**Student Protestors Seize Kimmel, Fail to Win Any Concessions**

*By DENNIS CHAVAY ‘11 and ROBERTO REYES-GASKIN ’09*

On the evening of Wednesday, February 25, approximately 70 students from a coalition of groups calling themselves Take Back NYU (TBNYU) barricaded themselves inside the MarketPlace on the third floor of the Kimmel Student Center. Their list of demands included amnesty for all participants in the occupation, 13 annual scholarships for students from the Gaza Strip, the New York University administration’s official condemnation of the Israeli occupation, and 13 annual scholarships for students from a coalition of groups in solidarity—although the spokesman, who did not give his name, was not an NYU student.

By early Thursday morning, the TBNYU occupiers’ numbers had dwindled to around 50. Meanwhile campus security and the New York City Police Department had cordoned off the rest of Kimmel and the building’s entrances, though the administration had allowed the TBNYU students access to the third floor bathrooms.

A rancorous group of students had organized protests in support of the occupation at the entrance to Kimmel by Thursday afternoon. The protests included drummers, people chanting “Whose school? Our school!” and two girls who decided to go topless (“expose to disclose”) much to the delight and fascination of onlookers who snapped photos with their cell phone cameras.

Across Washington Square South, on the edge of the park, a larger group of students gathered in opposition to the TBNYU occupiers. Many said they opposed efforts to occupy campus space which all students had a right to use; others were against the allegedly pro-Palestinian slant of TBNYU, saying that NYU should not support “terrorists.” Still others were opposed to non-NYU students occupying NYU space.

“Most of them don’t even go here,” said one member of the crowd.

By 3 p.m. Thursday, the NYU administration issued an ultimatum demanding that all students vacate Kimmel by 5 p.m. Friday morning; those remaining in the building would be considered trespassers. That evening, many students attempted to break into Kimmel with food and other supplies for the occupiers. Nearly 20 students succeeded in gaining access to the Kimmel Marketplace. Blanca Gaston, a public safety officer, was injured during the melee and sent to the hospital. She was released early Friday morning but, according to an NYU statement, still “in significant pain.”

By early Thursday morning, the administration had decreed that no more students would be considered trespassers. Nearly 20 protesters had succeeded in gaining access to the Kimmel Marketplace.

On Friday morning, approximately 70 students remained in Kimmel. The administration’s deadline, and—according to an NYU statement, still “in significant pain.”

During the melee and sent to the hospital. She was released early Friday morning but, according to an NYU statement, still “in significant pain.”

Friday morning; nearly 20 students succeeded in gaining access to the Kimmel Marketplace. Blanca Gaston, a public safety officer, was injured during the melee and sent to the hospital. She was released early Friday morning but, according to an NYU statement, still “in significant pain.”

According to the administration’s deadline, and—according to an NYU statement, still “in significant pain.”

Over the final arguments on February 22, Georgetown’s Sarah Wallop and Ed Duffey beat out teams from the Third Circuit, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, and the New York State Supreme Court. Georgetown’s Scalia Bobblehead and a non-patrician dinner in the Village with Professors Carol Gilligan and David Richards.

In addition to staffing the event, NYU students put up their own talents for auction: Rubik’s cube lessons, vegan cookies, the always-practical Bluebooking lesson, and dog sitting were all available during the silent auction, though some weren’t sure how to value their skills.

The main event, however, was the live auction. Dean Ricky Revez provided an introduction wherein he pledged the school’s continued support to fully fund Connecticut provided the most explosive bidding competition. Starting at $500, two groups of students on different sides of the auditorium battled to earn the right to spend $1,700 on the weekend vacation and get a hand-shake from the dean himself.

But make no mistake, the economic downturn was palpable all evening. For example, where last year brunch for twenty with Dean Revez and Professor Been won for $2,100, this year the crowd could only muster $950. And mid-way through the live auction, Powell tried and failed to coax a $1,000 donation from the audience.

**Support for Annual PILC Auction Persists, Declines in Face of Economic Recessions**

*By ROBERTO REYES-GASKIN ’09*

On the evening of Wednesday, February 25, approximately 70 students from a coalition of groups calling themselves Take Back NYU (TBNYU) barricaded themselves inside the MarketPlace on the third floor of the Kimmel Student Center. Their list of demands included amnesty for all participants in the occupation, 13 annual scholarships for students from the Gaza Strip, the New York University administration’s official condemnation of the Israeli occupation, and 13 annual scholarships for students from a coalition of groups in solidarity—although the spokesman, who did not give his name, was not an NYU student.

