because it is different from other protected speech and has no relation to the welfare of the community.

The District Court and the Second Circuit sided with the Board of Education in 1996 and 1997, respectively. The Supreme Court then denied certiorari, a move that would normally foreclose any further litigation of a

case.

However, the Supreme Court's decision in another equal access case, *Good News Club v. Milford Central High School*, 533 U.S. 98 (2001), raised doubts about the Second Circuit's decision.

In *Good News Club*, the Court held that a public school's refusal - on the basis of religious speech - to allow a private Christian

***It's ironic that despite the value our country gives to freedom of speech and religion, any mention of religion in the classroom is immediately met with distaste.***

organization to use its school facilities constituted viewpoint discrimination in violation of the First Amendment. This is notwithstanding its status as a limited public forum.

This landmark decision referred to the *Bronx Household of Faith* case and implicitly rejected the Second Circuit's reasoning.

The *Good News Club* decision made it possible for the *Bronx Household of Faith* to seek review again in 2001 notwithstanding *res judicata*.

On the church's viewpoint discrimination

claim Mr. Lorence argued that even when an organization espouses a view that the public may strongly dislike, the Supreme Court has upheld its freedom of speech as part of the price it pays to live in a democracy.

In response to the Board of Education's Establishment Clause argument - granting permission for the Church to meet on public school grounds constituted federal support or establishment of religion - Mr. Lorence argued that the Supreme Court had already held that no such violation occurred when the activity is conducted after school hours. It is simply a rental of the physical space.

Jianbo Angel Zhao, '03, who attended the morning arguments at the Second Circuit, said that "Mr. Lorence's litigation strategy focused on using the law as given and interpreted by the court, rather than trying to argue a subjective understanding of the law."

In a question and answer session after his presentation, Mr. Lorence stressed that a legal career should not require lawyers to compromise their moral and ethical standards. There are many fulfilling legal practices that do not call for such compromise.

Lorence also tried to make sense of society's widely misconstrued under-

standing of "tolerance" by using an analogy: our society is built on the principle that a Christian neighbor and a Muslim neighbor ought to be considerate to one another, but in doing so, they are not called upon to actually believe in their minds and hearts all that their neighbor believes. That would throw the baby (freedom of individual thought) out with the bathwater (principled tolerance of differing views).

Mr. Lorence's lecture was well-received. Hwa-Young Rachel Song, '05, found very relevant his discussion of "worship" as a dirty word in the courtroom. Song found it ironic that despite the value our country gives to freedom of speech and religion, any mention of God, Christianity, or religion in her classroom is immediately met with distaste.

"My whole class groaned out loud when this one girl mentioned in class about how the laws were originally based on Judeo-Christian values from the Ten Commandments."

BLS students who attended the lecture found it refreshing to meet an attorney whose successful practice of the law has been truly fulfilling, and has not made him compromise his principles.

## Dorm Crisis Safely Averted

EVACUATION  
Continued from pg. 1

According to students' accounts, the evacuation lasted about five hours beginning at about 10 a.m. and lasting until about 3 p.m. that afternoon.

"Safety was our primary concern," said Alway.

The stoves were not inspected until about 2 p.m. The building was without hot water until Thursday, November 7, two days after the crisis began.

Engineers worked on the building's chimney, raising it and cleaning it out to provide better circulation. According to Alway, "the chimney now works fine."

Keyspan came back after the chimney work concluded and gave its stamp of approval.

Still, some students were very upset over what they perceived to be the lack of information the school provided them during the crisis.

"On Tuesday [November 5] I was upset, I wanted to voice my concerns. None of the

Camron. "All we were looking for was someone to talk to."

"They showed no concern for our safety...On Thursday [November 7], we were told that Dean Wexler was at a meeting," said Goldstein.

According to Goldstein, he attempted to contact the Dean, but was intercepted by office staff. Dean Wexler maintains that the school worked extremely hard to get the carbon monoxide problem under control.

"You can't imagine what I had to do to talk to the head of Keyspan...we did everything we could do," said Wexler.

Some students wanted to know the school's plans to prevent a reoccurrence. Many feel that all BLS buildings should have carbon monoxide detectors.

"[The school] should feel that carbon monoxide is a serious issue. There were almost lethal levels in the building," said Camron.

"I spoke to Mr. Alway and told him we think the buildings should have carbon monoxide detectors. He said that it was not his decision, but he would talk

to the Dean," said Goldstein. Dean Wexler responded, "We are going to figure out what to do."

Since the senses cannot readily detect carbon monoxide, most people do not realize they have been exposed until they recognize the symptoms or possess a carbon monoxide detector that alerts them to increased emission levels.

Unlike smoke alarms, New York law does not currently require homes or buildings to contain carbon monoxide detectors.

A recently enacted New York State law will go into effect at the end of November, requiring the installation of carbon monoxide detectors in new one and two family homes, new co-op and condominium apartments, and in apartments sold after the law takes effect.

This law would not have an effect on old buildings like 148 Clinton Street, where pipe cracks and clogged vents are more likely to create a carbon monoxide catastrophe than they are in the newer buildings this law is designed to cover.



*Whether you are going on vacation during winter break or just hanging around the house, send us your pictures...you just may see yourself in the February issue of the Brooklyn Law School News!*

*email blsnews@hotmail.com or bring them to our office in room 509*



# BLS Welcomes New Student Organization Protecting Animal

by Ariel Chesler '03

I am delighted to inform the BLS community that we now have a student chapter of the Animal Legal Defense Fund. The ALDF is a national organization dedicated to protecting animals through the law. I encourage everyone to peruse their website at [www.ALDF.org](http://www.ALDF.org) as it explains the goals of the organization and also gives information on their current campaigns.

Law student chapters of ALDF are in existence in many schools across the country; NYU, Harvard, and Yale each have chapters. In addition many schools are beginning to include animal law classes as part of their curriculum. We plan to encourage BLS to do the same.

Serious consideration for animals rights in the legal arena can be observed in the 10 bar associations which have animal law committees; New York City is one of them. Further

evidence is the progressive directives and laws to protect farm animals, passed by both the European Union and individual countries such as Sweden. Finally the lower house of parliament in Germany has passed a bill, which would preserve animal rights in their constitution. Yet, the U.S. is often far behind and in the words of Gandhi "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

When I was soliciting new members for the ALDF at the student organization fair earlier this year, I was approached by a variety of students who has interesting and bizarre questions: "Is there really such a thing as animal law?" "Are you guys planning to bomb any neighborhood stores in protest?" "Can I love animals but not be a vegetarian?" I answered: "yes", "no", and "hmm...that's a hard one."

The interest and confu-

sion sparked by animals is exactly the reason I felt this student group would be beneficial to the BLS community. Despite the existence of animals in many of our lives, and the great impact we have on them by what we wear, eat, and condone in medical experimentation, most of us

**ALDF is dedicated to exploring these many issues and hopefully fostering both interest and encouraging dialogue among members of the BLS community.**

are ignorant of the realities of billions of animals' lives. Many place this issue out of human concern, and the law tends to ignore animals and define them as property. This leads me to conclude that speciesism (the subjugation of non-human animals for human use, without considering their needs or their capacity to feel pain) is even more pervasive than racism, or sexism. This issue is both

so political and personal that the resistance to mere questioning of our daily practices is often tremendous.

We often justify institutionalized cruelty towards animals or ignore it, such as in common modern day farming practices, or in the fur industry. Yet, we are outraged by acts of violence against domestic pets. This is often because we have been taught to distinguish between cute, loving animals, and all others, which are seen as products before they are seen as living things. For example, this summer I was haunted by the live barbequeing of a kitten in Liberty, Missouri, which was so badly burned before it was rescued, that it was put to sleep. The legal consequences for such a horrible act of violence are rarely severe, and are often worked out in a plea agreement and a small monetary fine. Yet more horrible is the absence of any protection for other animals, who are tortured daily, for example by inhumanely

restricting their movement, boiling them alive or bleeding them while conscious, bashing their heads in for experimentation, and needlessly injecting them with diseases. Federal laws meant to protect animals offer little protection and are rarely enforced.

ALDF is dedicated to exploring these many issues and hopefully fostering both interest and encouraging dialogue among members of the BLS community. We plan to sponsor events to raise awareness both about the treatment of animals and the gaps in the law. We also hope to serve as a resource and look forward to improving animals' lives through education, and activism, as well as by tracking litigation and legislative change. We invite you all to open your minds and hearts to animals and help to be instrumental in changing and formulating the law and the society in which we live.

## JLSA and ALDF Host Vegetarianism Event

by Ariel Chesler '03

On October 31, 2002 the Jewish Law Students Association and the Animal Legal Defense Fund presented an event on Judaism and vegetarianism with guest speaker, Richard Schwartz, a Professor Emeritus of mathematics at the College of Staten Island. He has written a book entitled "Judaism and Vegetarianism." Schwartz discussed the biblical support for carnivorous lifestyles despite the initial command that people should be vegetarians. He also explained that the two opposing teachings create obstacles that observant Jews must learn to overcome everyday, and argued that the time has come to revert back to vegetarianism.

Judaism teaches in Genesis 1:29 that human life began in the Garden of Eden as a vegetarian lifestyle. Many of the foremost Torah commentators agree, including both Rashi and Nachmanides, and this view is also noted in the Talmud. It was only after the great flood that people were permitted to eat meat. According to Rav Kook, a highly respected Jewish scholar, God recognized human weakness and desire for flesh. People had also sunk to a low spiritual level and needed to learn the value of human life above that of animals. Kook believed that this was meant to be a temporary way of life until

humans could move into a "brighter era" in which they could be vegetarian again.

