Unfair Times Call for PILC Fair

By Danielle Escobidas '11

The 32nd annual Public Interest Career Fair, sponsored by the Public Interest Law Center, took place at NYU beginning on Thursday, February 5. The Fair, which was held over the course of two days, is the largest public interest career fair in the nation. It hosted students from 21 participating law schools from New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Rhode Island, and 196 employers from New York, California, Hawaii, Illinois, and Texas, among other states. These employers included government, non-profit, and private organizations.

In order to be selected by an organization for interview, students submitted cover letters and resumes to the organizations of their interest through the PILC Career Fair’s website. The organizations could then select the students they were most interested in to interview. However, the Fair didn’t just provide for scheduled interviews; employers also took place in an event called “table talk.” Table talk gave students a chance to meet with organizations they might not have otherwise considered, drop off resumes with new employers, or talk to employers that didn’t select them after reviewing their resumes. It also provided organizations an opportunity to meet with more students and to advertise their organization. Eighty-six organizations showed up on the first day for table talk, and 89 participated the second day.

Student lunches were also offered at the Fair. The

Economy Prompts Schools to Emulate NYU’s EIW Program

By Molly Wallace '10

With the economy faltering, law schools are doing what they can to ensure that their students get jobs. As a result, many peer schools have rearranged their interviewing schedules to get their students matched up with employers as early as possible. The law schools at Harvard, Yale, and University of Chicago, among others, have shifted their interview weeks to take place in August where in years past they have been held in late September and October.

Early interview week (EIW) programs in 2009 may look more or less the same for students as before, but firms will struggle to keep the interview weeks adequately staffed. As many as eight of the top law schools will be holding their interview programs at the same time on some days. Large firms traditionally send eight to twelve lawyers and recruiters to staff each school’s interview program; with so many schools holding their programs simultaneously, that could mean coming up with as many as one hundred employers to staff the recruiting programs of the top-ten law schools. And yet more will be needed to make up for the programs of schools outside the top ten.

During a normal work week, finding so many attorneys and staff at one time would be a tall order. In mid-August it might be a miracle. Summer camps are over but school has not yet started, so attorneys with children often need this time off to tend to their families. High school and college students who normally work as babysitters also tend to be out of town, so even those who would like to hire childcare may find themselves short-staffed.

The implications for parent-attorneys taking this time off may affect students who hope to get a sense of work-life balance during their callbacks. In New York, public schools do not start until after

MALDEF President Has High Hopes for New Administration

By Mark Weiner '11

A packed crowd filled Vanderbilt Hall’s Greenburg Lounge on Monday, February 9, 2009 for the inaugural Bickel & Brewer Latino and the Law Lecture. Joe Biden and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, for the Secure Fence Act of 2006, legislation named the “Secure Re-election Act.” The vote angering many of Trasviña quipped was better named the “Secure Re-election Act.” The vote angering many of Trasviña quipped was better named the “Secure Re-election Act.”

A packed crowd filled Vanderbilt Hall’s Greenburg Lounge on Monday, February 9, 2009 for the inaugural Bickel & Brewer Latinos and the Law Lecture. John Trasviña, Stanford Law School graduate and president and general counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF), gave a talk entitled “National Immigration Policy in the New Administration,” but he also touched on many other issues facing the nation’s Latino community.

Trasviña said clearly that he is “optimistic about the new administration.” He has worked with President Barack Obama in the past, and the story is telling. Obama, along with Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, voted for the Secure Fence Act of 2006, legislation named the “Secure Re-election Act.” The vote angering many of then-Senator Obama’s Chicago residents, particularly its Latino community. To build a bridge with that growing community, Obama set up a meeting with MALDEF and Trasviña at which he promised to work together in the future.

“I’m a non-Senator-like move,” Trasviña said, “Mr. Obama then

Legal Briefs

Law professor Peggy Davis, who runs the Lawyering Program at NYU, was named one of three most influential people in legal education by the National Jurist. The publication also honored Frederick Schauer at UVa and David Van Zandt at Northwestern.

