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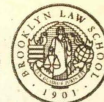
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Funding Increase Eases Student Bar Deficit Dilemma

School grants SBA funds for student organizations and reserves.

SBA seeks budget oversight process to avoid future crises.

by Ian J. Gaynor, '03

Facing a budget deficit that could have potentially left a number of student organizations without funds for this semester, the Student Bar Association (SBA) secured Brooklyn Law School's commitment to provide an additional \$6,580 to the SBA's budget.

"We saw this as an opportunity to help the SBA fix the structural issues that resulted in last year's problems, rather than just paying for the cost overruns," said Thomas Parker, Brooklyn Law School's director of the Office of Student Affairs. "In particular, we wanted to help the SBA with its plan to establish a reserve fund to deal with funding requests that come up after the initial budget has been set."

Of the total amount, \$4,180 will go toward

financing seven student organizations' operations and events. The remaining \$2,400 will be deposited into both an Intellectual Discourse Facilitation Fund set up to subsidize joint student organizations' intellectual events, and a reserve fund for emergency contingencies.

After an SBA sponsored meeting of all student group executive board members on February 5, the SBA established the Intellectual Discourse Facilitation Fund consisting of money cut from student organizations who failed to hold SBA funded events. Other budgeted groups are now able to apply for additional supplementary financing through this fund for 'intellectual' events or events co-sponsored by two or more groups. Supplemental funds have already been allocated to help finance seven separate events held by a total of five different groups.

The SBA requested additional funds from Brooklyn Law School under inauspicious financial circumstances. Each year, SBA administrations usually inherit a budget surplus from the previous administration. This surplus arises when annual allocated funds are not completely exhausted. The remaining funds carry over to the next fiscal year, adding onto that year's budget total.

The 2001-02 SBA admin-

istration inherited a \$19,288 surplus from the 2000-01 administration. This surplus tacked on to their \$50,000 (\$25,000 per semester) budget.

However, this year's SBA inherited a \$9,768 deficit from the 2001-02 administration. This means that while the 2001-02 SBA had about \$70,000 at its disposal, this year's SBA only had about \$40,000.

As a result, this year's SBA had to make an impassioned plea to school officials to allocate an additional

\$4,180 to fund groups filing late budget requests. The school responded by granting \$6,580.

"The [SBA's annual] funds had been allocated. We would have had to take money from other groups in order to fund [groups filing late budget requests]," said SBA President Robert Vidoni.

The organizations receiving the new funds are the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the Law Enforcement Law Student's Association (LELSA), the Muslim Students' Association, the Health Law Society, Lesbian Gay Law Society (LeGaLS), Celtic Law Society and the Students for Global Opportunities (SGO).

The SBA denied the Federalist Society and Intramural Basketball funding for this year due to their inactive status. They are, though, eligible for funding next year if their members want to revive those organizations.

FUNDING INCREASE
continued on p. 6



Towering mounds of snow linger outside the gates to Brooklyn Law School following last month's near record snowfall. Photo, Robert Vidoni, '03

Vagina Monologues Returns to a Packed House at BLS



Large crowds gathered to watch their fellow students perform the Vagina Monologues on V-Day, February 14. Photo, Lorraine Graffagnino, '04

by Lorraine Graffagnino, '04 & Alyson Mathews, '04

"Women secretly love to talk about their vaginas." Well, maybe not all women, but at some point it inevitably comes up. And when it does come up, how do women get around using the unsexy "V" word that references female anatomy and brings back hauntingly uncomfortable memories of biology class. Women have come up with clever nicknames that are much more fun to say. For example in Great Neck, they call it a pussycat. In Westchester it's pooki, and in New Jersey it's called a twat. Regardless of whether women decide to call it a

tottita, the most important thing is that they are talking about it. Nicknames are fun but there is nothing wrong with the real word itself.

On February 12 and 13 a group of BLS women performed Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* to celebrate the wonders of womanhood and to raise money and support for the fight against domestic violence. In its second annual appearance at BLS, the *Monologues* attracted more participants and audience members than the year before; so much so, that the organizers doubled the number of performances, to two packed shows on consecutive nights. Audience members and perhaps even some performers may have initially felt uncomfortable with the repeated

echoing of "vagina" throughout the cafeteria. After the first monologue, however, everyone relaxed and began to appreciate both the humor and the seriousness of the play.

Extending girl talk beyond episodes of *Sex and the City*, *The Vagina Monologues* tells the stories of real women. From the battered housewife to the bisexual dominatrix to young girls becoming women, the monologues provided performers and viewers with a wide spectrum of female experiences. Performing the monologues in front of a live audience felt more liberating than reading them silently. Michelle Stern, '05, performed one of the more racy monologues, "Reclaiming Cunt." As the character in the

monologue states, "I call it cunt. I have reclaimed it 'cunt.'" And so it seems has Michelle who finds herself "using the word much more frequently. Now I can say the word like it's nothing. There's nothing like screaming 'cunt' to create bonds between the cast," she said.

So why did all these women come together to talk about vaginas? A little-known fact about Valentine's Day is that it is also V-Day. Every year around Valentine's Day schools perform *The Vagina Monologues* to raise awareness and funds for anti-violence groups within their own communities. Brooklyn Law Students Against Domestic Violence (BLSADV) joined the international V-Day celebration and made Brooklyn Law School one of only five law schools that perform the play. In joining this celebration, BLSADV agreed to donate a portion of the money it raised to the spotlight organization chosen each year by V-Day. For the 2003 performances, V-Day chose American Indian and Canadian First Nations Women. This organization raises awareness and funds specifically to end violence against Indian women and girls. In addition to the designated V-Day organization, BLSADV donated the remaining profits to The Urban Women's Safe Haven, a domestic violence shelter based in Brooklyn, and Sanctuary For Families Center for Battered Women's Legal Services, an advocacy group providing legal assistance and shelter to battered women and their children. Thanks in part to the tireless efforts of the show's director, Nikki Dryden, '05, this year the two BLS V-Day performances raised over \$3,000.

The purpose of *The Vagina Monologues* is to end domestic violence. By allowing women to candidly share their stories, the play initiates conversation and a sense of empowerment for all women. Rather than remain silent, women can tell their stories and even inspire those who are less vocal to embrace their sexuality. However, domestic violence transcends gender, making men an important aspect of the V-Day movement.

Robert Vidoni, '03, said, "When I saw the play last year I thought it was empowering and important to women in a social sense, but I didn't see the link between all the vagina talk and the campaign against domestic violence. It took a long conversation with Danielle Gordon [Co-president of BLSADV] to open my eyes and realize that one of the keys to successfully combating domestic violence is to make men and women more comfortable talking about the sexual topics that are so often integrally connected to domestic abuse."

As individuals become more comfortable discussing sexuality and associated issues, these topics gain easier entry to the public discourse. Beyond raising awareness, money and inter-gender empathy, the success of the *Monologues* is measured in the performers' ability to become comfortable with these topics and openly discuss them. Peninna Oren, '05, joined the cast after most of the monologues had already been assigned, leaving her with a less sexually explicit piece.

VAGINA MONOLOGUES
continued on p. 6



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JLSA Luncheon

Not just Jews and Blacks in Conversation

by Yosef Mark, '04

On Thursday, February 6, 2003, the Jewish Law Students Association (JLSA) hosted a presentation by the organization "Not Just Jews and Blacks in Conversation." It was part of a weekly series of Networking Luncheons held by the JLSA where noted judges and attorneys addressed students on a wide range of legal issues and topics.

After the 1991 riots in Crown Heights, Justice Jerome Hornbluss of the State Supreme Court in Manhattan and Justice William Thompson of the Appellate Division of the State supreme court realized the need to bridge the gap between Jews and Blacks. The organization did not take form until Justices Hornbluss and Williams met and reminisced about the civil rights era of the 1960's, when Jews and Blacks worked side by side. They started the group "Jews and Blacks in conversation" a short time later, with the intention of opening up dialogue promoting peace and understanding among different racial, ethnic, and cultural groups. Over the past decade the organization has grown to over 200 judges and the name has changed to "Not just Jews and Blacks in Conversation" to incorporate other cultures. Judges have engaged students from various elementary and high schools as well as universities and law schools in different states.

When the organization addressed Brooklyn Law School several weeks ago, it faced a diverse audience of students, representing the many ethnicities, races, and religions present on campus. The event was highly attended—standing room only by the conclusion of the event. Students were privileged to meet the Honorable William Miller, Supervising Judge, Criminal Court of Kings County and the Honorable Deborah Dowling, Supreme Court, Criminal Term, Kings County as well as the executive director of "Not Just Jews and Blacks in Conversation," Shannon Taylor.

In a very relaxed atmosphere, Justices answered questions on racial issues, gave overall career advice and their opinions on certain legal issues facing the courts today. Aside from giving credit to their respective court attorneys, Hiram Bell and Robin Sheares, who were also in attendance, the Justices stressed the importance of interaction between cultures because "only through interaction will we realize we are more alike than not." Additionally, the judges offered an interesting perspective on the effects of law school. They argued that to a certain extent, law school forces students to be self-centered because students must focus on themselves and their careers. Although focusing on one's career is important, the Justices stressed the need to look up from the books and get involved with the people in one's surroundings. It is crucial to learn how to communicate and interact with individuals from other religions, races, and cultures to truly be prepared to face the real world once law school ends.

Joan King, Director Career Center

Familiar Faces



Photo, Brooklyn Law School

by Carolyn Leder, '05

This month's familiar face is a woman who runs an office on the forefront of students' minds as we search for summer and post-graduate employment. This month's familiar face is Joan King, the Director of Brooklyn Law School's Career Center.

Joan started her career in human resources interviewing recent college graduates for positions in the publishing industry. She worked in a division of MacMillan Publishing that hired researchers. Born and raised in Manhattan, Joan, now an Upper Eastsider, continued working with college graduates when she moved over to an employment agency, and placed them in various companies within New York City. Soon after, she added two masters degrees from Fordham University to her academic repertoire: one in History and the other in Teaching. But, Joan had always intended to be a lawyer and immediately afterwards began her studies at Hofstra Law School. "The skills I had refreshed from working towards both master degrees," she said, "prepared me very well for the rigors of law school." Upon graduation from law school, Joan began her legal career with a small law firm in New York City, and continued to practice law in Manhattan for fourteen years, becoming a partner in a 30-attorney law firm where she specialized in trusts and estates and corporate law.

When Joan decided to leave law practice, she first taught legal writing at New York Law School for a year before joining Brooklyn Law School towards the end of 1991. Here, she has been able to combine her earlier experience of career counseling with her practical legal work to help students find positions in the legal community.

Joan has helped students during up and down markets. She began her career at BLS just as the recession of the early nineties hit the legal job market, marched through the upswing when all you had to do was "just be able to breathe" to get a job, and now is again guiding students through a difficult market. When asked for her favorite career success story, sensitive to the process, Joan said, "There have been so many moments, lots of standouts, and I couldn't choose just one. It is wonderful watching students go through a growth experience."

Her advice to students during this job market is two-fold. First, make as much use of the people and resources in the Career Center as time permits because that connection, just being in the radar of the Career Center staff, is 75% of the battle. And second, be creative and think outside the box.

When asked what she thinks her has been major impact on the Career Center, Joan offered two areas in particular: job development and technology. Through Joan's initiative, Brooklyn Law School is one of a very few, if any, law schools with a full-time position created solely for maintaining relationships with employers. In the past, counselors were in charge of both students and employer relations. With Joan's hire of Jill Backer this fall, Brooklyn's counselors can focus on students as Ms. Backer focuses on employer relations.

In Joan's view, technology is intimately related to the work of the Career Center. Again through her initiative, in 1992 Brooklyn Law School became the only law school in the country with customized software designed to track students' career progress and enable the professional staff to perform outreach designed to enhance students' chances of success in the job market. She remembers with amusement the reaction of a senior partner when she asked for a computer at her desk in the mid-eighties. At the time, lawyers at her firm did not use computers. Word processing departments and secretaries did that work. The response: "OK, but people are going to think you are a secretary." Joan's interest in computers is still a strong hobby and has become a part of the Career Center's continuing strategy. One of Joan's hobbies outside of work is fitness. Joan goes to the gym four to five times a week and lifts weights and uses either the treadmill or elliptical trainer.

