2-27-1995

The Advocate

The Advocate, Fordham Law School

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Part Two of The Advocate's Interview with Dean Feerick

The Advocate: The curve was recently raised. Why?

Part of the situation was that the old curve was hurting students in the job market. Other schools with different kinds of curves were representing their students more positively than we were. It was of concern. We felt that it needed to be addressed. We'll take another look at the curve at the end of this school year. We have a great quality in the student body. We had to take account of this when other students were not doing as well as we were.

Editor's Note: According to Professor Mary Daly, the chair of the Curriculum Committee, the process of reviewing the curve began last spring but was actually undertaken in the fall of last year. The committee membership is composed of faculty and administrators Dean Escalera, Professors Denno, Trainor, Green, Vorspan, Tracy, and Goebel. The curriculum committee studied the issue and passed it on the faculty for a vote. Whether or not to consider raising the curve again is an issue the committee is considering. The new structure calls for 3-15% of A- to A; 30-40% of B+ to A-; 45-65% B- to B; 5-15% of A- to A+; and 0% C- or below. There is no standard for D or F.

The Advocate: What about the 43% female student enrollment figure you addressed in your remarks in our first issue back in September. Any chance of having a 50/50 male/female ratio, or even a higher number?

Dean John Feerick: It's all a product of the admissions process. The current first year class is 43% female, or even a higher number than male? A 43% female ratio to male is above average nationwide. I think the admissions process is fair in all cases. We have a wonderful mixture of students who came to Fordham.

The Advocate: How is the school addressing this issue, if it is one?

Dean John Feerick: The Advocate: Out is an issue. Our statistics in terms of women have been at least at the national average and in most cases above the national average. If there's a need to point out this aspect of the school, we need only look at the 75 year celebration last year. It was a wonderful history to share with everyone. We have a wonderful reputation of women at the school. Like any group in the school, however, you can't take the group for granted.

The Advocate: It is common discourse among students that we are stressed out with grade watching, studying and job hunting that we are largely apathetic when it comes to the school itself. Therefore, many students choose not to speak aloud but are content to grumble that despite the sincere efforts of the administration to serve the students, there is a perpetual lack of or substandard services, for instance, the high or low temperatures in ILJ that lead to discomfort, the lack of supplies such as soap, paper towels, etc. in the men's and ladies' rooms, the lack of cleanliness in the bathroom altogether, etc. How much control do you have over these issues and how can this be addressed?

Dean John Feerick: I think that many of these issues need to be addressed.

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THE ADVOCATE

Fordham Law School's Student Newspaper since 1967

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IS MOOT COURT AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ACTIVITY?

Changing Curves and Thermostats

by Irene Donna Thomas

May it please the Court. Each summer and fall semester at the Law School, throngs of soon-to-be attorneys sign up anxiously for an opportunity to utter these traditional words of deference before a panel of "judges" in the William Hughes Mulligan Moot Court Competition and the I. Maurice Wormser Moot Court Competition. Participation in this process represents an opportunity for a developing attorney to acquire the lawyering skills of writing and oral advocacy in a competition setting. This process, however, is due for an immediate overhaul.

A student gets on the Moot Court Board in one of two ways: first, by being one of the top sixteen quarter-finalists in the competitions. These sixteen students earned the highest scores in the competition based on their combined brief writing score and their oral advocacy scores. The second way a student can get onto the Board is by being invited to participate in an interview.

Students whose scores did not qualify them for the quarter-finals are invited for the interviews. The criteria for being selected for an interview is arbitrary and highly subjective. Soon after a student is on the Board, sign up for office hours takes place. The sign-up for competition teams and bench teams will also begin. Each competition team has a bench team. Students on the competition teams will write a brief based on an assigned problem and then argue orally in a national competition. Students selected for a bench team will write a summary of law based on the problem for their competition team for the practice judges. To be considered for a competition team, a student must submit a letter of interest, a resume and a writing sample. After these items are submitted, the student interviews first with various editors. These editors determine which individuals will participate in the Marcus interview. Professor Marcus is the primary faculty advisor for the Moot Court Program. She is assisted by Professor Hollister. These faculty advisors participate in the interview process.

The "Marcus interview" generally lasts for approximately five to seven minutes. Professor Marcus, Professor Hollister and three Moot Court editors, the Editor-In-Chief, the Managing Editor and the Inter-school Editor, asks general questions such as why the student wants to be considered for a particular competition team. Then it's over. A memorandum listing the selected competition team members is posted on the door of the Moot Court office.

The actual criteria used to select the students placed on a competition team is also arbitrary and capricious. What is clear, however, is that the hard work that students put into earning a staff position on the Moot Court Board will mean nothing. Competition scores mean nothing. Office hours mean nothing. Writing a bench memorandum means nothing. What matters is who you know. At least one student, who interviewed onto the Board, confided to me that s/he was pulled aside and encouraged to sign up for a competition team. On the other hand, I received no such consideration. I earned a spot on the Moot Court Board by placing seventh out of over 200 students who competed.

