Changing Curves and Thermostats

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 representing our students and we felt that it needed to be addressed. We'll take another look at the curve at the end of the school year. We have a great quality in the student body. We had to take account of this when other students of similar caliber were getting presented more strongly by their schools.

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 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 5-15% of A- to A+; 30-40% of B+ to A+; 45-65% B- to B; 5-15% of C+ or below; 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 of females than male?

A 43% female ratio to male is above average nationally. I think an even ratio of males to females can happen at any time. It's all a product of the admissions process. The current first year evening class has a 49% ratio of female to male.

Everything we are doing is pushing the school to a greater horizon in American legal education. For example - this fall we put out a publication [in honor of 75 years] of women at Fordham. We sent copies to Deans, Chief Judges, Women Law Professors across the country - we've received hundreds and hundreds of responses, not only about the publication, but accolades on Fordham's positive environment for women.

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

I don't think this 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 up 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 Fordham. 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 so 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 IL 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?

Frankly, that has been a very serious problem...Continued on page 10
Judge Karen Burstein
Speaks on Attorney General’s Race, Social Issues, Gingrich

by Kathi Denise Lang-Thorbs

Judge Karen Burstein blew into Fordham’s McNally Amphitheatre for a brief, breezy monologue about her experiences as a candidate for Attorney General of New York.

Judge Burstein’s speech, which occurred on Tuesday January 31, and was sponsored by Fordham Law Women, touched on her political activities and aspirations while attending Fordham Law, her rise to the judiciary, and her personal thoughts on her campaign and the overall post-election fallout.

She voiced strong opinions about the victor in the Attorney General’s race, Dennis Vacco, and his activities since taking office. She felt that the recent elections was indicative of the fact that “people want a way for their anger to be discharged,” and this time they chose their vote as an outlet.

Touching on the absurdities of some of Senator Newt Gingrich’s political positions, the Judge noted that many members of Gingrich’s immediate and extended family are members of the classes of people he most maligns.

Exuding a characteristic high-energy, Judge Burstein paced the circumference of the dais in McNally during her oration. She is intelligent, and in her lineal stream of consciousness she touched on several major social issues in such visual terms that audience members could envision the tension at the Gingrich Thanksgiving dinner table.

Getting a Good Job
(Even If Law Review’s Not In Your Future)

by Stephen J. Samet ’96

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 percep- tion 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 knew 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 ‘88 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 disconnected about the process.

Last year, I began my studies at Fordham as an evening student living in the new 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 sitting through a week’s worth of classes, I began to worry. So instead of becoming consumed in a goal I knew I would have trouble achieving, I sat down and 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. In addition, I be­lieved the fraternity differed from other student groups, in that it had the potential to be one of the most diverse at Fordham. Shortly after I joined, I was elected Justice and with the help of some of my new friends, we built the chapter to over 100 members by year’s end. In fact, our tremendous accomplishments in the areas of commu­nity service and program activities led us to nationwide distinction within the Frater­nity. At the biannual Convention, held in Houston, Texas, I was the runner-up for the Outstanding Chapter Justice Award and our Chapter Clerk, John Carlton won dis­ tinction as the best clerk of all 168 law school chapters. Since then, I have been appointed District Justice and I am now responsible for the management of law school chapters at NYU, Columbia, Cardozo, and New York Law, besides Fordham.

The second part of my plan was to gain some solid legal experience. Starting in December of my first year, with the help of the clinical office, I began mailing letters of interest to judges within the Southern Dis­trict. In January, my efforts paid off when I was fortunate enough to be offered a one semester externship in the chambers of the Honorable John E. Sprizzo (SDNY). I im­mediately accepted the position and took the opportunity one step further. I asked the law clerks if I could start immediately by coming in on Friday’s for a few hours. This was probably the best thing I could have done for my career. Beyond establish­ing a good rapport with the clerks as well as the judge, I was able to improve my legal writing and skills. Each week, I was given different assignments involving areas of law I knew absolutely nothing about; a kind of paralleled law school. By the time my Legal Writing section began the brief and moot court assignments, I was familiar with the proper writing style and had ob­served several excellent oral presentations. At the end of the year, I applied for and was hired as a Legal Writing Teaching Assis­tant for the Academic Assistance Program. The third and final part of my plan was to transfer to the division and getting a job so I could start paying off my student loans. However, I was somewhat disappointed with what was printed on the paper.

Like many of you, I was motivated by a desire to go into private practice and I had distinguished myself as being in the top of the bottom half of the class. Never­theless, I decided that it would be the best thing for me to transfer divisions by adding a four­credit Constitutional Law course to my two-credit judicial externship. I worked in chambers five days a week from 9-5, in addition to attending class on Monday’s and Wednesday’s from 6-9 p.m. I sacrificed my summer for work and school, it was well worth graduating one year early.

In conclusion, I believe that if you find yourself eligible to participate in the On-Campus Early Interview program. My advice before you do any 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 must 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.