Does she miss the practice of law? "Yes and no. I love what I do. It fills me completely, and there has never been a day I have not enjoyed going to work. The community of people at BLS is fabulous. But there are times I miss the intellectual, analytical component of grappling with legal issues." Her work day includes a variety of activities including interacting with the administration, students, and faculty. She enjoys her work because when you work with people, each day is different and

Getting to Know Professor Susan Herman

Professor Profile



Photo, Joseph Anci

by Joseph Anci, '04

Talk to Professor Susan Herman and you will realize that you are speaking with someone who truly loves her job. Professor Herman's passion and enthusiasm are readily apparent when she is discussing issues of criminal procedure, constitutional law or the defense of civil rights.

A twenty-year veteran of the BLS faculty, Professor Herman is a born and bred New Yorker - growing up on Long Island and attending Barnard for undergrad. After college, Professor Herman worked as an editor for a magazine about classical music and the performing arts. "While working for the magazine, I experienced an attack of relevance," said Herman. "I enjoyed my work, but I felt the need to change the world." This

led to Professor Herman attending NYU law school.

It was during her time as a research assistant to NYU property professor Larry Sager that Professor Herman was first exposed to civil rights litigation. Students living in a village on Long Island had applied for a permit to use the local beach. The village attempted to evict these students for violating an ordinance restricting legal residence of the house to one family. Sound familiar? The case was *Boraas v. Village of Belle Terre*. Ironically, this case would eventually become a staple of the casebook Professor Herman would use to teach her Con Law classes.

While she was researching the case, Professor Herman discovered that the village had not provided the students with the requisite forty-eight hours notice prior to prosecution, and

had therefore violated a statute. The village withdrew its summons, allowing Sager's team to bring the case into federal court and obtain a temporary restraining order. The TRO granted the students use of the beach during the litigation. But hitting the library and researching statutes and zoning ordinances was not the extent of Professor Herman's involvement. While the students gave Professor Herman a tour of the area, they pulled into the parking lot of the local beach. Local residents knew of the students' desire to use the beach and one burly man attempted to intimidate the students. Not knowing what to do, the students turned to Professor Herman. She was also unsure how to proceed, but felt the need to represent the client in this matter. Professor Herman produced the federal order granting the students use of the

beach, explained the rights of these students and proceeded to watch the large gentleman "melt" and sulk away in defeat.

After law school, Professor Herman was a *pro se* clerk in the Second Circuit and worked for Prisoners' Legal Services of New York on civil rights and *habeas corpus* cases. During this time Professor Herman continued to work in the arena of civil rights. She now serves as general counsel for the ACLU and sits on the organization's Board of Directors.

As Professor Herman's involvement in civil rights litigation expanded, she soon discovered that participation in such a volatile area can produce personal dilemmas. Professor Herman realized that "when defending civil rights, you often represent clients whose ideas you do not agree with. This is the first battlefront for First Amendment issues. These cases often start with unpopular speech. However, the essence of the First Amendment is that people do have the right to express their opinions even if they are obnoxious."

Sometimes individuals are unable to resolve this conflict between personal mores and a client's actions. Professor Herman noted that the ACLU represented the Nazi party that was fighting for its right to march in Skokie, Illinois - a town with a large number of Holocaust survivors. As a result, a number of Jewish ACLU members left the organization.

"The circumstances of the Skokie case demonstrate the strength and weakness of the ACLU. The organization is criticized for representing unpopular groups. However, the ACLU does not select whom it represents. The ACLU represents any and all whose claims fall under the Bill of Rights. The principles of civil liberties go beyond the content of any offensive speech."

To illustrate this point Professor Herman points to the ACLU's representation of Oliver North during the Iran-Contra

hearings. The ACLU has also represented some of its most vocal opponents when their civil rights were violated.

Many of the "popular" cases involving the ACLU have focused on the areas of criminal procedure and the First Amendment. The ACLU has been extremely active in defending reproductive rights and women's rights. Today, recent legislation post-9/11 has increased the ACLU's involvement in other areas, including analyzing executive acts. Professor Herman has participated in and/or observed the ACLU take cases challenging the USA Patriot Act, AEDPA, detention of immigrants, and racial profiling.

With this experience fighting for civil rights Professor Herman was a natural choice to be the faculty advisor for the BLSACLU. Professor Herman feels that the BLSACLU is doing a fabulous job. "The reinvigoration of the BLSACLU couldn't have been more timely. It is a pleasure to see the newer generation getting involved in civil liberties and contributing to the intellectual life of the school through events like the debate series. The organization is headed in so many fabulous directions."

Outside of the classroom and courtroom, Professor Herman is an accomplished singer with the Riverside Choral Society - www.riversidechoral.org.

Professor Herman recently performed Mozart and Stravinsky with The Society at Alice Tully hall on March 1 and will perform the Berlioz Requiem at Carnegie Hall on May 21. Two tickets for the May 21 show will be up for bid at the BLSPI auction along with an invitation to join Professor Herman and some companions for a post-concert dinner.

It would seem that someone this involved would have no time to relax. Yet, Professor Herman enjoys walking her dog in Prospect Park and swimming at a local health club.

BLS ACLU Holds First Freedom to Dissent Debate in Series

by Duncan Peterson

On Thursday, February 6, in the spirit of the First Amendment, the Brooklyn Law School Chapter of the ACLU launched the first debate of its "Freedom to Dissent" series. The series, designed to provide students with an informal setting to voice their opinions about current affairs, was not only a success in turn out, but about as much fun as you can have in a law school classroom.

Whether an audience member or debater, conservative or liberal, students can now be as vocal as they want about current issues. Structured Parliamentary style, the debates consist of two volunteer students for each side of the issue, and a "speaker of the house" to moderate (our own Duncan Peterson). Each debater has an opportunity to present an argument for a limited time without interruption. However, once this time expires, an opposing debater can request a "point of information" and interject whatever they wish to counter their opposition. This creates a constant dialogue between the parties, as well as a lively and often humorous discussion.

Perhaps the most entertaining aspect of the debate is the way in which the audience participates. No courtroom decorum here. Students are encouraged to show their support for the debater they agree with. The first debate was a great start to the series. The atmosphere was energetic, and you could certainly tell amidst the stomping and laughing that all were thoroughly enjoying themselves. There was standing room only, but enough free sandwiches, chips and drinks to go around. Hopefully, this is the

start of an exciting new tradition at BLS. Come join us! If you are interested in volunteering as a debater, or have a topic you would like presented, please contact Duncan Peterson at duncan.peterson@brooklaw.edu.

aged. Before the debate begins the classroom is divided and audience members sit on the side they support. Members of the audience are free to boo, clap, shout and stomp to show their support or disapproval during the argument. Yet, if an audience member changes her position during the debate, it is customary for her to rise and move to the other side. Also, when the debaters conclude, the "speaker of the house" opens the floor and members of the audience have an opportunity to express their opinions to the crowd. Once all is said, the speaker holds a vote, and the loudest side wins.

On Thursday, the topic presented was the "Higher Education Act," which bars students who have been convicted of a drug offense from receiving federal financial aid. For the proposition were Matthew Fairley and Matt Kellor, and for the opposition, Blake Johnson and Allie Vining. The proposition emphasized that higher education is a privilege, and thus the federal government does not have an obligation, and should not subsidize education for drug offenders. They also stressed that there was overwhelming support for the Act by Congress, and this in turn illustrates the support of the American public. On the other hand, the opposition proposed that the act targets minorities and seems arbitrary and only penalizing drug offenders as

opposed to other criminal acts. Also, they argued the act was counterproductive, since education is the best, and sometimes only means for an individual to have a second chance in society.

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Students vie for the audience's support on current issues. Photo, Robert Vidoni, '03

Across the Pond – A View of the Law from a Student

by Miri Frankel, '04
Foreign Correspondent

In the month since my first *News* column, I have become familiar with the traditions of the Inns of Court, and have also caught a glimpse of the inner-workings of Westminster Palace (better known as Parliament). These two dimensions of English law are crucial parts of the overall structure of British law. I want to share my newfound knowledge with you and I hope you enjoy reading about my experiences.

February 3: Traditions of The Honourable Society of Gray's Inn

The Pace London Law Program (PLLP) participated in Moot Night at Gray's Inn. The event gave us the opportunity to familiarize ourselves with the traditions of Britain's oldest Inn of Court and to share experiences with the barrister trainees at Gray's Inn. Upon arrival at the Inn, we were directed to the Robing Room where we donned long black robes over our suits. Trainees attending an event or dinner at the Inn are required to wear the robes during their presence at the Inn.

Master of the Moots, Master Micheal Hart, commenced and presided over the competition, while The Right Honourable Sir Paul Kennedy served as judge. Two Pace students competed against two Gray's Inn barrister trainees. The teams were only given one week to review the problem and prepare arguments. In addition, the moot organizers leveled the playing field by creating a problem involving the interpretation of an international banking statute that is not commonly studied by students on either side of the Atlantic. After both teams argued, the judge gave a brief restatement of the facts, his opinion on the problem, and his impression of the mooters.

When the moot was over, we were invited into Gray's Inn Hall for a dinner reception. The Hall is an ornately designed room. It was built using wood from the Spanish Armada and decorated with portraits of former members of Gray's Inn Society as well as stained glass windows featuring symbols of the Inn.

There are several customs of the Hall that all attendants must adhere to. For every dinner, a senior barrister is appointed to act as Senior in Hall. The Senior is responsible for "good order" in Hall, and is addressed as Mr. or Madam Senior. During the evening, the Senior has seniority over all other members ("members" refers to the trainees) in Hall and may give rulings to which members must conform.

Members must be seated in Hall before the Benchers (Masters of law, professors) enter for dinner. Once the Benchers are seated, members are not permitted to leave the room without permission. Members may apply for permission in writing to the Senior and they must specify their reason for leaving (and, hopefully, the Senior grants permission).

Though we were seated at four long tables that stretched from one end of the Hall to the other, we formed "messes" of four (very reminiscent of the dining scenes in the *Harry Potter* movies, especially because we were all wearing the Inn's robes). The most senior member of each mess is the Mess Senior, whose duty is to write on the evening menu the names of the members of the Mess (in order of seating), the "Upper Mess" (the group to the Mess Senior's left), and the "Lower Mess" (the group to the Mess Senior's right). Far from a boring responsibility, the Mess Senior's role also includes securing the "due observance" of toasting. Each member of a mess is required to toast the other members of the mess (several bottles of red and white wine are provided for this tradition, complements of Gray's Inn), as well as the members of the Upper and Lower messes. It is a rule that toasting be completed in reasonable time.

At the end of dinner, a member sitting in the farthest mess from the Senior stands up on the table and formally asks the Senior for permission to smoke. Any other member may challenge the request by arguing his opinion to the Senior, who then makes a judgment.

We all enjoyed the evening of toasting, socializing, toasting, dining and toasting in the impressive Hall of Gray's Inn Society. And for their part, each attending member of the Inn earned credits



Miri Frankel, second from right, and other PLLP Students gather for Moot Court at Gray's Inn.
Photo, Miri Frankel, '04

towards bar admission!

February 14: Palace of Westminster

PLLP arranged a tour for us through the Palace of Westminster. Currently the site of the Houses of Parliament, the Palace of Westminster was a royal palace and the residence of kings until 1512. Because our tour was scheduled for a Friday, when Parliament is not in session, we were given the royal treatment – a view of the Palace not generally available to the public.

We entered through the Sovereign's Gate where the Queen, on the State Opening of Parliament, would drive up in her royal carriage. Ascending the Queen's staircase, we are led into the Royal Gallery, decorated with portraits of the kings and queens since George I.