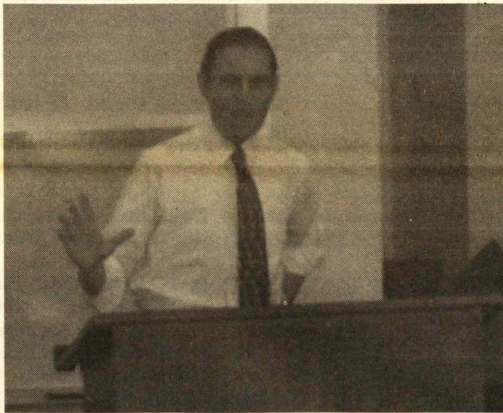
Such views are hard to stomach because no person enjoys having his or her diet challenged. These teachings create a challenge to observant Jews who strictly watch their diets on a daily basis, and, for example, make certain to separate meat dishes from dairy dishes. It is also challenging to the core beliefs of Judaism because much of Jewish tradition includes the eating of meat at holidays, the historical temple sacrifice of animals, and the Torah's references to eating meat. In fact most Judeo-Christian people justify meat-based diets and other uses of animals in the lines from Genesis 1:28 in which God declares that people have "dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that creeps upon the earth."

In spite of the mainstream Jewish rejection to vegetarianism, Richard Schwartz uses Jewish principles, laws, and traditions to argue that vegetarianism is a societal and Jewish imperative. First, Schwartz explains the Jewish commandment of "Tsa'ar Ba'alei chayim," which is the biblical mandate not to cause harm to any living creature: in fact, Judaism condemns hunting for sport. Judaism also provides for humane treatment of animals as well as the resting of animals on the Sabbath, and dictates

that animals should be fed before a human sits down to eat. These, with many other commandments, traditions, and stories compel the conclusion that concern for animal suffering is vital to Judaism. Today, farm animals are treated as commodities, and are mutilated and severely restricted in their movements, all to increase profit. And when one looks at this treatment, it is clearly in violation of the Jewish mandate against cruelty to animals.

Schwartz also discussed the biblical mandates demanding people to care for their health and their bodies, and especially to preserve life. He argues, that given the modern scientific evidence that meat-based diets lead to obesity, heart disease, and various cancers we must become vegetarian to truly care for ourselves. Also, recent studies on the antibiotics fed to farm animals, which enter the human bloodstream, seem to show that this practice has increased bacterial resistance and severely jeopardized human health.

Schwartz posits that helping the hungry is fundamental to Judaism. Yet while world hunger today is rampant - with nearly 1 billion people remaining chronically hungry - one third of the world's grain is fed to animals to fatten them for slaughter. In addition, countless other resources are wasted to maintain



Kristin Harrison/BLS News

**Professor Richard Schwartz discusses religion's influence on diet**

meat-based diets, including water and fuel. Further, animal agriculture requires 17 times more land per person than would a vegetarian diet, and is overall more wasteful than vegetarianism. Judaism, according to Schwartz, would therefore demand a move to vegetarianism to ensure that grain and resources are used directly to feed hungry people.

Judaism demands that people care for the earth to maintain the well-being of the world. Modern farm practices are often harmful to environment. For example, the mass quantities of fertilizer and pesticides used by farmers to protect their crops also causes air and water pollution. In addition, rain forests are bulldozed to create land to raise cattle, and much of our land has been overgrazed due to current farming practices. A mere concern for the environment would demand a rethinking of our diet even if religious teachings did not.

Finally, Schwartz raises the Jewish directive to pursue peace as additional support for vegetarianism. Violence towards animals has expanded into a general numbness to violence, especially to other humans. A meat-based diet is also violent towards the environment and other humans, as it is wasteful and helps to cause hunger. Judaism would demand that we seek peace with all beings by recognizing the need to eliminate the violence in our diets. The hope is that the future will bring an ideal time, as the prophecy of Isaiah said, when "...the lion shall eat straw like the ox." A switch to vegetarianism promotes a future in which all life is given consideration and all humanity may live in peace.



# The New Republican Majority

## JUDGES

Continued from pg. 1

Additionally, it is clear that Representative Tom DeLay (R-TX) will be successful pushing his conservative agenda as Majority Leader (a position he will assume in the place of retiring member Richard Armey (R-TX)) in a much more sympathetic House of Representatives.

The elections of November 5 produced a Republican majority in both houses of Congress. Democrats lost key Senate races in Missouri, Minnesota and Georgia, and failed to oust vulnerable Republicans in New Hampshire and Colorado. Although there are still two run-off elections in Louisiana and South Dakota which will take place later this month, there will be no fewer than 51 Republicans in the Senate at the start of the next session. With a Republican president, Democrats will lose much of their influence in Congress.

The situation for Democrats is even bleaker in the House of

Representatives. At the start of the new legislative session, there will be 203 Democrats, 227 Republicans, and one Independent. Democrats lost 7 seats in this year's election, seats mostly left open by retiring members.

As the country gears up for the 2004 Presidential race, Democrats will be looking for an appealing message and strong party leaders. Although many commentators blamed the Democratic loss on a weak agenda, House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt (D-MO) stated that Republicans won mainly because they were better fundraisers and because of President Bush's extreme popularity after September 11, 2001. Gephardt also announced shortly after the election that he would not seek reelection as Minority Leader and would step down to allow for new leadership among House Democrats. Some claimed that Gephardt stepped down so he could make a bid for President in 2004. Representative Nancy

Pelosi (D-CA) easily beat Rep. Harold Ford (D-TN) to replace Gephardt on Thursday, November 14 by a vote of 177-29.

Regardless who takes the helm for Democrats, it is clear that the party needs to regroup for the 2004 election cycle. Senator John Kerry (D-MA) had this to say about the coming Congressional session: "We Democrats must have the courage of our convictions. We must be ready to refuse the course of least resistance — confront the seemingly popular — and offer a vision that looks beyond the next poll to the next decade and the next generation. We must begin by demanding a different, better, fairer economic policy that grows jobs and creates wealth. We must say it plainly: Stop the new Bush tax cut." The midterm elections on November 5 was a disappointment to Democrats, and in the next two years, the party must work to rebuild, reinvent its message, and attract disenfranchised voters.

## U.S. SENATE 1 Race Undecided

	New	Prior
Democrats	47	49
Republican	51	49
Ind./Other	1	2

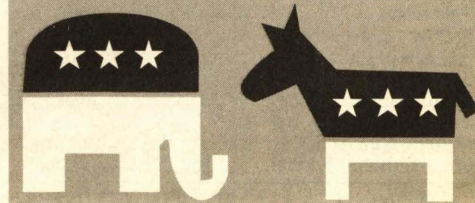
## U.S. HOUSE 2 Races Undecided

	New	Prior
Democrat	204	210
Republican	228	223
Ind./Other	1	2

## GOVERNOR

	New	Prior
Democrat	24	21
Republican	26	27
Ind./Other	0	2

(source: The New York Times)



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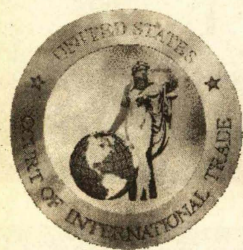
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## PIEPER PEOPLE PASS!



# International Commercial Arbitration Presented as Career Opportunity for Brooklyn Students



by Rupa Banik, '04

Career confusion has finally set upon Brooklyn Law School. Often during this time of year when finals are around the corner, many first year students begin to think about what internship opportunity they should be looking into for the following summer. Meanwhile, upper class students who still have not found a specific career direction to follow are looking into a host of career possibilities that has left them dazed and confused about what to pursue in the long run. With this in mind, after attending the "International Commercial Arbitration for Dummies" on Wednesday, November 6, arbitration as a potential career may very well alleviate the career confusion that has afflicted many on this campus.

The Honorable Delissa A. Ridgway was the guest lecturer that the International Law Society invited to discuss international commercial arbitration. She is a judge who presides at the U.S. Court of International Trade in New York City. According to Hon. Ridgway, arbitration is a decision making process that conflicting parties have agreed to

submit to in a contractual agreement prior to the conflict in question. The conflicting parties do not present their case to a judge but instead argue before an arbiter(s). Thus, it is the contract that the parties signed prior to the conflict that gives the arbiter(s) jurisdiction over the dispute. In regard to international commercial arbitration, the jurisdiction of the arbiter over the dispute supercedes any jurisdiction that any international court would have due to the contract that the conflicting parties signed. A key aspect of arbitration is that the arbiter's decision is binding and is rarely appealable.

There are many reasons why parties may opt to resolve matters through arbitrations. For starters, there is much procedural flexibility and there are less strict evidentiary rules. The parties that are involved in arbitration have the freedom to use a procedural structure that is tailored to the nature of their dispute. This aspect makes arbitration cost effective since procedural flexibility allows for faster proceedings. Another reason why arbitration is a speedier process as opposed to a trial court is because the parties choose their own tribunal (generally one to three arbiters) and can ensure that prospective tribunal has the time to devote to their case. Moreover, parties to the contract have to power to choose who will be the decision maker and this includes the possibility of choosing an arbiter who has expertise in a particular field that the conflict

concerns. Furthermore, arbiters that are chosen do not have to be lawyers. Also, the parties can choose a neutral forum in which the arbitration proceedings can take place. Such choice in forum is decided in the contractual agreement between the parties prior to the dispute at hand. Another positive aspect of arbitration is the confidentiality that arbiters observe in regard to the dispute. This point is especially attractive to businesses who would rather their customers not know of any claims concerning the matter in question. Also, the strong degree of compliance with the arbiter's decision is an

**The positive aspects of international commercial arbitration include neutrality of forum, speed, low cost, confidentiality, enforceability, and promotion of justice that law students, especially first years, should not overlook.**

additional advantage to arbitration. Most often decisions by arbiters are honored voluntarily about 90% of the time. If a party refuses to comply with arbiter's decision, enforcement of that decision is aided by various international conventions such as the United Nations Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (New York Convention of 1958). These conventions have eased the enforcement of an arbitral decision than the judgment of a foreign court,

in all but a few unusual cases.