When I questioned why some stu-
Getting a Good Job
(Even If Law Reviews
Not In Your Future)

by Stephen J. Same

After reaching the halfway point in my studies at Fordham, I have come to realize many things about law school. When I first arrived here last August, I had no idea of what to expect about the whole process of becoming a lawyer. My perception was that if you go to school for three or four years, take the bar exam, and get a job paying $85,000 a year. However, most if not all who subscribe to this myth are simply fooling themselves.

I chose Fordham because I know it is a good school, with good values, and an even better reputation. However, I’m somewhat biased because I am a graduate of both Fordham Prep (’86) and Fordham University (’92). In any event, I knew that if I completed my studies successfully at this school I would create future opportunities for myself. Although in some respect I have beat the odds, I cannot help feeling a bit disappointed about the process.

Last year, I began my studies at Fordham as an evening student living in the city dormitory. The advice everyone offered me was to not worry about anything else but my studies. They said, “don’t worry about anything, just get on Law Review and everything else will fall into place.” Well after settling down, I started to figure out what I needed to do. In coming up with a plan, I looked at what many of my colleagues were doing. I noticed that as a general rule, there are two types of law students, those who are obsessed with school and those who are not. Surprisingly, I also noticed that being a member of either group did not guarantee success or failure when exams rolled around. Therefore, I structured my gameplan in a way that would make me stand out when I began my job search.

The basic breadth of my plan was to do my best in classes and at the same time branch out in whatever ways possible. The first part of this plan was to become involved in student activities. I became Bar-Bri’s First Year Head Rep, joined LALSA, became an SBA representative and was initiated into Phi Alpha Delta; which at the time had just one member at Fordham. I saw the law fraternity as a unique opportunity for me to showcase the skills I brought with me to law school. I addition, I became a member of the law fraternity’s publications committee, which at the time had just one member at Fordham. I saw this as an opportunity to significantly improve your carrier planning office’s resume. On-Campus Early Interview program.

My advice before you do your own research concerning job interviews is to spend a great deal of time working on your resume. This single piece of paper (along with your transcript), is the only thing a prospective employer can judge you on. So unless your transcript reads all A’s, your resume will need to be as convincing as it can be. Take advantage of the career planning office’s resume critiquing program early. Start working with someone who knows what they are doing before the big rush hits and you are running short on time. Then when it comes time for interviews, your only concern will be researching employers.

Later this year, the same advice will tell you more about the interview process, but there are a few things you must force yourself to remember. Be realistic in your ambitions for employers. You will not be hired by White & Case if you have a 2.7 average. Don’t be afraid to apply to firms located outside Manhattan, in fact, you stand a better chance if you do. The lottery process is most effective when you target employers that will not automatically dismiss you as an applicant. Take advantage of any contacts you have made and ask them for help or advice (in my case I attached a letter of recommendation written by Judge Sprizzo to my applica tions). Look to firms that stress the qualities that your resume is overlooking. If your resume isn’t offering anything that is prime (in the opinion of employers) they may not take you seriously.

This only perpetuates your future sufferings. Take your best shot at looking for jobs, and don’t let it affect your studies. The interview and job search process is very time intensive and the pit-fall that many Second Year’s fall into is they neglect classes and do poorly on exams. This only perpetuates your future sufferings. Take your best shot at looking for jobs, and don’t let it affect your studies. The interview and job search process is very time intensive and the pitfall that many Second Year’s fall into is they neglect classes and do poorly on exams. This only perpetuates your future sufferings.

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  - EVIDENCE
  - REAL PROPERTY (including FUTURE INTERESTS)
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- 2 Graded Essays
- 50 Question Multistate Diagnostic Exam
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- PLEASE NOTE: This program is in addition to the services & programs provided in the regular BAR/BRI New York Bar Review course and is available in Manhattan only.
- Students who participate in this program must be enrolled in the BAR/BRI New York Bar Review course and have paid at least $850 towards their bar review tuition by the first day of the EarlyStart Program. This payment is fully credited to the student's bar review tuition and is non-refundable.

**LOCATION:** This course is offered only at the BAR/BRI Lecture Hall, 1500 Broadway (at 43rd Street).

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**CLASSES BEGIN ON SATURDAY, MARCH 4TH**
FOR MORE INFORMATION, STOP BY THE BAR/BRI TABLE

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**NEW YORK SUMMER 1994 BAR EXAM CANDIDATES**
**TOTAL TAKERS: 7737**

**BAR/BRI**
**NEW YORK'S LARGEST AND MOST PERSONALIZED BAR REVIEW**
by Kathi Denise Lang-Thors

Maureen Bateman has the type of personality that reminds you of sunshine. She is bright, breezy, open, and brimming with energy and light. When you look at her schedule, you know that she is just the person to handle it.