Thursday, February 12 saw over 800 individuals in the American legal profession lose their jobs. Unsurprisingly, the National Law Journal is predicting more layoffs in the coming weeks. See infra page 7 for details on where the firings occurred.
Without the laptop, you take fewer notes and then have fewer piles of future trash to sort through come exam time. I am not a glutton for punishment. I like to make studying a streamlined affair (and good lawyers know how to simplify things, right?). It’s easier to study if you have less to study.

As to the “but class is booooor-ing” critique, first: there is nothing more boring than the internet. Everyone prefers to be actively engaged in something than to be killing time looking at a screen. What’s the only word they could say was “booooooor”? “As in, “Do you prefer Fruit by the Foot or Fruit Roll-Ups?” “No.”

I couldn’t help but think of that imposing yet ultimately meaningless sign over the last few weeks as Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps, a titan of the sports world, was embroiled in a drug scandal. A photo of Phelps taking a bong hit at the University of South Carolina party began to circulate a few weeks ago, sending the media into an absolute tizzy.

Interestingly though, the reaction to the Phelps saga has been decidedly split. Some writers, such as Sally Jenkins of The Washington Post, vigorously defended Phelps. Jenkins writes that Phelps “merely got caught doing what scores of people...did every weekend in college,” and that 42% of Americans have admitted to smoking marijuana at some point in their lives. The next day, Jenkins’s colleague Michael Wilbon absolutely excoriated her, pointing out that Phelps was previously arrested for drinking and driving in 2004, and “people who stand to gain so much from their talent and image had better know by the age of 23 that a standard of behavior is expected of them that isn’t expected of other people their age.”

Phelps’s sponsors also seem split. Kellogg’s dropped Phelps, so no longer will he be adorning boxes of Corn Flakes, but he still has promotional agreements with all his other sponsors. Phelps was also banned from swimming competitively for three months by USA Swimming.

Michael Phelps exercises his lung capacity and loses his Kellogg’s endorsement deal.

THE COMMENTATOR
The Student Newspaper of
New York University School of Law
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All submissions become property of The Commentator.
To the Editor:

On Wednesday, February 4, the University Senate voted 28-22 to overturn the campus-wide ban on Coke products. Owen Moore, the director of NYU’s dining services, is on record noting that we might see Coke products available on campus within as few as five to ten business days.

Let me go on record noting that I am currently enjoying a 48-hour celebratory caffeine bender. However much this is a victory for individual conscience and consumer choice, I am dismayed by last issue’s letter to the editor entitled “‘Do the Chickens Have Large Talons?’” The misleading title of the letter at first had me excited that President Obama had publicly announced support for a project to weaponize chickens. Were that the case, the size of the chickens’ talons would indeed be a pressing issue for public discussion. Instead, the letter was advocating for expanding the Law School’s “battery-cage” egg ban to the entire campus.

Once again, we are confronted with the same concerted push for top-down restrictions on consumer choice in the name of vaunted ethical gods. And, once again, two points present themselves. First, that it is entirely within the authority of the University to permit or ban whatever products it would like to permit or ban. Second, that banning certain products is paternalistic. I am not arguing to reverse the Law School policy of purchasing “cage-free” eggs. I’m not sure I could find even one person who preferred the taste of a “battery-cage” egg (though I’m also not sure “cage-free” isn’t just a clever marketing ploy). Furthermore, the marginal cost of the policy to the Law School is hopefully fairly low. What I am arguing for is an end to ethical imperialism. What highfalutin ideas we may entertain at the law school may not be relevant to the average NYU undergraduate. We at the law school have our ban, and we can rest easy that our dollars are not supporting the torture of (probably Coke-deprived) chickens. Why do we feel that civilizing the University writ large is the law school student’s burden?

As we saw with the Coke ban, it is very easy to garner support for a policy dressed in hip, “socially progressive” clothing. The problem is that the ethical discussion here creates the demand for the ethos in question, in a glorious echo-chamber of gastronomic nonsense.

Andrew Kloster ’10

The administration, with faculty approval, decided last semester to make available most of the comments students provided about their classes on the evaluations filled out at the end of each semester. If a faculty member requests that certain comments be redacted (and the Student Bar Association approves), they aren’t made available in their entirety. But much of what’s left is still entertaining.

Please comment specifically on any aspects of the course or the instructor that you feel warrant elaboration.

“fiduciary duties” (Allen, Corporations); “gun-jumping rules” (Choi, Securities Regulations)

“When I think of how much money I spent on this course, I want to cry.”