However, there are number of negative points that are inherent in arbitration. For instance, the binding effect of an arbiter's decision can be frustrating to parties. Also, parties are likely to get less discovery, if any, in arbitration than they would in U.S. court litigation. The International Chamber of Commerce ("ICC") Court of Arbitration, the world's premier arbitral institution who promulgates international arbitration rules, does not provide for discovery. Most international arbitral bodies follow the civil law tradition in which "discovery" does not exist. Also, since both parties selected the arbiter(s), the decision that is rendered is likely to be the produce of a compromise than would be the decision by a court. Thus, it is likely that no party truly "wins" in arbitration.

The arbitral process consists of two types. There is ad hoc arbitration where the parties create their own rules which guide the arbitration process. Another type of arbitration is institutional arbitration where general rules of arbitration that are established by organizations such as the ICC or the American Arbitration Association which the disputing parties follow. Hon. Ridgway favors institutional arbitration due to the rules that these organizations have established which according to her, "have with stood the test of time."

In drafting institutional arbitration agreements,

Hon. Ridgway notes that it is important that the arbitration is held in a country that has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (New York Convention of 1958). If the country where the arbitration is to take place has not ratified the New York Convention, it will be very difficult to enforce the decision made by the arbiter. This would make the entire arbitration process meaningless. Also if questions arise when drafting the institutional arbitration agreement, parties can call the American Arbitration Association (AAA) and obtain free advice on how to draft an efficient arbitration agreement.

Due to the positive aspects of international commercial arbitration such as the neutrality of forum, speed, low cost, confidentiality, enforceability, and promotion of justice, law students, especially first years should not overlook this field. Moreover, because of the dramatic growth in international trade and investment in the last 30 years this field has become especially vibrant. This provides further support that arbitration should not be quickly dismissed and hopefully can even cast some light to those who having been walking in a haze of career confusion. For more information on international commercial arbitration, please visit: [www.iccwbo.org](http://www.iccwbo.org); [www.adr.org](http://www.adr.org); [www.lcia-arbitration.com](http://www.lcia-arbitration.com).

## BLS Death Penalty Project Hosts First Event

by David Barron, '03

At the beginning of the semester, two students concerned about the implementation of the death penalty in the United States formed the Brooklyn Law Students' Death Penalty Project in order to raise awareness concerning the death penalty system in the United States and to provide a forum for students to become actively involved in death penalty related issues while voicing their opinions concerning the issue. Immediately, interest among students was overwhelming.

On Monday, November 11, 2002, Brooklyn Law School's Death Penalty Project sponsored its first

event, *Down in the Trenches: Life on Death Row*.

The event featured three speakers: Sonia "Sunny" Jacobs, her boyfriend, Peter, and John H. Blume. Each speaker discussed personal experiences with the death penalty, problems within the system, and how law students can get involved both through activism and direct representation.

Sonia Jacobs spent 16 years in prison and five years on death row in Florida for a crime she did not commit. She was the only woman on death row in the U.S.

While in prison, her husband and friend, who had lost contact with Sonia over the years, heard about the

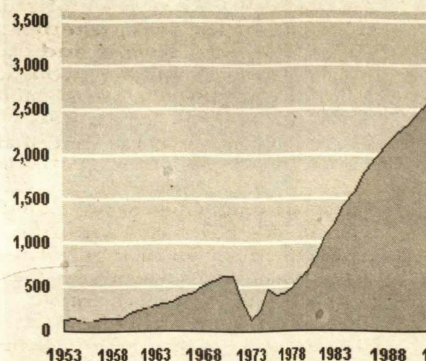
case and took a year off from a career as a movie producer to spend time reviewing the case files and eventually discovered evidence that led to Sonia's freedom in 1992.

Unfortunately, the evidence came too late for Sonia's husband, Jesse Tafero, who was wrongfully convicted of the same crime.

The Department of Corrections botched his execution and he burned to death as flames shot out of his head.

Sonia Jacobs is a forgiving person and is not bitter about her experience or her lost years. She is a yoga instructor and lives with her boyfriend whom she met through Amnesty See DEATH PENALTY, pg.13

### Prisoners on death row, 1953-2000



The number of prisoners on death row has been increasing since 1953. At the end of 2000, there were 3593 prisoners in 37 States and Federal prisons, 1.5% more than at the end of 1999. (Source: U.S. DOJ, Bureau of Justice Statistics)

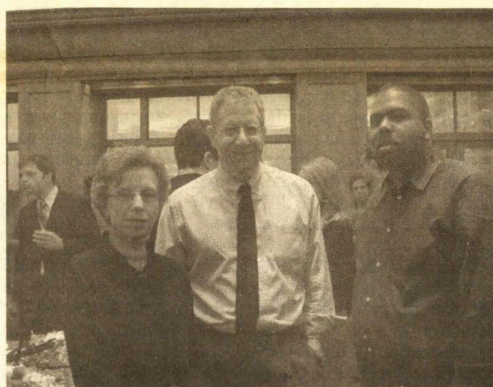
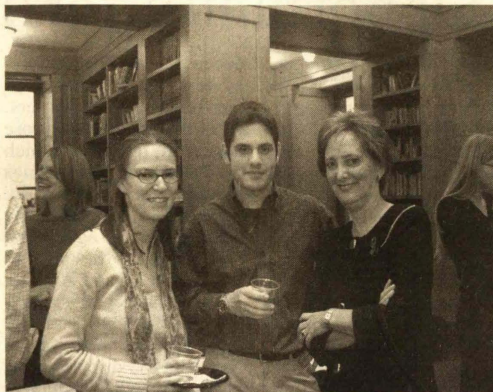


# Student Bar Association W

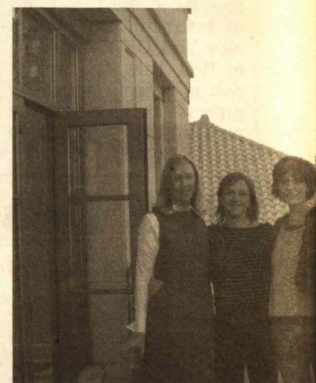
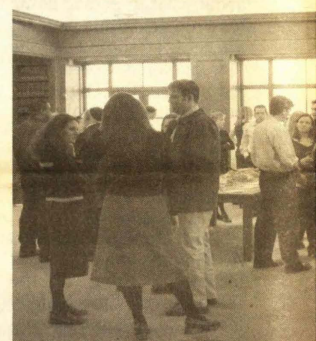
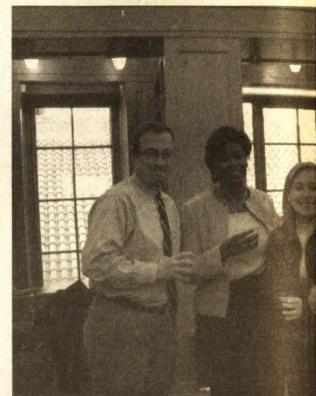
by Kristin Harrison, '03

Law students work extremely hard. They want to get good grades, they want to make law review, they want to get good jobs—they want to strive to succeed. On November 7, students convened to show that not only do they strive for success for their own lives, they also strive to make BLS an environment rich in opportunities outside the classroom. The Student Bar Association sponsored a wine and cheese event for the executive boards of the law school's student organizations, the faculty, and the administration. The purpose of the event was to acknowledge how much work it takes to make a successful organization, and to give those students who do work so hard a chance to "hob nob" with the faculty and the administration in a less formal setting. "As a first year, everyone always seems too busy to do anything but study. It was reassuring to see faculty, students and administration take some time to get involved in the community and interact with one another," said Lauren DeBellis, 1L.

The deans and faculty showed tremendous support. Deans Wexler, Gora, Gerber, and Ziegler all attended, along with many members of the faculty including professors Leitner, Solan, Twerski, Rosato, Kelly, Brakman Reiser, Habl, Eyster, Feldman, Smith, Robbins, Adolfsen and Cary. Dean Wexler casually addressed the group and thanked students for helping to make the entire community more well-rounded, aware, and educated. Also in attendance were the entire Career Center staff who continue to lend their support to the student organizations.