Last year, the seniors will tell you more about the interview process, but there are a few things you must force yourself to remember. Be realistic in your aspirations concerning employers. You will not be hired by White & Case if you have a 2.7 average (unless you know someone pretty high up in the firm). 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 applica­tions). Look to firms that stress the quali­ties that your resume is over-flowing with. If your resume isn’t over-flowing with any qualities, then start thinking about ways to change this. Finally, if you are unsuc­ces­ful the first time around, 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 to neglect classes and do poorly on exams. This only perpetuates your future suffer­ing. Take your best shot at looking for a job, but don’t do it at the expense of wasting an opportunity to significantly improve your grades. I have seen many of my friends go.Continued on Page 9

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Alumnus Profile

Busy Days as Corp Counsel; Busy Nights as Trustee and Mother

by Kathi Denise Lang-Thorbs

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 employment and work at Fordham, Ms. Bateman manages a staff of twelve.

Ms. Bateman is a trustee of The Browning School, and 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.

Ms. Bateman has a family legacy at Fordham. Her father, Daniel T. Scannell, graduated from Fordham Prep, and General Counsel 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 Mocquereau 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 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 reminisced 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 friends at another local law school. Her brother and his friends advised her not to go to the school—"that wasn't a good school, but that it was a cold school." She stated, "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 Affair, and other members of the Alumni Association tracted to the altruism and special functions of 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. Laughlin, 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—he used to drive home with him. He set up a scholarship in her honor, and she used it 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 heavily 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 have a weekend off or you plan a vacation and you're cool. Yet another crisis is probably not going to come up to keep you from it."

This work routine facilitates her board and committee work, and allows her to enjoy time with her husband and son in their homes in Manhattan and Connecticut. She also loves to travel, is an avid cyclist, and skier.
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 ADVOCATE
Fordham University School of Law

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The Advocate is the official newspaper of Fordham Law School, published by the students of this school. The purpose of The Advocate is to report the news concerning the Fordham Law School community and developments on the legal profession, and to provide the law school community with a medium for communication. The Advocate does not necessarily concur with opinions expressed herein, and is not responsible for the opinions of individual authors or for factual errors in contributions received. Contributions are tax deductible. Address all letters, manuscripts, and blank checks to: The Advocate, 140 W. 62nd St., Fordham University School of Law, New York, NY 10023. Telephone 212/636-6964. Submissions should be made on disk in Macintosh Microsoft Word 5.0 or WordPerfect 5.1, accompanied by a hard copy. We reserve the right to edit for length.

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NEXT DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE ADVOCATE is WEDNESDAY, March 8
Submissions may be left in our folder in the Student Activities area on the Garden Level
Remember, submit a disk in MS Word or WordPerfect format!
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 the faculty advisors used to hide their inner emotions. After assuring me that I was a good writer, they argued that I wasn't a strong writer because I wasn't a strong, clear writer. This is a common belief that all editors have, that they are not good writers because they don't have the ability to write well. The editors are not trained to write well, but they believe that they are good writers because they are good readers. This belief is not true and must be corrected.

For too long now, the reaction to the law students living in the residence 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 undergraduates with whom I spoke felt that grads 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 rigorous 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 R.H.A., many of the law students will complain that there aren't enough activities and then 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-year students 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, understandably, 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.
By Thomas J. Harrison

Cornell West accepted the call. Elaine R. Jones accepted the call. Toni Morrison accepted the call. I was not elected to the BLSA Executive Board elections. I listened to the VP candidate fields questions about how he would keep failing to respond to 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+’s and B-’s to B+’s and A’s 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 and joined the 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 they were offering me a spot in one of the on-campus programs.

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

Sojourner Truth accepted the call.

Frederick Douglass accepted the call.

Father Divine accepted the call.

Marcus Garvey accepted the call.

Mary Church Terrell accepted the call.

William Gray accepted the call.

Colin Powell accepted the call.

Thomas Harrison, Jr. and Joyce Harrison accepted the call.

Stevie Wonder accepted many calls.

Snoop Dogg doesn’t understand the calls.

Clarence Thomas thinks he accepted the call.

12 year old Benjamin Reese can’t hear the call.

I was not elected Vice President of BLSA. But I accepted the call. Will you?

AALSA YEAR IN REVIEW AND THE EVENTS AHEAD

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 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 Office for an 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. Lastly, AALSA sent a Fordham team to NYU for an AALSA volleyball match. Did he hear a whisper as he read of Allah in his jail cell?

Was that how Malcolm X was(setq) he heard a whisper while sitting in a pew listening to a Sunday sermon?

Was there a reason to believe otherwise?

With the freedom to express ideas comes the responsibility of making those ideas reality. I was nominated from the floor and accepted. 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?

Where does the voice come from? From God? Maybe. From a leader, eager to pass the torch? Rarely.

Is it the voice of a People. An angry, frustrated, anguished, betrayed People. It cries out in a whisiper, it raises into a song, it bursts forth in an anthem:

"Let Freedom Ring!"