The next room we came to was the Robing Room, a private chamber (yet extremely large) of the Queen. Interestingly, the only President of the US to have been invited to join Queen Elizabeth II (she ascended to the throne in 1952 and last year celebrated her Golden Jubilee) for tea in the Robing Room is Bill Clinton.

We made our way through the Robing Room and a large meeting room, which displays many historical documents and paintings, and entered the House

of Lords. The House of Lords is ornately decorated with gold and red. Our guide explained that red is the color of royalty and nobility and green is the color of the "common" people (because they often sat on the grass, we are told). As a result, the House of Lords is decorated in red, from the seats to the walls, and the House of Commons is green. Also, our guide informed us that, by tradition, members of the House of Lords are not permitted in the Commons and vice versa. When the Queen sits in Lords for the State Opening of Parliament (where she reads the Queen's Speech, written by the Prime Minister to highlight what Parliament's goals are for the coming year), an official known as "Black Rod" must go to Commons to invite the MPs to come see the speech. As a symbol of the Commons' independence, the door to the chamber is slammed in his face and only reopened after he knocks with his staff of office. The MPs are only allowed to view the event from behind the entry gate to the chamber of the Lords.

A life-sized bronze statue of Winston Churchill sits at the entrance to the House of Commons. At some point since the statue was installed, MPs began the tradition of rubbing Churchill's foot for good luck on their way into chambers for

debate. After years of this tradition, Churchill's once dark bronze foot now has a bright, shiny color where the top layer has literally been rubbed off. As we walk by, we give into temptation, and can't help but rub Churchill's foot as we follow our guide into the chambers of the House of Commons.

Our tour ended in Westminster Hall, the medieval hall that has survived in its original form since its construction in 1099. Westminster Hall was often the site of banquets and grand functions at the Palace and is still used today for major public ceremonies. It was here that King Charles I was sentenced to death for treason when Oliver Cromwell and his Parliamentarians overthrew the king's rule. Cromwell's leadership of England as Lord Protector lasted 18 years before the royal family regained control. Westminster Hall is also the site of lying-in-state of monarchs and, in rare cases, distinguished statesmen (Churchill, for one, was honored in this manner). The most recent lying-in-state at Westminster Hall was for Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. When she died in April 2002, several hundred thousand people visited Westminster Hall to pay their respects to the Queen Mother.

If you have any questions or comments, email me at

Student Bar Association Status Report, Issued March

by Robert Vidoni, '03
SBA President

Happily for some and sadly for others, the Class of 2003's time at Brooklyn Law School is finally nearing an end.

Starting in my first year, when I was elected SBA delegate in Professor Hunter's small section Civil Procedure class, I felt a duty to proactively try to solve problems at this school. Luckily, I was soon to meet other students with similar designs, particularly my Vice President, Kristin Harrison. So, it was apropos, when Kristin and I were elected president and vice-president in 2002, that we inherited some serious problems. Specifically, the SBA was running a deficit of nearly \$10,000, operating without a binding constitution, and lacked a framework for Delegate management. (See full Gaynor article on Front Page for description.)

Before proceeding to the

substance of the SBA Status Report, I want to say a few words about what the SBA actually does.

What does the Student Bar Association do? In case you do not already know, the Student Bar Association (SBA) functions as the school's student government. We are an umbrella organization that, among other things, controls the allocation of funds to all the student organizations (i.e., BLSA, JLSA, ACS, ACLU, etc.). Using the leverage of budget allocation discretion, the SBA works to coordinate the activities of, and facilitate communication between, the student organizations. Through its elected Delegates, the SBA also acts as the official liaison between students, faculty and the administration. Moreover, the SBA appoints students to various faculty-student committees. Beyond our formal tasks, the SBA works to build a stronger sense of community.

SBA STATUS
continued on p. 7

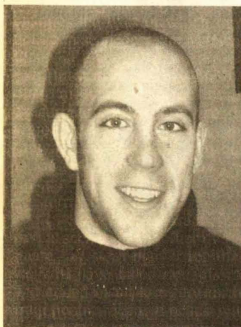


SBA Organization Head Meeting, February 5th, 2003
Photo, Ian Gaynor, '03

More Brooklyn Law School Student Profiles

Lysistrata

by Yael Utt, '05



Matthew Kelly
1L, Class 2005
23 years-old

What is so interesting about you?

I was technically a jock in high school but when I got to Boston College, a Division 1 school, my varsity football days were over. My sophomore year a friend was bragging how she ran an 8 mile loop and I thought, "I can do that."

I heard there was a school on the BC campus for kids with both mental and physical disabilities which had an allied student group that volunteered as teachers and raised money. I joined up with their year-old marathon club that January, appointing myself chief trainer, gearing everyone up for the Boston Marathon in April. The city of Boston shuts down for Patriots Day and the focal point is the marathon, basically a 26 mile long tailgate with 2 million people watching.

In that first rag-tag year, we raised about \$10,000 just from fellow students and our families. By junior and senior year, we had more active recruitment and we became a real training and racing team. In my senior year, we raised over \$30,000 and the team numbered over 100 students. I ran the Boston Marathon three times with a personal record of 3:40.

I decided to go to law school in part so my 7-month-old son Jaden can go to whichever school he chooses, and get lots of toys. Starting law school and finding enough time to see him has been a challenge. For two years ago

someone had asked me where I'd be today, I would never have said in law school or with a child...Every obstacle has its horrible end or wonderful solution. I'm focusing on the latter.

Favorite thing about BLS?

How it's all in one building, very convenient.

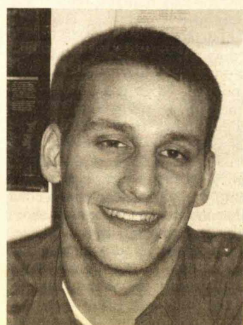
Least favorite thing about BLS?

That it's all in one building. I never leave and all I deal with is Brooklyn Heights.

Favorite reality TV show?

My eyes were misty during Puck's wedding on RW/R Battle of the Sexes. I hate those shows but the wedding show was so out there and I didn't feel like reading so...

* * *



Gabriel Tese
1L, Class of 2006
23 years-old

What is so interesting about you?

While at Rutgers University, I enlisted in the Army National Guard. I needed discipline, direction and money for school. When I first enlisted, I was placed as a tanker, on a M1A2. Recruiting officers have a lot of "discretion." I later joined ROTC, when I decided I wanted to be an officer. I got my commission of Lieutenant, and attended officer basic course. I'm a tactical intelligence officer, serving as my battalion's intelligence officer.

The Army National Guard is

a reserve component of the Army but different because we serve the state and the federal government. The commitment is one weekend a month and two weeks during the summer. Since 9/11, I've been called up three times. Last semester I had to miss two weeks of school. I'm not scared to be called up now, it's just more of an anxiety feeling. I just want to know what's going to happen. I have to think about whether I'm going to be deployed and pulled out of law school. It can happen at any time and without notice.

I came to law school because I can. Previous generations didn't have this chance; they had to go to war. I don't think our generation realizes that this is an opportunity not everyone has. I think going into Iraq is the right thing. History shows that tyrannical leaders can't be negotiated with. The military has changed my life for the better, it's impossible to measure or articulate. I would recommend it.

Favorite thing about BLS?

Any law school would be fun - the people, the law in general...

Least favorite thing about BLS?

The food.

How do you feel about a woman making more than you?

I am completely a feminist; I have 4 sisters and was raised by my mom. But I just think with me it wouldn't work, I would feel insecure. I really am pro-woman though.

* * *

Ajanaclair Lynch
2L, Class of 2004
24 years-old

What is so interesting about you?

The spring of my high school senior year, I got pregnant. After graduation, I was supposed to start at the College of Charleston but I waited a year. I was in labor in November so I couldn't be in finals. I went through college as a single mom with my son JéQuan and his dad helped out. After I joined a sorority my sophomore year, my son had all these moms! I had a really good support system. My professors let him sit in classes.



by Yael Utt, '05

On Monday, March 3rd, Brooklyn Law School was one of 1004 different groups of people in 59 different countries and all 50 U.S. states, gathered together to present readings of "Lysistrata," Aristophanes's bawdy ancient Greek anti-war comedy. Lysistrata tells the story of women from opposing states who unite to end a war by refusing to have sex with their men until the men agree to lay down their swords. The Lysistrata Project came together in just the past few weeks, as two New York actors conceived of the idea as a way to protest the Bush Administration's looming war with Iraq. Here at BLS, Professor Stacy Caplow organized the reading with the help of Eileen Conneely, '03, and brought together professors and students to participate. The performance was held in the student lounge, with all the participants wearing white and speaking their lines from a horseshoe panel. The performers did a great job evoking the outrageous humor behind the story and yet maintaining the overarching theme against war.

I used to think I wanted to be a doctor but I changed my mind while working as a candy striper in high school. I worked in a unit with a smell that hit you right as you got off the elevator. I just couldn't take it anymore so I said, "I'll just be a lawyer." When I was little I thought that meant I would get paid to argue with people and be right.

I haven't enjoyed NYC as much as I wanted to because of school. I thought my second year would be less busy but it's not because of Moot Court and journal and working in Admissions. I do miss the South in the sense that I want all the amenities: like the peace and quiet, big backyards and affordable homes. But I also want to make the salaries up North!

From all this I want my son to know that where you come from does not limit where you can go nor does it define who you are. Anything you want in life can be achieved if you work hard and be true to yourself.

Favorite thing about BLS?

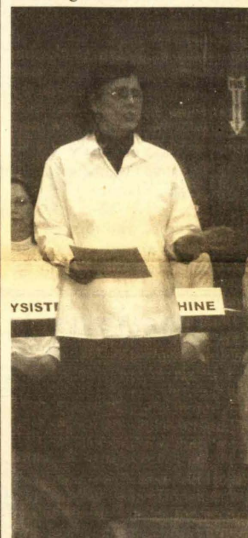
The friendships I've made here are phenomenal.

Least favorite thing about BLS?

That we still register for classes by hand. That is the biggest pet peeve I've ever had in my life. You can register anywhere else in the world in advance. At BLS, you don't know your August schedule until August.

What's with that weird law in South Carolina where bars can only serve liquor from those airplane-sized mini-bottles?

Seriously.



Scene from the performance of Lysistrata
Photo, Joseph Ancl, '04

Moot Court Prepares for Dean Jerome Prince Competition

by Alyson Mathews, '04

In a little less than a month Brooklyn Law School's Moot Court Honor Society will host the 18th Annual Dean Jerome Prince Evidence Competition. Thirty six law schools will compete. Among those that will flex their evidentiary muscles and compete for first place are schools as far away as San Diego and as close as New York City. The competition itself will take place April 3-5, but preparations have already begun.

To prepare for the competition select students have been writing the problem, which is no simple task. The writing team, consisting of Chelsea Chafee, Jaime Jackson, Chris Marlborough, and Adam Skaggs, with the help and guidance of Professors Pitler, Berger, and Falk has developed a problem that combines both current legal issues in the news and the laws of evidence. This year's problem involves corporate crimes, including securities law violations, conspiracy,

and obstruction of justice through document destruction. Rather than use the typical Enron or WorldCom corporation, the writing team created a character, Sophina Ray. Sophina is a supermodel turned fashion empress with a business empire named "Sophina, Inc.," which includes a magazine, a line of cosmetics, and a fashion TV channel. The creation of Sophina adds a unique and fun twist to the typical dry moot court problem.

Before the competitors received the problem, they received an article from Sophina's magazine *So Phine*. The article provided the competitors with background information about the case and created excitement and anticipation for the competition.

Beginning on April 4 competitors will present their oral argument to three distinguished judges sitting as the United States Supreme Court. The final round will be held on Saturday, April 5, and is open to the public.

After the final round the Moot Court Honor Society

hosts a reception for all competitors and Moot Court members who helped with the competition. Jaime Jackson, the Prince Coordinator on the Moot Court Executive Board, hopes to have a celebrity appearance by Sophina Ray herself at the reception. Moot Court will also present all the competitors with a T-shirt manufactured by Sophina's clothing company as well as a few "So Phine" bath and body products.