By early Thursday morning, the TBNYU occupiers’ numbers had dwindled to around 50. Meanwhile campus security and the New York City Police Department had cordoned off the rest of Kimmel and the building’s entrances, though the administration had allowed the TBNYU students access to the third floor bathrooms.

A rancorous group of students had organized protests in support of the occupation at the entrance to Kimmel by Thursday afternoon. The protests included drummers, people chanting “Whose school? Our school!” and two girls who decided to go topless (“expose to disclose”) much to the delight and fascination of onlookers who snapped photos with their cell phone cameras.

Across Washington Square South, on the edge of the park, a larger group of students gathered in opposition to the TBNYU occupiers. Many said they opposed efforts to occupy campus space which all students had a right to use; others were against the allegedly pro-Palestinian slant of TBNYU, saying that NYU should not support “terrorists.” Still others were opposed to non-NYU students occupying NYU space.

“Most of them don’t even go here,” said one member of the crowd.

By early Thursday morning, the administration had decreed that no more students would be considered trespassers. Nearly 20 protesters had succeeded in gaining access to the Kimmel Marketplace. Blanca Gaston, a public safety officer, was injured during the melee and sent to the hospital. She was released early Friday morning but, according to an NYU statement, still “in significant pain.”

Over the final arguments on February 22, Georgetown’s Sarah Wallop and Ed Duffey beat out teams from the Third Circuit, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, and the New York State Supreme Court. Georgetown’s Scalia Bobblehead and a non-patrician dinner in the Village with Professors Carol Gilligan and David Richards.

In addition to staffing the event, NYU students put up their own talents for auction: Rubik’s cube lessons, vegan cookies, the always-practical Bluebooking lesson, and dog sitting were all available during the silent auction, though some weren’t sure how to value their skills.

The main event, however, was the live auction. Dean Ricky Revez provided an introduction wherein he pledged the school’s continued support to fully fund Connecticut provided the most explosive bidding competition. Starting at $500, two groups of students on different sides of the auditorium battled to earn the right to spend $1,700 on the weekend vacation and get a hand-shake from the dean himself.

But make no mistake, the economic downturn was palpable all evening. For example, where last year brunch for twenty with Dean Revez and Professor Been won for $2,100, this year the crowd could only muster $950. And mid-way through the live auction, Powell tried and failed to coax a $1,000 donation from the audience.
Hens in Battery-Cages Constitutes Cruelty

To the Editor:

I take issue with Andrew Kloster’s letter trivializing the importance of reducing suffering to egg-laying hens (“Coke Now Available, but Some Want to Regulate Your Favorites,” The Commentator, February 18, 2009). Hens in battery-cages are packed together so tightly, in such tiny spaces, that they wouldn’t even be able to move a single wing if there were no other birds perched. Battery cages are arguably the crudest devices in all of industrialized farming, and it is an ethical imperative to stop supporting them.

Mr. Kloster complained that efforts to reduce animal suffering are “done in the name of vaunted ethical goals.” Mr. Kloster is disregarding the wisdom of religious teachings—particularly monotheistic ones, if you can take it with wording—that condemn cruelty to animals. In the words of Pope Benedict XVI, “Certainly, a sort of industrial use of creatures, so that...hens live so packed together that they become just carcases of birds, this holding of living creatures to a commodity seems to me in fact to contradict the relationship of mutuality that comes across in the Bible.”

Mr. Kloster also claimed, “What highfalutin ideas we may entertain at the law school may not be relevant to the average NYU undergraduate.” Battery cages have been banned by the European Union, and hundreds of U.S. colleges and universities have made the compassionate decision not to buy eggs from such unethical sources.

Cruelty to animals raises for food is indeed “relevant” to the entire student body. It should be a great concern that all of us take seriously.

Michael Choland, SCP’s ’10

---

Inspired by Take Back NYU, I’m Not Leaving the Journal Offices Until My Demands Are Met

By Andrew Kloster ’10

With the exception of struggling 1Ls, I don’t expect that anyone has been away from these past few weeks that they missed the “demonstration” by Take Back NYU (TBNYU) in the Kimmel Center in late February. I am wholly reluctant to cast grammatical subtext upon innocent words, but in this case it is warranted. Something indeed was demonstrated last week: exactly what is up for debate. I would contend that the so-called “protest” was a textbook case of shoddy, Marxist social policy. To that end, I will play equal parts psychoanalyst and pedant. For those of you who plan to organize something similar in the future, I think the model that TBNYU provided us can be improved upon.

