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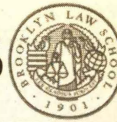
The Justinian

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Affirmative Action Takes Center Stage in D.C.

by Kristin Harrison, '03

"At their core, the Michigan policies amount to a quota system that unfairly rewards or penalizes prospective students, based solely on their race," said President Bush in a speech about the case currently before the Supreme Court on affirmative action. The President filed an amicus brief with the Court condemning University of Michigan's policy aimed at increasing the number of minority students who attend the institution.

Grutter v. Bollinger and *Gratz v. Bollinger*, the two cases which have been consolidated into one for oral argument, are considered to be the most important cases on affirmative action since the *Bakke* case in 1978. The plaintiffs, both white, were denied admission to the University of Michigan's law school and undergraduate program in 1995.

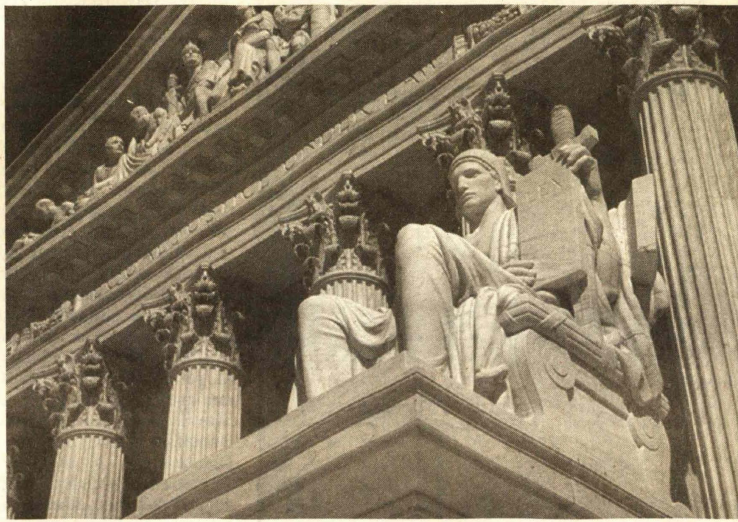
In the *Grutter* case, Barbara Grutter alleged that the University's "race-based" policies played a role in her rejection. She challenged the policy on Equal Protection grounds. A federal trial judge agreed with her, but the Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit reversed the lower court's decision. The Sixth

Circuit relied on Supreme Court precedent that allows the use of race as one of many admission factors and said that Michigan's "law school has a compelling state interest in achieving a diverse student body." (*Wall Street Journal* 12/2/02).

The *Gratz* case involved similar issues, but at the undergraduate level. The trial court ruled against the plaintiffs, but the case was appealed to the Supreme Court before the Sixth Circuit made a ruling on the appeal.

The admissions program at the University of Michigan operates on a 150 point scale. One hundred ten points are based solely on academic considerations, while the other 40 points are based on factors such as socioeconomic status, leadership and life experience. Race is also considered. Minorities are awarded a total of 20 points on the scale.

President Bush argued that the University is employing a quota system to promote racial diversity. He has insisted that there are other race-neutral ways to encourage diversity on college campuses. "University officials have the responsibility and the obligation to make a serious, effective effort to reach out to students from



all walks of life, without falling back on unconstitutional quotas."

However, many critics of the Bush position argue that if the Supreme Court declares the Michigan program unconstitutional, it will be replaced with a pure merit-based system that favors students from higher performing high schools in affluent and heterogeneous districts. The President has also failed to achieve consensus on his position from some of his top staff members. The two highest ranking African Americans in the Bush Administration, Condoleezza Rice, the

National Security Advisor, and Colin Powell, the Secretary of State, have taken opposing positions. Rice has fervently supported the President's position for race-neutral alternatives to the University of Michigan's program. Powell has publicly supported the University of Michigan, but has recognized that his view differs from the President's.

Here at BLS, students joined the effort to support the University of Michigan. Brooklyn Law School joined an amicus brief filed by the Association of American

Law Schools, supporting the admissions program. Students signed a petition supporting the University of Michigan which was included with the brief. Students felt strongly that the Michigan program encouraged diversity and was crucial to ensuring that minority students continue to have the opportunity to attend the nation's best universities.

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear oral arguments in the case this term and will probably make its final decision some time in the late spring.

Across the Pond: A View on the Law from Abroad

by Miri Frankel, '04
Foreign Correspondent

To ensure that *BLS News* readers gain an international legal perspective, I have taken on the difficult task of serving as your foreign correspondent. As a result, the *News* will be publishing a monthly diary (hopefully monthly - I have ambitious travel plans) about my experiences while I study law at University College London (UCL) in the United Kingdom.

During the past two weeks, I learned a great deal about the UK and European Union (EU) legal and political systems that *News* readers, especially those interested in international law, might find interesting.

Becoming a Lawyer in the UK

The study of law in the United Kingdom differs

from the curriculum in the U.S. First, their law study begins in undergraduate college. Undergraduate universities are divided into smaller colleges that specialize in a particular field of study, one of which is law. Students studying at the Faculty of Laws of a university are undergraduates who are exclusively studying law and graduate with a law degree.

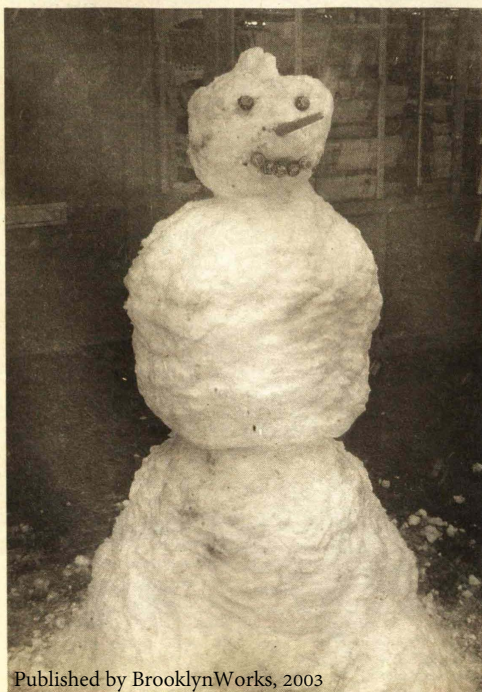
Second, there are two levels of law study that one can pursue. In the UK, two types of lawyers exist: barristers and solicitors. Simply explained, solicitors are approached by clients to handle general legal matters. Barristers are essentially trial lawyers. Once a case is ready for trial, a solicitor approaches a barrister on behalf of his client, and a barrister argues the case before the judge. Upon attaining a law degree, a student must decide whether to continue studying in order to become

a barrister or a solicitor.

After completing the degree program, would-be solicitors are required to take the Legal Practice Course (LPC), a full-year training and preparatory course culminating in a practical exam. After the LPC, solicitors-in-training spend two years working as a trainee in a firm.

Students who want to be barristers will take a Bar Vocational Course (BVC) after earning a law degree. The BVC is also a full-year course. It culminates in a series of final papers, exams, and an assessment of interpersonal skills through a videotaped performance. All trainee barristers must join one of the four Inns of Court: Gray's Inn, Lincoln's Inn, Inner Temple and Middle Temple. Trainees are required to attend events at their Inn and to eat a certain number of meals with

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continued on pg. 4





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Speaking with The Registrar

Familiar Faces

by Carolyn Leder, '05

Remember all that stress you felt during exams last semester? Remember moments before the exam started students ran out of exam rooms because they forgot their exam numbers? Did you ever wonder who those students run to? Do you feel a sense of relief now that grades are posted and you no longer need to check the Registrar page on the BLS website five times a day? Do you know who posted those grades? This month, the familiar face is the woman who helps forgetful students and manages grade distribution. She is Suzanne Dennis, Brooklyn Law School's Registrar.

Suzanne started her career in higher education by pursuing a teaching career in her home state of California.

Suzanne obtained both her B.A. in English and M.A. in Comparative Literature from San Diego State University. She then went to Claremont Graduate School to pursue her PhD in British and American Literature. While at Claremont, a graduate school modeled after the Oxford tradition, Suzanne taught classes at Harvey Mudd College.

To pay her way through her studies, Suzanne took a job in higher education administration. She worked for the Vice President of Academic Affairs and the Dean of Curriculum. In her position, she developed both the master teaching schedule and final exam schedule-no small task for 32,000 students and 80 different departments.

