Slaughter Takes Wormser Competition

Second year day student Beverly Jo Slaughter placed first in this year's Wormser Moot Court Competition.

On November 1, 1995, four finalists argued in front of a panel of federal judges in the final round of the Wormser competition. At the end of the competition, which lasted about one hour, Slaughter emerged as the winner.

Beverly Jo Slaughter, a second year day student, displayed perfect poise and confidence as she handily fielded questions posed to her by the panel. Her delivery was smooth and articulate, and her conversational manner was polite but highly effective.

With a steady and specific tone, Slaughter seemed determined to take home the first prize trophy. Afterwards, she stated that she was, "surprised, but really happy." While each contestant displayed remarkable poise and confidence, at the end of the competition Slaughter seemed the clear winner.

The panel asked tough, direct questions to test each participant's mastery of the facts and issues. While the judges each asked about the same number of questions, Judge Denny Chin seemed to be the most persistent in his questioning.

There was even a bit of humor during the competition. In response to a statement made by contestant Anna Avlar ('97), Justice Leisure quipped "You keep saying only $30,000. Thirty thousand dollars is not chopped liver. When Judge Keenan and I came on to the bench, that was about half of our salary."

The Wormser competition, named after I. Maurice Wormser, initially fields about 92 contestants. Sixteen advance to the quarterfinals, after which eight advance to the semi-finals. Four competitors advance to the final round.

Stein Unveiling

In celebration of Mr. Louis Stein's ('26) dedication to law and ethics, the law school facade has been newly inscribed to read "Louis Stein Center for Law and Ethics."

Mr. Stein's generosity has made possible 20 years of programming reaffirming Fordham Law School's commitment to public service. These programs include the Fordham Stein Prize, an annual symposium, the Stein Institute for Law and Ethics, and the Stein Scholars Program.

The ceremonious unveiling was attended by Mr. Stein and his family, along with approximately 75 other spectators including Dean Feerick, Dean Riley, faculty and students. The unveiling was followed by a luncheon and the annual Stein Prize reception.

New Assistant Director of Student Affairs Appointed

Will Assist Disabled and Evening Students

by Jeffrey Jackson

On October 16, 1995, Brigitte LaForest was appointed as Assistant Director of Student Affairs, where she will handle special concerns of evening and handicapped students.

Ms. LaForest enjoyed an interesting and successful practice of law before joining the Fordham faculty. A graduate of Princeton University and Georgetown University Law Center, Ms. LaForest worked at The Legal Aid Society as a staff attorney, where she litigated immigration, disability, and public benefits cases.

As Assistant Director, LaForest will work to provide "reasonable accommodations for people who are considered disabled or who are perceived to be disabled," as is required by the Americans With Disabilities Act, in order to "allow students to do their coursework."

When asked what issues evening students have raised, LaForest responded, "There have been complaints about the times of exams. There have also been complaints about the times of activities, because a lot of the activities exclude evening students because most of the activities take place at times that evening students cannot be here."

Other complaints include gripes about food (specifically, the lack of sandwiches) and other general concerns. While she was not an evening student at Georgetown, she mentioned that she acted as an informal mentor for two evening students who were attending Rutgers Law School in Newark, NJ.

As a result, she is very familiar with the issues that plague evening students. She remarks, "having been a day student myself and seeing how hard it is to go through law school as a day student, I have the most profound admiration for those who work full time and go to law school."

Ms. LaForest finally remarked, "My job is to assist the students. My focus is the student body. What I would like to be able to accomplish here at Fordham is to create a policy that would be fair to disabled students and I would like to insure that evening students don't feel like second class students."
THE ADVOCATE

YOUR KEY TO THE FORDHAM EXPERIENCE

FINANCING YOUR J.D.....CAREFULLY

An alarming report entitled "College Debt and the American Family" has recently been issued by The Education Resources Institute of Boston, in conjunction with The Institute for Higher Education Policy in Washington, DC.

The article states that American college students have borrowed as much money in the 1990s for tuition, fees, and living expenses, as was borrowed in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s combined: over $100 billion in just six fiscal years. This trend in student loan borrowing is expected to continue, and is outpacing increases in college costs, by nearly three times and personal incomes by four.

The reasons for this extraordinary increase are threefold. For starters, the 1992 reauthorization of the Higher Education Act established an "unsubsidized" portion of the Stafford loan program that allows for a total graduate/professional maximum borrowing eligibility of $18,500 per academic year — an increase of 37% from the prior combined Stafford/PLUS maximum of $11,500. Additionally, increases in tuition, fees, and living expenses at both public and private institutions have jumped an average of 6.6% and 7.3% per year, respectively, over the last two years.