Now, obviously nothing like this is planned without a clear set of goals, right? The goals can be anything, really. For example, you might care about a particular issue: the war in Iraq, abortion, Darfur, the environment, or how hip you are. Protesting can be a useful way to bring attention to these issues. However, if public support is the goal, it is important to have a coherent goal in mind. TBNYU had a list of demands. And obviously they were smart enough to realize that the more controversial demands (such as money and aid to Palestine) needed to be highlighted only after highlighting broad and less controversial goals (such as greater transparency, student involvement in school governance, and socially responsible investment). Since students currently have almost no power in the decision-making structure of the University, and student campaigns to encourage respect for human rights, fair labor contracts, and environmental justice have been ignored. Students should have a meaningful role in the decision-making process of the University.

Students have been attempting to engage the administration in dialogue about an array of serious concerns for years, with no response from the administration. Last week, students took over space in the student center and held rallies in the street below in an effort to encourage the administration to take their voices and demands seriously. We are very disappointed at the administration’s response. Rather than engage in constructive dialogue with the students, the administration seems to end the action through threats, intimidation, and, now, seeking to discipline participants. We are particularly appalled by the use of police and security guards as agents of the University and their supporters. We call on the administration to not discipline the student protesters and to begin serious dialogue with the students about their demands. The structural flaws in NYU’s governance create ongoing frustration within the student body and must be addressed responsibly.

Additionally, we ask for the administration’s assurance that legal observers be granted access to this protest and future protests that take place at NYU. We are deeply concerned that a group of Legal Observers from NYU School of Law’s chapter of the National Lawyers Guild was denied entry into the student center early on the morning of February 20, 2009. The students inside Kimmel requested National Lawyers Guild legal observers after the administration announced that students would be deemed to be trespassing if they were threatening to take action against them. When the trained legal observers arrived at Kimmel, they were denied entry by security guards and not allowed to speak to an administration representative. Legal observers are routinely granted access to protests to act as objective witnesses of the interactions between the protestors and the administration.

We are disturbed by the fact that the NYU administration did not want their actions recorded by trained Legal Observers and ask that NYU administrators grant legal observers access to protest at NYU on campus for the security of all involved.

Coalition for Legal Recruiting (CoLR), Law Students for Economic Justice, and National Lawyers Guild — NYU Chapter

---

NYU’s Response to Protest Falls Flat

To the Editor:

We write to express our solidarity with the Take Back NYU campaign and the students involved in the occupation of the Kimmel Center. As students of the New York University School of Law, we support the goals of transparency, student involvement in school governance, and socially responsible investment. Students currently have almost no power in the decision-making structure of the University.

Students have been attempting to engage the administration in dialogue about an array of serious concerns for years, with no response from the administration. Last week, students took over space in the student center and held rallies in the street below in an effort to encourage the administration to take their voices and demands seriously. We are very disappointed at the administration’s response. Rather than engage in constructive dialogue with the students, the administration seems to end the action through threats, intimidation, and, now, seeking to discipline participants. We are particularly appalled by the use of police and security guards as agents of the University and their supporters. We call on the administration to not discipline the student protesters and to begin serious dialogue with the students about their demands. The structural flaws in NYU’s governance create ongoing frustration within the student body and must be addressed responsibly.

Additionally, we ask for the administration’s assurance that legal observers be granted access to this protest and future protests that take place at NYU. We are deeply concerned that a group of Legal Observers from NYU School of Law’s chapter of the National Lawyers Guild was denied entry into the student center early on the morning of February 20, 2009. The students inside Kimmel requested National Lawyers Guild legal observers after the administration announced that students would be deemed to be trespassing if they were threatening to take action against them. When the trained legal observers arrived at Kimmel, they were denied entry by security guards and not allowed to speak to an administration representative. Legal observers are routinely granted access to protests to act as objective witnesses of the interactions between the protestors and the administration.