The writing team and Moot Court members on the Prince Committee are extremely enthusiastic about the 2003 competition. Between its creative problem and the special surprises at the reception, Moot Court has once again proved that the law, and especially oral advocacy, are always crowd-pleasers.

The final round of the Dean Jerome Prince Competition will be held on April 5 in the Moot Court room. Everyone is encouraged to attend. More information will be available as the date approaches.

Sophina: A Rising Star Has Arisen

Beautiful, Smart & Business Savvy

A hometown girl makes it BIG.

By Chelsea Jackson & Chris Skaggs



Sophina has been on the rise since the day she was born. She always knew she was meant to be a star. She was born a precocious child with "way too much" energy, according to her mother Elena. She started as a pageant child. From the first moment she wore a star, she was hooked on modeling.

At the tender age of twelve, she was crowned Little Miss Williamstown. She began to dream about becoming Miss America. She knew she would be an excellent representative for the country, but she also knew that Miss America receives a full scholarship to the university of her choice. This scholarship would allow her to fulfill her other dream: to attend Harvard University. Being from a modest middle class family, she knew she would need a scholarship to fulfill that dream.

She began modeling in advertisements for local clothing stores. Then a teacher at her high school suggested that she enter the "American Model" competition sponsored by *Ten Fashion* magazine. She thought "Sure. Why not?" Little did she know that mailing her snapshot, taken at her fifteenth birthday party, was the beginning of the world's largest fashion empire: The rest is history.

She won the "American Model" competition and soon her face was plastered on the cover of every teen magazine. Sophina was an instant success. Even her name was perfect. From the very beginning, everyone just called her "Sophina." Just three short years later, John Froid, one of the most influen-

Continued on page 20

Sophina Ray star from a small town school girl to John Froid's Model of the Year to CEO and President of the world's largest fashion empire.

Fast & Fascinating Facts:
 \$ born in Williamstown, Ohio
 \$ 1983 named *Ten Fashion's* "American Model"
 \$ 1986: became John Froid's Model of the Year
 \$ 1988: graduated from Harvard summer camp leader & founded Sophina, Inc.
 \$ 1991: launched cosmetics line
 \$ 1996: status: fashion empress

19

This newsletter was sent to competing schools to spark interest in the upcoming competition, which will feature the business affairs of Sophina Ray.

Laughter, Tears, and Vaginas Animal Laws Reviewed

The Justonian, Vol. 2003 (2003), Iss. 2, Art. 1



Laura Tropea, '03, Carolyn Leder, '05, and Danielle Gordon, '03, share a moment with the owner of Annie's Blue Moon at The Vagina Monologues after party. Photo, Robert Vidoni, '03

VAGINA MONOLOGUES continued from p. 1

The idea of performing one of the less graphic stories relieved her at first. "When I saw Eve Ensler's [orgasmic] performance on HBO I didn't think I would ever be able to do that." After witnessing other cast members enthusiastically take on their roles, Pennina hopes to perform one of the racier monologue next time.

For those who missed *The Vagina Monologues* or who are interested in performing,

BLSADV will sponsor it again next year as part of the V-Day celebration. Although the play is only performed on or around Valentine's Day, it is important to remember that V-Day is a process rather than a singular event. Conversations, both public and private, about female sexuality and domestic abuse should continue throughout the year.

Through the telling of stories, some hilariously funny and others profoundly sad, the play helps women

realize their individual strengths as well as the common bonds that they all share.

The Vagina Monologues promotes recognition of these strengths while showing that it can be just plain fun to be female. After all, women have the only human organ designed exclusively for pleasure. Penis...schmenis!

The clitoris has 8,000 nerve fibers which is twice the number found in the penis. "Who needs a handgun when you've got a semiautomatic weapon."

by Alyson Mathews, '04

With Spring Break only a week away and First Year briefs turned in, many students begin to come down with a strange illness. They cannot sit still. It's hard to focus on reading cases. The clock hanging over the classroom door appears to be running especially slow. Do these symptoms sound familiar? You may have a case of Spring Fever. In light of the strange symptoms that float around the law school during this time of year, here are some strange laws about unusual animals.

Beginning with the more common animals...You may not give a lighted cigar to dogs, cats, or any other domesticated animal in Zion, Illinois. These animals are clearly not on the same level as humans when it comes to killing themselves through smoke inhalation! In an effort to ensure that humans remain the dominant species, Hartford, Connecticut makes it illegal to educate dogs. It makes you wonder whether this includes training. Dogs may very well consider learning how to roll their bodies over quite educational. Known for learning new tricks, dogs have replaced the horse as man's new best friend. But, don't think for one second that the law has forgotten about horses. In Cripple Creek, Colorado, it is illegal to bring your horse or pack mule above the ground floor of any building. This law begs the question, "Why would you want to bring your horse into a building in the first place?" If you are in a state that allows horses to go above the ground floor, make sure you do not keep them in bathtubs in South Carolina. If you're in

Fountain Inn, South Carolina you must also make sure that your horse wears pants at all times. And finally, with respect to horses, you may not ride an ugly one in Wilbur, Washington.

As amusing as these laws are, most students can appreciate the value these laws had in a time when things were more simple. However, some laws about animals seem to have come out of nowhere. For example, hunting camels is prohibited in Arizona. I realize Arizona is a warm state, but I had no idea camel hunting was such a huge problem. As for other warm-climate creatures, Arkansas forbids people from keeping alligators in bathtubs. Anyone see the pattern with animals and bathtubs?

Returning to the great outdoors is something every spring fever victim longs for. However, if you are in Boise, Idaho and decide to go fishing, please do not fish from a giraffe's back. It's illegal. If you find the great outdoors are more suitable for work, remember that you may not use an elephant to plow cotton fields in North Carolina. The pack mules and horses lobbied hard for that one!

Finally, warmer weather motivates people to stay outside rather than hop in a taxi or ride the subway. People are seen more frequently on bicycles, roller blades, or simply in sneakers. In some states - maybe not in New York - people ride animals rather than drive their cars. Keep in mind that just because you choose an animal does not mean you can avoid driving rules. In Florida, you still have to pay for a parking meter if you tie your elephant rather than park your car.

Funding Increase Eases Student Bar Deficit Dilemma

FUNDING INCREASE continued from p. 1

What caused this year's budget deficit? Overspending by the previous administration coupled with the chaos and general malaise after 9-11.

Each year the SBA hosts a fall and spring festival. However, the price tag distinguished last year's festivals from those of years past - \$10,500 for the Fall Fest and \$15,005 for the Spring Fest. When combined with the SBA's general operating expenses, student organizational funding, and \$3,800 spent on the SBA and *BLS News'* new computer equipment and essential software, the festivals' exorbitant price guaranteed that this year's SBA administration would operate with an almost \$10,000 deficit.

Not everyone on last year's SBA executive board agreed with the amount of money spent on those extravagant affairs, but due to the old SBA decision-making structure, they were powerless to prevent it.

"I made it known that I disagreed with the amount of money that was spent on those parties," said Vidoni, who was an SBA co-secretary last year and was often frustrated over the lack of input the secretaries had in determining SBA's spending policies.

"The president and vice-president made the decisions and then they told the treasurer to implement them."

Center attacks took its toll, not only on the city and country, but apparently also on the psyche of some of last year's SBA executive board members. According to Vidoni, some were so personally distraught over the tragic events that it affected their commitment to SBA matters.

Last year, student groups constantly clamored over the SBA's inattention to addressing their budget requests. Some groups did not receive funding until November 2001.

Oversight Proposals

These problems only highlighted the need for changes to prevent future budget problems and have motivated some SBA members to push for reforms and constitutional amendments that will demand greater bookkeeping accuracy and increased executive accountability.

The SBA intends to discuss implementing various programs with school officials and hopes to come up with guidelines for future SBA administrations to follow.

"I promised Tom Parker that on March 5 we would have a draft for him on new budget procedures. After we do that, Diane Yang [SBA treasurer] and I will meet with Shoshanna, Campbell [treasurer for Brooklyn Law School] and talk about the programs that will be implemented and about creating a training session [for newly

maintain the books," said Vidoni.

Parker maintains, "I'd like to see [Brooklyn Law School administrators] continue to act in an advisory role. We're planning to sit down with the outgoing and incoming SBA administration late this spring, and we'll do whatever we can to help with the transition process."

Among the SBA's greatest concerns is having the policies and procedures in place to ensure a certain degree of continuity from one year to the next so that when current officers leave, the new officers that succeed them will already have the knowledge and expertise to carry out their functions.

The SBA wants a manda-

tory transition period soon after their elections so that incoming and outgoing presidents and treasurers can meet with the director of Student Affairs and the treasurer of Brooklyn Law School to assess the SBA's financial situation.

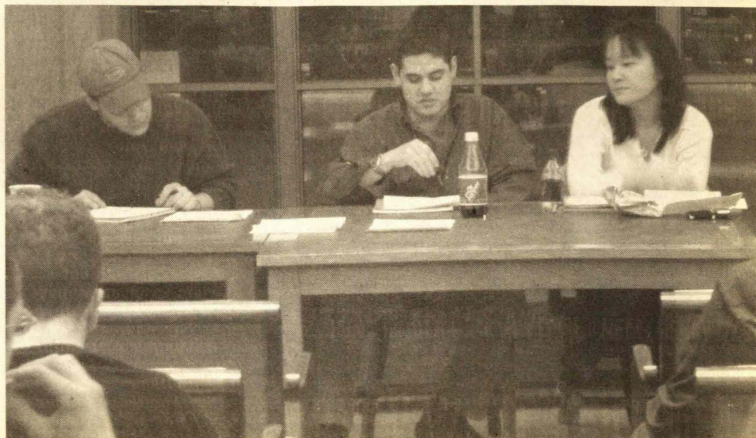
The SBA also hopes to add a vice-treasurer position to ensure that they do not have to rely on only one individual with the skills necessary to handle SBA's financial matters. If the SBA had a vice-treasurer last year, some of the SBA's record-keeping problems might never have materialized.

"We'd like to create a vice-treasurer position because we want to make sure that there is a constant

line of people who are trained according to a certain standard," said Vidoni.

The SBA president and treasurer will also send out a memo to all student organizations insisting that they hold elections by April 16 so that their transition will coincide with the SBA's transition. If all student groups hold elections around the same time, the incoming SBA officers will know whom to contact in preparation for next year's budget. This will help ease the transition and avoid budget delays.

If or when these proposals are implemented, SBA executive board members are confident that the SBA can avoid future financial crises.



SBA Executive Board members Brady Priest, Robert Vidoni, and Diane Yang at the Feb. 5 Organization Head Meeting Photo, Alyson Mathews, '04

et al.: The Justinian

SBA Status Report, 2003

SBA STATUS
continued from p. 4

We accomplish this goal by planning all-school social events, in the courtyard and throughout the city, to facilitate inter-class, inter-section, socializing. Additionally, the SBA holds Wine and Cheese receptions in the Subotnick Center to facilitate out-of-class interaction between student leaders and faculty members.

What has the SBA Accomplished this year? As this issue of the *Brooklyn Law School News* goes to press, this SBA administration has made, and continues to make, great strides towards improving student government operations. What follows is only a partial list of accomplishments.

(a) *Obtaining an additional \$6,580 from the BLS Administration.* On February 12 at a meeting between myself, Thomas Parker, Director of Student Affairs, the school's Treasurer and the Bursar, and Diane Yang, the SBA's Treasurer, we secured two significant blocks of money for the SBA. Specifically, the school granted the SBA an additional \$4,180 to fund the operations of seven previously unfunded student groups (See Gaynor, Front Page). The school also granted an additional \$2,400 meant for the recently created Intellectual Discourse Facilitation Fund. This fund, the creation of which I announced on February 5 at the SBA Organization Head Meeting, is designed to promote more cooperation between the student organizations in the planning of events designed to enhance the level of intellectual discourse at BLS. The school granted the money after Diane and I presented detailed plans for SBA budgetary process reforms.