Ms. Bateman takes the verb “active” to a new level. She is the Senior Vice President and General Counsel of U.S. Trust Company, a $3.6 billion dollar financial services company with offices in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, Texas, California and Oregon. In that capacity, she is the chief Legal Officer and the Chief Compliance Officer for the corporation, reporting to the President. She is also responsible for all legislative activity and lobbying by the corporation and manages a staff of twelve.

She is a frequent lecturer and author of articles on legal, fiduciary, and banking regulatory matters and has served on numerous professional societies, including the Advisory Committee which resulted in the Trust Indenture Reform Act of 1980, which revised the original 1939 act.

Around Fordham, she serves myriad functions. She is a member of the Fordham Law School Advisory Committee, and on the Law School Alumni Board. Moreover, she has recently been appointed to the Board of Trustees of Fordham University, one of two women graduates from the Law School who hold such a position and one of ten overall on the Board. She is one of the founders of the Fordham Corporate Counsel Association, which is composed primarily of alumni working as corporate lawyers. She retains such a presence at Fordham “for the reasons that I went there: I always had the sense that they cared more about me than just as a student. When the school gives to you, you want to give back.”

In addition to her full-time employment and work at Fordham, Ms. Bateman is a trustee of the Browning School in Manhattan, and she serves on the Cardinal’s Committee of the Laity in the Archdiocese of New York, the Catholic Civic Forum and the Dom Macquereau Foundation.

Prioritized above all these commitments is her family. Her husband, Frank Bateman, is an attorney with Walter, Conston, Alexander & Green. Their son, Daniel, is in first grade at the Browning School.

Ms. Bateman has a family legacy at Fordham. Her father, Daniel T. Scannell, graduated from Fordham Prep, Fordham College and the law school. Her sister, Joan Scannell McNulty, and her husband also graduated from the law school. Her uncle, Leonard Lally, is also a Fordham Prep alumni.

Ms. Bateman’s father is one of the reasons she decided to attend Fordham. She enjoys a warm, close relationship with her father, which was evident when she recalled childhood memories of going to the U.S. Supreme Court with him and watching him argue. He argued approximately four times, and she remembered about the long ride to Washington and the inspirational presentations he made. In admiration of him, her family set up a scholarship at Fordham in his honor.

Beyond the legacy, Ms. Bateman came to Fordham Law School because of its familial atmosphere. She related the anecdote of sitting in on a law school class with her brother and his friend at another local law school. Her brother and his friends advised her not to go to the school — not that it wasn’t a good school, but that it was a cold school. She stated that "what they didn’t like about (that school) was exactly what I liked about Fordham—that is, there was a familial sense to Fordham, a real community sense to Fordham.” The strong Fordham sense of family communicated so clearly that when the Scannell Scholarship was established, that brother gladly contributed.

The Fordham Corporate Counsel Association is a recent extension of the alumni association. Ms. Bateman noted that Dean Robert Reilly, head of Alumni Affairs, and other members of the Alumni Association realized that so many alumni works so many alumni functions and so much of the alumni outreach was toward trial lawyers and law firm lawyers, and they were missing a whole group — a whole specialization and interest group — who could be really good to reach out to, and probably return affection for Fordham.” Ms. Bateman, Joseph Geoghan ’64, Mary McDonald ’69, Leonard Novello ’64, and Paul Soden ’68, comprised the Steering Committee which brought the FCCA to life. The result has been an offshoot of the Alumni Association which has hosted two events.

Judge Joseph M. McLaughlin, U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, was the first speaker at an organized meeting of the FCCA last October. Ms. Bateman was asked to secure the judge, as she had a long-standing relationship with him — she used to drive home with him from law school. That gathering was a great success.

The most recent was a lecture and panel discussion titled "Are You the State Trooper on the Information Superhighway?" which discussed issues concerning privacy and security in the use of information technology in a corporate legal setting. Corporate counsel were apparently an excellent group to reach out to — the event was sold out.

Ms. Bateman is very excited about her work in the banking field, and recommends it without reservation. Because banking is a highly regulated industry, lawyers are in demand. And, because "the regulations are arcane," there is a tremendous amount of legal activity in banking. She recommends corporations, UCC, banking regulatory and bankruptcy courts to prepare for a career in banking.

One of the most treasured benefits of practicing law in the banking field is the working conditions. Ms. Bateman related that "one of the beauties of working in the corporate environment as opposed to a firm is that you really have more freedom in setting your schedule. You still work very hard but you can still set your own schedule, and you still know that you can have a weekend off or you plan a vacation and banking crisis is probably not going to come up to keep you from it.”

This work routine facilitates her board and committee work. Ms. Bateman loves her to enjoy time with her husband and son in their homes in Manhattan and Connecticut. She also loves to travel, is a marathon runner, an avid cyclist, and skier.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT SCHEDULE OF EVENTS SPRING 1995

February Tutoring program to begin for Spring Semester. Volunteers who want to join the CSP’s Tutoring Team should contact Lisa Cabbagetalk at 636-6970 or stop by Room 17.