Most significantly, the third reason seems to be the growth of the lack of knowledge concerning the long-term ramifications of excessive borrowing.

To put things into perspective for Stafford loan borrowers here at Fordham Law School, let's look at two common scenarios. Day students attending for three full academic years and borrowing the maximum Stafford loan amount of $18,500, at the current 8.25% interest rate for all three years (a total Stafford borrowing of $60,500) with accrued interest on the unsubsidized portions of these three loans, can expect to have monthly loan payments of approximately $742 beginning six months after graduation and continuing for the next ten years.

The total interest to be paid on total amount borrowed, including the accrued interest, is approximately $24,600 over the standard ten-year repayment. Evening students borrowing under the I.I.I. will face a loan payment of roughly $387 per month. In this case, the total amount of Stafford loans borrowed incurring accrued interest equals $22,250, with approximately $38,710 in interest to be paid over the standard ten-year repayment.

Borrowing is only one element of the overall financing of your J.D. Degree. The following list is intended to provide you with a few commonsense guidelines for financing your education and keeping your debt to a minimum:

1. Budget your money as carefully as you budget your time.
2. Not all loans are alike. Know the precise differences and borrow wisely.

There are a few adages in the financial aid community that, although they may be tired, still provide food for thought to students. "Live like a lawyer now, and you'll live like a student after graduation" is a pertinent one.

3. Limit your use of credit cards; save them for emergencies.
4. Don't pay tuition with credit cards which carry high interest: investigate the payment plan available at the Bursar's Office.
5. Maintain complete records of your loans; keep track of your total debt, your lenders, and the terms of each loan.
6. Independence has its limits. Accept offers of assistance.

7. Plan wisely now for the financial future you want later. Ask yourself, "Do I really need this now?" before you buy now and pay later on credit and at interest.

8. Make contingency plans for various salary ranges when you graduate. You may not be offered as much as you expect today.

9. You're making an investment in your future. Make certain that the costs of that investment do not exceed its benefits.

10. Use our Financial Aid Office as a resource in your financial planning.

There are a few adages in the financial aid community that, although they may be tired, still provide food for thought to students. "Live like a lawyer now, and you'll live like a student after graduation" is a pertinent one. What it all boils down to is this: develop and stick to a sound management plan for meeting your education expenses; borrow only what you absolutely need.

SLAUGHTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

There are two types of renters insurance, according to the I.I.I.: replacement value and actual cash value. Replacement value will replace the item with one of like kind and value. Actual cash value is replacement cost minus depreciation. This type of policy pays less than the full cost of replacing the item.

Some items, like the diamond earrings your great aunt gave you for college graduation, probably cost more to replace than your policy coverage limit. A floater or endorsement will provide more protection for your valuables. Check with your insurance agent or company representative to discuss which items will need additional coverage.

When first moving into an apartment, take an inventory of all of the possessions in your apartment. Use pictures to document your belongings. Store the pictures and inventory off the premises. Update your inventory annually to include new purchases.

CAR INSURANCE

For many young adults being on their own also means purchasing their first car. The cost of insurance added to the monthly car payments can be a real financial burden. "If you can't afford the insurance, you can't afford the car," advises the I.I.I.

In order to save money on your auto insurance, think about purchasing a low-profile car, the I.I.I. suggests. A car that is popular with thieves or has expensive repair costs, will cost more to insure. You can also lower your insurance premiums by raising your deductible, installing anti-theft devices or dropping collision if it's an older car.

Also, keep in mind, prices can vary substantially from company to company, so it pays to shop around.

FINDING AN INSURANCE AGENT OR COMPANY

Ask your friends, relatives and colleagues where they bought their insurance and what kind of service they have. Also, contact your state insurance department for information about agents and companies in your area. Many state insurance departments also have cost comparison surveys.

For more information about auto and renters insurance contact the National Insurance Consumer Helpline at 1-800-942-4242 or the Insurance Information Institute through the Internet at gopher.infoom.

RENTERS INSURANCE

Renters insurance is really a form of a homeowners policy. It protects your personal possessions from damages. It also covers, up to the policy limit, your liability for damages that you and members of your family (including pets) do to other people.