(b) *Internal SBA Executive Board Reforms.* (1) *Budget Procedures.* To guard against future budget crises, my administration has completely overhauled the SBA E-Board's internal budgeting procedures. Specifically, SBA Treasurer, Diane Yang, designed and implemented new standardized budgetary and book-keeping systems. In cooperation with Thomas Parker from the Dean's Office, Diane and I are working to codify these reforms into a new constitution currently under construction in an SBA Constitution Subcommittee, staffed by 11 Delegates Douglas Atkins, Amber Long and Sascha Puritz, and Clark Whitsett (2) *Mail Room Reforms.* All mail, directed to student groups who have mailboxes in the SBA mail room, is now being collected and sorted by SBA delegates at least once per week. Moreover, the SBA recently cleaned the mail room and reallocated some mail boxes and locker space between groups.

(c) *Student Organization Procedural Reforms.* (1) The SBA recently issued a regulation

student organizations to hold their executive board elections by April 16, and to create a constitution and mission statement and file these documents in the SBA office. (2) the SBA E-Board also mandated, that following elections of a new executive board, each student group must hold a transition meeting between the outgoing and incoming executive boards to discuss budget and other procedural protocols.

(d) *Creation of the Brooklyn Law School News.* In addition to the all the SBA reforms, another major accomplishment was the creation of the student newspaper you are reading now. Since March 2002, when Kristin Harrison and I co-founded the *BLS News*, we have managed its operations as Co-Editors-In-Chiefs. Each month between 900 and 1000 copies of the newspaper are distributed.

The *BLS News* continues to promote a stronger sense of community, improve student governance, and foster a more responsive Administration. Kristin and I believe that a well circulated and critical newspaper is essential for promoting professionalism in student governance with a maximum of procedural visibility. We also hope the existence of a newspaper willing to publish student articles and Op-Eds, will help stimulate the growth of a vocal and activist-minded student body, two qualities generally lacking at this school. Moreover, the *BLS News*, is an ideal platform for student organizations to promote their accomplishments and activities, to students, faculty and just as importantly, to alumni.

As to alumni, the *BLS News* is already proving a great medium for keeping alumni aware of, and interested in, events at their old school. And, as any fundraiser knows, keeping alumni aware and interested are necessary prerequisites for building the feelings of connectedness that motivate alumni to maintain emotional and financial ties to their old school.

In sum we believe the *BLS News* is a public good of the highest value and should be treated as such by students, faculty and especially the school administration. In the end, it is the administration who has the most power to manage the institutional incentive structures, whether monetary or cultural, to encourage high caliber students to take leadership roles in the newspaper. As to the future of the *BLS News*, we are currently looking for students to take on executive positions next year so that the paper continues on, long after Kristin and I graduate.

Well, enough for now. I know readers can take only so much titillating material in one sitting. So stay tuned. I will be back next month with another Student Bar Association status report. From everybody at SBA and the *BLS News*, have a great

The 13th Annual BLSPI Auction is happening March 12!

The Auction raises money to support summer fellowships for Brooklyn Law students to work in unpaid public interest fields. There will be food and beer, \$5 for a never ending cup, a silent auction (begin bidding at 5 PM), a raffle, and the Live Auction Kicks off at 7:30 PM. All the action is in the beautiful Brooklyn Law School Cafeteria. Come and have a good time and support a good cause all at once!

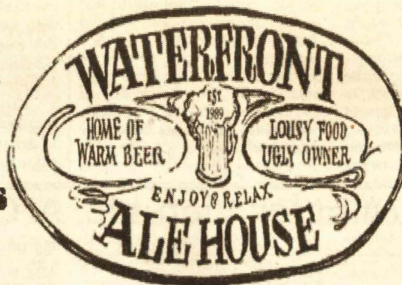
**BLSPI Auction
March 12, 2003
7:30 PM
BLS Cafeteria**

HAPPY HOUR

\$3.00 PINTS

15 DRAUGHTS

47 MON-FRI



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Op-Ed: Post-War Iraq

by John Knapp, '04

I have recently become resigned to the fact that we will be at war with Iraq this spring, if not by the time this goes to press. Throughout the debates in Congress and in the UN, I have sided invariably with those who could not understand why Saddam Hussein, a menace to his people and neighbors, life-long human rights criminal and all-around offender of international law should be dealt with by anything other than the international community itself.

To confront this undeniable threat (and we deserve credit for doing so), the US could have engaged in genuine international diplomacy. We could have drafted a resolution that took inspections seriously. We could have spent as much time making clear what would constitute a breach as we did explaining what would happen in response. We could have shared our intelligence so the inspectors knew where to look, so a breach would happen quickly if at all. We could have assured our allies that their interests in the area (and not just Haliburton's) would be preserved in case of war. In short, we could have acted as a concerned and responsible global citizen.

Instead, our ever-changing justifications for going it alone "if necessary" seem to have made it so. I watched in disbelief as we squandered the good will and cooperation of the international community. Even our NATO alliances are unraveling. Arrogantly, we all but challenged the rest of the world to disagree with us; and of course they did. The President is bent on confronting Saddam Hussein without delay, even if that delay (perhaps of only a few weeks) is the difference between acting alone or as part of a legitimate international coalition.

Why? From what I can tell, the President has decided (or, at least, been led to believe) that toppling Saddam Hussein will create democracy in Iraq and start a domino effect in the region.

This is possible. The people of the other nations in the Middle East could one day look to Antebellum Iraq as the type of nation they deserve: a prosperous, open and accountable one. History could one day

look upon our invasion as the strong leadership and foresight that bucked popular opinion to bring about positive geo-political changes the likes of which have not been seen since the Marshall Plan.

But it is just as possible that our military actions could exacerbate the instability in the region, reduce it to a no-man's land of warring factions and tribes, lacking all semblance of law and breed unprecedented anti-Western terrorism.

In either case, if Antebellum Iraq is seen as just another illegitimate "Western puppet regime," we will have failed our mission and added insult to injury to the Iraqi people. We will be left with a catastrophe and a dilemma. The more help we give, the more illegitimate the results; the more we walk away, the more dangerous we make the world.

It would be an era-changing success and it would be ours, but the same goes for failure. With the stakes so high and the odds so bad, it is unclear why the President insists on upping the ante. In the past months we have arrogantly pronounced from on high what is in the interest of the international community, instead of asking; we have bullied our neighbors; we have bought off unwilling allies; we have subverted international institutions; and we have threatened anyone who dared to disagree.

The President has said time and again in his campaign that he does not believe in "nation building," and one look at Afghanistan shows he is a man of his word. If Antebellum Iraq is to become what we envision, and be seen as the legitimate product of Iraqi self-determination, we will need the assistance of other nations: friendly nations in the region willing to help alleviate the refugee crises; democratic nations willing to assist with institution-building; Muslim nations willing to aid a broken and tortured people; wealthy nations willing to help shoulder the heavy burden we Americans are already bearing.

In short, if Antebellum Iraq is to be the model Muslim democratic state the President envisions, he will need the resources and "unique legitimacy" of the international community behind it, the same community he has so carelessly dismissed.

Op-Ed: Texas Village Missing Idiot

A Google search for the phrase "Bush is an idiot" turns up 2,060 hits

by Alex Ryley, '04

I wish I could take credit for the headline, but instead I'm indebted to one of the many placard-holders who marched recently in Manhattan to protest the Bush administration's policy on Iraq. I also wish that the line wasn't so funny, since its humor depends upon its proximity to the truth.

Now, before Republican readers load their rifles and head to my apartment, I ask that they do two things, the second probably simpler than the first. First, consider the observation of University of Chicago philosophy professor Ted Cohen in his book *Jokes*, that it is possible to find a joke both profoundly offensive and funny. Second, if the headline does offend, think carefully about why.

Republicans may argue that it is simply unconscionable and unpatriotic to ridicule a U.S. president; but try telling that to conservative commentators next time a Democratic president is in the White House. I submit that the line offends because it hits so close to the unpleasant fact that George Bush just isn't much of a thinker. How else to account, after all, for the uproar that ensued last November after a top aide to Canada's prime minister referred to Bush as a "moron" in a private conversation overheard by reporters? The aide quickly resigned, saying she expected the controversy would make it impossible to do her job. Can you imagine a similar event having occurred during the Clinton administration? However you calculate the odds that

someone would have called Clinton a moron, it's difficult to believe that anyone would have cared about such a remark at all, let alone enough to force a resignation.

Why do people consider Bush so intellectually mediocre? One may find some answers on the 'net, where a Google search for the phrase "Bush is an idiot" turns up 2,060 hits (by comparison, a search for "Clinton is an idiot" generates 59). But, it's hardly a mystery. In addition to his evident lack of curiosity about the world around him - after he achieved his C average in college, this millionaire son of a foreign emissary traveled overseas but a handful of times (the administration won't specify how many) over the next 30 years - Bush just doesn't come across as a careful and competent thinker.

His aides know this better than anyone, so they are careful to limit his opportunities to make extemporaneous remarks. But thankfully, the *New York Times* routinely prints Bush's rare off-the-cuff statements verbatim, allowing an insight into the mind responsible for grappling with our extraordinarily complex foreign relations debacle. Take Bush's press conference on the eve of the U.N.'s vote in November regarding the Iraq-disarmament resolution. When queried as to how confident he was that the resolution would pass, Bush replied, "I'm pleased with the resolution we put down, otherwise we wouldn't have put it down. I just talked to Jacques Chirac and earlier today I talked to Vladimir Putin. I would characterize our conversation - I'm loath to put words in somebody else's mouth. That's evidently not the case with a lot of people in Washington, but nevertheless I am. And I'm optimistic we'll get the resolution vote tomorrow, let me put it to you that way. And the resolution

is a disarmament resolution, that's what it is." This is the man who arguably controls the destiny of the human race?

But it's not only his bumbling "Bushisms," as they've come to be known, that suggest the President isn't thinking very clearly. Consider the President's response when asked whether he was moved by the recent worldwide peace marches (which constituted the largest coordinated anti-war protest in history): "Size of protest - it's like deciding, well, I'm going to decide policy based upon a focus group." It's hard to conceive of a more inapt analogy. Good thing he didn't apply to law school.

Years ago, another Republican president was sunk by an ad that asked whether you'd buy a used car from him. Republicans need to consider the possibility that Bush's intellect is as great a liability to his foreign policy agenda as Nixon's character was to his candidacy. I think a good portion of the worldwide opposition to America's foreign policy stems from a fear that Bush lacks the ability to understand complicated ideas and make intelligent decisions. What some Americans view as Bush's Christian-based "moral clarity" many Europeans see as a simple - and dangerous - lack of sophistication.

I agree with the two writers in last month's *BLS News* who argued that categorical opposition to war can be naïve. But I believe that people's opposition to war with Iraq has much more to do with their lack of faith in Bush than with any naïveté about Hussein. This is apparently the case in Ireland, where, when readers were asked in a recent *Sunday Independent* poll whom they feared most, Bush or Hussein, 60 percent of respondents answered Bush. Just another focus group, Mr. President?

Op-Ed: Reminder Vietnam: A Comparative Reminder of US Conflict

Price of War in Iraq Too High & Strategy Flawed

by Alan K. Albert, '04

Let me begin by saying that the objectives of the Gulf War Operation Desert Storm were not extremely troubling to me, on paper. These included preventing the spread of Saddam Hussein's power on the Arabian Peninsula, checking expansion of Saddam Hussein's control of major world oil resources, freeing Kuwait from Iraqi invasion, securing US oil supply and US financial interests, and protecting neighboring Arabian Peninsula countries from hypothetical Iraqi attack using nuclear, biological, and

include the objective of preventing Iraqi support and harboring of Al-Qaeda terrorists, responsible for attacking New York City and Washington, DC on 9/11/01.

Similarly, the objectives of the Vietnam War did not trouble me, on paper. These included preventing the alleged domino effect spreading of Communism throughout Southeast Asia and beyond, defending South Vietnam from Northern aggression, sending a worldwide message regarding the spread of Communism (especially to third-world countries and Moscow), preventing the spread of Soviet control in the world, and allying the US with any country or force opposing Soviet allies (including Iraq who opposed Iran). This US-Soviet interaction was known as the Cold War.