February 26 Habitat for Humanity One-Day Build-a-thon. Where: Sunset Park. When: All day. How: Space is limited, so sign up in advance. Contact Andy Richards at 636-6970 or stop by Room 17 and put your name and number on the sign up sheet.

Spring Break March 12-18 Habitat for Humanity builds in Lexington, South Carolina. Fordham Law School students will travel South to build homes in the sunshine. Space is limited. If you wish to join the CSP volunteers, contact Andy Richards at 636-6970 or drop in Room 17.

March 19-24 CSP’s Annual Book Drive Deliver books to the box that will be placed in front of Room 17. If you want to help coordinate the Drive, contact Vanessa Melendez at 636-6970, or in Room 17 Tues. 11-1 pm.
From the Editors

Fordham Student Attacked

On Thursday night January 26, 1995, at the first Fordham Baja night of the semester an "ugly incident" took place where certain members of the Fordham Law School Community were allegedly assaulted by employees of the Baja. According to the SBA, Baja Nights are suspended, if not cancelled forever according the the SBA. The SBA is also looking for suggestions of clubs on the upper west side that can be used for social events. There reportedly are lawsuits to be filed on by both the Baja and the Fordham students. The incident is currently under investigation by Dean Escalera. We trust that there will be a quick resolve to this issue. In any event, some of us will miss the Baja.

New Feature - Again

In case you were looking for our first Alumnus Profile in our last issue, we inadvertently pulled a "Houdini" and it didn't make it in. It is here this time, however and we feature the prominent Fordham alumnus, Maureen Bateman. She is General Counsel to the U.S. Trust Company and a recent appointee to the Board of Trustees of this University. Contrary to our last report, she is one of two female Fordham Law Alumni on the Board of Trustees and one of ten women overall on the Board of Trustees.

African-American History Month

The month of February, as you may all know, is the celebration of African-American History Month, a time when we get the opportunity to commemorate the great events that have shaped the history of African-Americans and, in essence, the history of the United States and the world. We trust that all in the Fordham Law Community have been better informed during the month on this, i.e., by the historical profiles on the BLSA board, museum and library exhibits and programs.

Yearbook Blues

While we wish the Yearbook staff all the best in their efforts to produce 1995's version, it is evident that more could have been done to schedule photo sessions for the numerous student organizations. Last year, for instance, most student group photos were taken in the first semester. Most of the Advocate staff was able to make an appearance for the photographer on extremely short notice, but we wonder how other student groups fared. It will be interesting, to say the least, to see how this yearbook turns out. Other yearbooks have been drab and boring, to say the least. In order to improve what appears to be a yearly ad hoc organization, positions on the yearbook staff could be openly advertised and offered to experienced, interested people, complete with a stipend. This will promote both involvement and efficiency. The stipend fees could come from soliciting advertising from law firms or businesses willing to have their names in such a timeless treasure. As students, we pay for our yearbook with our student fees. It is only natural that those who create the book be, not only compensated, but the best qualified to produce the best possible book as well.

Announcements and Events

Congratulations to all in the Community who contributed 160 pints of blood to New York Blood Services in CSP's Valentine's Day Blood Drive - a school record!!


The Office of Residential Life and the Black Law Students Association will sponsor "Addressing Discrimination in America" presented by Lawrence Otis Graham, Esq. author and Fordham University Professor this Thursday March 2 between 5:00 and 6:00 PM in the Residence Hall, Room 205. All are invited.

The Auction is coming March 7 - BE THERE!!
The Inquiring Photographer

THE QUESTION: Ralph Nader recently said, "Law students today are in debt, cautious, very focused on job opportunities, and have minimal horizons . . . They are not out to change the world or even the legal system. They are out to unburden their debts." What is your reaction to that statement?

"I am financially well off, I paid my tuition in cash, I have no debt. I have a high paying job. I am here to learn about the law, to understand the law. I intend to use my knowledge of the law for the benefit of the homeless and poor.

Kathleen T. McGahran
1st Year Evening

"The quote is 100% correct: but for a few Fordham students I’ve met, everyone seems to be focused on money and power. I have heard very little about the community at large. Hats off to the Stein Scholars because there does not seem to be much in the way of original ideas or thoughts.

Shelly Eaton
1st Year Evening"
“I think that students’ attitudes about their ability (or the necessity) to make change are based on political rather than financial concerns. There are plenty of students who want to do ‘good work,’ but the necessity of making change through the legal system is not as clear as it has been in the past.”

Allan Urgent
1st Year Day

“For many law students this is absolutely true. I am simply looking to start a career as a criminal prosecutor where salaries are somewhat low. But for those going the firm route, the market is incredibly competitive and forces people into a pragmatic, bottom line approach to practicing law.”

Robert Renzulli
2nd Year Day

“I think it is only partially true. While most law students do hope to become financially secure, idealism hasn’t gone out the window. I personally don’t want to change the world, but I do think that the current legal system is extremely unfair to people of limited means.”