“[T]he classroom was completely unacceptable. [H]uman beings are not equipped to function in routinely stifling heat.”

“[P]lease don’t end explanations with ‘I probably just confused you more, so let’s move on.’”

“But for the girl in the back who asks good questions, you’re [sic] class would be inscrutable.”

“I wish [the professor] had been sterner. I did not find his cheerful willingness to overlook laziness and sloppiness conducive to an atmosphere of serious intellectual engagement with the material.”

“I would love to have a beer with [the professor].”

 “[The professor] is very humorous, keeps me on track in class during my usual ‘napping hour,’ 2pm–4pm.”

Choi and Allen are both “the man.” Miller, on the other hand, simply “rock[s].”

The New York University Journal of Law & Liberty presents:

The Unknown Justice Thomas Symposium

Monday, March 2, 2009
9:15 AM Greenberg Lounge, Vanderbilt Hall
INTERVIEW: Earlier Early Interview Week

Continued from page 1

Labor Day, and private schools do not start until the week following. Because Labor Day is fixed, many working parents may be unavailable, taking care of their children until September 14—almost a full month after EIW. Irene Dorzbach, Assistant Dean for Career Services, suggests that students continue to schedule their callbacks as early as possible but—upon receiving an offer—request a second visit to meet those attorneys who may have been out during their callback.

The repercussions of earlier interview weeks will impact other interviewees as well. Because of the increased number of students interviewing early on, there is increasing pressure to schedule as many callbacks as possible as soon as possible. As a result, students may need to be more conscious of scheduling their classes to leave time for callbacks. Students will also have to be more flexible than in prior years—not only in terms of size of firm and type of practice, but also geographically. Interviewing for firms to sit and think about Dorzbach commented. As these

...young adults, that he doesn’t receive a phone call from a Latino person victimized by violence. He believes that the Obama administration should pass a hate crimes bill that would increase federal authority for prosecution of hate crimes. However, Trasviña indicated that we must also attack the problem at its source by training police and agencies to report hate crimes to the federal government and instituting hate crime curricula in schools to train youths. The problem, he pointed out, isn’t just their occurrence but a lack of understanding and reporting of such violence as hate crimes.

Trasviña pointed to other steps the Obama administration can take even without the passage of immigration-reform legislation. He emphasized the importance of the upcoming 2010 census, which he said is a critical tool for the Latino community. “We need everybody to be counted. [Former Homeland Security Chief] Michael Chertoff was unwilling to say that Immigration and Customs Enforcement would not conduct raids when immigrants opened their doors to census takers. We need the Obama administration to do so.”

Trasviña concluded by saying that he hopes the Obama administration can put together a comprehensive immigration package that “not only provides for the security of the country, but also sensibility for its families.”

Maribel Hernandez, one of five recipients of full- tuition scholarships to NYU from the Bickel & Brewer Latino Institute for Human Rights, helped organize the lecture and considered it a great success. According to Hernandez, the Bickel & Brewer scholars worked with Dean Ricky Revesz to start the lecture series in order to “not just bring Latino issues to the attention of the NYU Law community, but to bring in successful Latino leaders doing important work in the legal field.” They hope to expand upon the success of this lecture to create a full-blown Latinos in the Law symposium, which Hernandez said would be the first of its kind.

The Commentator: Filling white space wherever it can.

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TRASVIÑA: Lecturer on Latinos in the Law Seeks Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Continued from page 1

took on working with the Immigration Subcommittee and jumped right in to improving electronic verification systems; a system that can, if designed properly and passed, protect rights, penalize employers who circumvent it, and give the Social Security Administration the resources they need.”

In a small group prior to the lecture, Trasviña also spoke highly of Obama’s choice of Rep. Hilda Solis (D-CA), a Congressional Hispanic Caucus leader, as labor secretary, one of three Latino members of Obama’s cabinet. He also praised the choice of Attorney General Eric Holder.

Trasviña focused much of the lecture on the growing incidence of hate crimes targeted against the Latino community in the United States. “Latinos immigrants make great targets,” he said, “because they work in a largely cash economy due to blocks on their access to banks, and perpetrators often believe they won’t report the crimes by holding their immigration status over their heads.” He pointed to the recent killing in Shenandoah, PA of Luis Ramirez, a 25-year-old Mexican beaten to death by a group of white teens yelling ethnic slurs.