This column, top photo: Vernadette Horne, J.D. Adrienne Connolly, J.D. Center; third photo: John K. Chang, VP of ACS and AAL; fourth photo: John K. Chang, VP of ACS and AAL; Shim, President of CLS

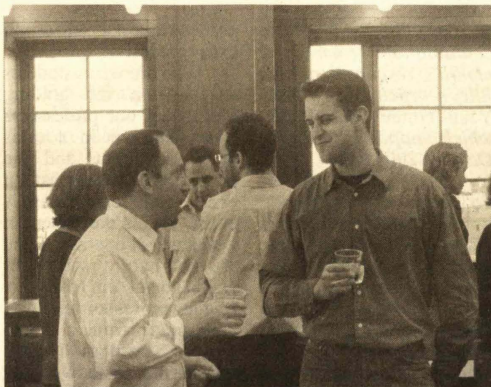


This page, left photo: Luke Stiles and Chris Kim, 2 L Delegate; middle column, top photo: Catherine Parrish, Editor of Law Review, Robert Vidoni, President of the Student Bar Association, and Dean Joan Wexler, Dean of Brooklyn Law School; second photo: Tom Parker, Director of the Office of Student Affairs, Career Services staff, and 1L delegates Joe Pontrello and Yael Utt; third photo: Joan King, Director of Career Services, and Theodore Harris, President of BLSA; fourth photo, Alyson Mathews and Miri Frankel, Executive Editors, BLS News

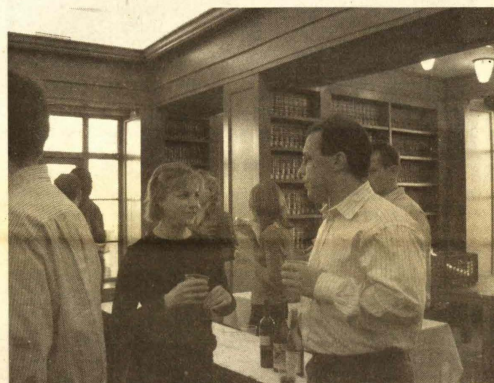
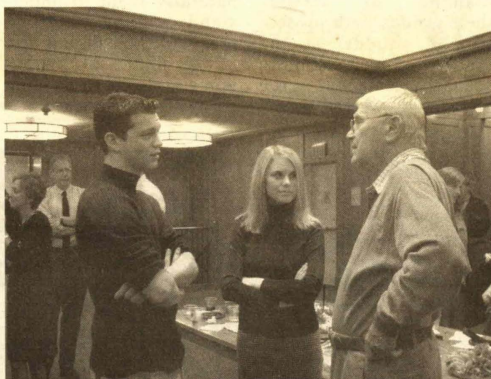
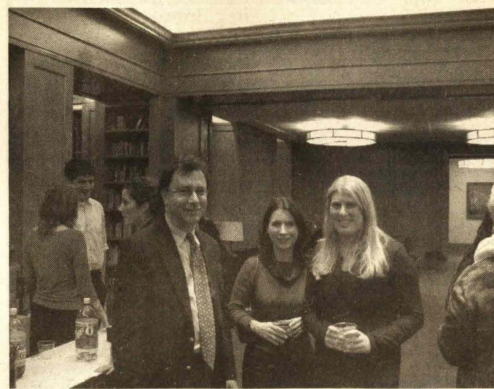
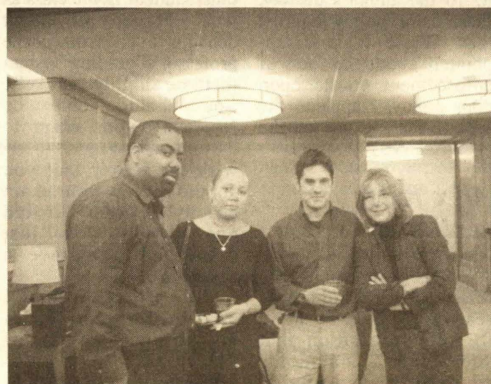


# Wine and Cheese Reception

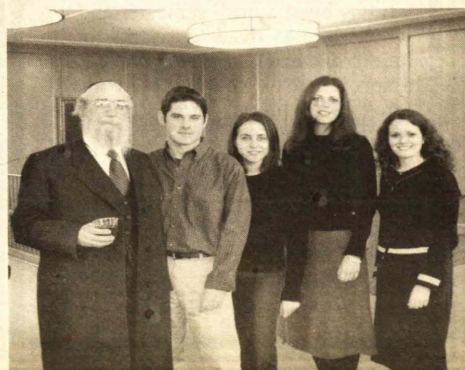
Brett Gilbert, Al Backer, and of the Career napp, President Delegate, join photo: Karen SA, and Hae Jin



This column, **top photo:** Prof. Larry Solan, Kellianne Chancey, and Miri Frankel; **second photo,** Alyson Mathews and Brady Priest, SBA Co-Secretary; **third photo:** Rob Vidoni, Catherine Parrish, Gairy Davis, of BLSA, and Joanne St. Gerard, Eve. VP BLSA; **fourth photo:** Prof. Aaron Twerski, Rob Vidoni, Galette Levin, April Simon, and Lisa Pollack



This column, **top photo:** Nick Minella, Editor, Journal of International Law, and Dan Hulea, President of ILS; **second photo:** Theodore Harris, Karen Dodson, Rob Vidoni, and Dean Carol Ziegler, Associate Dean for Student Affairs; **third photo:** Adam Kramer, IL Delegate, Heather Baker, SBA Co-Secretary, and Prof. Jerry Leitner; **fourth photo:** students in conversation







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## From the Editors:

As the semester comes to a rapid end, we have a few ends to tie up. In the October 2002 issue, we misspelled two names. The correct spellings are Professor Brakman Reiser (pages 1, 3, and 10) and Peter Herold (page 5). The November 2002 issue, the *Attack on Iraq* article (pages 3, 10) was written by Miri Frankel.

It has been a busy semester and we would like to thank our staff for its hard work and dedication. We extend a special thank you and welcome to Greg Brown, our new Production Manager. We also thank you, the BLS community, for your continued support. Look for us again in February and don't forget to submit your winter break photos.

Have a restful and safe holiday!

# Letters to the Editor:

The following letter is a continuation from last month's response to Alex Riley's article, *Know How Your Grade Was Made*, which appeared in the October 2002 issue.

To the Editor:

The answer certainly is not to give students a carte blanche to debate over examinations. The article from last issue presents a student that is ready to fight with the professor over his grade in the desperate hope that the professor will raise it. To the author's dismay, there is a policy against that. While I am disappointed about the lack of enforcement of the open door policy, I applaud the school for the use of the

policy against changing exam grades.

Who are we as students to question the grading systems of our professors? Every student in a class takes an exam, and the grade curve dictates that not every exam can be an A exam. This is the system in which we all operate. If you are not happy with your grade, go get 'em next time. If the professor changes your grade from a B+ to that A-, fairness dictates that he has to individually debate grades with every other student in the class as well. Forget all about debating over errors in the professor's grading system that are highly unlikely. You should only be reviewing your exam to

find out where you lost points, and to improve in the future. Period.

If you want to review your exam under the guise of getting a grade boost, shame on you for trying in the first place. If you want to review your exam to find out how to improve in the future and can't track down the professor, shame on BLS for failing to deliver on their open door promise. I challenge the administration to practice what they preach in regard to open door relations, and I challenge the student body to use these relations in a fair and ethical manner.

Concerned BLS Student,  
'04

## Alex Ryley replies:

I regret that the letter-writer somehow read my article to stand for the proposition that "desperate" students who are "ready to fight" should have "carte blanche" to "debate" their grades with professors. I shudder at the thought of such a chaotic scenario. Rather, I agree

with the writer that you should review your exam strictly in order "to find out where you lost points and to improve in the future."

The problem, which I attempted to elucidate in my article, is this: If you want to try to improve your future performance, you will naturally want to understand why your exam received the grade it did. Yet under BLS rules, you simply have no right

to that understanding. This issue in turn gives rise to my concern about the BLS rule dictating our grades' immutability.

This rule takes for granted grades' fairness and accuracy. It is naïve, however, to presume that grades will always be fair and accurate in the absence of an additional rule requiring grades' intelligibility and susceptibility to review.



## SBA 1L Delegates:

Back Row (left to right): Douglas Atkins, Joe Pontrello, Clark Whitset, Paul Reinitz, Adam Kramer, Danette Slevinski, Meredith Ronayne

Front Row (left to right): Sasha Puritz, Amber Long, Yael Utt, Lauren DeBellis, Christina Young

Not pictured: Gabriel Tese



# Op-Ed: WHY WAR MAY BE NECESSARY

by Adam Wiener, '04

Another UN Security Council Resolution has recently been passed requiring Saddam Hussein to allow UN weapons inspectors unfettered access in Iraq to locate and destroy the dictator's weapons of mass destruction. The same game of obstruction and deception that Hussein played throughout the 1990's to impede the UN's previous efforts to disarm Iraq is about to resume.

In April, 1991 the UN passed Security Council Resolution 687 requiring Iraq to end its programs to develop weapons of mass destruction (WMD). A special commission, UNSCOM, was established to enforce the resolution and conduct inspections. Iraq impeded the inspectors as soon as they began their work. The UN then passed a series of Security Council Resolutions throughout the '90's, each calling for Iraq to cooperate with the

weapons inspectors. Hussein violated all of them.

In November 1997, Iraq expelled the American inspectors assigned to UNSCOM from the country. In August 1998, Hussein barred the remaining UNSCOM team from inspecting any new facilities. Later that year, Baghdad announced the cessation of all cooperation with UNSCOM. The inspectors subsequently left Iraq and have not returned.

Why would Saddam prevent the work of the weapons inspectors if he had nothing to hide? The unpleasant truth is that the Iraqi regime has been and remains fundamentally wedded to the maintenance and expansion of its existing WMD programs. Hussein's commitment to keep his weapons of mass destruction programs intact is based on one thing: his desire to use them against his enemies.

Iraq's history under

Saddam Hussein has been one of unrelenting aggression. In the early 1980's Iraq invaded Iran in a bid to grab territory and oil. Hussein began his love affair with weapons of mass destruction during the ensuing war, using chemical weapons against Iranian soldiers. The Iran-Iraq War dragged on throughout most of the decade and consumed over a million lives. The smoke of that war had not yet cleared when Hussein conquered Kuwait in 1991. During the Persian Gulf War that followed, Hussein attacked Israel and Saudi Arabia with Scud missiles.

Saddam Hussein's brutality has not been limited to his neighbors. Tens of thousands of Iraqis have been maimed and murdered over the years in Hussein's never-ending attempts to obliterate all signs of domestic dissent. Hussein has used weapons of mass destruction against his own citizens, gassing

thousands of Kurds to death when they rose to resist his regime.