"Renters usually assume that the landlord's insurance will cover the contents of their apartment," says the I.I.I. "This is not the case. If your stereo is stolen or damaged, your landlord's insurance will not cover the cost to replace it, but your renter's insurance will."
### THE FIRST YEAR REVIEW LECTURE SERIES

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TO ATTEND: The LECTURES are **FREE** for ALL BAR/BRI ENROLLEES who have a minimum of $25 on account, EXCEPT CIVIL PROCEDURE which is **FREE** for ALL STUDENTS. Students attending lectures **MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE** and present their BAR/BRI Membership Card and a picture ID for admittance.

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*Let the POWER OF EXPERIENCE™ work for you*
The First Year Drama

by M. Paulose

Forgive me, but I lost track of the current week a long time ago. So, hereto­by stand that question on that able to answe r you. But, if you have a that matter, what time it is. I won't be reasonable man, from Torts, then you asked the right person. In fact, here's a bottoms, of course, and those obnoxious 1 L and The Paper Chase ever portrayed reading and re wri ting; it hair styles. It is and worst of all, it claws hidden so well. And the through for the one year seems not so. Ranked in the second tier of Law--within the margins--has been side is New York City. A York, indulged me to the good news that read in the second tier of Torts, then you will take notice. They are now helping and effort. After all, it is the company's future. I see Fordham in this breakthrough stage. The school, in the past years, has risen dramatically in its stature, calling attention to itself like a self made movie star. Consequently, the legal world has taken notice. They are now helping Fordham to flourish, so rebelliously play, and watching its graduates with a close eye.

We are all here, pardon me, again, to kick ass. After 365 days, give or take the holidays, we will know the law like a black letter; after two semesters with Professor Madison, we will think like lawyers; after surviving all those one on one's with Professor Malloy, we will articulate words like lawyers; and after shooting the criminal law breeze with Professor Denno, for so long, heck, the world will look a lot more softer and gentler to us.

But until then we are in Dante's In­ferno, learning, reluctantly, to enjoy it.
Would You Like Fries with That?

by J.D. Lustron Student

I was starting to feel a little ner vous about early interview week. I was a "2-L", so all of the futile worrying about the socratic method and making law review was far behind me. However, armed only with a smattering of B's and B+'s, gracefully given to me in exchange for dozens of well-inked bluebooks, I still had to face the small army of recruiters uniformed in blue suits, sent to Fordham to select their draft picks. My first interview wasn't until Monday, so I was ready to start my weekend. I headed out of the law school, but not before a last minute mail check.

"Darnnit!", I yelled as I grabbed the normal stack of flyers from my mailbox. The pain from a small paper cut radiated through my entire arm. Great, I thought, how much success for law students! Finish at the Top Third! Guaranteed! Get a 4.0! Guaranteed! Law school in a day! Guaranteed! As I stuffed the flyers into my Eastpack, one of the envelopes fell to the ground. Despite its tacky orange color, I was curious, so I picked it up and read it carefully.

Are you constantly being denied callback interviews? Do you want to improve your interviewing skills? Are your resumes and cover letters dull and boring?

Then you need the JOB EXPRESS job search workshops. For only $75.00 you will learn:

- how to write action-oriented resumes and cover letters
- how to ask questions that will get you callbacks
- how to write sincere, effective thank you letters
- much, much more!

GUARANTEED!!!

Hmmm, I thought. Seventy-five bucks. Just what I need, more snake oil for desperate job starved-law students with money to waste and loans to repay. I kept reading.

If you don't receive a callback interview, we will give you a full refund! Guaranteed! Act now! Call 1-800-GET-AJOB!

"Yeah right," I muttered. If I had seventy-five bucks, I wouldn't need a job, now would I? My interviewing skills are fine, thank you. Besides, I've al ready been to a number of free interview workshops. I knew all of the basics, and what I didn't know, I wouldn't learn from JOB EXPRESS. Anyway, the twelve interviews that were doled out to me would give me ample time to hone my technique.

Monday morning came after a weekend of roller blading and socializing at the local nightclubs. Getting dressed didn't take that long so I was running a little early. I carefully inspected myself in the mirror, paying attention to every detail. Looking as sharp as a tack, I was ready. My sharply creased navy-blue suit, red paisley tie, and white, heavily-starched shirt made a downright snazzy combination. My black shoes were shined to a high gloss and seemed to glow on my feet. Who could deny me a job? I thought to myself, as I left my room and marched with confidence through the main corridor.

It was about 8:35, twenty-five minutes until my first interview. Daley, Hayes, and Smith. Three hundred lawyers, 50 paralegals, and a fierce reputation. Prestigious? Sure, but if they didn't hire me, who cares? Sure, I'm not at the top of my class, or even anywhere near it, but hey, I got more inside tips than Mike Milken himself. "Resume, transcript, writing sample", I said as I took a quick inventory. Taking a deep breath, I mumbled, "Here goes nothing."