Not a day goes by, said Trasviña, that he doesn’t receive a phone call from a Latino person victimized by violence. He believes that the Obama administration should pass a hate crimes bill that would increase federal authority for prosecution of hate crimes. However, Trasviña indicated that we must also attack the problem at its source by training police and agencies to report hate crimes to the federal government and instituting hate crime curricula in schools to train youths. The problem, he pointed out, isn’t just their occurrence but a lack of understanding and reporting of such violence as hate crimes.

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Trasviña pointed out that, once new census figures are in and evidence the ever-expanding Latino population, MALDEF and other groups will begin the process of redistricting to further strengthen the political power of that population. “By 2018, with the census and immigration reform having passed, Latinos will have the power to elect state senators even in places like Iowa, Georgia, and other places you normally wouldn’t associate with the Hispanic population.”

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TORT LAW IN THE SHADOW OF AGENCY PREEMPTION

a Symposium presented by the Annual Survey of American Law

Friday, February 27, 2009

Tort and government agencies often regulate the same behaviors, and thus have overlapping jurisdictions. Please join us for a series of conversations among theorists and practitioners exploring issues arising from this overlap. These issues are especially timely in light of the recent decision in Warner-Lambert v. Kent and the change of presidential administration.

Participants include Judge Guido Calabresi, Catherine Starkey, Richard Epstein, Mark Geistfeld, Elizabeth Cabraser, Catherine Carroll, Mark Herrmann, Allison Zieve, and more.

Schedule
9:00 a.m. Registration for CLE, Credit & Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Keynote Address, Judge Guido Calabresi
10:00 a.m. Panel 1: Institutional Competency Between the Courts & Agencies
11:45 a.m. Panel 2: Issues of Federalism
2:30 a.m. Panel 3: Preemption in the Trenches

For further information, contact Nicholas Almendares, Symposium Editor, Annual Survey of American Law at naaz230@nyu.edu.

Commentator News
February 18, 2009

TRASVIÑA: Lecturer on Latinos in the Law Seeks Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Continued from page 1

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The Rumor Mill: All’s Quiet on the Journal Front

By Joseph Jerome ’11

The Rumor:
Every year it seems rumors arise about the state of law journals. Will credit-earning editorial boards shrink? What about the size of the journals or the number being published each year?

The Reality:
According to Vice-Dean Barry Friedman, there’s no merit to any potential rumor floating around this year. “What they publish is their business,” he said.

The chain of rumors, it seems, flows from the Vice-Dean’s meetings with the journals’ editors-in-chief on January 26. “There has been some discussion about limiting print runs, but not output in any meaningful way,” Clay Kaminsky, editor-in-chief of the Journal of International Law and Politics, wrote in an email. Concerns about economic and environmental costs generated the notion of reducing print runs. Vice-Dean Friedman further suggested that the journals should feel no need to publish work if the journals deemed it unworthy, even if the result is thinner journals.

As for eliminating journal credit? The question arises regularly, but “there is no action I know of to take journal credit away,” Vice-Dean Friedman said. Considering he might be the first to know, the issue seems settled for now.

The Rumor Mill is The Commentator’s newest periodic feature. Heard a law school rumor you want checked out? Email law.commentator@nyu.edu.

ODOR: Journal Offices Smell Normal Again After Quick Response by NYU

Continued from page 1

said Ken Stenstrom, Manager of Facilities for D’Agostino Hall. Stenstrom added that he recently hired an electrical contractor to seal the electrical feeds from the inside as well. The sealant will prevent unclean air from leaking in from the outside.

Additionally, said Stenstrom, “We checked every supply and return air vent in the journals for proper operation, and found that thirteen of the supply vents were shut. We believe that journal members closed them at some point in an attempt to regulate temperature in their individual suites.” Those air vents, when working properly, bring a mix of fresh and recycled air into the sub-basement. However, Honeywell, the school’s HVAC contractor, has confirmed that the sub-basement currently utilizes the minimum amount of fresh air in its mix. Honeywell is looking into increasing the proportion of fresh air in the near future.