Janice Kioko
1st Year Evening
Moot Court (continued from page 1)

dents who earned lower scores than I in the competition were selected for a competition team, the writing sample was the shield that the editors and professors used to hide their cover. After assuring me that I was a good writer, they argued that I was a better writer than the team members they had selected. The written brief can determine whether a team will move up in various competition rounds. In fact, as Assistant Dean Escalara explained, the combined ability of competition team members should prevail. Furthermore, I argued, Moot Court has two elements: a writing component and an oral component. Both of these elements must be considered. I was recently proven correct. The same National Team that was edged out in the regional competition because of their lower brief score won the National Championship based on their excellent combined abilities—teaming the directors of best speaker and runner-up best speaker. Moot Court is a learning process. When the academy concentrates on winning rather than teaching, it abandons its primary mandate of teaching and developing better lawyers.

One editor argued that there are instances where an individual in the Mulligan or Wormser competition has actually written the competition brief and their partner has taken the credit. Therefore, the brief score may not be a true indicator of writing ability. If an editor is aware that this type of cheating has occurred, the student should, at best, be rejected from the competition. Furthermore, the editor who knows that this egregious behavior occurred and permitted it to stand should be stripped of the editorship.

The ability to give an agile oral argument is also not a primary consideration in the selection process. Neither the professors nor the advisors selecting competition team members heard one person give an oral argument. Therefore, they have no independent basis on which to make an adequate judgment of a student's oral ability. I received at least one score of 99 out of a possible 100 points and other oral scores well into the 90s. However, the objective criteria used to determine whether a student should be on the Board becomes irrelevant when deciding who to place on the competition team.

After a formal complaint to Dean Feerick about the competition team selection process, he ordered a formal investigation. The results of the investigation confirmed that favoritism exists in the competition team selection process. The blame, according to Assistant Dean Escalara, should be placed on the students who run the program. But the blame should fall squarely on the shoulders of the faculty advisors who are in charge of this activity. These professors are negligent in their duty to provide an extracurricular activity where all students can fairly participate. This is a failure in their duty to provide an extracurricular activity where all students can feel confident that they have an opportunity to be selected for a competition team, and for editorships, on the basis of their ability and hard work, rather than their personal friendships or other subjective criteria. It is an abomination that there are qualified, talented students on the Board who want to participate, but who fear being rejected—not because of their ability, but because of their "political" connections—or lack of them. Students, of course, will have to deal with bias in the real world. Judges and others everywhere have their own views concerning people and their talents. However, the academy has a mandate to divest itself of bias so that a student can gain the needed tools to combat bias in practice once they leave the academy.

Dean Feerick assured me that an objective standard will replace the current favoritism standard. This is an excellent first step. I would like to add the following suggestions that, if followed, may contribute to the needed overhaul of the Moot Court Board and introduce some objective criteria into the selection process.

1. As a matter of policy, Fordham Law School's Moot Court Board must make a greater effort to increase the diversity of its judges selected to the Mulligan and Wormser competition rounds. This would include judges in the semi-final and the final rounds. More women, African-American, Latino, Asian and gay/lesbian lawyers must be recruited as judges.

2. An individual's combined scores should determine who climbs to the semi-final and final rounds. For example, I scored higher in the competition than the individual who earned a "Moot Court seminar" during fall and spring registration for a minimum of two credits. These seminars could concentrate on both brief writing and appellate oral advocacy in order to qualify an individual to try out for a competition team the following semester.

3. In the same vein, two sets of judges must be used to judge the semi-final rounds. The same number of judges should be used in both the semi-final and the final rounds. This would include judges in the semi-final and the final rounds. More women, African-American, Latino, Asian and gay/lesbian lawyers must be recruited as judges.

4. When interviewing for competition teams (as well as editorships), the combined competition scores should be the primary factor considered. Other Moot Court activity must also be taken into account when making decisions.

5. Students should be given an opportunity to participate in at least one public round, among Board members prior to graduation. This experience should also qualify to permit an individual to vie for a spot on the National Team. The Law School does only sponsor a limited number of competition teams. Consequently, many students are unable to try out for a spot on the National Team since the prerequisite for being on the National Team is having been on a competition team.

6. Students on Moot Court should be given an opportunity to register for a "Moot Court seminar" during fall and spring registration for a minimum of two credits. These seminars could concentrate on both brief writing and appellate oral advocacy in order to qualify an individual to try out for a competition team the following semester.

I hope that when future students stand before a panel of competition judges and give proper deference to the law students living in the dorms who know law students living in the residence hall.