As I quickly dismissed all feelings of nervousness, the door opened slowly. A tall, somewhat attractive woman stood before me. "Hello, I'm Nicole", she said as she extended her hand. "I'm in Jimmy. Jim for short." I responded. Wait is minute, I thought, almost aloud. Interviewers aren't supposed to look like this. Where's the diagonally striped tie? Where's the ruddy hairline? Where's the clammy handshake? "Have a seat," she said, looking at me with a friendly smile. I felt a strange sense of relief. My research of the interviewee revealed credentials that could only be impressive. Winner of the Moot Court competition. Editor-in-Chief of Law Review; 5th year associate at Daley, Hayes, and Smith. Should I genuflect now or later? I thought, resisting the urge to shout: "We are not worthy! We are not worthy!"

Wait a minute, I thought. She's the enemy! She came here to give you hope, to tease you, to make you think that you really have a chance. Then, when you are all full of hope, WHAM!, you get ye olde thin envelope. Focus, I repeated to myself. Remember the mission.

"I see you were working for the FDIC?" she began in her most professional tone. "Tell me, is Rae Stevens still the chairperson of the finance committee?"

"Well, I remember seeing his name on a few newsletters, but I'm not sure."

"Actually, Rae is a she," she responded.

I felt like Bruce Lee kicked me right in my chest. I could see it now.

Dear Mr. Baskerville,

Thank you for interviewing with us for a position at our firm. We appreciate your interest in Daley, Hayes & Smith. Unfortunately, the firm's needs are such that we do not have a position for which you would be suited. However, we will hold your resume in our file in case our needs change.

Sincerely
Nicole Jackson

Don't overreact. Everyone screws up in an interview. So what you look like a sexist pig, assuming that the head of the committee was a man? Stay calm, I ordered myself. Breathe deeply. It ain't over until its over.

"So Jimmy, how do you like law school?"

"Oh I just love it, I just think one thrill after another. I get giddy when I think about how much fun I had first year. Of course, that answer was voted down as I opted for the pre-rehearsed response. "Well" I began, "Law school was difficult at first. The material wasn't that hard, but the volume of work provided the biggest challenge. Once I learned to balance and prioritize my classes, things began to run smoothly. Overall, first year was a positive experience. I realize that I will enjoy practicing law." Smooth. Good eye contact, and an occasional smile to boot, I thought, although I liked my first answer better.

The questions began to come faster. "You were your favorite class?" Property, without a doubt. Our discussions on prescriptive easements and externalities left me with bated breath. On second thought, Civil Procedure. Talk about subject matter. I mean, does it get any better that the Erie Doctrine? And my professor, wow, what a powerfully dynamic speaker! Getting serious, I answered. "Well I would say Contracts."

"With Perillo?" She asked.

"Yes. He covered a lot of material and skillfully facilitated class discussion. He was very accessible after class and even looked over the five practice exams that I wrote", stressing the word five. Did you hear THAT? I thought. FIVE practice exams. I was so dedicated to my schoolwork that I wrote FIVE practice exams for one class. Can't you see what a hard worker I am?"

"Five practice exams? You sure put a lot of work into Contracts. Too bad you only got a B+. I liked Contracts myself. I got an A, although I didn't have time to practice old exams," she said, sitting in the interviewee's chair cloaked in a cruel smugness.

Suddenly, it became very warm. I sensed a flock of buzzards circling over my head. And my interviewer transformed herself into a taunting, evil monster, cackling wickedly as I drove myself deeper and deeper into a future of unemployment, laughing uncontrollably at my unpolished, sophomoric presentation.

For some strange reason the interviewer couldn't stop yawning. "Why do you want to work for our firm?" she asked. Prickly heat covered my skin. I hate this question. Sure, I read the firm resume, but they all look the same to me.

"Well, your firm is no doubt one of the most prestigious in New York," I began. "You have a reputation for aggressive litigation and your attorneys have a commitment to pro bono work."

"Pro bono work?" she replied. "Are you interested in public service?"

"No."

"Well," I said defensively. "I mean, I looked into it, but it doesn't really interest me," I stammered, rushing through my answer. I didn't think she quite understood me, but did it matter? Through my peripheral vision I glanced at the clock on the wall, the ticks ringing in my ears. Ten minutes left. For some reason I noticed that the clock looked a lot like the clocks I had in grammar school. You'd think that after 19 years of school I could get better clocks.