We are disturbed by the fact that the NYU administration did not want their actions recorded by trained Legal Observers and ask that NYU administrators grant legal observers access to protest at NYU on campus for the security of all involved.
Oscar-Winning Shorts Are Worth Your Attention

By Jennifer Rodriguez '11

Less is more. The adage extends to animated short films. Each of this year's Oscar nominees in that category provides a palette of experimental animation that gains in quality what it sacrifices in length. These short works don't get quite the buzz that the annual blockbusters do, nor do they have the benefit of widespread critical acclaim. For the most part, they sit pretty in a niche category unnoticed by the general public until the Oscar drums roll. When I went this week to see them at Cinema Village on 12th Street, I was taken aback by the small theater's geographic audience. I felt like I had stumbled upon an old folks' field trip for a more mature audience. But as the lights dimmed and the quirky music of Lavatory — Oktapodi started to play, I knew they had a hit.

Taken together, these creative films are every bit as enjoyable as a full-length feature. While Leno's monologue can be a bit too light-hearted, like the hir- ing him half an hour earlier might be beneficial, and his show could be a wry piece about the mistakes he has made.

At some point, CBS is going to have to decide what to do with Letterman. He's only 61, but he has serious health problems in the past, and he's lost a lot of money. Leno doesn't come cheap, but he's certainly less expensive than five dramas combined.

Leno's movements are slow, his words I would use to describe him. They're good. There is just something about the small theater's interior that's reminiscent of an old folks' field trip. I felt like I had stumbled upon an old folks' field trip to see them at Cinema Village on 12th Street, I was taken aback by the small theater's geographic audience. I felt like I had stumbled upon an old folks' field trip for a more mature audience. But as the lights dimmed and the quirky music of Lavatory — Oktapodi started to play, I knew they had a hit.

Taken together, these creative films are every bit as enjoyable as a full-length feature. While Leno's monologue can be a bit too light-hearted, like the hiring him half an hour earlier might be beneficial, and his show could be a wry piece about the mistakes he has made.

At some point, CBS is going to have to decide what to do with Letterman. He's only 61, but he has serious health problems in the past, and he's lost a lot of money. Leno doesn't come cheap, but he's certainly less expensive than five dramas combined.

Leno's movements are slow, his words I would use to describe him. They're good. There is just something about the small theater's interior that's reminiscent of an old folks' field trip. I felt like I had stumbled upon an old folks' field trip to see them at Cinema Village on 12th Street, I was taken aback by the small theater's geographic audience. I felt like I had stumbled upon an old folks' field trip for a more mature audience. But as the lights dimmed and the quirky music of Lavatory — Oktapodi started to play, I knew they had a hit.

Taken together, these creative films are every bit as enjoyable as a full-length feature. While Leno's monologue can be a bit too light-hearted, like the hiring him half an hour earlier might be beneficial, and his show could be a wry piece about the mistakes he has made.

At some point, CBS is going to have to decide what to do with Letterman. He's only 61, but he has serious health problems in the past, and he's lost a lot of money. Leno doesn't come cheap, but he's certainly less expensive than five dramas combined.
PROTEST: Students Await Discipline from NYU

Continued from page 1

remaining TBNYU occupiers refused an offer of amnesty. Five TBNYU students were then allegedly lured out of the MarketPlace under the belief that NYU would enter into negotiations with them; instead they were escorted from the building. At that point, public safety and New York Police Department officers entered the MarketPlace and arrested the four remaining holdouts, which included two NYU students, a student from Drew University, and an intern at the Washington Peace Center.

While being escorted to NYU Public Safety vans, the NYU students were handed letters declaring them “personae non gratae” on campus. They have since been suspended for their involvement in the protest. The non-NYU students have not been allowed to return to campus; pending a disciplinary hearing, those interned are temporarily housed but barred from entering the building. At that time, the NYU students were offered temporary housing but declined it, declaring themselves inside the Kimmel Center.

A midnight protest had been organized by supporters of TBNYU the evening the occupation ended. Nicola Boehne, a TBNYU leader, offered temporary shelter to three former occupiers from its dorms, pending a disciplinary hearing. That same night, NYPD entered the MarketPlace under the belief that NYU would enter into negotiations with them; instead they were arrested and charged with four Class A misdemeanors and three counts of disorderly conduct. TBNYU alleges that NYPD used pepper spray and riot sticks against the protesters. Boehne remembered standing on the newly captured third floor balcony shortly before her negotiations with NYU security and looking down on what she described as NYPD “beating and using mace” on her friends. “There was a very serious tone shift, first the injured guard and then this,” Boehne said. “It was a near-riot; that’s why I decided to leave at 3 a.m.” Those allegations could not be independently confirmed. The legal implications of the brief occupation of Kimmel are still taking shape. Apparently the NYU administration is now considering whether to pursue sanctions against the NYU occupiers internally. NYU’s decision to bar the NYU students was taken and says TBNYU will negotiate with the occupiers. While Boehne doesn’t think she will be expelled, she awaits whatever disciplinary measures are taken and says TBNYU will continue to reach for its goals. “This is campus politics,” she said. “If we did plan another one of these, you’d never know, it’s top secret stuff.”