Suzanne benefited from this opportunity in two ways. "I'm proud that I went through my whole course of study without debt." This is a feat every law student should envy. The second was that she became interested in learning the other side of academic administration-how the Registrar handled student records. Although Suzanne completed her written and oral exams for her PhD program and had written a dissertation proposal that was approved, she decided to make a career change.

As a result, Suzanne left California twenty-one years ago and moved to New Jersey to pursue a career in higher education administration. Suzanne's first job on the East Coast was to head a team that implemented a new student database for Montclair

State University. Afterwards, she took a job as Registrar for Middlesex County College. She left Middlesex after fifteen years to accept her current position at Brooklyn Law School. Suzanne commutes four hours a day between New Jersey and Brooklyn. She spends that time catching up on tasks and occasionally bumping into Professor Jennifer Rosato, who takes the same Amtrak train, and only rarely, standing.

Suzanne has been Brooklyn Law School's Registrar for 18 months and manages a staff of 4 administrators and 3 clerical personnel. She supports private consulting between students and administrators and to that end, has given up her office space to create several offices. Even though Suzanne's office has the past greats Shakespeare and Emily Dickinson hanging on the wall, her thoughts are to the future and a Registrar Department with web-based access.

Computer-savvy students will be happy to hear that BLS will eventually have web-based registration and add/drop, as well as the ability to print schedules and unofficial transcripts on-line. Already this past semester, Suzanne handled a large majority of add/drop before classes started by e-mailing wait-listed students lists of alternative classes. In addition,

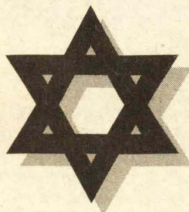
Suzanne speaks highly of ExamSoft, a pilot program that 112 students in 18 different courses participated in to type their exam answers. Soon, ExamSoft will be used with take home exams.

California State Bar uses ExamSoft for the essay portion of the bar exam. New York has also looked at the software. This month it will allow the first 500 students who request ExamSoft to use it to write their essays for the bar.

In an attempt to make the Registrar more accessible to students, Suzanne plans to literally open doors. Students currently must walk through the Bursar's Office and past Financial Aid to reach the Registrar's desk. In the future, the Registrar will have its own entrance complete with a computer terminal. The terminal will allow students to access the Registrar's system instead of waiting in line.

Lastly, another project that Suzanne is in the process of developing is a new student records system to update the one currently in place for the 1500 students here. So next time your mail is mistakenly sent to your neighbor, or you want to confirm a rumor that student grades are changing from B's to A's on the website, say hi to Suzanne Dennis, the Brooklyn Law School Registrar, and thank her.

Looking Back: JLSA Celebrates Chanukah



by Jason Buskin, '04

Over a hundred students gathered in the school lounge on December 2, 2002 to take a break from studying and celebrate Chanukah.

Also known as the Festival of Lights, and popularized by Adam Sandler, Chanukah is actually a 2000-year old Jewish holiday, commemorating significant events in history. It is during this holiday that we recall the miraculous victory by an outnumbered Jewish population living in the land of Israel and invaded by the Greeks under King Antiochus.

We also remember the events following the Greek war, when the Jewish people rededicated their Temple in Jerusalem. Although they only located a minute amount of oil to light the Temple candelabra, miraculously the oil lasted 8 days, until a new supply could be obtained. Henceforth, we celebrate for 8 days and light the menorah each night in remembrance.

To mark the occasion, the Jewish Law Students Association (JLSA) sponsored the night's event, providing refreshments and the traditional holiday foods - jelly donuts and potato latkes (pancakes). Additionally, dreidels and menorahs were given to all in attendance and guest speaker Rabbi Simcha Weinstein spoke about the holiday.

Students left the party, with their appetites and spirituality satiated. 1Ls and 2Ls can look for a repeat next year, keep on



Carolyn Leder/BLS News
The Registrar hard at work getting out our grades.

Professor Jayne S. Ressler

Professor Profile

by Carolyn Leder, '05

Professor Jayne S. Ressler finds teaching so rewarding that she gave up an exciting litigation career to come back to it. After graduating from University of Pennsylvania with a B.S. in Finance and a B.A. in Psychology, she deferred admission to Penn Law School for a year to take a job at The Princeton Review. She worked with TPR President John Katzman as his assistant, working on the management aspects of running the company. Later, she added teaching SAT and LSAT prep classes.

Prof. Ressler enjoyed teaching college and law school hopefuls so much that when her year deferment to Penn Law was up, she decided to continue working. "I was teaching people who would give their right arm to get into Penn Law," says Ressler, "and here I was deferring for two years." When the two years were up, Ressler went to law school where she pursued her teaching interests by teaching Legal Writing as a 3L.

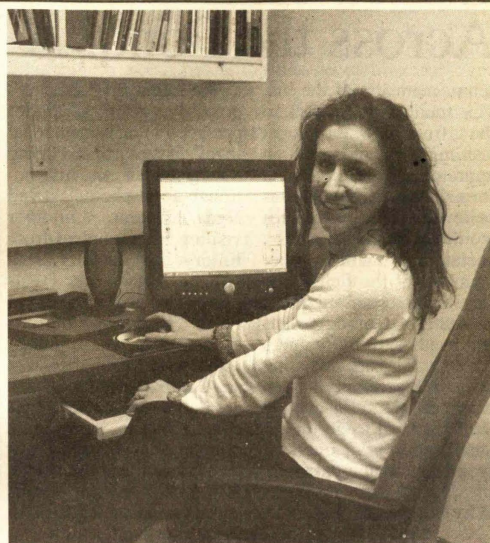
After graduating from

law school, Prof. Ressler remained in Philadelphia and tried law firm life with Wolf, Block, Shorr, & Solis-Cohen where she had worked as a summer associate. She worked in commercial litigation, which she found extremely interesting because she could research and use precedent creatively to mold and shape arguments of positions she advocated. The sexual harassment suit, *Ezold v. Wolf, Block, Shorr, & Solis-Cohen*, in which a female associate sued the firm because she did not make partner. When asked about the firm's post-litigation and publicity environment, Prof. Ressler said, "After the *Ezold* case, the firm bent over backwards to treat the women well." To this day, it remains her favorite firm experience.

However, after two years of life in Philadelphia, Prof. Ressler, born and raised in NYC, wanted to come back to the Big Apple. She commuted on Amtrak between Philly and NY while searching for the right NY firm. She often came back to Philly late at night with tons of work ahead of her. She often stayed all

night at the firm, taking an occasional 4:00 am nap on her favorite couch on the 11th floor. She chose to go to the NY office of Baker & McKenzie, a Chicago based firm. One snag in the plan was the NY Bar. Prof. Ressler had studied during the summer after graduation for the PA and NJ bar. Now, at a new job in a new city, Prof. Ressler worked full-time, attended BAR-BRI courses each night from 5-10pm and returned to the office afterwards. "I will never do that again," said Prof. Ressler, "that was awful."

One of her work highlights involved a 2-week trip in 1997 to the World Court at the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands. She selected and prepped a stamp expert in a case before the US-Iran Claims Tribunal. She worked so much that she was only able to see Amsterdam for all of 5 hours one day. Before each day's proceedings, the US and Iranian lawyers would meet and shake hands, but the Iranian men would not shake hands with the female attorneys. Ironically, like *Ally McBeal*, the World Court has co-ed bathrooms.



As the next four years continued, Prof. Ressler missed the personal satisfaction of teaching. She remembered fondly tutoring a college-bound junior for her SAT's whose dream was to attend Northwestern. The day the student was accepted, she called Prof. Ressler, crying excited tears of relief and thanks. Prof. Ressler missed that sense of hard work, personal stake, and satisfaction. She applied to teach Legal Writing at night at BLS. "I felt a sense of camaraderie with the night students because we were all

working and coming to school at night," she said. After one year, she applied for a full-time position and left her full-time law firm job.

Prof. Ressler has taught Legal Writing to 1Ls for three years and also teaches Fundamentals of Legal Drafting. She practices yoga in her spare time and is also engaged to be married. The amount of students waiting to talk with her while I was interviewing her demonstrates that her students find her teaching style as satisfying as she finds teaching.