The Iraq of Saddam Hussein, with its willingness to use weapons of mass destruction, its past and present connections with anti-American terrorist organizations, including al Qaeda, and its implacable hostility towards the U.S., is a clear and present danger to America. Iraq can strike a deadly blow against the United States by giving its WMD capabilities to an organization like al Qaeda. Through the use of a terrorist proxy, Hussein can attack the U.S. without leaving any finger prints. The U.S. can not risk a nuclear September 11.

War may be necessary to prevent such a possibility.

Those who believe that war is intrinsically wrong and never justifiable have not offered alternative solutions to neutralizing the threat posed by Iraq.

The same argument made today against going to war

with Iraq was made during the 1930's when the world was confronted by a rising Nazi Germany; any alternative is preferable to war. Back then, European leaders did everything they could to appease Hitler and avoid conflict. Instead of bringing lasting peace these efforts precipitated the most devastating bloodshed in history. Had Britain and France stopped Hitler when they had the chance, the catastrophe of World War II would not have occurred. That historical lesson must be remembered today.

If the UN fails in its mission, the U.S. may have no other choice but to preempt a future Iraqi attack by forcibly removing Saddam Hussein from power. An American-led campaign to replace the present regime with a democratic one will ensure the disarmament of Iraq and the elimination of its weapons of mass destruction.

## The Blame Game: Why Pointing Fingers does not solve the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

*The following op/ed was submitted in response to Adam Wiener's op/ed, A Culture of Hate, which appeared in the November 2002 issue.*

by Anonymous

As with any conflict or issue, extremes exist, and at these extremes lay views that may shock a neutral or impartial observer. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is no exception to this generalization, as Mr. Wiener's *A Culture of Hate*, poignantly demonstrates with a critical eye towards the Palestinians. Mr. Wiener states that the overwhelming campaign of incitement against Israel promulgated throughout Palestinian life is a major component in the perpetuation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Mr. Wiener's essay goes beyond the usual call for the end of violence in the region, stressing that the cessation of this epidemic campaign of inciting hate against Israel must first cease for true peace to exist.

Unfortunately, I was not impressed by Mr. Wiener's essay. In a conflict as long and bitterly fought as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, there is bound to be hatred. Published by Brooklyn Works, 2002

ideology without addressing the equally disturbing hatred that is prevalent in Israeli society.

Mr. Wiener's argument is overly one-sided and merely demonstrates his ability to cast the Palestinians in a malevolent light. This oversight by Mr. Wiener ultimately leads to a failure to address the causes for this hatred; specifically, why is there hate? and what are the reasons for this hate? Furthermore, as a Palestinian, I find Mr. Wiener's essay uninspiring. To me, Mr. Wiener simply joins a long line of critics who believe that a people without a home and without hope must mend their ways for peace to exist.

Absent from Mr. Wiener's argument are any references to incidents of hate that exists among the Israelis. To be sure, such hate does exist. It has manifested itself in the form of the call for the expulsion of Palestinians from the entire region to regular military incursions into civilian refugee camps.

It has also been found among Israelis who refuse to recognize the need for Palestinians to have a homeland and shrug off the plight of the Palestinians as a virtual non-problem, and constant racism and humiliation Arabs

throughout the region are subjected to day after day. Not addressing the hate that exists on the other side ignores the oppression the Palestinians are put under and the occupation with which they have to live.

Indeed, this conflict is no stranger to hate among both the Palestinians and the Israelis. Implying that one side must mend its ways and learn to love without equally addressing the other side is clearly wrong.

Furthermore, I find lacking any attempt by Mr. Wiener in understanding the causes of the prevalent hate. If, as Mr. Wiener believes, violence will stop only when Palestinian incitement of hate against Israel first ceases, then stopping the hate must first require an understanding of why hate exists. My belief is that an answer to such a question would require research beyond that which Mr. Wiener had already conducted. Specifically, Mr. Wiener should focus his attention on the treatment of Palestinians by the Israelis through all aspects of their lives. After researching the absence of a Palestinian homeland and the bitter battle for independence that Palestinians have fought for half a century, Mr. Wiener should ask whether there is

anything to love.

Mr. Wiener argues that Palestinian hate is taught and is perpetrated by Palestinian society itself. This, too, is a fatuous, overgeneralization that is based on polar examples.

First, citing extreme examples means nothing without also addressing other types of circumstances and examples where hate does not exist like the opinions of many on both sides who resent the ongoing violence and support any measure for peace.

Additionally, such sweeping assumptions of the whole of Palestinian society not only weakens Mr. Wiener's argument as being over-zealous and void of objectivity, but also disenfranchises the many Palestinians who do not comport with Mr. Wiener's generalizations.

As to Mr. Wiener's examples of the Palestinian Authority's clergy and nursery rhymes preaching hate, wouldn't the renunciation and denial of a Palestinian state for the millions of Palestinians be just as hateful? Wouldn't hate exist in imposing strict curfews that close Palestinian schools for weeks so that Palestinian children have nothing better to learn than the hateful nursery rhymes Mr. Wiener

cites to? Isn't it also hateful to bulldoze the neighborhoods and houses of people already so poor that most of them live below the poverty level? I used to sing nursery rhymes to keep the boogeyman away at night; perhaps Palestinian children sing their nursery rhymes for a different type of boogeyman—this one with a bulldozer.

Finally, I think Mr. Wiener fails in addressing the one group of people that are necessary to effectuate change—the Palestinians. Had Mr. Wiener offered a roadmap to positive change, or at least acknowledged that change is required from both sides, perhaps I, as a Palestinian, would have been more responsive to his argument. However, by pointing a finger, as many before him have already done, Mr. Wiener has proved to me that he understands his side of the problem, but not mine.

In this conflict, less finger pointing is need, and more resolution is demanded. Both sides must realize that they are not perfect and that their hate hurts. My suggestion to Mr. Wiener is to view the hate in the region as not simply a feature attributed to one side or another, but rather as a symptom, a symptom that needs understanding and attention.



# The Princess of Brooklyn Does Lunch



The Princess of Brooklyn has returned to the BLS News. In this issue, the Princess will make recommendations of local lunch spots that please the regal palate, but are easy on the royal wallet.

**The Waterfall Cafe (Atlantic between Clinton and Henry):** This Middle Eastern restaurant serves simple but scrumptious food in a sparse setting. It's a good compromise if your party is comprised of vegetarians and carnivores,

as two of the best things on the menu are the vegetarian platter (hummus, falafel, and babaghanouj) and the baked Kibbeh balls (meatball mixed with middle-eastern spices). It is also worth noting that the service here is some of the friendliest in the neighborhood.

**Andy's (Montague and Henry):** Andy's provides reliably "good" Chinese food for a really good lunch deal. Lunch specials range from about \$4-7, depending on what you order. It also

includes soup or a spring-roll. The best things here aren't on the lunch special menu, but you can ask for them at lunch anyway. It's the "juicy little dumplings" which are smaller, less doughy, version of classic dumplings with an extremely yummy sauce. The speedy service makes this place good for a quick lunch.

**Cafe Mezo (Montague between Clinton and Henry):** This elegant little bistro serves a blend of French and Italian cuisine (hence the name "mezo", Italian for 1/2) has two prix fixe menus (that's French for "lunch special"), one for \$6.50 and \$12.00. They both include soup or salad, an entree (vegetarian or meat) and a beverage. The more expensive menu includes a glass of wine and dessert. While inexpensive, the atmosphere here is rather froofy, catering to the older, more conservative residents of the neighborhood. But what this bistro lacks in trendiness, it makes up for in taste.

**Sahadi's (Atlantic between Court and Clinton):** For a good take-out lunch, try Sahadi's. Every type of Middle Eastern and Mediterranean delicacy can be found here.

The prepared food section features fresh made babaghanouj, humus, stuffed grape leaves, meat pies and fresh bread. Bring a friend and make up a picnic lunch.

**Court Order:** This new sandwich shop is actually an extension of Lassen & Hennings. The food here is as good as the food as Lassen & Hennings, but there is also no seating. While it is also rather overpriced, the amount you get in a sandwich or entree is enough for two meals. They also have made to order salads that are quite filling as well.

**Garden of Eden (Montague between Court and Clinton):** While most things at this gourmet food shop are incredibly overpriced, it also features a reasonably priced salad bar. While the princess is usually wary of salad bars, this one is also remarkably clean, as well as tasty! It includes rare delicacies like mozzarella-tomato -basil salad and tuna waldorf salad. It also has fairly good soup, and some good (but pricey) pre-made sandwiches. If you feel like being decadent, finish lunch off with a truffle from the pastry counter.

## BAR REVIEW

by Alyson Mathews

Sometimes you may want to go to a bar for the entertainment rather than just the social scene. Unfortunately, you run the risk of having an incredibly awful time if the entertainment intended to entertain actually bores or annoys you. I happened to visit Coda (E. 34 at Madison) on recommendation from a friend who enjoyed the live band he had seen just the previous week.

During my visit, I had no such luck. One, the band was not so great. Two, they were older, but seemed to think they were younger. Picture middle-aged men dressed in artsy costumes jumping around on a stage. At one point they tried to entice the crowd by playing



the opening bars of *Kung Fu Fighting*, but then stopped because apparently we were not quite ready for that. And finally, third, the bar charged \$10 for this entertainment. I believe the only people who were truly entertained were the middle-aged couples dancing ballroom-style and sweatin' to these oldies.

Coda definitely has potential with its trendy décor and energetic bartenders. The bouncers dressed in leather trench coats, however, are a bit scary.

One day I may give Coda another try. For your own benefit, check out who is performing the night you think of visiting Coda. You may be entertained or driven out of the place minus \$10.

you're going to make a bundle in your first year out, or compute your repayment based on more modest salaries. Go to the IRS website to check out the income tax differences in different states (New Hampshire and a few others have no state income tax). Montermoving.com and several other sites offer cost of living adjustments, which consistently prove that you're crazy to be living here in New York.