"By Any Means Necessary!"

"Free South Africa!"

Not everyone hears the call, easily drowned out among so many others: the clarion of power, the seductive lure of money, the siren song of pleasure." Many ignore the call, content in the knowledge that others will respond. And there are others. But when will those others hear it—in a few months, a few years, a few decades? How many steps back will we have taken in the meantime?

Jannie Lou Hamer accepted the call.

NYU School of Law Establishes the TOM STOPPARD FELLOWSHIP – First Law School Fellowship Anywhere Dedicated to Securing and Advancing Lesbian and Gay Rights
Feerick Interview (continued from Page 1)

Those who clean the buildings do so pursuant to a contract with the University. Charlie Hodulik is the administrator in charge of the Lincoln Center campus. He's played a major role in getting the cafeteria open, for instance. That is an area the school should be very proud of. Mentioning his name will be a relatively easy job. I've asked Mr. Hodulik and others if they would like to address that building. The everyday activity is getting the cafeteria open, for instance.

In the University to assist. Some improvements have been made but we're not where we want to be. We mean that literally. It may work for some, even for most — but it may not work for others.

Many of the people as members of the human race.

We have a lot of events with great attendance. We have a lot of events with great turnout. Participation rates and presence at functions is very, very high. That shows that the law school is working well as a community.

The Advocate: What is your strongest administrative skill? I love the school and am totally devoted to it, and everybody associated with the school. I suppose that expresses itself in my work. That leads to understanding of my limitations, of what we are capable of doing, of what we are not capable of doing at certain times, and having the flexibility and the willingness to follow up on those things.

The Advocate: What separates you from others in positions such as yours? I work hard at my job. I try to attend to any weaknesses I see out there. What most people look for is not perfection but someone who cares and shows enthusiasm for what one is about. That can make up for a lot of limitations.

Those are qualities that have contributed to my longevity, I suppose...I've been willing to make the commitment of time and effort. There is an expression I think about: I'll take a person who has enthusiasm but makes mistakes over someone who is perfect, but doesn't really care or have enthusiasm. I've used that (especially) often in my evaluation of others.

The Advocate: Where do you see Fordham in ten years? We would be getting ready to enter an expanded facility... I hope we would be more nationally recognized, even internationally, especially with our European Community Law program.

I believe this school will be receiving one of the premier schools in national education. I expect that we will have a major International Legal Studies Program and a chair to allow us to bring legal scholars from all over the world. They will create courses not offered [elsewhere] and give us insight [into the areas they are from]. This is something the attorney of the next century will be involved in an international case and it's important that we get to it.

The Advocate: How might this program have been in effect at the Law School longer than any other school in the University. Is it effective? Do the students/faculty participate by separating the waste? What happens to the different wastes after it leaves the campus? I would say the situation is a lot better than prior to the program began.

Judith O'Sullivan has been the leader in this area. That's been a very important subject with her. She pushed very hard to have this happen.

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 always is 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 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 not to 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 (hmmmm!!!). 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 merrily sets some a-trembling.

Some enter with heads bowed
In deepest contemplation,
Searching heart and soul
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 muddled 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

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BLSA Interim Election Results

On Friday February 3, 1995 the Black Law Students' Association held interim elections to elect new officers for the remainder of the school year. The officers are as follows:

Richard Gadsby - President
Michael Sercy - Vice President
David Bowen - Secretary
Mercedes Medina - Treasurer
Charles Austin - Sub Regional Representative

The Advocate wishes them all the best during their tenure.

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### BAR/BRI BULLETIN

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

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<td>SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26</td>
<td>Lecture: MPRE REVIEW (LIVE LECTURE)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Location: MARRIOTT MARQUIS (45th St. &amp; Broadway, N.Y.C.)</td>
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<td>Time: 11AM - 3PM</td>
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<td>Tuition: FREE for BAR/BRI enrollees</td>
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<td>FRIDAY, MARCH 10</td>
<td>MULTISTATE PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY EXAM (MPRE)</td>
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<td>1) 1995 BOOK DISTRIBUTION BEGINS</td>
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<td>2) CLASS OF '95 - $1425 NY TUITION ENDS</td>
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<td>(1500 tuition until April 19)</td>
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<td>3) CLASS OF '96 - $1395 NY TUITION ENDS</td>
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<td>(1425 tuition until April 19)</td>
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<td>NOTE: CLASS OF '97 &amp; '98 - $1395 NY TUITION CONTINUES UNTIL APRIL 19</td>
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<td>FULL NY TUITION $1550</td>
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<td>SUNDAY, APRIL 2</td>
<td>Lecture: CPLR MINI-REVIEW (LIVE LECTURE)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Time: 10AM - 4PM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tuition: FREE for BAR/BRI enrollees</td>
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<td>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19</td>
<td>LAST DAY FOR: 1) BOOK PICK-UP</td>
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