Here is the problem: Vietnamese civilian deaths

approaching that of genocide, with estimates of over one million killed. Furthermore, the number of US soldiers killed in Vietnam was 58,202, and over 300,000 were wounded. In Iraq, 150 US soldiers were killed in action, and there were a whopping 149,094 disabled Iraqi civilian deaths, and those wounded that probably numbered in the thousands during the Gulf War. Conservatively speaking, hundreds of thousands of NVA and VC soldiers were killed in Vietnam, and in Iraq, tens of thousands. While many of those soldiers died shooting at ours, many also died while defending their own soil. None of the losses just mentioned were worth the results which they accomplished, and alternative means of effecting political goals were available.

The Vietnam War had a mixed outcome. While Cambodia and Laos never

became Communist, nor did Communism spread beyond the shores of Southeast Asia, and North Vietnam liberated South Vietnam from the US and created a united Communist country. This was arguably a worldwide Communist victory. Similarly, Operation Desert Storm had a mixed outcome. While Kuwait was liberated, Iraq continued stockpiling weapons of mass destruction.

Furthermore, a repeat war is currently deemed necessary by President Bush. 150,000 troops are now in place for the war in Iraq as of 2/20/03.

What can we learn from Vietnam and Desert Storm? The price was too high in both cases, and the results were mixed in both cases. Given the risks to Iraqi civilians, US soldiers, and to countries neighboring Iraq, the US should station a permanent military presence in the region, such as it has done in South Korea and

Cuba. Setting up a US base with 30,000 troops in South Vietnam would have accomplished the goals upon which that war was premised: containment and deterrence, and would have saved over 1 million human lives.

The US should stand by just in case. The US should encourage NATO inspections. The US should provide Saddam notice, and then bomb known weapons of mass destruction targets, as they are identified, if he fails to remove them. But the US should NOT invade Iraq with ground troops. Saddam warned us and our allies last time with his empty SCUDS. The risks and costs far outweigh the benefits of invasion, and a bloodless policy of nearby occupation has historically been much more effective. We have a duty to learn from history, so as not to repeat our mistakes.

et al.: The Justiman

Op-Ed: Freedom for Iraqis

The basic freedoms that Americans take for granted every day do not exist in Iraq.

by Adam Wiener, '04

Hussein in fact, pored over books on Hitler and Nazi Germany while he was in prison (for the attempted assassination of an Iraqi leader) and studied the ways the Nazis maintained their police state. Hussein has applied what he learned.

The law of Iraq is the law of one man. The basic freedoms that Americans take for granted every day do not exist in Iraq. It is said that no three Iraqis get together without Saddam Hussein knowing about it. The present Iraqi state does not tolerate the slightest trace of opposition. Saddam maintains professional torture units to deal with anyone who is suspected of being disloyal to the regime. On these units are 'rape specialists', individuals whose paid responsibility is raping women. One of Hussein's favorite tactics used to get information out of people is having their wives or daughters raped in front of them. One could write volumes filled with the innumerable horror stories that have been daily fair in Iraq for the past twenty years.

If a military intervention does come in Iraq, the people of Iraq will not stand by Saddam Hussein. Sharif Ali Bin Al Hussein, spokesman for the Iraqi National Congress, an Iraqi government-in-exile that represents the only Arab democracy in the world today, and is poised to govern a post-Hussein Iraq, said: "The entirety of the Iraqi population is opposed to Saddam Hussein. Nobody in Iraq will defend the regime, including the military ... All of Iraq has suffered for many years from the oppression of Saddam Hussein's regime, and there is not a single person out there in Iraq that will fight or defend him." We all remember Iraqi soldiers surrendering to TV news crews during the Gulf War.

As long as the present Iraqi regime remains in power, the people of Iraq will continue to suffer. Iraqis deserve freedom just as much as anyone else does in the world. How much longer must they suffer? The sooner Iraq is liberated from the tyranny of Saddam Hussein, the sooner Iraqis will be able to live in peace and freedom.

On March 16, 1988, Iraqi warplanes dropped bombs loaded with mustard gas and nerve agents on a town called Halabja. Halabja was not a military target, was not a city in neighboring Iran, a country which Saddam Hussein invaded eight years earlier, and was not a place next door to rival Syria. Halabja was an Iraqi town. On that March day, the present regime of Iraq punctuated the brutality of its domestic repression by slaughtering wholesale its own citizens. At least 5,000 Iraqis lost their lives that afternoon. 12,000 were injured. The people of Halabja continue to suffer to this day from the aftermath of that attack. Congenital birth defects, rare cancers, respiratory disorders, and other maladies plague Halabjians as a result of the exposure to chemical agents.

The massacre in Halabja was the first time in history that a government had attacked civilians with chemical weapons. Yet the world remained largely silent. One has to wonder where all of the 'peace' activists we've seen in the streets recently were to protest this atrocity. Where were all those people, who demonstrated against the United States's potential military engagement in Iraq, to be found when Saddam Hussein systematically murdered his own people?

The slaughter of Halabja is a symbol of the kind of brutality the Iraqi people have been subjected to since Saddam Hussein assumed power in 1979. It is estimated that 1,000 Iraqis have been killed by the regime's internal security services every month of Hussein's reign. Iraq remains the last redoubt of fascism in the world today. Saddam

Op-Ed: A Turbulent History of

by Yosef Mark, '04

In the February 2003 edition of the Brooklyn Law School News, anonymous, stated that an explanation of the history and current conditions of the 'Palestinians' is necessary. He or she is right. So here is the history of Palestine and 'Palestinians'.

Palestine is not Arabic or Muslim in origin. The name *Palestina* was created by the Romans in the 2nd century C.E. Palestine is not even mentioned in the Koran and just for the record neither is Jerusalem. However, both the land of Israel and Jerusalem are mentioned dozens of times in the *Torah* (The Old Testament). Moreover, the Jewish people were in Israel with Jerusalem as its capital 2,000 years before the rise of Islam.

Throughout history Israel has been ruled by various nations: The Jewish people, Assyrians, Persians, Babylonians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Crusaders, Mamelukes, Ottoman Empire, and Great Britain. From 1948-1967, it gets a little complicated. Israel was controlled by the Jewish people, Egypt (which controlled Gaza) and Jordan (which controlled Judea and Samaria also known as the West Bank), and finally in 1967, Israel regained control of Gaza, Judean, and Samaria.

It is interesting to note that "Palestinians" and an independent 'Palestine' are absent from that list. Even when ruled by Muslims and Arabs, there was never an independent 'Palestinian' state nor was it ever held to be an independent 'Palestinian' state.

In 1919, the following resolution as adopted at the first congress of Muslim-Christian Associations in Jerusalem: "we consider Palestine as a part of Arab Syria...[w]e are connected with it by national, religious, linguistic, natural, economic, and geographical bonds."

Testifying before the Peel commission in 1937, a local Arab leader, Auni Bey Abdul-Hadi, professed the same view: "There is no such country as Palestine...our country was for centuries part of Syria."

In 1946, the distinguished Arab-American historian, Princeton University Professor Philip Hitti, testified against the partition of Israel before the Anglo-American committee: "there is no such thing as 'Palestine' in history, absolutely not."

In 1947, the representative of the Arab Higher Committee to the UN submitted to the general assembly: "Palestine was part of the Province of Syria...politically, the Arabs of Palestine were not independent in the sense of forming separate political entity. Also in 1947, the Arab counties turned down a UN plan creating a Palestinian state.

Between 1948 and 1967, Jordan ruled the West Bank and Egypt ruled Gaza. These are the same areas that today are considered to be 'Palestinian' land occupied by Israel. However, when Jordan and Egypt controlled it, it was considered to be part

of those two countries and not occupied. In 1967, Egypt blockaded Israel's port, committing an act of war and the Jordanian Army attacked Israel without provocation. All of Israel's actions were in response to Arab acts of war. They started the war and lost. Israel won that land in a defensive war from Jordan and Egypt not from Yasser Arafat, the PLO or 'Palestinians'.

Palestinian Arab nationalism did not become a significant political movement until after the 6-Day War in 1967. Even today, the representatives of the PLO/PA state that the "occupation" started in 1967. Keeping in mind that there has never been a 'Palestinian' state that statement comprises two significant ramifications. First, their 'historic' claim to the land is only 36 years old and is baseless. Second, Israel was reestablished in 1948. Since they claim that they are under occupation from 1967, they admit to not having any claim to land in Israel prior to 1967. But the Arabs still claim Israel, in its entirety, despite their history, words and actions to the contrary.

"There is no language known as Palestinian. There is no distinct Palestinian culture. There has never been a land known as Palestine governed by Palestinians. Palestinians are Arabs, indistinguishable from Jordanians, Syrians, Lebanese, etc.," said Joseph Farah, an Arab-American reporter covering the Middle East.

Historically there is no distinguishable people called 'Palestinians'. However, in reality there is a group of people who identify themselves as such. Where this comes from is still a mystery but it is nonetheless a reality. The fact is that Israel has offered more rights to these 'Palestinians' than any other Arab country has given them.

This does not seem to make sense. Why would Israel give its land to 'Palestinians' when they have no right to it? Former Prime Minister of Israel Ehud Barak said it best: "It isn't that we believe the land belongs to the Arabs. The land is ours. It is part of Israel. However, for peace we are willing to let them have autonomy and rule themselves."

Israel offered the Arab people their own land with self-government. When Israel regained control of Gaza, Judea, and Samaria, for the first time 'Palestinian' women and nonlandowners were able to vote. In Israel, ALL Arabs have full voting rights and are represented in the Israeli Parliament. The first Arab minister served in Ariel Sharon's Government. Arabic is an official language of Israel. Arabs have access to Israeli courts and can even file motions against the Israeli government and win. All Arabs can own land in Israel (as opposed to Arab countries and the PLO controlled territories where Jews cannot own land, and Arabs get killed for selling Jews land) Israel has built up Arab infrastructure including Arab schools throughout the entire country and that includes Gaza, Judea, and Samaria. The UNRWA (United Nations Relief and

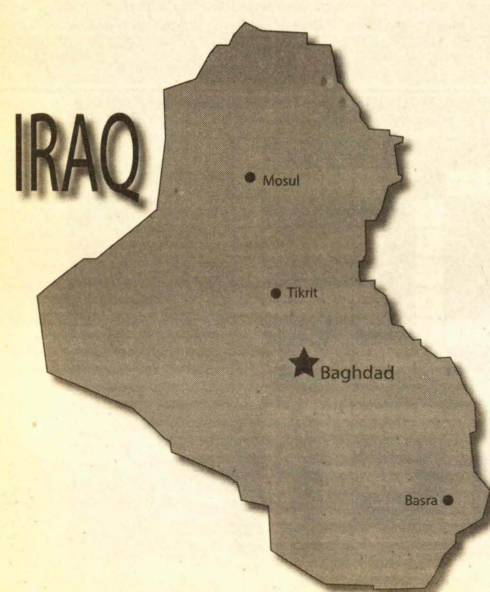
Workers Agency), which is in charge of providing relief for "Palestinian refugees," has received more funds from Israel than the majority of Arab countries.

How did and do 'Palestinians' fair in Arab countries? Between 1948-1967, Jordan slaughtered thousands of 'Palestinians' in Judea and Samaria. A Saudi Arabian Newspaper compared Egypt's rule of the Palestinians in Gaza to that of Hitler's rule of occupied Europe during WWII. Egypt protested Israel's development of 'Palestinian' areas in Gaza. Arab countries had routinely pushed for UN resolution that Israel desist from dismantling "refugee camps" and that Israel stop building houses for 'Palestinians'. Kuwait expelled 300,000 of them in the wake of the Gulf War. In Lebanon, 'Palestinians' cannot own their own land, they do not have civil or social rights, have limited access to health and educational facilities, and are prohibited bylaw from working on over 70 professions and fields. According to the US state department, the majority of Arab countries deny their citizens basic freedoms of political expression, speech, press, and due process. If they do that to their own citizens, even more so to the 'Palestinians'.