Residential Life

Law Students in the Dorms: Too Arrogant and Uptight?

by Angelique Conde

For too long now, the reaction to the law students living in the res-hall has been mostly negative. The unfortunate thing is that many of them may not even be aware of this stereotype. I spoke with residents and members of ResLife to get a more accurate understanding of this negative view. Surprisingly, the freshmen were the most generous toward the law students. Many of the undergrads with whom I spoke felt that grazes in "those Fordham Law shirts" sneered at them on the elevator when they got off on a non-graduate floor. Some of the graduates of the schools of Education and Social Services feel put down by some of the law students as though their graduate work was not important compared to the rigors of law school.

Interestingly, members of ResLife say that some of the younger law students will try to implement their minimal legal knowledge in order to get around dorm policies. This perceived attitude of superiority may also be due to the fact that law students participate the least in dorm events. According to some members of the RHA, many of the law students will complain that there aren't enough activities and will not show up for those that are planned. This is just the general opinion of law students living in the residence hall.

Those who know law students personally, including myself, find them to be very nice. I have never had any problem with the attitude of law school residents. Those I know are friendly and hard-working. One second-year law student says that the negative representation could come from some of the first-years who have a "very high opinion of themselves" and may come off as obnoxious. "When they reach the middle of their second year," he said, they become more relaxed." It may be a combination of a few arrogant students and the rigid schedule of law students in general that gives them the stigma of being anti-social. The freshmen, understandingly, were the ones who sympathized the most with the feeling of being new and overwhelmed.

Law students generally have more work and stress than the average graduate student. The competition for employment doesn't help the students be more sociable, either. One undergrad, LaLaina Johnson, '98, says that she finds the law students to be "nice, but very stressed."

It is not fair to categorize all law students as antisocial and condescending because I, and many other residents, agree that the law students we know personally are very nice people who are really under a lot of pressure. Since people are usually willing to believe the worst, the few "bad apples" can spoil the reputations of their peers. I would encourage more of the law students to take five and meet other residents at dorm events and let the rest of the building know that this stereotype is just that, a stereotype.
A Call to Action

By Thomas J. Harrison

Cornell West accepted the call. Elaine R. Jones accepted the call. Toni Morrison accepted the call. It happened to me on Friday, February 3rd, while sitting at the BLSA Executive Board elections. I listened to the VP candidate fields questions about how he would keep failing to revisit the organization again. He was responding, as were all the candidates, to the anger, the outrage, the pain of feeling betrayed.

I addressed him with a comment. It was a simple concept—open up employment opportunities outside New York, the Northeast, even the United States. Make the information instantly accessible over a computer network. I even ended with my favorite buzzphrase, coined by Johnnie Cochran during opening statements—"21st Century Cyberspace Technology."

Thurgood Marshall accepted the call.

Desmond Tutu accepted the call.

Julian Bond accepted the call. The call came in a whisper. "If you were nominated for Vice President, would you accept?"

My answer emerged out of the cloud of fear, responsibility, and honor rolling inside of me. I was afraid to fail, to waste an organization's faith. Hesitant because I knew I had to much to do already. I would be agreeing to accept responsibility for my ideas.

Good Job (continued from Page 2)

from C+ to B+ to B+ and A+ because they kept focused. This, more than anything, is going to make you a better qualified applicant on your second time around.

So I guess your wondering how I did after all of my preaching? Well, I interviewed with a total of 13 small and mid-size firms and they granted four call-back interviews. After being rejected by three of the four call-backs, I received a phone call in late October from a Dallas-based firm that I had interviewed with as part of the on-campus program. The New York office hiring partner, a Fordham Law graduate, was impressed with my interview and invited me to visit the firm in Dallas for a callback weekend. The callback went great and things moved quickly after returning. I was offered a summer associate position in their New York office paying $1500 a week. So the moral of my story, is that anyone in this school can get the job that they have dreamed about. Never let anyone tell you that your grades or experience are not good enough to be a summer associate at their firm. Most firms know and some have even accepted the fact that one's grades after a single year of law school cannot define whether or not you are a good lawyer. That's why it's up to you to give employers a reason to believe otherwise. Good Luck!

With the freedom to express ideas comes the responsibility of making those ideas reality. I was nominated from the floor for the call. W.E.B. DuBois accepted the call.

Booker T. Washington accepted the call.

Ida B. Wells-Barnett accepted the call.

As I look back, I wonder: Was that how Dr. Martin Luther King was called? Did he hear a whisper while sitting in a pew listening to a Sunday sermon?

Was that how Malcolm X was called to meet some of the returning students? Also in September, the Asian American Law Students Association ("AALSA") members joined Fordham's Admissions student staff at the annual LSDAS Holiday Inn Law School Admissions Information Forum. Fordham sponsored a separate room in the hotel for AALSA, LALSA and BLSA to answer any questions from prospective law students. The two-day event left prospective law students with a great impression of Fordham's commitment to welcoming minority applicants.

Last weekend in October, four of AALSA's busiest events later in the semester. The event provided a great opportunity for our first year students to meet some of the returning students. Also in September, the Asian American Law Students Association ("AALSA") members joined Fordham's Admissions student staff at the annual LSDAS Holiday Inn Law School Admissions Information Forum. Fordham sponsored a separate room in the hotel for AALSA, LALSA and BLSA to answer any questions from prospective law students. The two-day event left prospective law students with a great impression of Fordham's commitment to welcoming minority applicants.