Journal leaders were pleasantly surprised with the school’s quick response to their request and have noticed a markedly improved smell in the journal offices and the sub-basement.

FAIR: Lunches Prove Popular

Continued from page 1
“Working for Justice in the South” lunch, cosponsored by a number of student groups, took place on Thursday. Students were able to hear from different public interest organizations working in the South, including the ACLU Capital Punishment Project and the Orleans Public Defender’s office. “Pizza, Film Screening, and Discussion with the Alliance for Justice” was held the next day. The event screened the documentary Access Denied?: The Fight for Corporate Accountability, which details the case of Diana Levine and her lawsuit against a pharmaceutical company.

One extra perk for NYU students in particular was a student/employee mixer. Only NYU Law students were invited to the mixer, which was another opportunity for students to mingle with potential public interest employers. Employers were told in advance that only NYU students would be in attendance, so they were expressing a particular interest in hiring students from NYU by attending the event.

SCHUDOKO!

Below you’ll find a variation on a standard sudoku grid. Fill in the missing boxes such that each row, column, and three-by-three box contains one of each of the following letters: N Y U L A W S C H

Table talk was a popular method for students to talk to public interest employers.
D’Agostino Hall Begins Eco-Friendly Composting Initiative

Law school residential building D’Agostino Hall has instituted a new composting program in an effort to cut down on the amount of organic waste being sent to landfills by the law school. The move has left residents of law school housing with several burning questions: Why just D’Agostino and not Mercer? Why did someone feel the need to place “Property of NYU” stickers on all of the compost bins? What, exactly, is that awful smell? And why would anyone compost if it means having to live with that putrid stench?

The Commentator Cordially Invites Readers to

The 2009 Law Firm Massacre

Law firm associates and support staff laid off on the day before Friday the 13th, 2009:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Law Firm</th>
<th>Associates</th>
<th>Support Staff</th>
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<tr>
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<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holland &amp; Knight</td>
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<td>Goodwin Procter</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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The NYU Journal of Law & Business cordially invites you to its Fourth Annual Symposium

Modernizing the Financial Regulatory Structure

Friday, February 20, 2009
9am – 5pm
New York University School of Law
40 Washington Square South
Vanderbilt Hall: Greenberg Lounge
CLE credit will be available for all-day attendance

Schedule
8:30 – 9:10 am: Registration and Welcome Reception
(Continental Breakfast)
9:10 – 10:00 am: Opening Remarks and Keynote Address
10:00 – 11:45 am: Panel One: Systemic Risk and its Management - A Comparative Look
11:45 – 1:15 pm: Lunch Break
1:15 – 3:00 pm: Panel Two: Consolidation of Banking Industry Regulators and Oversight of the Financial Services Industry
3:00 – 3:15 pm: Coffee Break
3:15 – 5:00 pm: Panel Three: Sovereign Wealth Funds - Problem or Panacea?

Speakers
Thomas C. Baxter, Jr., Federal Reserve Bank of New York
Joshua Ford Bonnie, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
James Carlson, Mayer Brown LLP
H. Rodgin Cohen, Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
Paul Downs, Jones Day
Ronald Gilson, Stanford Law School
Michael Greenberger, University of Maryland Law
Edward Greene, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
Henry T. Hu, University of Texas Law
Richard Kim, Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz
Jonathan Macey, Yale Law School
Ed Mierzwinski, U.S. Public Interest Research Group
Henry Ristuccia, Deloitte LLP
Steven L. Schwartz, Duke Law School
Waqiu Siddiqui, Hogan & Hartus
More unsuspecting victims are brutally murdered in the reboot of Friday the 13th. By Ben Peacock '09

In reviewing a film based solely on its trailer, one must be cautious to avoid unfairly assuming that certain shortcomings of the trailer also exist in the film as a whole. Indeed, this has been considered by many to be the most common shortcoming of purely trailer-based reviews. But reviewing trailers also has its advantages—namely efficiency. In order to gain the insights from the entire film that I easily gleaned from the trailer, I would have had to watch it as many as four times. Such an endeavor would have cost me $50 at the local theatre or forced me to become a pirate on the digital seas. No thank you! And this doesn’t even consider the cost of my time. Major New York law firms bill out their young associates at around $300/hr. Assuming that this film runs three hours (the trailer provided unfortunatelively little information about this matter), producing a review of a quality that matches what follows would have an investment of $3600 worth of billable hours (re-member I’d need to watch it four times), plus the $50 snack ticket cost! $3650 is a lot of money! Given a relatively standard diet of a single 25-cent packet of ramen noodles per day, 365 days per year, this review would have cost the equivalent of exactly 40 years of food. (Note: here the author does not observe leap years.) I could not, in good conscience, do anything but review the trailer, and I think you’ll find that I’ve been fair.