"Are you nervous, Mr. Baskerville?" she asked.

"Well, uh, no, I mean, I guess a little, but not really, you know what I mean?"

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November 22, 1995 • The Advocate
Habitat For Humanity enjoys successful semester

The fall semester of 1995 was another successful semester for the Fordham Law Habitat for Humanity group. With two work-trips, the group continued its commitment to building and rehabilitating homes for those in need. Students, faculty, and professors all volunteered their time and skills, making the trips enjoyable and productive.

The first trip of the semester took place on Sunday, September 24. Fifteen volunteers traveled to Sunset Park in Brooklyn to renovate a house. The volunteers for the first trip included Joel Sciascia, Michael Moyer, David Schmudde, Kevin Schmudde, Donovan Wickline, Amaaris Pena-Chavez, Bob Miklautsch, Claire Keenan, Joe Campolo, Jan Murtha, Victor Salerno, Kit Kreilick, and Randall Rasey. Several of the students, professors, and faculty brought friends, making this a complete community effort. The day of hard work was capped off by a barbecue held at the home of Kit Kreilick.

The second trip of the semester was also the renovation of a Brooklyn home. On Sunday, October 29, seventeen people volunteered. This group included veteran Habitat volunteers Joel Sciascia, Robert Miklautsch, Randall Rasey, Jan Murtha, David Schmudde, Kevin Schmudde, and Michael Moyer. They were joined by Kevin Drakford, Bill White, Maria Tathamouresie, Tom Schoenherr, Janine Sisk, Keri Scharr, Joelle Entelis, Debbie Stolarik, Jennifer Feerick, and Kirk Kearny. The work that the volunteers performed included framing, installing drywall, painting, carpentry, and landscaping.

Founded in 1976, Habitat for Humanity is an international organization committed to eliminating poverty housing. Through the use of volunteer labor and donated materials and money, Habitat builds and rehabilitates homes with the help of homeowners. Houses are sold at no profit to families, who receive a no-interest mortgage.

This year, the Fordham Law Habitat group is being coordinated by Joel Sciascia. The group is planning to take two-day-trips during the upcoming spring semester. Habitat will also be sponsoring its annual spring break trip. This year’s spring break trip is confirmed for Sea Island, South Carolina. Participants will enjoy a one week excursion to this beautiful city just outside of Charleston. Those who participate in the day-trips will be given priority for the spring break trip. If you are interested in participating in an upcoming Habitat trip, please contact Joel Sciascia at the Community Service Project in the Public Interest Resource Center in Room 08 of the Law School, or call him at x6970.

Fall ’95 Food Drive

The Community Service Project will be holding the Fall ’95 Food Drive. Please bring canned food and non-perishables to the box that will be located outside of the Public Interest Resource Center, Room 08 of the Law School. The collection bin will be available from Monday, November 13 through Monday, November 20. All members of the Fordham Law community are encouraged to make donations.

Unicef Card Sale

The New York Metropolitan Committee for UNICEF will be on the law school campus on December 14 & 15 from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. They will be in the law school cafeteria selling Christmas Cards. UNICEF always has a wonderful selection of cards. Please stop by to check out their wares.

Fall ’95 Clothing Drive

From Monday, December 4 through Friday, December 8, the Community Service Project will be accepting donations of clothing. There will be a collection bin located just outside of the Public Interest Resource Center, Room 08 of the Law School. We hope that all members of the Fordham Law community will donate clothing for this important cause.

PHOTO OF STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

SHORT STORY

continued from page 5

I responded, with about as much smoothness as a gravel highway. Of course I’m nervous, I thought, wouldn’t you be if you were blowing your first interview? Her remaining questions were standard for an interview. Why do you want to be a lawyer? What qualities do you possess that will make you a good lawyer? Where do you see yourself in ten years? I stressed my good sense of judgment and sense of responsibility, something I developed during my involvement in various student organizations.

After I finished selling myself she asked her final question. “Do you have any questions about the firm?” Yes! Finally, a chance to demonstrate my resourcefulness.

How much client contact does a junior associate have?

Daley, Hayes & Smith handles several high profile cases. How much responsibility does a new associate receive? I find that I perform the best when I am given a lot of responsibility.

What do you feel are the advantages of an individual assignment system?

“Good questions!” she said, seeming very impressed. Then she began her pitch. That’s right, I thought, sell the firm to me! Recruit me! Tell me why YOU should choose us! After my fit of unwarranted arrogance left me, a gloomy sense of reality became present. Why do I here? Everyone from my school who was ever worked at this firm was on law review, and not those write-on types either. Maintain confidence, I told myself. Be personable, intelligent, and confident. Who cares if your chances are truly slim and none?