Vagina Monologues

by Danielle Gordon, '03

VAGINA. VAGINA. VAGINA. There, I said it. And I won't be the only one saying it on February 12 and 13 in this very law school. Students and faculty will be discussing vaginas for two hours. "Crazy!" you exclaim, "why are we talking about vaginas in our law school?" you ask. Brooklyn Law Students Against Domestic Violence (BLSADV) presents its 2nd Annual presentation of Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* in two V-Day benefit performances along with approximately 800 others around the world.

V-Day is a global movement to stop violence against women and girls. Through V-Day campaigns, local volunteers and students produce annual benefit performances of *The Vagina Monologues* to raise awareness and funds for anti-violence groups within their own communities. This year BLSADV will donate profits from our performances and other fund-raising activities to two local organizations: The Urban Women's Safe Haven and Sanctuary for Families.

"I still don't get it.

between vaginas and violence and Valentine's Day?" Much of the violence against women occurs around the vagina or because women are different than men in that they have vaginas. If we can't say the word, how can we talk about the issue seriously? So, many of us will be using provocative words (i.e., vagina, period, rape, clitoris, masturbation) during the performances in provocative pieces (about pubic hair, secretions, menstruation, sexual exploration, violence, birth). Only when we feel comfortable using such words in the context of life experiences will we be able to openly discuss issues of violence against women and girls. And only when the violence stops will we will be able to celebrate February 14: the "day of love."

So... come hear your fellow classmates (and mystery professors) on February 12 and 13 and show support for ending violence against women and girls around the world. Even if you won't be able to say the word "vagina" at the end of the show, I promise that you will laugh, perhaps cry, conceivably feel uncomfortable and definitely learn a lot!

Dorm Construction Resumes



Ian J. Gaynor/BLS News

Construction on residence hall resumes despite frigid temperatures and the occasional snowfall.

by Ian J. Gaynor, '03

Construction at Brooklyn Law School's residence hall resumed in early December after a month long City-imposed suspension following the collapse of a neighboring parking garage.

City demolition crews quickly cleared away the garage rubble and erected a fence along the property line bordering the residence hall site. BLS contrac-

tors were then given the green light to commence construction after satisfying the City's safety concerns.

Despite the suspension, contractors at the site were able to work quickly to remain on schedule.

"We were able to pick up the pace and should be done with the foundation by April. We didn't really lose any time," said a supervisor at the site who asked that his name be withheld.

Two different contractors have been hired to work on the project's two separate phases. The company currently working at the site, Urban Foundation, is responsible for excavation and laying the building's foundation. This phase should be completed by April.

The project's next phase will start at ground level and continue until the building is completed some time in Spring 2004.

Across the Pond: A View on the Law from Abroad

senior members of the Inn. This tradition dates back to the times when legal training was more of an apprenticeship than a formal education - it was believed that trainees would learn as much by socializing with other members of the field as by following senior members to court. Attending events and meals earn the trainees credits, and after amassing at least 12 credits, the Inn will "call" the trainee to the Bar. The final stage for bar qualification is a one-year "pupilage" with a barrister.

Why Study Abroad?

The Pace London Law Program (PLLP) has 40 students from schools across the country. We all seem to be participating in a semester abroad for the same reasons. Aside from the opportunity to travel throughout the European Union (EU) with extreme convenience (and rather cheaply), studying international law within the EU allows for a better understanding of international law and first-hand practical knowledge of foreign legal systems, especially during this time of expansion and development for the EU. "I

knew that I couldn't possibly gain a better perspective of international legal issues than being immersed in an international atmosphere," stated Neda Matar, another visiting PLLP student from Emory University in Atlanta. Personally, I was particularly interested in PLLP because of its success for over eighteen years. The UCL professors are familiar with PLLP and are able to tailor their discussions to incorporate comparisons between our legal system and their own. Also, UCL has prestigious connections in the British legal system, which we benefit from through an internship with a barrister, a solicitor, or a Member of Parliament during the semester.

My Experience:

I arrived in London on Saturday, January 4, just over a week before school began. I am living in a hotel in Notting Hill down the street from Notting Hill Gate and one block from the entrance to the Portobello Road market (if you have seen the Hugh Grant/Julia Roberts movie *Notting Hill*, the market in

the opening scene is Portobello Road). My hotel, Vincent House, is really just a boarding house for international, long-term visitors. There are ten PLLP students living in Vincent House. Most of the other residents are in London studying or

In London, it is almost as essential to understand the media as the political parties - generally, you can tell how a person votes by the newspaper she reads.

working through the benefit of EU citizenship and the EU principle of free movement of persons.

Wednesday, January 8

I learned that snow is a mystery to most Londoners. When unusually cold weather caused a full day of snow, instead of complaining that the city wasn't clearing the streets fast enough, people went out and celebrated with

day-long snowball fights and snowman building contests. Why so much excitement?

Central London has not had snowfall in 12 years. The following day newspapers devoted several pages to coverage of the "blizzard" conditions (a few inches of snowfall).

Sunday, January 12

PLLP has established a connection with Gray's Inn. During the semester, we will have a number of events, including a moot court competition at the Inn with the barrister trainees. Tonight is a welcome reception with other students and our professors. I am taking five classes and have six professors from six different countries: New Zealand, France, Ireland, Italy, Britain and Germany. Despite the fact that many border patrols within the EU have been abandoned in an effort to further European integration, the professors have a tendency to make stereotypical jokes about the nationalities of the others.

Friday, January 17

Tube service is horribly

unreliable. The Circle Line, the most direct route from Notting Hill to UCL, is the most abysmal because it regularly shuts down for track problems. The alternate route is the Central Line, but the Central Line is plagued by overcrowding. Central Line stations are unpredictably shut down to ease the flow of traffic. I do not understand the logic of this strategy because the result is hundreds of people milling around on the street waiting for the stations to reopen. Curiously, BritRail, the national train service, is attempting to solve its service problems by reducing train service in the hopes that conductors would be more motivated to getting the trains in on time.

Today the Tube commute is even worse because the Firefighters' Union is on strike. That's right - on strike! From time to time, they schedule 24-hour strikes during which firefighters are replaced by special police forces and military. Instead of fire trucks, the response vehicles on the streets are green trucks staffed by military staff. In addition,

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EDEN
28 W 20TH ST

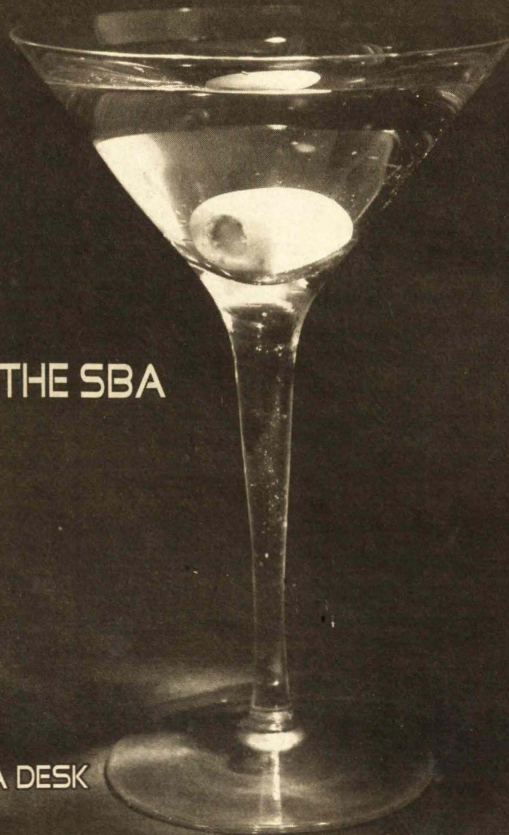
SAT FEB 15

PARTY SPONSORED BY THE SBA

\$25/TICKET

OPEN BAR 10-12

**TICKETS AVAILABLE @ THE SBA CAFETERIA DESK
OR FROM SBA REPRESENTATIVES**





PLLP Students & Professors pose for a group photo.

all Tube stations with elevators are shut down to prevent a lack of response in an emergency. Instead, travelers are diverted to specific open stations. Thankfully the Notting Hill station is open, but the platforms are overwhelmed and we have to wait for a couple of trains to pass before we can get on one.