If had they accepted any of Israel's offers, 'Palestinians' for the first time in history, would have a country, with stamps, coins, and a code of maritime law, etc. Their economy would be flourishing and they would be mere steps away from statehood. Instead, The PLO and the 'Palestinians' returned Israel's kindness with acts of terrorism and war. "Whoever thinks that the Intifadah broke out because of the despised Sharon's visit to the Al-Aqsa Mosque, is wrong," Imad al-Faluji, the Palestinian communications minister, declared in March of 2000. "This Intifadah was planned in advance, ever since President Arafat's return from the Camp David negotiations." What followed was two years of almost daily terrorist attacks on Israelis in shopping malls, cafes, buses, schools, and playgrounds.

The PLO signed an agreement called the Oslo accords as well as the interim agreement in Washington on September 28, 1995 (popularly known as "Oslo II"). The 'Palestinians' have violated every promise to which they agreed. From arming terrorists instead of arresting them to permitting the destruction of Jewish holy site under 'Palestinian' control. Under the Oslo II if the 'Palestinians' do not uphold their promises, Israel has the right to hot pursuit but also the right to carry out preemptive action within Area A. (areas of land under full PLO/PA control.)

Everything they are doing would be totally unnecessary if the 'Palestinians' had fulfilled their obligations. If the 'Palestinians' want to be recognized as a separate entity, then they must take responsibility for their actions. They cannot choose to start a war and then complain about the consequences.



The Princess of Brooklyn

Contemplating Valentine's Day — After the Fact

by Elizabeth Hubbard, '03

With Valentine's Day in the past, the Princess of Brooklyn's thoughts had turned to love and romance. Unfortunately, love and romance involves that tiresome chore- dating. The following are ideas for dates in the local area that will ensure that even if true love doesn't happen, at least the evening won't be a total loss.

PS: If you don't have a "real" date, all of these ideas are also good for a fun night out with a friend.

The Brooklyn Bridge Date

All Brooklyn Law students should be required to visit Grimaldi's at least once before graduating. This historic pizza parlor is known as the "best in Brooklyn". It is also the subject of one of Brooklyn's most notorious law suits, which you can read all about on your placemat. The choice of toppings are fairly limited, but they are all high quality, from porcini mushrooms to roasted sweet peppers. It's best to share a large pizza with your date, and save room for desert.

In this cold you and your date will probably be in the mood for something warm. In this case, walk down Water Street away from the pier and to Jacques Torres Chocolate. This little chocolate factory makes some surprising and delicious flavors such as earl grey, port, and passion fruit. (You can even watch them make it!) For this cold weather though, I would recommend their splendid homemade chocolate.

In warmer weather, head the other direction to the Ice Cream Factory, right on the pier. Like the chocolate shop, the specialty here is made right on the premises. There may be only a few flavors, but this freshly made ice cream is quite possibly the best this Princess has ever tasted.

The Smith Street Crawl

With so many options for dining on Smith Street, why not try several in one evening? Appetizers at one restaurant, main course at another, and coffee and desert at a third.

For appetizers, the Princess recommends starting out at Bar Tabac (thought there are many other options) which serves a variety of appetizers for \$5 such as lamb sausage brochettes or a reasonably priced cheese platter. Then move on to the next place for the main course. (Tip- most places have their menus on display in the window, so you can find something that fits your mood as well as your wallet.) For cost-cutting that can be passed off as romance, share a main course. (Remember the spaghetti scene from "Lady and the Tramp"?)

Finish up with coffee and desert at another restaurant. If you and your date can't agree on whether you want after-dinner drink or coffee, club/café/coffee.

hop/bar/music and junk store serves tea, beer, wine, milkshakes, and baked goods like giant ginger snaps, cakes, or pb&j cookies. There is a DJ most nights, which can inhibit conversation, but then again, sometimes that is for the best.

BAM Rose Cinema

The Brooklyn Academy of Music is another local landmark that you can't miss. The movie theatre is located in the older building of the BAM complex. The building itself is architecturally beautiful, both inside and outside (though the outside is difficult to see due to the ever-present scaffolding). The cinema features mainly independents, but also monthly international film festivals. Also keep an eye out for special features such as question and answer sessions with famous celebrities. (This summer the Princess and several other BLS students had the honor of seeing Bruce Campbell in person before a showing of his two greatest works, *Evil Dead II* and *Army of Darkness*.)

Go to <http://www.bam.org/asp/cinema.asp> to find out what's coming up.

The Princess recommends buying your tickets well ahead of time and then going to dinner. BAM offers a special dinner and a movie deal in the BAM café. The café serve froofy but tasty food in the elegant and large atrium on the second floor of the theatre. There is also a new tapas bar in Diker Gallery Café, overlooking BAMcafé, featuring unlimited tapas, beer, wine, and sangria for \$24 (including tax and tip).

If this seems to pricey for you, try one of the nearby restaurants. Some recommendations given to us (but not personally tried) are Matma Duke's, located on Flatbush and owned by P-Diddy's mom, and Beso, which serves delicious Puerto Rican food on 5th.

If the date ends up being a good one and you want to prolong it, we recommend discussing the movie at the just-seedy-enough bar O'Conner's on 5th.

The Cheap Date

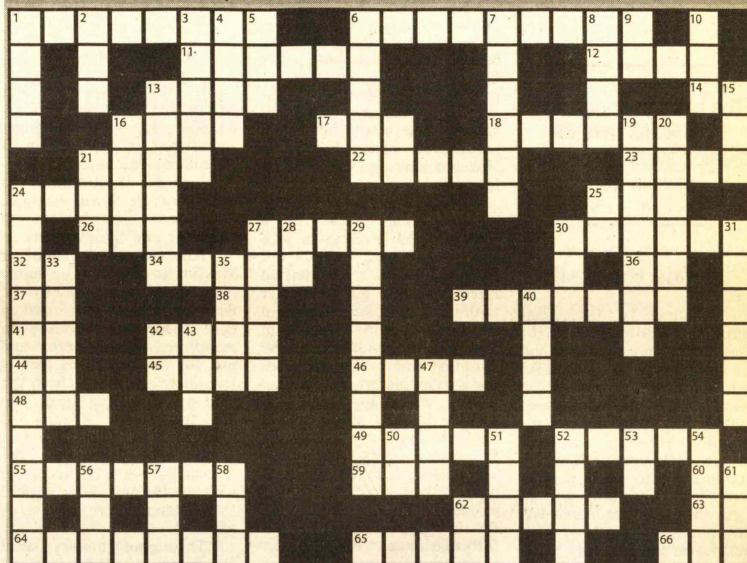
If the above options are a bit pricey for you, try these local bargains.

First, start at the Cobble Hill Cinema. (265 Court Street) On Tuesdays and Thursdays this theatre charges a mere \$5 for movie tickets. (A bargain in this city of ever-inflating movie ticket prices!) This theatre has a great selection, as it shows a variety of independents, foreign films and Hollywood blockbusters.

For an ultra-cheap dinner after the show, try Buddy's Burrito & Taco Bar right across the street for enormous burritos and cheap margaritas. If you want to spend a little more cash for a nicer place, try the reasonably priced Harvest, which specializes in gentrified but still satisfying southern cooking. The trendy Thai restaurant Joya also offers reasonable prices, and also a decent vegetarian menu.

If anyone wishes to escort the Princess on any of these dates, you can send a letter to the BLS News Office.

Crossword Puzzle by Martha Flumenbaum



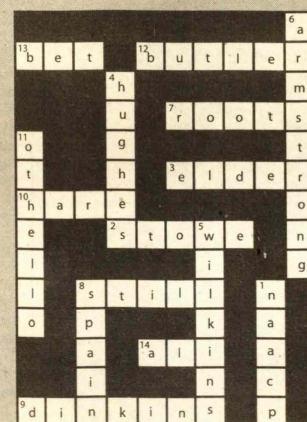
Across

- Hellerstein's cat's name
- Author of "Ruminations on College Life"
- "_____ and Everything After"
- _____ Pound
- The West _____
- Dad
- "Blueberries for _____" (plural)
- Too old to be "Miss"
- Soprano's Daughter
- A lot
- In "Cruel Intentions" & "Legally Blonde" w/ Reese
- _____ Me, Kate
- Basketball, for example
- Roomin your house you go to relax
- Kung _____ Shrimp
- Fat kid in "The Goonies"
- Type of food
- Character in Michener's "The Source"
- Red Sox shortstop
- Like CNN or MSNBC, abbr.
- _____ or _____ not, there is no try.
- Abbreviation for home state of recent President
- You can float in this body of water.
- Freudian term
- City in Norway
- Jewish fraternity: _____ Pi
- Jodie Foster film
- Musicians featured in "Mama Mia"
- Flanders' son
- Author of "The Metamorphosis"
- Jim Carrey was "The _____ Guy"
- City for BLS Summer Study Abroad
- Sitcom alien, now commercial star
- It melts in your mouth, not your hand
- LeeAnn Womack hopes you'll _____
- _____ Better Blues
- Author of "A Blind Man Can See How Much I Love You"
- Country with a "Q" but no "U"
- Film, "Summer of _____"

Down

- Tony winner for Best Musical
- Also
- The _____ Show, with Jon Stewart
- _____ n' Roses
- High cholesterol food
- Book of maps
- Professor Poser's first name
- Law students do this a lot
- Show on HBO
- Short sleep
- Kind of Chinese soup
- Donkey
- "Nobody doesn't like _____ Lee"
- Thurs. night hangout for BLS students
- Recently prosecuted for shoplifting
- Used to clean kitchen floors
- Oil rich country
- Physician, abbr.
- She runs the Children's Law Center clinic
- Department that does the hiring
- State in middle America
- Type of fish
- _____, the prophet
- _____ Drive (Shopping in Cali.)
- Hangout in Kevin Smith's 2nd film
- Angie Harmon on "Law & Order"
- Not off
- Game, _____, Match
- Willy Loman's Son
- Recently slimmed weatherman
- To admire from _____
- _____ Cola Light
- He knows football and baseball
- Gwyneth Paltrow was this Austen character
- Something you do in the sun
- Men style their hair with it
- Much _____ About Nothing
- Mother
- Pitler's former job was here

Important African Americans Answers



CORRECTION:

In the February Issue of the Brooklyn Law School News, the editors erred in one of the clues in the BLSA Crossword puzzle. 12 across should have read: "which athlete....." In addition Kenya White, '03, the puzzle's author was not given credit for creating the puzzle. We apologize for both errors.

et al.: The Justinian

Law and TV: What's With the Government & NBC?

Bar Review

by Sally Woo, '02

by Alyson Mathews, '04

NBC has premiered two new legally-premised shows this winter: a legal comedy and a legally-related drama. The comedy, "AUSA," has a cushy time slot, at 9:30pm on Tuesdays, after "Frasier." The drama, "Mister Sterling," is at 8:00pm Fridays, the former home of "Providence," the show about the medical doctor who goes home to Rhode Island (the law overruling family medicine, apparently!). Both new shows concern federal government employees—one an Assistant United States Attorney ("AUSA") and the other a United States senator.

For those whose memories go back to the 1980's, let's recall a memorable NBC legal comedy, "Night Court." Harry Anderson was the sweetly funny Judge Harry Stone, presiding over the Night Court and its zaniness. John Larroquette was the Lothario assistant district attorney, Dan Fielding. The key to "Night Court" was not only laugh-out-loud funny, but you got to empathize with the characters and watch them grow and change.

television. But, one thing's for sure – "AUSA" isn't "Night Court," where the humor was more than "Oh, watch the lawyer messing up in his job and life..."

Played by actor Scott Foley (formerly of WB's "Felicity"), Adam is young and idealistic. His dream is to be an AUSA, to prosecute the criminals, and to do what's right, even when it means dismissing a really lousy case (ex., dropping the case of incidental credit fraud that an African-American-World War II veteran-widower committed to pay for his wife's extra funeral expenses).