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Linda Cheung, an attorney with Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund ("PRLDEF"), and Scott Ito, assistant director of Asian Americans for Equality. We celebrated Lunar New Year as well as moon cakes and cookies for the law school community. We welcomed AALSA as well as NYU and Seton Hall to Fordham to prepare for this year's NAPALSA conference in New York. In February, AALSA members came to hear Luke McGrath, recipient of last year's Marks Scholarship, talk about this scholarship over an Indian dinner.

AALSA is looking forward to several upcoming events later in the semester. We will send a Fordham team to Columbia to play volleyball in the AALSNY Tournament. In March, we will embark on a road trip to Harvard for a conference. Also in March will be our Annual Spring Dinner featuring our guest speakers, the Hon. Denny Chin, District Judge with the Southern District of New York, and Rockwell Chin, supervising attorney for the New York City Commission on Human Rights. In April, we will co-sponsor with LALSA and the National Lawyers' Guild a symposium on "Proposition 187." We intend on finishing off the year with an AALSA Study Break before exams in May.

By Kevin Park

We kicked off the academic year with our annual Dim Sum Dinner at the Silver Palace in Chinatown in September. The event left prospective law students with a great impression of Fordham's commitment to welcoming minority applicants.

Los Angeles is where you were nominated for Vice President, would you accept?"
Those who clean the buildings do so pursuant to a contract with the University. Charlie Hodulik is the administrator who oversees the work. He’s played a major role in getting the cafeteria open, for instance.

That is an area the school should be paying for, not students, or we’ll have to do a better job. I’ve asked Mr. Hodulik and others in the University to assist. Some improvements have been made but we’re not there yet.

Part of the issue is that this is not a big building. The everyday activity is enormous. Everything is used constantly. You almost have to have constant cleaning. The cost is enormous but it must be addressed.

90% of our costs are from tuition revenue. In the Fall, many rooms were closed during construction.

The Advocate: How much control does the administration have in seeing that the physical areas are kept clean and repaired?

We can make noise and the more noise the better. Students, faculty, etc. can bring to the attention of those who deliver the services. There are people in the administration who have a responsibility to make sure that the physical plant is working properly. Generally, Finance & Administration [under Dean Judith Sullivan] has been very responsive to the complaints.

The Advocate: We have 140 undergraduate colleges and universities and 27 states represented in the first year class alone. The presence of the diverse student body facilitates this diversity. What steps is the University. Charlie Hodulik is the director or in charge of the Lincoln Center property. What steps is the University.

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facilitates this diversity. What steps is the University. Charlie Hodulik is the director or in charge of the Lincoln Center property. What steps is the University.

I believe it is working.

The Advocate: Is the concept of the Fordham Law Community working?

In the ultimate analysis, it needs to be appreciated by those who deliver the services. It may work for some, even for most — but it may not work for others. I believe it is working. Last year, the ABA inspection team spent three days here [during the accreditation process]. They heard complaints and compliments but were unanimous in saying that students are extremely supportive of the school. Pauline Schneider (the head of the team) stated that she had never been in a law school where a more powerful feeling of mutual support existed. These were outsiders who said that. [In addition], an indication of how it’s working is the alumni support.

Our participation rate is over 40%. That rate places us in the top 10% of the country [out of] 177 ABA approved law schools.

[Another example] is the Annual Alumni Luncheon, in an urban setting [at the Lincoln Center Campus], which attracts almost 1,000 people. In contrast, another school with 23,000 grads has commented that some faculty members appear unwilling to serve students’ interests.

The Advocate: Are you satisfied with student/faculty relations? Some students have commented that some faculty members appear unwilling to serve students’ needs, which would be in feedback on work rendered, or in showing concern for a student’s efforts in learning the law.

Generally, student/faculty relations have been good at the school. That is not to say there won’t be breakdowns and that some students won’t feel good about student/faculty relations. In terms of being satisfied... no matter where you’re at, there is something more we can do. Overall, my impression is always that we have a positive environment. That is not to say we don’t have problems and that we shouldn’t try to improve communication between faculty and students.

Congratulations to the National Moot Court Team on its stunning victory in the 45th National Moot Court Competition!
Survey

The First Year, By First Years

by Jeffrey Jackson

The first year of law school has been called everything from a gauntlet to a "dragon." We were curious as to what you thought of your first year at Fordham. We surveyed a sample of the first year population and got some pretty interesting answers. Remember, this is only a survey and is not meant to suggest a certain mode of behavior during first year. Only through trial and error, and common sense, will the most success this year be determined.

Of those surveyed, 52% said that they wanted to practice either in a firm or in the area of corporate law; 19% want to practice in the government sector; 14% want to practice public interest law; 1% want to practice either sports, entertainment, or environmental law, and the rest are undecided.