## Turn Procrastination into an Artform

by Doug Ornstein, '04

Finals are just about here, and you're starting to feel guilty for not studying. There are numerous workshops that Professor Feldman offers throughout the year, each one focused on a different aspect of preparing for finals. The list of offerings, however, has always excluded what is probably the most needed: the art of true procrastination. With the advent of the Internet, procrastination has become something that even the most remedial of us can undertake. However, without proper guidance, true procrastinational achievement (when you convince yourself that you're not really wasting time) will never be obtained.

Following are ten techniques that can be practiced by 1L's and 3L's alike:

1. **Television.** Shows that involve a legal aspect to their script are particularly helpful because they keep you from feeling as if you should be reading. <http://brooklynworks.brooklyn.edu/justinian/vol2002/iss5/> Sitting down with a bag of

and Order, as well as Judge Judy and her kin. When those are not on, The View is hosted by Star Jones, herself an attorney (as she never hesitates to let us know). MTV's Real World provides various hypotheticals, such as what happens when one roommate throws a fork at another roommate. Is the roommate guilty of a tort? Are the producers of the show liable? Where does the duty end? Approaching television as a legal case study is one of the finest ways to procrastinate while at the same time convincing yourself that you are not wasting time.

2. **Write emails.** Getting in touch with people can definitely be used as a way to strengthen your writing ability—an essential skill for a practicing attorneys. How are you going to communicate your legal analysis to your partner in a memo when you can't even communicate with your friends that you're starting to question why you are in law school in the first place?

3. **Eat.** The brain can't

improve your grades. Without that sugar and salt, there's no way you'll get through your reading for the night. This can be combined with suggestion one.

4. **Nap.** Again, the brain can't function without sleep. Sleep can be induced by incorporating a large amount of suggestion three while watching a boring aspect of suggestion one.

5. **Play a game on your computer.** There's no way you can tackle a legal problem if you don't continually sharpen your analysis and strategy. Games such as solitaire, chess, and mindweeper are installed on your computer for a reason.

6. **Organize.** A good attorney has the ability to organize thousands of documents into an easy to find system. Cleaning your room, organizing your books—all of this will help you sharpen that much needed skill.

7. **Work-out.** The connection between the body and mind has been proven by lots of doctors who appear on late night television. Exercise will

allow you to strengthen your body and thereby make you a better student.

8. **Write for the school newspaper.** Again, this will enhance your writing ability, all the while participating in a school-sanctioned activity. EXTRA BONUS: Reading the school newspaper to enhance your reading skills.

9. **Perfect your computer.** The necessity to have a functioning computer to make outlines and type notes cannot be understated. Clean crumbs out of your keyboard, and wipe those smudges off your computer screen. Choose a really good screen saver, preview each one, then set the time delay for it go off—every ten minutes, no, fifteen. Choose a new wallpaper, make it centered, no, tiled. Move some folders around. Create shortcuts. Delete old files. Rename old files. Read old files.

10. **Loan analysis.** Compute how long it will take for you to pay back your loan. Don't be sloppy here, either. FindLaw.com provides salary charts for major firms in every state. You can fantasize that



# Death Row Insiders Share Their Experiences

DEATH PENALTY  
Continued from pg. 7

International.

Her boyfriend, who spoke on the panel, was also wrongfully convicted of murder and sentenced to death in Ireland. Eventually, he was released and because of his case, Ireland no longer has the death penalty.

John H. Blume spoke about his experience representing death row inmates. While in law school, he offered his services to a lawyer handling a death penalty case. He then decided to quit his job as a summer associate at a firm to work full-time on capital cases. This marked the beginning of his life-long dedication to representing death row inmates.

From 1987 to 1996, he served as director of the post-conviction death penalty resource center in South Carolina. In 1996, he was appointed to his current position as the Habeas Corpus Training Counsel. In addition, Blume teaches at Cornell Law School and has written numerous articles

pertaining to the death penalty.

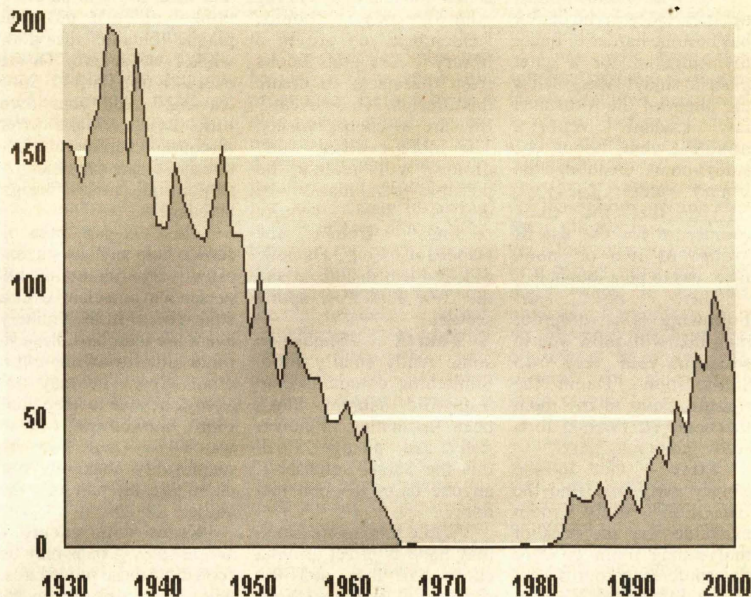
Over the years, he has represented over a dozen death row inmates at the U.S. Supreme Court. Sometimes he watched helplessly as his clients were put to death. Other times he was able to greet clients who were cleared of the crimes for which they were sentenced to death.

Beyond the rewarding experience of freeing innocent individuals, Blume is encouraged by the current anti-death penalty movement and the students who are involved in the issue. Many BLS students have assisted Blume on capital cases and continue to do so today.

This event was the first in a series sponsored by BLS DPP which encourages students to join and welcomes all suggestions and assistance.

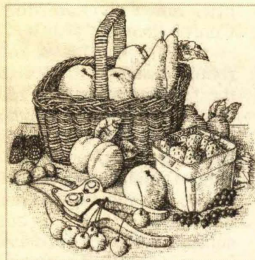
For more information, or to obtain a videotape of this past event, please contact: David Barron, '03, [davembarron@yahoo.com](mailto:davembarron@yahoo.com), or Alex Lesman, '03, [William.Lesman@brooklaw.edu](mailto:William.Lesman@brooklaw.edu).

## Executions, 1930-2001



In 2000, 85 persons in 14 states were executed, 19 more than in 2001. Organizations like the Death Penalty Project hope to see this trend continue. (Source: U.S. DOJ, Bureau of Justice Statistics)

## You're a Natural: *You May Also Be a Vegetarian*



by Alex Ryley, '04

Fifteen years ago last month, I forced myself to watch a three-hour animal rights documentary at Vassar College. An omnivore as the lights dimmed, I walked out of the auditorium a vegetarian, and I haven't touched meat since.

It's not that I'm a masochist. My decision to see the movie was motivated instead by the very concerns Michael Pollan describes in his recent *New York Times Magazine* article on the animal rights movement, "An Animal's Place." Namely, I had been having more and more trouble explaining to myself how I could eat a frankfurter while petting my dog – how one animal could lounge comfortably on my couch while a procession of others

wound up in my stomach.

I am glad to see my experience reflected – and validated – in Pollan's article. But what especially pleases me is the attention he devotes to omnivores' most common argument against vegetarianism: "It's natural to eat meat." This claim – that, because it is "natural," the choice to eat meat is acceptable and requires no examination – is very seductive. In fact, it persuaded me for years. But, as I eventually realized, the problem is that there are many other equally "natural" acts in which omnivores choose, on principle, not to engage.

I think people have in mind something commonsensical when they assert that meat-eating is "natural" for humans: they're thinking of our ability to consume and digest meat, and our long history of predation and meat-eating. Anti-vegetarians often seem triumphantly to believe that, with this one recitation of the obvious, they have won the debate. However, the assertion "meat-eating is natural" is simply not a counter-argument to anything. Of course it's natural to eat meat. I know

of no vegetarian who would disagree.

When we are faced with a choice, do we ask ourselves, "What is the natural thing to do?" Of course not. We ask, "What is the right thing to do?" In contrast, non-human animals do not deliberate. Without reflection, they will, for example, appropriate and eat other animals' meat, acts that are indisputably "natural." We humans are no less equipped to take another person's meat and eat it. But unlike other animals, we will decide whether to appropriate and eat that meat, and we may further reflect upon and modify those decisions. A reader of this article, for instance, might take her classmate's hamburger and eat it. Both the appropriation and the ingestion involve choices, neither of which is more or less "natural" than the other. Anti-vegetarians would presumably condemn the former but not the latter choice. But this condemnation is inconsistent with their claim that if something is natural, it is acceptable.

The philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein was onto something when he asserted that philosophical

problems arise out of the language in which we express them, and, consequently, that these problems will dissolve upon perspicuous linguistic analysis. By the same token, I would urge anti-vegetarians to consider more carefully what it means to say that meat-eating is "natural." Of

course, I believe this will create, rather than dissolve, a philosophical problem for them. But they will be on the road to offering a more persuasive argument against vegetarianism than that which allegedly flows from "nature." And then, they may they have their meat and eat it too.

## BLS News Wishes

*You Happy*

*Holidays and*

*Good Luck*

*on Your Finals!*



# Missed "Exam Strategies" Lecture: 2L Offers Plan for Staking Your Claim to a Study Room

by Joseph Anci, '04

With finals almost upon us, space in the library has become harder to find... my kingdom for a quiet place to study! Alas, such is the plight of the tormented law student. Wait a minute....what about the study rooms? Although the library rules CLEARLY STATE that the study rooms are for the use of groups of two or more, there has to be a loophole.