Monday, January 20

In London, it is almost as essential to understand the media as the political parties. A solicitor living in my building explained that, generally, you can tell how

a person votes by the newspaper she reads. *The Guardian* and *The Independent* are liberal newspapers and their readers tend to vote Labour (Prime Minister Tony Blair's party and the majority in the House of Commons - actually, Blair is New Labour, but no one I've asked seems to know the difference between Labour and New Labour) or Liberal Democrat. *The Mail*, *The Evening Standard* and *The Sun* (a Rupert Murdoch publication which is more of a tabloid than the others and mostly known for its

infamous "Page Three" - a daily feature of a topless model) are more conservative papers and their readers are usually Conservatives and Tories (or Labour-supporters who buy *The Sun* for the naked pictures).

The major story in all of the papers this week is the impending vote by the House of Commons on "education top-up fees." The UK is a welfare state - health care is free under the National Health Service, and most public education is free or extremely inexpensive. The government set strict limits on the levels of tuition that univer-

sities (even private schools like Oxford and Cambridge) can charge. Tuition in most fields is around £1,000 (about \$1,600) or less per year.

Because many universities are struggling to cover their costs, Blair's government is pushing for a law that changes the tuition structure to allow universities to charge up to £4,000 per year, while allowing students to pay the tuition after they finish school rather than up-front. Most headlines criticize the plan because the tuition structure leaves students with a potential post-graduation debt of up to £21,000 (about \$32,000). Law schools are already allowed to charge higher tuition, and annual costs may be up to £10,000 (about \$16,000).

Surprisingly, many interviewees believe that higher education is just not worth this cost. Despite comparisons made to the US, where students regularly graduate with tens of thousands of dollars of debt, many students still don't think a college degree is worth £21,000.

Tuesday, January 21

Last week Chirac and Schroeder, leaders of France and Germany respectively, announced a Franco-German agreement

envisioning the future of the EU as a co-presidency with expanded responsibilities. In reality, the agreement has no immediate effect on the EU. Rather, it is a compromise between France and Germany, states that generally disagree on the development of the EU political structure (while Britain tends to watch from the sidelines), to support the creation of joint presidencies that more effectively reflect the franchise of EU citizens while protecting the interests of the member states' governments. This agreement will only affect the structure of the EU if the other member states agree to it. So far, it is unclear if the Franco-German vision will be adopted by the EU.

Today, in honor of the fortieth anniversary (on Thursday) of the Versailles Treaty of 1953 promoting cooperation and integration between the two nations, Chirac and Schroeder reveal plans to create a unified Franco-German citizenship. They left the name of this new republic to the imagination. During a Law of the EU class discussion on this unexpected news, the professor, a French citizen, laughs that he had no idea that he had a desire to be ½ German until Chirac made the announcement.

PIEPER BAR REVIEW

FREE ETHICS

M.P.R.E. REVIEW

Announcing Our Locations For The M.P.R.E. Review Class For The March 8, 2003 Exam

NEW YORK CITY LIVE

Saturday, February 15, 2003

New York University Vanderbilt Hall - Room 110

VIDEOTAPE LOCATIONS

Saturday, February 22, 2003

Albany Law School Law School - Room - E115
Hofstra Univ. School of Law Law School - Room - 230

Sunday, February 23, 2003

New York University Vanderbilt Hall - Room 110
University at Buffalo O'Brian Hall - Room - 107

Note: All classes will run from 9:00 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome or call 1-800-635-6569 to reserve a seat. Each student that attends will receive the free M.P.R.E. Review Book.

TEST DATE

Saturday, March 8, 2003

Regular Application

Received by: January 28, 2003

Regular Application Receipt Deadline: \$52.00

Late Application

Received by: February 13, 2003

Late Application Receipt Deadline: \$104.00

Black History Month: Honoring Black Americans

by Andrea Anderson, '04

I am sure many Americans are perplexed as to why there is a month designated as Black History Month. After all, we do live in the United States of America, a melting pot comprised of many races, religions, and ethnic backgrounds. While America has always been comprised of diverse cultures, the history books used to educate young children reflected only contributions made by some Americans. Many books omitted contributions by African Americans to world civilization. I went through my primary and secondary years at predominantly white institutions truly believing that African Americans did not have a history, besides enslavement, that warranted patronage in history books or even class discussion. At school, we discussed the likes of Alexander Graham

Bell and Thomas Edison, famous American inventors. There was no mention of Lewis Latimer, an African American inventor who came up with the idea to use carbon filaments in light bulbs, the process for manufacturing carbon filaments and assisted Alexander Graham Bell in drafting his blueprints for the telephone. Fortunately,

premised on bringing to the forefront contributions that African Americans have made in America, as well as incorporating this rich history into books. While I think it is important to highlight the contributions and successes African Americans have made in February, it is imperative that this process continues all year round (just as the

"We should emphasize not Negro History, but the Negro in history. What we need is not a history of selected races or nations, but the history of the world void of national bias, race hate, and religious prejudice."

-Dr. Carter G. Woodson, 1926

as I got older and ventured to public libraries, I realized that African Americans contributed significantly to American history, a history that was for some reason left out of the books that guided me through my primary and secondary years.

Black History Month is

accomplishments of women should not be celebrated and taught solely in March, Women's History Month).

History of Black History Month

Americans have recognized Black history annually since 1926, first as

"Negro History Week" and later as Black History Month. At this time, black history was barely studied or even documented.

We owe the celebration of Black History Month and, more importantly, the study of black history to Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Born to parents who were former slaves, Woodson spent his childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines and enrolled in high school at age twenty. He graduated from high school within two years and went on to earn his Ph.D. from Harvard University. Dr. Woodson was disturbed to find in his studies that history books largely ignored the Black American population - and when blacks did figure into the picture, it was generally in ways that reflected the inferior social position they were assigned at the time.

Woodson decided to take on the challenge of writing black Americans into the nation's history. He

established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now called the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History) in 1915. A year later he founded the widely respected Journal of Negro History. On February 12, 1926, Woodson initiated Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history. Woodson chose the second week of February for Negro History Week in honor of the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. Negro History Week grew in popularity, promoted by schools, women's clubs, and the white as well as black press. Negro History Week provided an opportunity for lectures, performances, written materials, and photos of black history to reach wide audiences. In 1976, Negro History Week was expanded into Black History Month.

Over 30 Years of BLSA Excellence



by Theodore Harris, '04

The National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA) is the largest student-run organization in the United States. NBLSA has over 200 chapters at law schools throughout the country, which represents almost every ABA accredited law schools, plus several non-accredited law schools. These chapters represent over 6,000 Black law students in six regions, which encompass 48 states including Hawaii and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

NBLSA is committed to increasing diversity in the legal profession, with emphasis on economic self-help, abolishing apartheid systems worldwide, and forwarding a progressive civil rights position.

conduct and sponsor several programs and events during the calendar year. This is including but not limited to the prestigious Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition and the national Adopt-A-School Program. In addition, through its Nelson Mandela Scholarship Program, NBLSA awards six scholarship of over \$500 each to Black law students annually.

In 1968 Algernon Johnson "A.J." Cooper, former mayor of Prichard Alabama, founded the Black American Law Students Association at the New York University Law School. BLSA's purpose was to effectuate change in the legal system. In 1983, BLSA revised its name. The word "American" was deleted to encompass all Blacks who were not of

the word "National" was added to reflect the extent to which the organization has expanded. NBLSA continues to grow as an organization. It has established international links with Black law students in Canada, England and South Africa who decided to model their student organizations after NBLSA.

Our chapter is formally known as the Brooklyn Law School chapter situated in the North East Region of the National Black Law Students Association. We are committed to the goals of our parent organization. However, as many of you have already seen, we continue to raise the bar with our programs and events. Brooklyn BLSA has adopted a three-pronged approach to ultimate success concentrating on academic achievement, career development, and community outreach. BLSA is devoted to addressing the issues of all minorities, and remains steadfast in its commitment to promoting the social, economic, and political advancement of all people of color. We welcome all of the Brooklyn Law School Family to our future events and meetings. We hope that you enjoy our Black History Month submission in this month's BLS News, and we thank the entire staff of BLS News for this wonderful opportunity.

Langston Hughes, 1902-67

by Joana Kirby

Born in Joplin, Missouri, in 1902, Langston Hughes was raised in Kansas, Illinois, and Ohio. He attended Columbia University before embarking as a sailor on a freighter, making stops in the Canary Islands, the Azores, and West Africa. Hughes jumped ship in Europe and settled in Paris, where he earned a piecemeal living as a doorman and cook at a nightclub. During this period he wrote poetry already strongly laced with jazz and the blues.