“Mr. Baskerville I see that our time is up. Do you have any other questions?”

“No, I think we’ve covered everything. If a question arises, may I call you? Do you have a business card?”

“Actually, I do” she said, fumbling awkwardly. “Here. If you have any questions, feel free to call me. This is my direct line.”

“I will” I replied. “Thank you for speaking with me.”

“It was my pleasure.”

After a firm handshake I stood up and smartly left the room. Relatively unscored, I searched for the nearest vending machine. I grabbed an overpriced diet soda and tipped the can high into the air as I drank, making sure that I didn’t spill any soda on my heavy-starched shirt.

I got home about 6:00 p.m. that day. I opened my mailbox and retrieved my daily stack of thin envelopes. Call backs? Hardly. Only three rejection letters and an envelope saying that I may lose myself in a pint of Ben and Jerry’s ice cream (Cherry Garcia, of course), I debated whether I should even open the envelopes. Why not, I thought. What do I have to lose?

Dear Mr. Baskerville,

Thank you for applying for a position with our firm. Simply put, your grades are too low. I guess we could have told you that beforehand, but hey, we had fun didn’t we? Besides, your school says that everybody gets an interview. So what did you expect? Serious consideration? We’ll keep your resume on file, but don’t hold your breath. Hope you get a job, because student loans can be quite a financial burden.

Sincerely,

Jack Badden
John Paul II-One Message
by Robert McGovern ('96)

This week I had the honor of leading 130 Fordham students from both the Lincoln Center and Rose Hill campuses to Central Park to usher at Pope John Paul II’s Papal Mass. The Pope’s Mass and his entire visit to New York, New Jersey and Baltimore has left a lasting impression upon all those who heard him speak. He addressed hundreds of thousands of people in stadiums and in parks, in seminars and even on airport runways, but no matter where he was speaking, the message he delivered remained the same, “Do not be afraid!” It is the same message all traditional organized religions have been delivering to the world for over two thousand years — do not be afraid to stand up for what is right and true.

This message could not have been more timely, nor more necessary for the students and faculty of Fordham University School of Law as we celebrate our 90th year of providing quality education “in the Jesuit tradition.” The Holy Father praised the American Catholic educational tradition during his visit, and he further called upon us, all of us regardless of creed, to “uphold the moral truths that make freedom possible.”

In Baltimore, he reminded us that moral values belong in our government and our society, and that “a democracy will stand or fall with the values it promotes.” That our “Constitution, Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights were inspired by God and were grounded in the principles of Natural Law,” and that a society cannot follow only the wishes of the most vocal. He stated emphatically that “every generation of Americans needs to know that Freedom — Freedom — consists not in doing what we like but having the right to do what we ought.” And if we as a nation “love life, cherish life and defend life,” then, and only then, “will we truly be the land of the free and the home of the brave.”

In society today there is a bias in favor of the secular, a banishment of religion from the public square. This is dangerous, because by debunking religiously based values a void is created, a void which all too often is filled by a nihilistic relativism that denies the inherent dignity of every individual. The Pope and other religious leaders endeavor to call us back to the proper path — a path the Founding Fathers walked as they envisioned a nation where all people were “endowed by their CREATOR with certain unalienable rights.” This message is timely because the Pope and every major religious group in the world have seen the effects of a moral relativism that denies there are any permanent values. If there are no permanent values, no ultimate standard of right and wrong, how is one to condemn, for example, the slaughter of unarmed men, women and children in Bosnia or the fanaticism behind the Oklahoma City bombing.

The Holy Father repeated in sermon after sermon that all of us must fight a “Culture of Death” that sees some human life as inconvenient, especially life at the edges of existence, the unborn and the aged. “Do not be afraid!” We must stand against the criticism and ridicule we will no doubt face in a society that is growing more and more comfortable with Godless values. His call for a spiritual pilgrimage and to fight for what is right and true is a message we can all take with us on our life journey. It is also a message that we must embrace as a nation if we are to truly be that which we say we are — “One nation under God with liberty and justice for all.”

Editor’s note: Robert McGovern is Managing Editor of Rerum Novarum, a new student publication dealing with issues of law and religion from a catholic perspective.

POETRY

An Ode on Gratitude

To those who give material things
Which nourish and sustain
The body in this physical realm
’Til it departs the earthly plain,

Bells of gratitude ring joyfully!
Filling the benefactors’ ears,
The voices of grateful recipients
Redolent with satisfied good cheer.