Have no fear! Following is a foolproof plan that will allow you to squat in your very own study room. Damn the rightful claim to my room that some 1L Twerski Torts study group may have!

**First** - Get to the library early and find the BIGGEST study room available. Try the back of the reading room on 2 or the conference rooms next to the Lexis and Westlaw rooms on 2M. These rooms are not as popular as others. In fact, some students don't even know they exist! Avoid the smaller rooms in the basement or on the balcony of 2M. You're sure to get evicted from those in a hurry.

**Second** - Wear extra layers so you can place a jacket and sweater on the other chairs in the room. This helps to create the appearance that more than two people are using the room. I wish I had a nickel for the number of times this one actually fools people!

**Third** - Have your books strewn across the table to imply that a huge

group cramming session is taking place. The best part is that you don't have to lug your own books. Remember, you are in a library. Just grab books from the stacks to create this illusion. One caveat - Be sure to choose wisely. The more evolved study groups will realize no possible combination of classes will require readings from the Napoleonic Code, Danielle Steele, Flemish Jur. 2d and the *New York Post* sports section.

**Fourth** - Sneak in some really smelly food. Something comparable to 3-day-old salmon that's been marinating in horseradish and limburger. I call this the Skunk defense. If anyone dares to open that door...

While this rancid smell may have an effect on you, cause hair loss, sterility, etc., don't worry. Your sense of smell will return to normal in a few days.

**Fifth** - HIDE! If you hear a group coming towards your room, quickly duck under the table. Study groups are far less likely to move everything out of a room than they are to kick one person out. If they can't find you, then they can't remove you.

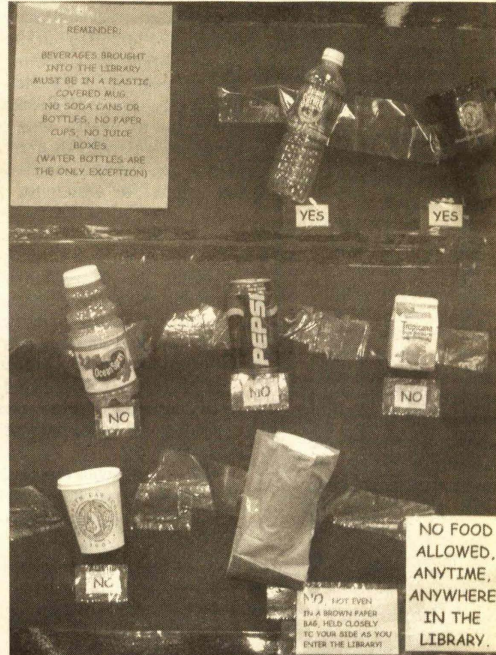
**Sixth and Finally** - If any study group is intelligent enough to see through your little ruse, be sure to raise hell, whine, plead and LIE! You are training to be a lawyer after all. Some of the standard responses are - "Oh, she just went to the bathroom and will be back

soon." "Yeah, he is coming back," "I didn't know about that rule, are you sure? I think you just put that plaque outside the door while I was in here." Or the ever so popular, "I ain't leaving." Add your own little twists. Make your responses even more effective and create confusion by responding in a foreign language.

This six-part plan is sure to help any law student effectively maintain his presence in and claim over a study room. In the unlikely event the plan fails, keep in mind the following extra credit tips. You may not always be able to keep your room, but knowing who to watch for and how to memorably abandon your claim are all part of the battle.

**Know your enemy** - While study groups may be fooled by these procedures, there is one person every good squatter knows and fears. I call that person "The Sheriff." This individual has no respect for the individual squatter. This is his or her claim, and you're trespassing. The Sheriff never takes empty study rooms. This library vigilante enters the building and immediately seeks out study rooms with only one person. Most likely, The Sheriff aspires to be a tax attorney and views these little encounters as pro-bono criminal work.

You can recognize The Sheriff by that stone-faced, Clint Eastwood-like look. For some reason, when The Sheriff enters the



Robert Vidoni/BLS News

The library keeps a watchful eye over what you eat AND where you study

study room the theme from *The Good, The Bad & The Ugly* keeps repeating in your head....well, not the whole thing, just that really eerie part in the beginning. If you spot The Sheriff moseying on over, just pack up and leave. You'll only make it worse by putting up a fight.

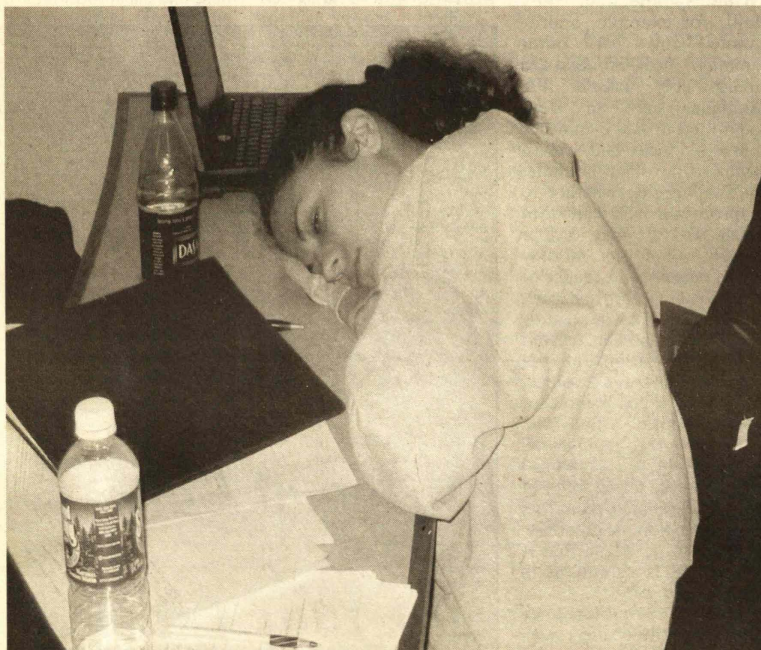
**Making a grand exit** - If the librarian is summoned to put the dreaded 20-minute sticker on your door (after, of course, you've pleasantly stated that your tuition pays his or her salary) you're all but out of luck. Your only hope is to run frantically from floor to floor, looking for a classmate to share your room. However, this option is never fruitful as if you had friends in the first place you wouldn't be sitting in a study room ALONE.

And if you are removed from the study

room, be sure to go out screaming. You never know when a member of Moot Court may be close by. "Wow. What a great use of profanity and precedent. I especially liked how he scanned the reading room while transitioning into his fascist library policy argument. Let's offer him a spot on Moot Court right away!"

As you leave the room, be sure to memorize the faces of those bastards who kicked you out. Maybe catch a glimpse of their names on a book or outline. Hold a grudge. Maybe not today, maybe not tomorrow, but someday...they'll get what is coming to them...

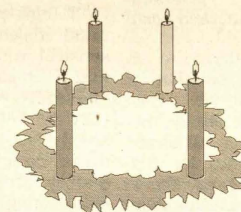
**NEXT ISSUE: Payback** - Destroying the legal careers of those who forcibly removed you from the study room.



<https://brooklynworks.brooklaw.edu/justinian/vol2002/iss5/1>

Amber Whitfield catches up on some much-needed rest during class.

Adam Kramer/ BLS News



Advent begins

Sunday,

December 1, 2002



# During Hannukah, Everybody Takes a Turn

by Erez Davy, '05

"Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel, I made you out of clay, and when you're dry and ready, oh dreidel I shall play!" Most of you are probably familiar with this classic Hannukah song. It is one of Judaism's finest holiday compositions. If any of you haven't heard it yet, go out and buy the record. It's worth listening to.

But what exactly is this mysterious "dreidel?" Is it really made out of clay? And how exactly shall it be played?

If you are yet unfamiliar with the game of dreidel, don't worry. I hope to provide some important insights that will teach and subsequently enhance your dreidel-playing abilities. Soon you'll be spinning like the pros!

In order to understand how the dreidel fits in with Hannukah, a few words are necessary about the holiday.

In the 2nd century BC, the Seleucid king Antiochus decided to forcibly impose Hellenic culture on the Jews of Israel. Resisting this religious oppression, the

Hasmonaen Jews, led by the zealous Maccabees, revolted and restored Jewish sovereignty. In attempting to rededicate the Temple after its defilement, the Jews miraculously rekindled the Temple Menorah for eight days with only a day's supply of oil. Happiness abounded and the holiday was created.

According to the story, it was the dreidel that played a crucial role in enabling the Israelites to escape detection for practicing their religious beliefs. If a Seleucid guard was coming by, Jews would cease their religious activities and play dreidel. "Whatcha doin'?", the guard would ask. "Just playin' a little dreidel," would be the response, "you got a problem with that?" "Nah, that's cool," the guard would observe, and retire elsewhere, allowing the Jews to resume their forbidden practices.

Nice story. In truth, though, the dreidel appears to be more of a version of a medieval German gambling game than a clever ancient-Israelite ruse. To this day the game has retained its

gambling element. And it is to the game itself that we now turn.

Despite what the song says, dreidels nowadays are no longer made of clay. They are, in fact, mostly made of cheap, composite plastics (but those lyrics make for a terrible song).

The dreidel itself, a four-sided top, commemorates the story of Hannukah by having each side of the top inscribed with a letter that, combined, stand for the sentence "*nes gadol haya sham*"—a great miracle happened there [Israel].

In order to play the game, one first needs to be familiar with the four Hebrew letters on the sides of the dreidel—*nun*, *gimmel*, *hay*, and *shin*. Each letter, besides standing for the words mentioned above, indicates whether one has won or lost money in the game. In order to remember what each letter stands for, it is easiest to associate certain words with the sound of each letter.