Symposium Season at NYU

Recent weeks have seen three symposia come to NYU: Choiceview from lower right, a panel from the Annual Surrey’s Symposium on tort law and agency preemption is moderated by Richard Epstein; Professors Richard Pildes introduces “The Unknown Justice Thomas,” presented by Law and Liberty; and Law & Business’ financial regulation symposium is concluded by panelists discussing sovereign wealth funds.

Greenhouse Gas Regulation in the Obama Administration

President Obama has pledged to work with Congress to push for federal greenhouse gas regulation. The aim of the symposium is to examine the dramatic changes in the regulatory climate and their implications as well as to examine the economic impacts such legislation will have on the environment, on technological innovation, on our regulatory system, and on investment. The symposium will feature environmental experts from academia, government, NGOs and the private sector.

March 13, 2009 8:30 am - 3 pm

Greenberg Lounge, New York University School of Law
40 Washington Square South, New York, NY

Free online registration
www.regulatoryclimate.com

Panelists include:
Richard Revesz, Dean, New York University School of Law
Diana White, Environmentalist (nee Holmes)
Jenifer McAdam, Accountant
Tom Steyer, Investor
Kathryn Judge, Federal Appeals Judge
Michael Green, Environmentalist
Sharon Lurie, Environmentalist
Muriel Serfass, Energy Council of America
Brian Lafferty, energy analyst

Symposium Schedule
8:30-9:00 Registration/Breakfast
9:00-9:15 Opening remarks
9:15-10:00 Overview of the Expected Legislation:
Richard Revesz, Director of Environmental Programs, NYU School of Law
10:00-11:45 Panel: Overview: Analysis of Implementation of the legislation from a Regulatory Perspective:
11:45-12:00 Lunch for all Registered Participants
1:00-2:45 Panel: Practical Consequences of Greenhouse Gas Regulation in Investment Decisions:
2:45-3:00 Closing Remarks: Richard Holmes, Dean, NYU School of Law

Revealed looked the tennis-master part, even if the reality was very different.

I’m really thankful to the many people and businesses who either stayed with us, made new commitments, or bid remarkable amounts of money to support public interest even in these trying economic times,” Powell said. “I think it’s remarkable how much our student body and law school community can accomplish when they work together like this.”

Now all that remains is for everyone to get what they bid for, and what about those students who offered their services? “The last bid for me to dog-sit was something like $80,” said Mike Gordon ’11. “I’m terrified I’m going to get a 150-pound Rottweiler or some small yippy puppy I can keep in my non-existent man-purse for a week.” It’s all in the name of public interest.

AUCHION: Bidders Less Generous Than in Years Past

Continued from page 1

He urged all the students with firm jobs to pledge just a day’s salary for public interest work, but no one bit. Several in the audience could be heard to murmur that they didn’t have money to give.

More disheartening was the bidding to go up against Dean Revesz in the 2nd Annual Wii Tennis Match. Bidding started at $200, and it took much effort on Cufl’s part to get the bidding up to $300. That bid was then retracted and bidding was reopened to audible grams. Alan for Reves, the bidding delay did little to stop him from losing for the second year, two games to one.

But $96,000 for public interest is hardly something to scoff at, and the diminished total seemed expected. “Donations from law firms were down significantly from last year,” Windberg said, but emphasized that the reduction was “almost equal to the difference between what we brought in this year as opposed to last year” when the auction topped $140,000. “Many firms still supported our cause,” she said.

Ren Tuning Apartment in NYC is Tougher Than Grad School

Find out why it doesn’t have to be
MyFirstNYapt.com
• One month free rent
• No broker fee
• No security deposit
• Shares welcome
• Spacious rentals in downtown Manhattan

888.502.4895
Leasing Office: 252 First Ave., (between 14th and 15th street)
SQUA R O U R I P O T Y R