Hughes continued his formal education and received his B.A. from Lincoln University in 1929-winning the Witter Bynner poetry prize and completing his memoir *Not Without Laughter* before graduating. He won the Harmon Award in 1930 for his memoir. In 1935 he received a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Hughes became involved with the Socialist movement in the early 1930s. Though he did not turn away from the themes that had made him the Harlem Renaissance's most visible black writer, he did become more bitterly critical of social and racial inequalities. His encounter with politics also increased the range of his concerns. As a journalist, Hughes voiced his strong support



for the Republican movement. Despite the distractions of a strident conservative political opposition, he continued to write creatively and successfully.

In 1960 Hughes won the Spingarn Medal and in the following year was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Along with *The Weary Blues*, Hughes's volumes of poetry include *Fine Clothes to the Jew* (1927), *Shakespeare in Harlem* (1942), and *Ask Your Mama: Twelve Moods for Jazz* (1961). He died in 1967.

Frosting

Freedom
Is just frosting
On somebody else's
Cake-
And so must be
Till we
Learn how to
Bake.

et al.: The Justinian

Charles H. Houston (1895-1950): The Man Who Ended Segregation

by Theodore Harris, '04

On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court unanimously declared that separate educational facilities are inherently unequal and, as such, violate the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which guarantees all citizens "equal protection of the laws." This was the holding in the landmark case *Brown v. Board of Education*.

As law students, we will at some point read this decision and hopefully we will understand its significance. Yet there were several little-known legal battles throughout the 1930s and 40s that laid the groundwork for the 1954 Supreme Court decision. The lead counsel for many of these cases was a legal visionary named Charles H. Houston.

Houston was born on September 3, 1895 in Washington D.C. He came of age during an era of repressive segregation in southern United States schools, public waiting rooms and drinking fountains. Segregation laws or "Jim Crow" laws were based on a court decision, *Plessy v. Ferguson*, which declared separate-but-equal facilities for Blacks and

Whites were legal. At the age of twelve, Charles enrolled in the remarkable M Street High School, the first black high school in the United States. His record at M Street persuaded Amherst to offer him a partial scholarship. Houston graduated from Amherst College and studied law as an officer in World War I. After leaving the army, Houston graduated from Harvard Law School where he served as the first African American on the editorial board of the Harvard Law Review. He graduated in the top 5 percent of his class, and then applied for additional work leading to a degree of Doctor of Juridical Science.

For Charles Houston, the training of black lawyers was a key to mounting a successful attack on segregation. Houston decided to seek a teaching position at Howard Law School, which since its establishment in 1869 had trained three-fourths of the black lawyers in the United States. Eventually, Houston became the Dean of Howard University Law School. Houston's efforts to elevate the status of Howard encouraged many promising black students to enroll. One of the most promising new students

was Thurgood Marshall. Marshall affectionately called his mentor "Iron Shoes" for his relentless drive.

In 1934, Houston recommended that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) focus its efforts on the segregated education system of the United States. That same year Houston was appointed special counsel to the NAACP. Houston's strategy was to target the graduate level of education; he launched a systematic attack on the "separate but equal" doctrine.

Meticulously, Houston chipped away at the system. He argued *University of Maryland v. Murray*, which resulted in the U.S. Supreme Court ordering the University of Maryland to admit Donald Murray, an African American, to its law school on the grounds that there were no law schools for blacks in the state. In *Gaines v. Canada*, the Supreme Court, declared that the scholarships Missouri offered to African Americans to attend out-of-state graduate schools did not constitute equal admission. Building on the foundation of the *Gaines* decision two important education cases wound



Marshall, celebrating the Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

their way through the federal courts. *Sweatt v. Painter* challenged the constitutionality of the refusal of Texas to admit a Black to the all-white University of Texas Law School and *McLaurin v. Oklahoma State Regents*, which challenged segregation within the University of Oklahoma School of Education. As Houston's health declined he passed the torch to Thurgood Marshall and other NAACP associates. Houston stated in a letter to Robin L. Carter, "You and Thurgood proceed without any fear of crossing any plans that I may have." Houston passed

away on April 22, 1950. Two months after Houston's death the Supreme Court announced its decisions in *Sweatt* and *McLaurin* cases. Neither Texas nor Oklahoma met the condition of "substantial equality" established in *Gaines*. These decisions were critical in developing the argument used in the *Brown* case.

Thurgood Marshall, who directed the arguments for NAACP in *Brown*, viewed Houston with great admiration and reverence. Marshall once said of Houston, "We were just carrying his bag, that's all."

Notable African-Americans

Benjamin Banneker (1731-1806): Benjamin Banneker was a self-taught astronomer and mathematician who built a clock out of wood, planned the survey for the establishment of Washington, D.C., and published important almanacs.

Ida B. Wells-Barnett (1862-1931): Ida B. Wells-Barnett published articles denouncing the outbreak of lynchings in the South, was an advocate of civil and economic rights and was one of the original founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Arthur A. Schomburg (1874-1938): Arthur A. Schomburg co-founded the Negro Society for Historical Research. Schomburg's personal collection on black culture was purchased by the Carnegie Corporation and given to the New York Public Library. The collection became known as the Schomburg Collection of Negro Literature and History. The name was later changed to the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. It is housed in the 125th Street branch of the New York Public Library.

important collection of African and American cultural materials in the world.

Dr. Charles Richard Drew (1904-1950): Dr. Charles R. Drew was a surgeon and hematologist who made pioneering discoveries about blood plasma and set up blood banks in the 1930s and 1940s.

Elijah McCoy (1843-1929): Elijah McCoy developed the lubricating cup for steam engines. Those in possession of the valuable cup were said to have "the real McCoy."

Garrett Augustus Morgan (1877-1963): Garrett A. Morgan was the first person to patent a traffic signal. He also developed the gas mask and many other inventions.

George Crum: George Crum invented the potato chip in 1853.

Benjamin Bradley: Benjamin Bradley developed the steam engine for a war ship in 1840. Unable to patent his work, he sold it and with the proceeds purchased his freedom.

BLSA Events for Black History Month

February 7th Opening Reception for Black History Month

This program marks the beginning of BLSA's Black History Month Celebration. This program will include speakers, reflections by BLSA members and a discussion on African-Americans in the 21st Century.

February 12th & 22nd BLSA Movie Nights

On these nights BLSA will showcase many aspects of the Afro-American experience. They will include both short documentaries and full length films.

February 26th Open Mic Night

BLSA continues the tradition of this evening of expression and reflection of the past, present and future of African Americans. The program will feature poetry, monologues and other spoken word art forms.

March 7th Closing Ceremonies for Black History Month

This program will culminate the end of BLSA's Black History Month celebration.

In addition, in the month of February in the showcase on the fourth floor we will feature African-American contributions to society. Please stop by and take a few minutes to view our work.

Letter to the Editor: Give War a Chance

by James Meaney, '04

Saddam Hussein signed an agreement with the nations of the world in 1991. If they would cease attacking his country, he would voluntarily disclose and destroy any and all unconventional weapons of mass destruction. The nations of the world, led by the United States, stopped attacking his country. They gave peace a chance to work. Saddam Hussein has not come close to complying with his end of the agreement. It is about time we give war a chance.

War is not an inherently bad thing. Indeed, war has accomplished great good throughout human history. Without war, our nation would not exist. Our bloodiest war successfully ended slavery in this country. If not for war, not only would much of Europe be speaking German today, but Jews, blacks, homosexuals, Catholics, and many others would not even exist therein. More recently, because of war, girls in Afghanistan may now educate themselves and the soccer stadium in Kabul is used for sport instead of public executions.

I am not suggesting that war is a panacea; indeed,

war creates many difficulties. Soldiers come home in body bags. Civilians die. People are wounded for life, physically and emotionally. Families lose loved ones. It is horrible. But sometimes it is necessary.

Saddam Hussein has and continues to develop weapons that will make 9/11 look like child's play. He has used these weapons before on his own people

Soldiers come home in body bags. Civilians die. People are wounded for life, physically and emotionally. Families lose loved ones. It is horrible. But sometimes it is necessary.

and on his enemies. He has an avowed loathing of the United States and Israel. His ties to terrorist organizations, including Al Qaeda, are increasingly evident. He has horrific methods of torturing people who dare to speak out in his country. Saddam Hussein, through his own actions, has made war necessary.