Foley has a nice, earnest look. The empathy factor was definitely there: I felt his character's eagerness to do well. I understood Adam's embarrassment, for instance, when he accidentally used the judges' bathroom or when he realized his slacker best friend had accidentally introduced him to two women who turned out to be jurors in a case he was second-chairing. Ah, the poor lapses in good judgment (or is it total haplessness?) in the life of an AUSA!

The other main character, Adam's love interest, Susan, was his law school crush, and his current courtroom adversary. She seemed like a smart, idealistic public defender, but perceived poor Adam as a male pig a little too easily to be believable (even for a sitcom). Susan also didn't seem to get it that Adam has a job to do, wrongfully believing that his prosecutorial position equated his own personal views. That just had to be a writer's error.

The series' pilot episode suggested that the comedic writing and timing needed to be sharper. "AUSA" couldn't make me laugh, and the fact that the so-called studio

audience was forced to laugh at every line still couldn't make me laugh. I wasn't persuaded to come back for more, even if Scott Foley seemed like a nice actor.

The pilot episode of "Mister Sterling" often felt derivative; it heavily borrowed "The West Wing" style of having characters walk up and down hallways while they rushed to talk about policy out of the sides of their mouths. But, on the plus side, while the pilot episode was not a total "hit," it was very watchable. Even if the writing isn't as crisp as "The West Wing," the characters have character:

William Sterling, the junior senator from California, was appointed by the powerful Democratic California governor, to replace an indisposed predecessor. It later turned out that Sterling wasn't a Democratic loyalist (oops). He proclaimed that he was an independent, but leaned Democratic anyway. His stubbornness appeared to be what kept him moderate. Sterling has issues with his dad, a former Democratic California governor whose work made his son bitter about politics. Indeed, his bitterness lent him this annoying "holier than thou" attitude. His morality wasn't that much of a turn-off; but his arrogance – that he believed that he was above dirty politics – was obnoxious, especially when reality required Sterling to step into the mud to fight for his good causes. And, for a guy who was a former assistant district attorney, Sterling tended to be awfully naive about the world (ex., in episode 2, he really didn't think his law journal article on legalizing drugs would be fodder for the press?!). I have to credit actor

Josh Brolin (son of James and stepson of Barbra Streisand) for being talented enough to make Sterling this interesting.

There's also Audra MacDonald, the great Broadway actress who crackles with charisma. Her character, Jackie Brock, is Sterling's chief of staff. She had the unenviable duty to guide him through Congressional operations and to give him the common sense that he seemingly lacked. The character has lots of potential, and the writers have got to give MacDonald more to do than marching up and down the halls of Congress.

The cons of "Mister Sterling": I dislike it when the show focuses on the younger characters, which include the senator's male intern and a female cub reporter, the intern's housemate. Both gave me the feeling that they were on the show for the blatant purpose of trying to grab the younger skewing audience. But, they didn't have the charm of MacDonald and the "I'm going to wear you down and make you watch the show" demeanor of Brolin.

So, of the two federal-oriented series premieres, I found myself more willing to give "Mister Sterling" another shot to entertain me. And, with each passing episode, "Mister Sterling" seems increasingly fascinating, making me curious to know more about the senator and his staff. I am willing to be sucked in by its Congressional messiness, but I am not going to be suckered by the allegedly funny courtrooms of "AUSA." Either way, NBC is getting seriously entrenched in the federal government, adding to what it already has in the executive branch of the "West Wing."

In a city like New York it can be hard to find a bar where you can kick back and relax. Sometimes you may not want to dress up. Sometimes you do want to dress up, but not look like you are trying, too hard. However, all this must be accomplished in an atmosphere which appeals to a wide variety of people. Nessa at 51st and 2nd Avenue provides the perfect mixture of dressed up, dressed down, and fun times.



Nessa may not look like such a great place from the outside, but once you step inside you feel right at ease. This bar has two large floors and two large bars. The downstairs floor sort of resembles a sports bar during the earlier hours of the evening. Once things start to pick up around 11:00 or 11:30, downstairs begins to look more like a popular hang out for 24-30 year olds. The upstairs floor is basically just one big room, but sections can be reserved for small group parties. The staff seems to do a pretty good job at making sure that the groups do not feel like they are separated from the general crowd. There's nothing worse than feeling like you are excluded when you have actually arranged for a space to call your own.

Nessa is known for attracting a large male population. Men just keep coming. It could be that women are catching on or it could be the large televisions that play ESPN. It's hard to say, but no one seems to be complaining. The staff is very nice and accommodating. You don't have to wave your arms around frantically to get some service. The bathroom attendants are even thoughtful and pleasant.

Nessa also has a restaurant, which I did not have the opportunity to sample. The drinks, however, are good and reasonably priced.

If you decide you want to go to Nessa, make sure you don't go there too late. By the time I left around 1:30 a.m. – which I thought was early – there was a line, not only to get in the door, but also to get to the upstairs floor. The line at the door didn't surprise me as much as the line to go upstairs. Upstairs apparently is the place to be, so get there around midnight to ensure you won't have to wait in line!

How are we doing?

Drop us a line to let us if there's anything we can do to improve your school newspaper.

blsnews@hotmail.com

Op-Ed: Is Future Without Hate Possible in Mid-East

by Jason Buskin, '04

Recent history indicates that the Palestinian people do not want peace with Israel. Yasir Arafat turned the July 2000 Camp David Summit into a wasted opportunity. In the words of chief negotiator, Ambassador Dennis Ross, "Both Barak and Clinton were prepared to do what was necessary to reach agreement. Both were up to the challenge. Neither shied away from the risks inherent in confronting history and mythology. Can one say the same about Arafat? Unfortunately, not..."

Shortly after that Summit, the Palestinians launched a horrific intifada against the citizens of Israel, which, contrary to Palestinian assertions, did not begin in response to then Likud Party leader Ariel Sharon's visit to the Temple Mount. Palestinian Authority Communications Minister, Imad Faluji, admitted, "it [the uprising] had been planned since Chairman Arafat's return from Camp David, when he turned the tables on the former US President and rejected the Americans' conditions." Furthermore, the U.S. Mitchell report concluded in May 2001, "The Sharon visit did not cause the 'Al-Aksa Intifada'."

As the intifada worsened, President Clinton met with Ehud Barak and Yasir Arafat in December 2000, and a final settlement proposal was offered by President Clinton and endorsed by Prime Minister Barak. The basic structure of the deal would have given the Palestinians 95% of the West Bank and full control of the Gaza Strip. Specifically, a major component of the settlement is brought about by teaching Palestinian

children to hate Israel and the Jewish people. Contrary to the assertion by "Anonymous" in his/her response to Mr. Wiener's article, there simply cannot be any justification for teaching children to hate. Anonymous insists that these are extreme examples, only found in certain elements of Palestinian society. This is just not true. Lessons of hatred are a daily part of every child's education in Palestinian schools. To understand the severity of the problem, here are a few examples of teachings found in Palestinian textbooks, reprinted in a recent pamphlet by Bnai Brikh:

A grade two teacher's handbook:
"The teacher must briefly develop a thought on Palestine, for instance: Arab hearts are devoted to Palestine; they wait for the day when they will be able to liberate it, to throw out the aggressor thief and return to Jerusalem."

A grade four Religious Education textbook:
p. 87 "Treachery and disloyalty are character traits of the Jews and one should be aware of them."
Teacher's Guide for Islamic Education, Grade Six:
pg. 111 "The student must learn about the conspiracies of the Jews against the Prophets of Allah."
Teacher's guide for Contemporary History of the Arabs and World, grade 12:
pg. 151 "The student shall reach the following conclusion: Why the world hates the Jews. The student shall explain why the Europeans persecuted the Jews."
And a grade 7 textbook:
pg. 63 "Mother, I will soon leave, prepare the shroud Mother, I am heading for death...I will not

Additionaly, refugees would have the right of return to the Palestinian state and would receive reparations from a \$30 billion international fund collected to compensate them.

What was the Palestinian response to this unprecedented offer, which would have established a Palestinian State and given the Palestinians nearly everything they wanted? Nothing! No acceptance. No counteroffer. Nothing!

The intifada continued. What does the future hold? If these are the actions of the Palestinian leaders of today, what can Israel hope for tomorrow? There can be no doubt that Israel is a willing peace partner. The concessions Prime Minister Barak was willing to offer were overly generous. Furthermore, Israel has already shown a willingness to form treaties with one-time enemies Egypt and Jordan. There is no present evidence that Israel should feel it has a partner in the peace process with the Palestinian people. If they have no partner today, the prospects for the future seem even more frightening.

In his November Op-Ed, Adam Wiener wondered how peace could truly be achieved while Palestinians are raised in a culture of hatred. There is no doubt years of fighting have led to hatred on both sides of this dispute. However, the point of Mr. Wiener's article goes deeper than hatred, acts of aggression and violence. His concluding point is, "An end to Palestinian incitement is necessary if Israelis and Palestinians are to ever live together in peaceful coexistence."

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children to hate Israel and the Jewish people. Contrary to the assertion by "Anonymous" in his/her response to Mr. Wiener's article, there simply cannot be any justification for teaching children to hate. Anonymous insists that these are extreme examples, only found in certain elements of Palestinian society. This is just not true. Lessons of hatred are a daily part of every child's education in Palestinian schools. To understand the severity of the problem, here are a few examples of teachings found in Palestinian textbooks, reprinted in a recent pamphlet by Bnai Brikh:

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falter Mother, do not cry for me if I fall. For death does not frighten me, and my destiny is to die in martyrdom."

If peace is to be found between Arabs and Israelis it must begin with the next generation, not the adults who have known death, violence and hatred on both sides.

How can this happen if the Palestinians are poisoning the minds of their children on a daily basis? How can these Palestinian children learn to live with neighboring Israelis when they are put on the front lines to throw stones, grenades and Molotov cocktails? How can Israelis hope for peace with a society that finds it acceptable to dress their babies as suicide bombers and parade them at rallies? And, how can we hope that a future leader of peace will emerge from a land where the teenagers are urged to strap on bombs to murder and maim innocent civilians?

It is more than just cliché that our children are our future. In their faces is the hope and innocence that make peace an attainable reality. Yet, all hope of this is lost when they are used as tools of war and taught to hate before they can even sit up and walk.

Israeli children are simply not raised this way - to hate their neighbors and deny their existence. It is a harsh reality to accept that this is a problem in Palestinian culture and it is a roadblock to a peaceful future. Former Prime Minister of Israel, Golda Meir once said, "We will only have peace with the Arabs when they love their children more than they hate us." I look to the day when those words ring true.

“In The Words Of Yogi Berra: It Was Deja Vu All Over Again

April 7, 2001

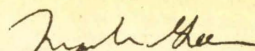
Dear PMBR,

Please be advised that you have my permission to publish this letter. And, you may rest assured that I am not asking for anything in return.

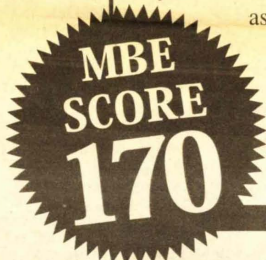
During the morning session of the MBE I found myself thinking, “I know that one. That was a PMBR question!” In the words of Yogi Berra: “It was deja vu all over again.” I was amazed how on-target you guys were. When we stopped for the lunch break I was a little nervous because it seemed like the MBE questions were very similar to the practice questions from PMBR. Although I was confident when I left the exam, I never imagined I would score in 97th percentile nationwide. I am thrilled to report that I scored a 170 on the MBE, thanks to PMBR!

I have to say, I cannot imagine taking the MBE without your course. In my opinion, attendance at your course is not optional; it is mandatory. The “key” to the MBE is doing as many questions as possible from PMBR books and reviewing the answers.

Best regards,



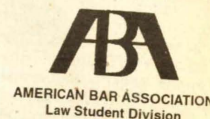
Mark Green



I Was Amazed How Similar The Actual MBE Was To PMBR!”



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The Key To The MBE Is Doing As Many PMBR Questions As Possible!

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