*Nun=Nothing*. Nice try, but you don't win anything.

*Gimmel=Great!* You won the pot! Sweet, sweet earnings. It's all yours.

*Hey=Half*. You get to

take half the pot. Hey, it's better than *nun*.

*Shin=Shoot!* Not only do you not win anything, but you have to pay half the value of the pot. You could not possibly have done any worse.

Now that you know the basics, a few rules on procedure. Before beginning each round, every person must "ante up." Amateurs usually start with pennies, but professional play can end up involving nickels or even dimes. With the pot set, each person takes a turn (in a counter-clockwise motion) spinning the dreidel, either contributing or taking money from the pot, depending on the spin. When someone gets a "*gimmel*," that person clears the pot and the process starts again. Whoever ends up with the most money in the end is the winner. Sounds simple enough, right? Don't kid yourself. The game involves a lot more than it appears at first blush. A lot depends on technique. The most important element in a good dreidel game is fluid spinning. There is nothing more embarrassing than sitting down to a game of

dreidel and having the dreidel flop around all over the place. Be firm when holding the top of the dreidel and release it in a snapping motion. A good spin should be wobble-free for a good 15-20 seconds.

Once you have the spinning part down (if this is your first time, make sure to practice before playing), then comes strategy. Although *gimmel* is great, you don't want to be too obvious about getting the letter all the time. Rather, get a few *nuns* and *shins* to mix things up a bit; you don't want to be too obvious. Remember—it's the big pots that have the big returns. Save your best *gimmels* for when they really count.

If you're serious about dreidel-playing, it's always a good idea to get your own. Get familiar with it, practice with it, become one with it. In time, there won't be a dreideler out there who you can't out-spin.

So, whether you are a novice or a seasoned veteran, feel free to enjoy the wonders of dreidel this season. As long as you're careful and know your limits, it is definitely a story worth spinning.

## Give yourself a Break with Holiday Movie Trivia

1. In the 1988 film, "Scrooged", that character played by Bill Murray is:

- a) a cold-hearted banker
- b) a cold-hearted TV executive
- c) a cold-hearted police officer
- d) a cold-hearted politician

2. What's the name of George Bailey's guardian angel in "It's a Wonderful Life?"

- a) Ariel
- b) Henry
- c) Clarence
- d) Frank

3. In "It's a Wonderful Life," George Bailey as a boy suffers an injury to:

- a) his foot
- b) his arm

- c) his eyes
- d) his ear

4. "The Nightmare Before Christmas" is written by:

- a) Tim Burton
- b) Martin Scorsese
- c) Jimmy Stewart
- d) Danny DeVito

5. "White Christmas" is set in:

- a) Colorado
- b) Montana
- c) New Hampshire
- d) Vermont

6. Who plays Bing Crosby's army buddy in "White Christmas?"

- a) Jimmy Stewart
- b) Dean Martin
- c) Danyn Kaye
- d) Bob Hope

7. The little girl who's skeptical about Santa Clause in "Miracle on 34th Street" is played by:

- a) Natalie Wood
- b) Audrey Hepburn
- c) Anne Bancroft
- d) Sharon Stone

8. "Miracle on 34th Street" revolved around which department store?

- a) Bloomingdales
- b) Macys
- c) Parisian
- d) Neiman Marcus

9. In "Home Alone" a young boy is abandoned when his parents rush to a holiday vacation in:

- a) Vermont
- b) London
- c) Paris

d) New York

10. The 1982 Barry Levinson film "Diner" is set in which city?

- a) New York
- b) Cleveland
- c) Baltimore
- d) Boston

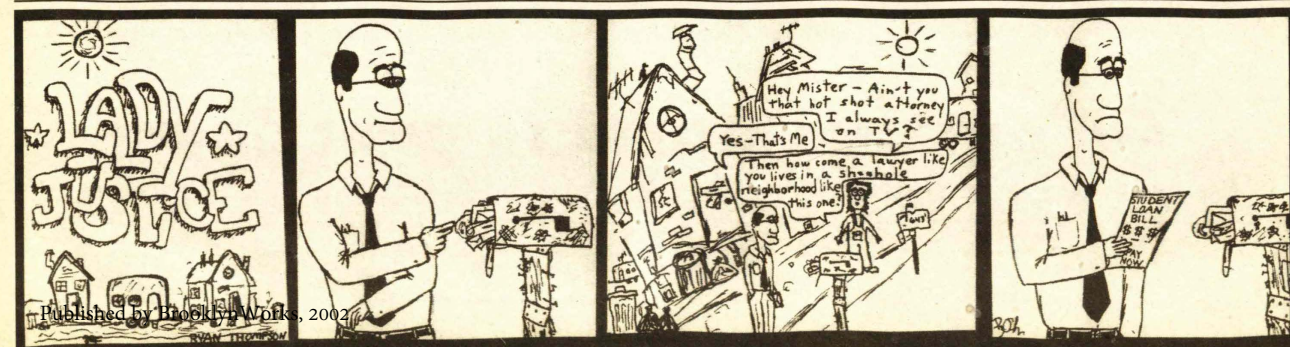
11. Which of the following actors was NOT in "Diner?"

- a) Kevin Bacon
- b) Ellen Barkin
- c) Matt Dillon
- d) Mickey Rourke

12. What happens to the character played by Tim Allen in "The Santa Clause?"

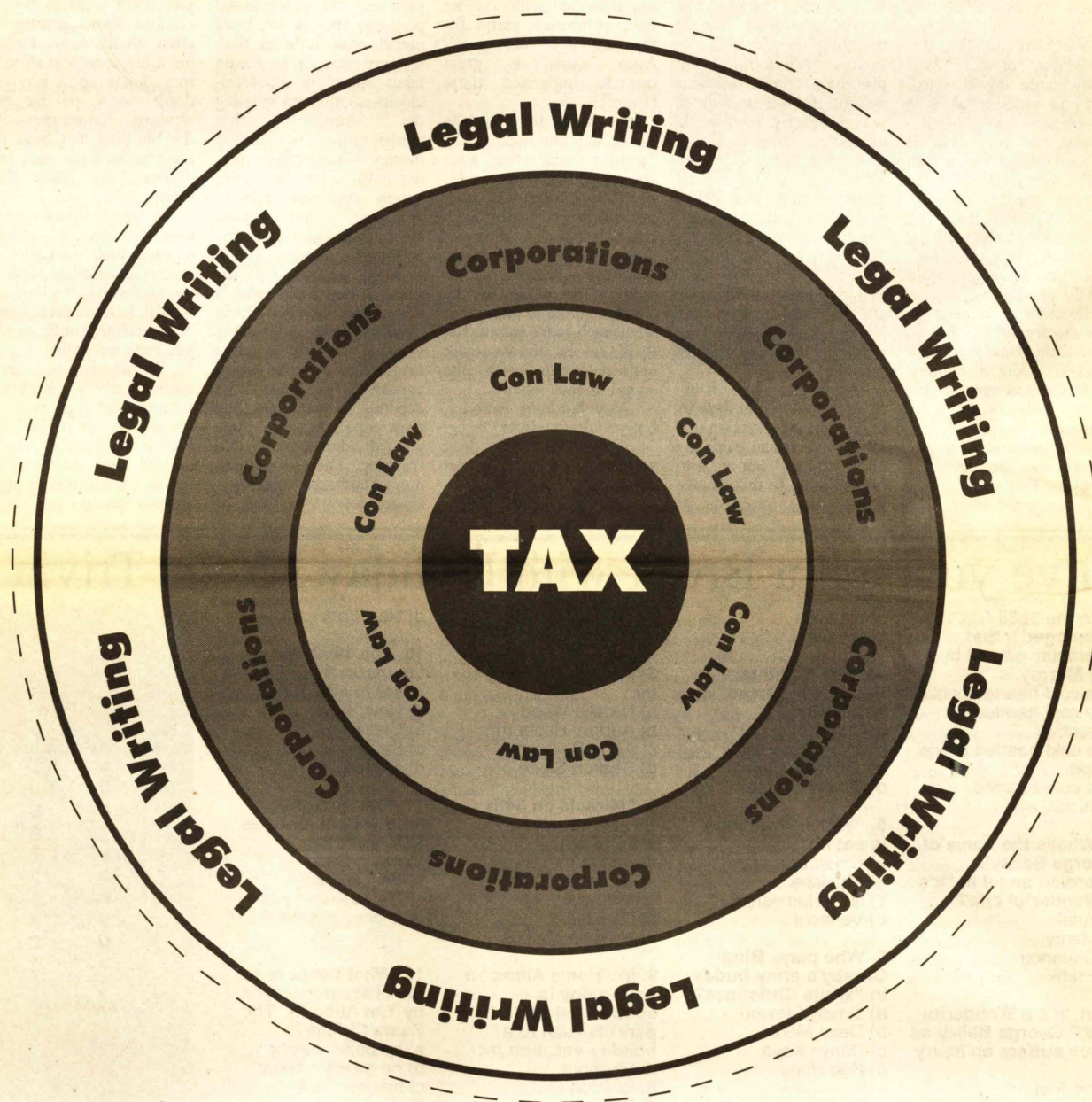
- a) he gains weight
- b) he grows a beard
- c) he gets fired
- d) all of the above

Answers:  
1. b  
2. c  
3. b  
4. a  
5. d  
6. a  
7. d  
8. a  
9. c  
10. a  
11. d  
12. d





# Feeling Stressed? Take a Shot at the Academic Dartboard!



**Cut out and staple to your door.  
Then aim for your least favorite class.  
Enjoy!**