Without war we can sit

back and imagine that the world is a peaceful place. But this would be a dangerous path. Wishing that the world were peaceful does not create a peaceful world. We should not allow a desire for peace to blind us to the real threats we face.

George Bush wakes up everyday to the "threat assessment." He reads about all the horrible things people want to do to our freedom-loving country. He cannot sit back and imagine that the world is a peaceful place. He cannot afford to hope for the best. His only option is to prepare for the worst.

Preparing for the worst means ridding the world of people like Saddam Hussein. He is someone who possesses dangerous unconventional weapons, has shown a willingness to use them, refuses to destroy them and cooperate with inspections, and exhibits sincere hatred for our country. It would be foolish of any leader to ignore this. Giving peace a chance is not a solution; it is a dream.

Inspections do not work. A peaceful approach has not solved the problem. All I am saying is give war a chance.

Op-Ed: Opinion & Response A Culture of Hate

The following are excerpts from an op-ed written by Adam Wiener that appeared in the November issue.

"They are the ones who must be butchered and killed . . . Have no mercy on the Jews . . . Wherever you meet them, kill them."

-Dr. Ahmad Abu Halabiya, a Palestinian preacher

As violence between Palestinians and Israelis continue, so too does Palestinian incitement. Halabiya's call for murder was broadcast live on official Palestinian Authority television. The Palestinian Authority has institutionalized a campaign of hatred that has constituted the driving force of Palestinian terror...

The Palestinian Authority-sponsored TV and newspapers have been promoting violence against Jews and praising the work of suicide bombers . . .

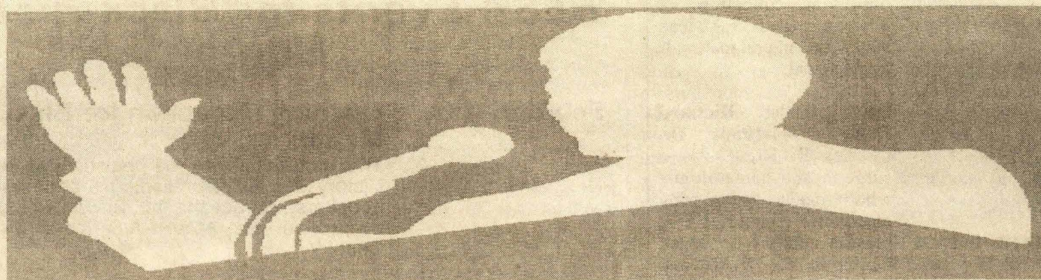
Palestinian educational television airs programs glorifying the murder of Jews and calling on children to "drop the

toys and take up arms" (as one broadcast literally instructed Palestinian children to do).

While Israeli schools include in their curriculum peace studies and Palestinian perspectives, the Palestinian educational system instills in its young students a hatred of Israel and the Jewish people. The opening line of the textbook *Our Country Palestine*, introduced to 6th graders a few years ago, reads: "There is no alternative to destroying Israel" . . . In the face of this overwhelming campaign of incitement, many Palestinians have been swept up in an ultimately self-destructive vortex of violence against Israel that has left in its path shattered dreams of reconciliation between the two peoples. Peace between Israelis and Palestinians will not solely entail the cessation of violence; it will require the forging of a mentality of peace between the peoples.

An end to Palestinian incitement is necessary if Israelis and Palestinians are to ever live together in peaceful coexistence.

J. GARDINER PIEPER



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FOR
THE NEW YORK BAR EXAM AT:
BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL

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Time: 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Place: Room 505

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Op-Ed: Opinion & Response

Palestinian-Israeli Conflict: Racism and Colonization

by Anonymous

"I vow that I'll burn every Palestinian child [] born in this area. The Palestinian [] child is more dangerous than the man, because [his] existence infers generations will go on, but the man causes limited danger."

-Ariel Sharon, Israeli Prime Minister.

Unlike Adam Weiner, I cite that quote not to cast a culture as demonic, but to demonstrate that the racist argument that Palestinians own a "culture of hate" is narrow-sighted, fickle, and a thoughtless attempt to band-wagon.

Mr. Weiner argues that Israeli schools teach peace, Palestinian schools teach violence. Thus Palestinians are violent and Israelis peaceful. He opportunistically ignores that Israeli school literature depicts Palestinians as sub-human, refusing to acknowledge the destruction of Palestinian life in the making of Israel. Mr. Weiner fails to see that what is in between the lines is often more important than the lines themselves. He disregards the plethora of UN documents on

Israeli violence; that Israel eradicated hundreds of Palestinian villages creating the largest number of refugees and refugee camps in the world.

"I... took part in expelling Arabs. I stood there with a rifle while they climbed into the trucks... If they had [resisted], I would have shot them. What awful hypocrisy for us to say that we have the right of return after 2000 years, but they don't after 50." - Hava Keller, former Israeli soldier.

Mr. Weiner's next postulation, that Palestinian incitement is the sole cause of violence, is fatally flawed and lacking context. Yes, Palestinians incite and engage in violence causing the murder of 627 Israelis between 9/2000 and 10/2002. But, Israelis engaged in thrice as much violence, causing the murder of 1,829 Palestinians during that same time.

Mr. Weiner strategically ignores the history of the recent conflict that Ariel Sharon-found by his own government responsible for the massacres at Sabra and Shatilla-

marched on Al-Aqsa Mosque with a horde of armed troops. He refuses to acknowledge that it was that act compounded by the miserable conditions of the Palestinians, under Israeli control, which led to the uprising. Between Oslo and the Intifada, illegal Jewish settlements in the Palestinian territories grew by a whopping 80%. For Palestinians, this means forced eviction from their homes; forced expropriation of their farm lands, posting of Israeli soldiers to protect the settlers from retaliation for the thievery; more forced land confiscation to build Israeli army posts; more roadways from more Palestinian territory; more anger, more violence, more troops, more posts and so on. The Palestinian lands are now divided from each other by the those roads and settlements which Palestinians are not allowed to use. For a Palestinian to visit his neighbor who once lived within a 2 minute drive, he must risk a 2 hour drive past a plethora of checkpoints adorned with young Israeli men toting AK's. What's worse is Palestinians' means of subsistence simply disap-

pears without compensation. All this and much more in blatant violation of the Geneva Convention which Israel signed in exchange for international recognition.

"[Between 1967 and June 2001] 8,000 Palestinian homes were demolished. [W]ith land expropriations, military posts, checkpoints, and zoning regulations placed 60% of the West Bank and 40% of Gaza under Israeli control, inaccessible to Palestinians." -Jeff Halper, *Israelis Against Home Demolitions*. Suppose it was your home, your farm, your family. How rational do you suppose you would be?

These acts, justified by the settlers by an argument of a religiously ordained superior right, reek of as much racism as does the quote Mr. Weiner cited, so much so that Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, among many others, refers to such Israeli practices as well-disguised apartheid. Israel remains the last occupying power in the world, one of the last to issue second class status to the natives (evidenced in the different colored ID cards and

license plates), to forbid them from accessing roads, water and housing based on their race. It is these same acts which plant the seed of violence.

Yes, Israelis have a right to live in peace, as do Palestinians. Yes, Palestinians should stop inciting and engaging in violence, as must Israelis. This includes bulldozing and land thievery. Mr. Weiner's futile attempt at political commentary is a clear example of what is lacking in mainstream media: an explanation of the history and current conditions of the Palestinians; the ability to see Palestinians as average human beings trying desperately to hold on to their homes, lives and dignity; the gall to recognize and declare the crimes of the Israeli government and the settlers for what they are.

Truth, justice, and self-criticism are the real answers to peace, not the racist sound-bites Mr. Weiner offers. To Mr. Weiner, I suggest some research before climbing on the soap-box. The world is all too full of opinions based on vague knowledge.

More Op-Ed: War & Peaceniks; The Results of 20th Century War Policy

by Adam Wiener, '04

In 1938 British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain returned home triumphant from a conference in Munich which satisfied, only temporarily as the world was to see, Adolph Hitler's territorial demands in Europe. In a famous moment, Chamberlain, waving a piece of paper with Hitler's signature on it, declared "peace in our time" as he disembarked from his plane. The time of peace was to soon run out and the rest is history. The notion though, championed by Chamberlain, that peace between countries can be achieved through negotiations and compromise, regardless of what type of regime was involved, survives to this day.