But lest we forget, this physical boon
Is but a passing thing
And gratitude also belongs to those
Who nurture the spirit within.

Thus while we rejoice so eagerly
At the wealth of earth and home,
Remember always those who’ve bestowed
Treasures upon the immortal soul.

Catherine Manion

If you don’t stop someone from driving drunk, who will? Do whatever it takes.

FRIENDS DON’T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK.

Photo of Paul VI’s visit to Baltimore by John E. Krom.

Author’s note: Robert McGovern is Managing Editor of Rerum Novarum, a new student publication dealing with issues of law and religion from a catholic perspective.
"LOW SPEED CHASE"

by Melia Felberly (97)

The Advocate recently conducted a student opinion survey on O.J. Simpson and his recent murder trial acquittal. While non-scientific, the responses of 214 law students were recorded and the response was overwhelming. O.J. Simpson committed the crimes. This is according to 77% (185 Students) who responded as compared to only 5% (11 Students) that thought he did not, including one person who stated that O.J. was guilty of conspiracy. Another 15% (33 Students) answered that they did not know whether O.J. committed the crimes and 3% (5 Students) chose not to answer.

"O.J.'s attorneys did a great job in raising reasonable doubt."

Even among the students that felt that O.J. committed the double murder, there was doubt as to whether the prosecution proved its case versus 43% (93 Students) that felt they did not. Of those who felt the prosecution did prove its case "beyond a reasonable doubt", many blamed the acquittal on the intelligence of the jury, finding that the jury misinterpreted "reasonable doubt" to mean "any" doubt. It seemed impossible that one man, Detective Fuhrman, could have concocted such an amazing scheme. Of those who felt that the prosecution did not prove its case, the compliments were for the defense team and their lawyering skills. Not everyone was as sure and 13% (28 Students) answered that they did not know.

"For a law student I watched it very closely."

While several students responded that they hoped this would be the last they would have to hear about O.J., many others were eager to comment and hear more. In fact, when asked how closely they followed the Simpson trial 15% (33 Students) said they followed it very closely and half the students (107 Students) followed somewhat closely. 30% (64 S) hardly followed it and only 4% (8 S) did not follow the trial at all.

Battle of the Sexes

There was no dividing line that could be drawn between the sexes in their responses. While males outnumbered females in the number of responses received, 57% (122 males) to 43% (86 females), the tally was evenly divided between each question. Note, many of the males were from the class of '97.

Class of '96

The graduating class took the lead in the number of responses submitted with 33% (71 responses). They were followed closely by the class of '97 with 29% (64 S) and the class of '98 with 25% (53 S). The class of '99 submitted only 6% of the responses received and 7% (15 S) did not reply.

"A racist cop does not mean that a guilty man should go free. This opinion was echoed by many students who found the verdict a "disgrace", "disgusting" and "saddening". While similar comments were followed by statements denouncing the racist qualities of the jury, others supported the jury's decision for the same reasons. "Racism is racism."

White Anglo-Latin and "The Race Card"

While many students, 27% (58 S) did not answer the race question, the responses were varied for those that did. Eighty three students (39%) responded with either White or Caucasian. Other large groups included Black and African-American students with 9% (20 S), Hispanic/Latino and Puerto Ricans with 8% (17 S)). Asian responses totaled 2% (5 S) as did Jewish responses. The remaining responses totaled less than 1% for each group. These included European and White Irish, with two students each, and one student each in the categories of White American, White Italian, Anglo, Anglo-Latin, American and not-white.

Racial Composition of the Jury

The racial composition of the jury was very much a factor to 52% (112 S) of those surveyed. Another 32% (69 S) felt it was somewhat of a factor while 10% (22 S) felt it was hardly a factor at all. Only 3% felt that it was not a factor at all, with an equal number not responding.

Among those who felt it was very much a factor, most students felt that the setting of the case, coupled with the deteriorating race relations between the police and the African-American community, weighed heavily upon the jury's decision. Many denounced the opinions of others who found themselves "emotionally involved with the outcome of the O.J. case" and yet did not feel the same anger when the officers in the Rodney King case were acquitted. "There, the injustice was much clearer than in the O.J. case." Suddenly, the system "has worked the other way and people don't like it." One response noted, that while "it doesn't make it right to say 'well it happened to Blacks for years'", it is the publicity that was the case that was given that makes it difficult to ignore.