Sixty-two percent found that law school is as hard as they thought it would be, 33% found it not as hard as they thought it would be, and only 5% found it to be harder than they thought it would be. When law school is challenging, it could never be as hard as people make it out to be. When asked what the most challenging aspect of law school, myriad responses were given. The predominant answer was time management, but other responses included striking a balance between class preparation and exam/outline preparation, "retaining the information," the volume of work, the Socratic method, and, my favorite, "getting an A" (Really? The curve is funny that way).

Concerning first semester grades, 43% percent said that their grades were what they expected; 38% said that they were lower than what they expected; 19% said that they were higher than what they expected. The key for first years here is to not try to anticipate how well they did after the exam is over. When asked if they felt that they could have worked harder first semester, 62% felt that they could have, while 38% felt that they could not have worked harder. Regarding commercial outlines, 48% used them somewhat, 19% used them very little, 19% did not use them at all, and 14% used them very often. Commercial outlines can be helpful, but since they can be expensive and may not be specific to your course, they should be used with discretion. Exam writing workshops were fairly popular, with 62% of the students attending them, while 38% didn't attend them. Of those who attended these workshops, 70% found it to be helpful, and 30% found it to not be helpful. Generally, these workshops are helpful, but the best way to succeed in exam taking is to ask your professor what a well-written exam looks like (which may not necessarily require IRAC). Then, practice taking her/his exams in the way that respective professor finds suitable. Finally, 86% have not considered dropping out of law school, while 14% have. Since this survey was taken recently, the ones that have are still here.

There's still time for O.J and Seinfeld, and even READING!!

The students surveyed kept an average of 39.2% of their social lives intact. Sixty-six percent of managed to keep abreast of current events, 29% were unable to, with 2% only following current events concerning O.J. Simpson. Some are vehement about the high profile case/media event, declaring that "O.J must pay!" Students watch television at an average of .71 hours per day. Favorite shows include Melrose Place, Seinfeld, and Ricki Lake. Favorite leisure time activities include working out, going to the movies, hanging out with friends, and READING (hmmm!!!!). The most recent movies seen include Legends of the Fall, Nobody's Fool, and Higher Learning. Sixty-six percent cook most of their meals, 14% eat out for most of their meals, and 20% do both.

The Bar

One by one they come, To this the great assembly. Each one seeks his Holy Grail, The mere thought sets some a-trembling.

Some enter with heads bowed In deepest contemplation, Searching heart and soul and mind For strength in this tribulation.

Others stride forth with purpose With heads defiantly high -Jaws set with determination, They mouth the rallying cry.

Furtive eyes meet confident ones, Hearts skip many a beat. Perspiring hands move nervously about As each one takes his seat.

And thus begins the assembly, A test not of might and main, But of strength of memory and wisdom To mentally parry and feint.

And when hours later all is done, The mass rises to disperse Tears of joy are here and there As is the muttered curse.

And as they came so they depart Into the fading day To wait, hope and pray most fervently That they have won today.

Catherine Manion
# BAR/BRI BULLETIN

## DATES TO REMEMBER

<table>
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<th>DAY/DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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| **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26** | **Lecture:** MPRE REVIEW (LIVE LECTURE)  
Location: MARRIOTT MARQUIS  
(45th St. & Broadway, N.Y.C.)  
Time: 11AM - 3PM  
Tuition: FREE for BAR/BRI enrollees |
| **FRIDAY, MARCH 10** | MULTISTATE PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY EXAM (MPRE)                     |
| **THURSDAY, MARCH 23** | 1) 1995 BOOK DISTRIBUTION BEGINS  
2) CLASS OF '95 - $1425 NY TUITION ENDS  
($1500 tuition until April 19)  
3) CLASS OF '96 - $1395 NY TUITION ENDS  
($1425 tuition until April 19)  
**NOTE:** CLASS OF '97 & '98 - $1395 NY TUITION CONTINUES UNTIL APRIL 19  
FULL NY TUITION $1550 |
| **SUNDAY, APRIL 2** | **Lecture:** CPLR MINI-REVIEW (LIVE LECTURE)  
Location: MARRIOTT MARQUIS  
(45th St. & Broadway, N.Y.C.)  
Time: 10AM - 4PM  
Tuition: FREE for BAR/BRI enrollees |
| **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19** | LAST DAY FOR: 1) BOOK PICK-UP  
2) DISCOUNTED TUITION |
| **THURSDAY, APRIL 27** | FILING PERIOD BEGINS FOR JULY 1995 NY BAR EXAM |
| **MONDAY, MAY 22** | NY COURSE BEGINS AT LIVE LOCATION |
| **SATURDAY, MAY 27** | FILING PERIOD ENDS FOR JULY 1995 NY BAR EXAM |
| **TUESDAY, MAY 30** | NY COURSE BEGINS AT TAPE LOCATIONS |