Throughout the 1990s, Chamberlainesque peace-at-any price policies were pursued by a number of governments. Today we are witnessing the consequences such policies have brought to some of those countries. In Colombia, Israel, and North Korea, 'peace' agreements between democratically elected governments and terrorist groups have not only

ended badly.

In 1998 Colombian President Andres Pastrana, committed to finding a peaceful solution to a decades-long civil war with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, known by its Spanish acronym FARC, ceded that group control of a Switzerland-sized piece of Colombian territory to advance the peace process. The FARC, a Marxist group that has financed its war to topple the government through drug trafficking, has been responsible for countless atrocities. Among one of their worst atrocities was a May 2002 attack on a church that killed 113 civilians, one-third of whom were children.

Pastrana's concession proved to be a major blunder. Not only did the FARC not reciprocate this gesture and make concessions of its own, the group used the territory as a launching pad for attacks against the rest of Colombia. The 90,000 residents of the area ceded to the FARC became the victims of a reign of terror characterized by kidnappings, extortion, and murder.

As a result of the

FARC's activities, Pastrana terminated peace talks in February 2002. Pastrana has since been succeeded by Alvaro Uribe, who was elected on a platform to defeat the rebels.

Israel, led by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, inked a peace agreement with Yasser Arafat's PLO in

It is axiomatic that most reasonable people want peace. Unfortunately, one of the constants of human history has been the existence of unreasonable people taking power over countries and peoples.

1993 in an attempt to resolve the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. Israel ceded control of territory to Arafat's newly created Palestinian Authority in return for promises of peace. Arafat though, took the territory and stepped up the terror. Israel, led by a labor party desperate for a peace accord, threw a lifeline to an increasingly irrelevant Arafat, only to see that accord go up in flames.

Since 1993, over 10 times more Israelis have been killed in Palestinian terror attacks than have been killed in attacks in the preceding three decades combined. Palestinians have also been terrorized by Arafat's regime, a regime that cares more about preserving its own power than it does about bettering the lot of its own people.

In 1994, in an effort to procure peace on the Korean peninsula, the United States signed the Agreed Framework with North Korea, a Stalinist dictatorship that has starved millions of its people. In exchange for North Korea freezing its nuclear weapons program, the United States set about building two \$2 billion nuclear plants for electricity and providing 500,000 tons of free oil every year to Pyongyang. While the North Koreans took the aid, they broke their end of the deal by continuing their efforts to build a nuclear bomb. When American diplomats recently confronted their North Korean counterparts with evidence of their weapons program, they were shocked to hear the North Koreans boast of their

nefarious accomplishments. The crisis with Pyongyang continues to the present, only today North Korea is a better supplied foe with the aid that it has received from the U.S. for the past ten years.

The above examples illustrate the consequences of well-intentioned, democratically elected governments seeking peaceful resolutions with unelected, authoritarian regimes, who desire, not peace, but the advancement of their own interests. Unfortunately, in each case the concessions of the party truly seeking peace only strengthened the side opposed to peace. In the end, peace was farther away than it had been before.

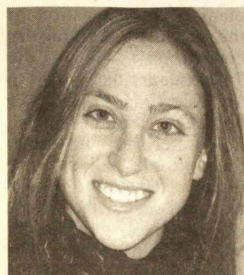
It is axiomatic that most reasonable people want peace. Unfortunately, one of the constants of human history has been the existence of unreasonable people taking power over countries and peoples. The phenomenon of ruthless dictators leading their peoples to ruin continues to this day with the regimes of Kim Jong Il and Saddam Hussein. The folly is believing that peaceful agreements can be honored by such leaders.

Student Bios: Getting to Know Some Diamonds in the Rough

by Yael Utt, '05

Ever wonder who all these people are who ride the elevators, sit in lectures, and eat in the cafeteria with you? No? Well, this article is not for you. But if you are so intrigued, here is a new column for you. Each month I'll be spotlighting several students who have a story to tell. You never know the fascinating lives people lead.

If you know someone with a story to tell, e-mail blsnews@hotmail.com or yael.utt@brooklaw.edu.



Rachel Beige
1L, Class of 2005
23 years-old

What is so interesting about you?

I always knew I could sing really high notes when I was young but I just thought I was making noise. I was just fooling around making noise one day in high school, when another student said I was a good singer. Through high school plays, I really liked it and started taking voice lessons and winning voice competitions. I auditioned for college but I didn't want to be just a vocal performer because I wasn't sure it's

what I wanted to do. So I studied music business at the University of Miami so there would be opportunities to do other things. I also studied and performed in Salzburg, Austria.

I love opera because it's the in-depth, passionate, and takes the most intelligence. I can sing in German, Spanish, Italian, Czech, and French and English. But my favorite opera is Italian.

I'm in law school because I had a crush on a law teacher from college who told me to take the LSAT. Now that my concentration is school, I will figure out how to mesh the two worlds. I love what I'm learning but I don't want to give up music. Maybe I'll get into entertainment law or producing. For now, I still give recitals and sing at temples and churches.

Favorite thing about BLS?

The people I've met, different things about them.

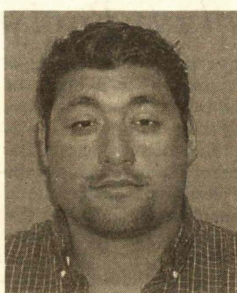
Least favorite thing about BLS?

The people I've met, other people.

Burberry plaid - in or out? Discuss.

Um, I personally don't like Burberry, however, that's not to say it's not in fashion. I guess it's a throwback to the whole English thing, whatever. If I were queen of the world, I wouldn't make it the uniform. I admire people that are more daring instead of following what's been in magazines for years.

* * *



Thomas Claro
3L, Class of 2003
28 years-old

What is so interesting about you?

At age 11, I started playing football, offensive line. During high school, I got recruited to play for Holy Cross. My junior and senior year professional scouts started coming to watch me practice. I was aware every game they were there. It was an exciting time, especially for my family. We had Giants season tickets growing up and my father was a huge football fan.

Before graduating college, the Arizona Cardinals signed me as an undrafted free agent. I went there for 1996. In 1997 I got picked up by the New England Patriots. After that I went to Barcelona for two spring seasons. Barcelona was the highlight of my life so far...I lived on a beach, played football, and had a great coach.

I was released from New England in 1998. After a good Barcelona season in 1999, I got picked up by the Jacksonville Jaguars. During training camp I got a neck injury and had to stop playing. I

had to file a grievance with the league, by the advice of the players union. It was settled and that is a reason I came to school. Now I work for the NFL legal department but I'm in it on the management side - I'm the rat now! Ultimately I would like to be for the player. My only regret from my football days is the agent I turned away.

Favorite thing about BLS?

That it's a one stop train into Manhattan where I live. You feel more immersed in New York law here than other outer borough schools.

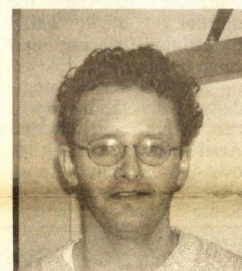
Least favorite thing about BLS?

The Socratic Method.

What famous person would you date and why?

My girlfriend in case she reads this.

* * *



Gabe McKeen
1L, Class of 2005
31 years-old

What is so interesting about you?

In 1996, two years after graduating UMass

Amherst, I went to Estonia to serve as a Peace Corps volunteer. I had always wanted to do it. It combined my love for traveling abroad, the desire to learn another language and to teach English to others. I served in a small Estonian village of 800 and taught over twenty English classes a week, grades 6-12. When I finally gave in and coached boys and girls basketball (I'm 6'3"), the kids went from being hellions to acting cool.

Through teaching kids, what surprised me was how much of a developmental process kids endure in their adolescent phase. The ups and downs of teaching were intensified by the economic realities of the village and what was going on in the students' homes. The Peace Corps broke preconceived notions I had of living with people from other cultures. I have a newfound respect for teachers. After two years in the Peace Corps, I stayed an extra year in Tallin, Estonia working at a venture capital firm.

Favorite thing about BLS?

Classes, readings, discussions. It's interesting to compare an established legal system to Estonia, where they were creating new legal processes.