Some students found that the Los Angeles Police Department was to blame for the "bungling" of the evidence and that the jury still should have convicted Simpson based on the other supporting evidence. Many found it unfair, that Mr. Cochran, the defense attorney, "played a race card" against the LAPD and suggested that the LAPD should be "sent a message [against racism]." Cochran's behavior was viewed by some as "unprofessional" and against the code of ethics, while viewed by others as good defense. "A racist cop does not mean that a guilty man should go free." This opinion was echoed by many students who found the verdict a "disgrace", "disgusting" and "saddening". While similar comments were followed by statements denouncing the racist qualities of the jury, others supported the jury's decision for the same reasons. "Racism is racism."

Domestic Violence

While some students noted that this was a murder trial and not a domestic violence trial, a majority 47% (100 S) felt that O.J.'s previous spousal abuse was very relevant. One student believed that the jury should not have disregarded the abuse issue since the judge himself felt it was relevant. Similarly, 34% (74 S) felt that it was somewhat relevant to the case. "It showed his character." Forty students (19%) however, felt that it was not relevant at all.

Other Comments

Among the other generous comments, two stand out: "Televisions should not have been allowed in the courtroom," and "this event leaves us a lot to think about."
BLSA THIRD YEAR WINS SCHOLARSHIP

by Craig A. Rogers ('96)

The Association of Black Women Attorneys awarded its first annual Ruth Whitehead Whaley scholarship to Mercedes Medina, a 3rd year day student at Fordham University School of Law. The scholarship was awarded at the organization’s annual meeting for the invitation of new officers held at New York Law School. Several judges were in attendance as distinguished guests of the organization at the annual meeting. After the invitation of the new officers, Ms. Medina was awarded the scholarship for her dedication to community service.

The scholarship is named the Ruth Whitehead Whaley scholarship to recognize Mrs. Whaley, a Summa Cum Laude, L.L.B. graduate of Fordham, who was the first African-American woman to practice law in New York State. Mrs. Whaley was also the first Black woman admitted to the North Carolina bar and was a member of the federal bar. After 20 years of private practice, she achieved prominence as the Commissioner of Housing and Buildings and as Secretary of the Board of Estimate during the administrations of Mayors O’Dwyer and Impeliteri.

Mercedes Medina, receiving her award

Additionally, Mrs. Whaley founded the Black Business & Professional Women’s Club and served as vice president of the National Council of Negro Women. Mrs. Whaley’s many achievements and her commitment to community service are commendable and have brought honor to Fordham.

Ms. Medina, a graduate of SUNY Plattsburgh, has also demonstrated a commitment to community service worthy of recognition. She spent her second year summer working with Lawyers Care in Hawaii on landlord-tenant, custody, adoption and divorce issues. Additionally, as a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Delta Mu Zeta chapter here in New York, she founded the chapter’s Adopt-a-School program. The chapter adopted IS 176 in Harlem where Ms. Medina taught social and legal responsibility to students as one of the facets of the program.

Ms. Medina has also been active in serving the Fordham Community. As a participant in Fordham’s Stein Scholar Ethics and Professional Responsibility program, she has served as the director of Family Court Mediation Services. She has also served as an advocate in the Unemployment Action Center representing unemployed persons who seek unemployment benefits.

Additionally, she served as treasurer of Fordham’s Black Law Students Association during her second year organizing various programs and maintaining the finances of the organization.

Each candidate for the scholarship was required to submit a resume, transcript and personal statement, as well as letters of recommendation. Ms. Medina’s many notable accomplishments impressed the scholarship committee, thus earning her an interview. In the interview, Ms. Medina was even more impressive, distinguishing herself further from the many qualified candidates, ultimately winning the scholarship. Ms. Medina’s dedication to community service, in the tradition of Ruth Whitehead Whaley, has earned her worthy recognition.

The Critics Rave:

"The next Jerry Carrey."
- Jerry Carrey

"The next James Lewis."
- James Lewis

"The next Jimmy Seinfeld."
- Jimmy Seinfeld

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If you don’t stop someone from driving drunk, who will? Do whatever it takes.

FRIENDS DON’T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK.
SPORTS LAW SOCIETY

Fordham's newest student organization is the Sports Law Society. Its purpose is to provide interested students with insight into the Sports Law industry, and to provide another forum for students to come together.

The Society's first event will be a panel discussion on "Labor Relations in Sports." The event will be on Wednesday, November 29, 1995 from 4-6 P.M. in Room 303. There will be a panel of 3 or 4 guest speakers, including Pamela Miller (ABC Sports In-house counsel.) All those interested are welcome. Hope to see you there!
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