Least favorite thing about BLS?

Work overload and cramming.

What do you think about Britney and Justin?

Have I thought about that? They will probably get back together now that his record sold well.

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For Law And Policy

Presents:

Professor Paul Marcus

Haynes Professor of Law,
William & Mary School of Law

Deadly Errors: Flaws in the Capital Jury Process

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Law Review: Doing Valentine's Day by the Book

by Alyson Mathews, '04

With Valentine's Day rapidly approaching, we see our friends and acquaintances in a different light. They suddenly have significant others or former flames. Seeing people you know from a new perspective may make you wonder how their relationships began or maybe what went wrong with the ones that did not work out. With those questions in mind, check out some laws that attempt to make every relationship successful.

For those who already have an eye on a certain special someone, you may want to brush up on your manners before you make your move. Alabama makes sure that boys do not behave like boys, especially in the presence of women, by making it illegal for men to spit in front of women. Women trying to catch a man's eye in St. Croix, Wisconsin

must refrain from wearing red in public. Do you think that the song "Lady in Red" was inspired by this law? For those who like to test the waters before taking a dive, be careful in Little Rock, Arkansas. The penalty for flirtation between men and women on the streets can be as high as 30 days in jail.

Perhaps you would rather flirt from a distance, but sometimes even this can cause trouble. In Ottumwa, Iowa men cannot wink at women they don't know. Can this law also be extended to honking and yelling? A little respect would be lovely, especially when it comes to romantic holidays. Too much romance, however, can be just as problematic. Idaho requires that men may only give their girlfriends boxes of candy weighing at least 50 pounds. Isn't that just a bit much? Talk about a tooth ache! On the flip side, Dyersberg, Tennessee makes it illegal for women

to call men for dates. It seems like Dyersberg demands that women play hard to get or at least a little coy.

For those looking to play coy, choose your game plan wisely. In Seattle, Washington a woman sitting on a man's lap on a train or bus without a pillow separating herself



from his lap faces an automatic six months in jail. Is this so the woman has extra cushion for the bumpy ride or is it too risqué for the public to see such behavior? Hard to tell.

If you've made it past the first flirtatious moments and on to the first date, your next move is

crucial. Do you kiss good-night? Certain social etiquette rules as well as legal rules apply when it comes to kissing. In Logan County, Colorado, men may not kiss women who are asleep. This is an especially important rule if you want your date to remember the actual kiss.

When it comes to the first kiss, location can be just as important as factors that affect performance. If you are in Wisconsin, that special first kiss is illegal if done on a train. As for other factors, men with mustaches cannot kiss women in Eureka, Illinois and cannot kiss them in public in Iowa. A nice, smooth face is the only acceptable kind to kiss in the mid-west. Now, for the big predicament. You've tested the waters and decided a kiss is a good way to finish the date. How long should the kiss last? In Iowa, it cannot last longer than five minutes. It seems short kisses and smooth faces prevail in middle America.

Assuming you have mastered the art of the first kiss and have found someone with whom you want to settle down, how do you make it official? First, make sure you are getting married for the right reasons. In Lewes, Delaware, getting married on a dare is grounds for annulment. Second, make sure you make the decision with a clear head. In Pennsylvania, ministers may not perform a marriage ceremony if either the bride or groom is drunk. Wait until after you say "I do" to have that glass of champagne.

For those of you looking for love or just someone to have a drink with, please remember that beauty can be found in every person. Looks are not everything. San Francisco, California keeps those classified as "ugly" hidden by not allowing them to walk down any street. Please do not follow this example. You never know who may end up as the perfect match for you. Happy Valentine's Day.

Bar Review

by Alyson Mathews, '04

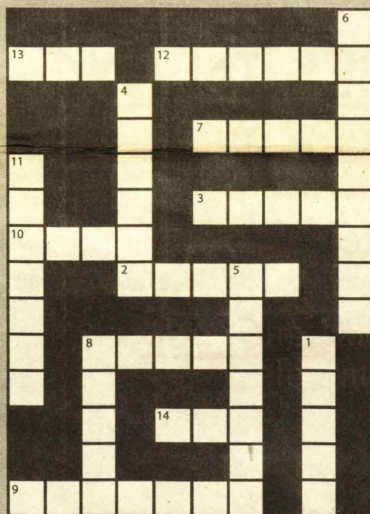
Although the semester started a few weeks ago, many students still have not quite returned to the swing of things. Returning to school for a new semester is not all bad. You see your friends again and visit your favorite places. A favorite among most BLS students is O'Keefe's. You cannot really consider yourself part of the BLS community if you haven't had at least one drink at the bar around the corner.

O'Keefe's is a bit hard to find if you're looking for the name above its door. O'Keefe's is easier to spot if you look for the "Specials" easel that's usually out front or the chalkboards that list which games are being shown. Once you step inside you will feel right at home because, even if you go alone, you'll probably see someone you know.

O'Keefe's is famous as a popular BLS hang-out as well as a frequent stomping ground for Brooklyn attorneys. It's a great place for kicking back with your friends after a long day or after being picked on by your professor for the entire class period. If you make it there before 7 pm, take advantage of the happy hour prices which are sure to beat any bar in Manhattan. Also, sample the menu. It has a wide selection...everything from finger foods to entrees to salads. While you're enjoying your drink and eats, don't forget about the jukebox in the back, which has a great mix of popular and "old school" songs.

In the unlikely event that you find that your friends decided not to go to O'Keefe's, ask for the bartender who is also a BLS student. He'll keep you entertained and will even make sure you arrive home safely. Once you make his acquaintance, he will remember you and make sure you enjoy your visit. It's up to you to find him, but he does add a certain something to the average BLS student's experience at O'Keefe's. Be sure to check out this bar, if you haven't already.

Important African Americans

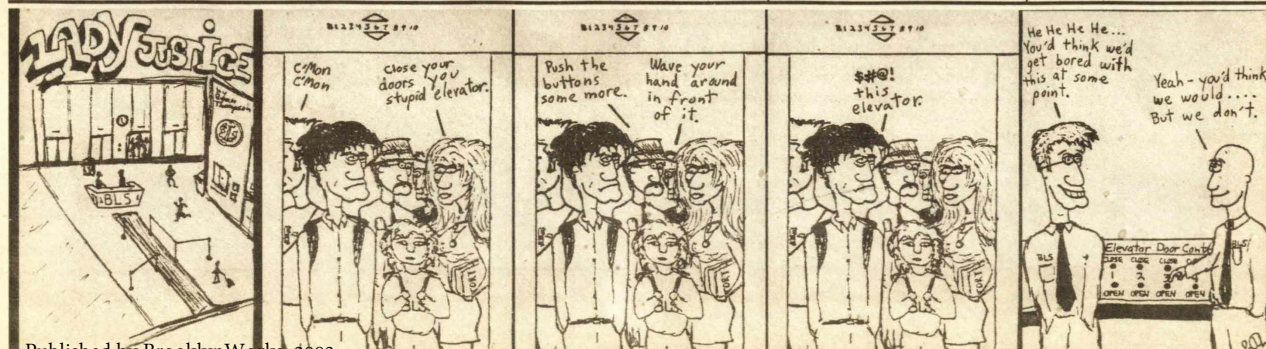


Across

2. "Uncle Tom's Cabin" Author
3. First African American to play in the Masters
7. Black TV mini-series
8. This person started the underground railroad in 1850
9. First African American Mayor of NYC
10. Publisher of Black Scholar and country's first coordinator of African American studies program
12. White athlete set a track record in 1914
13. Black TV Network founded by Robert Johnson
14. "Float like a butterfly and sting like a bee."

Down

1. W.E.B. Dubois founded this organization in 1909
4. Born in 1902, this author wrote "Not Without Laughter"
5. He earned a PhD in Mathematics at age 19
6. He was called the "Jazz Ambassador"
8. Juan Latino, African American literature contributor, was from this country
11. Robeson premiered as this character in 1943



SPRING 2003 DATES

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SATURDAY, MARCH 8 IS THE EXAM

LIVE MPRE COURSES IN NYC

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22
SUNDAY, MARCH 2

Stop by the BAR/BRI table to register for a class and for video location information.

TABLE DATES FOR SPRING 2003

BROOKLYN

JANUARY: 29

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MARCH: 6, 10, & 25

APRIL: 2, 10 14 & 22

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