The reboot of Friday the 13th begins with a long-lens shot over a lake. There’s smoke or mist or something rising from it. We don’t know what it is, and, as happens all too often throughout this film, we don’t find out. But before we’re able to ponder this furtner mystery for long—H-A-M—the screen goes black for a solid three or four beats. There’s a wipe with what may well be a distorted image of a face, and we’re looking at a kind of creepy old cabin. The baleful cry of a single female voice pierces the night air, which may or may not have an eerie chill.

Who’s in this cabin, and why does the lady just scream? We don’t get to find out, but evidently one of the characters does, because we observe his back as he pushes open the door to a cabin (patteringly the same cabin, temporarily contemporaneous with the screams). God, I wish I knew what was going on! But instead we’re treated to two or three more beats of the black screen, which marks the transition from rising action to climax.

What follows is a heart-thumping, frenetically paced 43 seconds (it’s too fast, even for the breath) from which the light from earlier stars. We see it bouncing around in the hand of a panic-stricken, running young adult; illuminating a creepy doll; passing over the face of some partially mortified androgynous; and illuminating every single drop of rain falling on a young woman, whose face registers absolute disbelief to the fact that has evidently gripped the cabin, the woods surrounding it, and perhaps even that lake from the beginning. By this point, we all want to know a lot more about this flashlight, which plays on screen like a primitive, unemotional, pointalistic Wall-E. Unfortunately, her role seems to have ended as the climax gives way to the resolution.

We see a girl who has fallen into the mud from frantically cowering backwards, her face stricken with bone-chilling terror, before the final frenetic cut, this time to some dude who looks in a mask. The mask-intuition is confirmed in a final zoom, when we see a dirty old hockey mask, partially illuminated, and we’re finally made to understand that this film in fact coheres with the long line of Fridays the 13th that it claims to remake. I wanted to like this film; I really did. I watched it about seven times at regular speed, one of those with sound, before passing it and dragging the cursor frame-by-frame (or as close as possible, given the limitations of YouTube and the coffee jinn). Ultimately, though, the film fails because it fails to tie up any of its loose ends, in the process wasting a seminal performance by the flashlight. With no resolution, there can be no catharsis. We’re just left wanting more. Moreover, the pacing is far too fast, even to the point of recklessness. It’s as if the director had never been informed of transition scenes or character development! As avant garde as that was, it didn’t make for good watching.

I’m not 13 years old, and this isn’t a campy dance at the local rec center; it’s a film. So I’m not just looking to be teased. In other words, this film is a bread sandwich, and “man doth not live by bread only.” Deut. 8:2; see also Matt. 4:4; accord Luke 4:4. If you want to satisfy your viewers, Friday the 13th, then we’re gonna need some meat. And more of that flashlight.

Coraline Emphasizes Style Over Substance
By Joseph Jerome '11

Neil Gaiman is a master of creating rich surreal fantasy, so using the directing talents of Henry Selick (of The Nightmare Before Christmas fame) to bring one of Gaiman’s worlds to the big screen makes sense. Coraline has the visual style and pedigree to be the next Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland—it even has a creepy cat—but a few misfires dramatically hamper the final product. However, a big budget and lots of talent ensure that what’s left is still worth appreciating.

Our story is that of a lonely, attention-starved 11-year-old. After moving across the country, poor Coraline Jones finds herself in a gloomy old house, her parents absorbed in their own work. Surrounded by odd neighbors who keep calling her Caroline. One night, Coraline opens a small door that leads to a parallel world. There, her gloomy house is suddenly full of color and life, and the girl meets two beings who claim to be her “other” parents. While they look and talk like her parents, the other parents dote on her, sing her songs, and give her presents. Curiously, they also have black buttons for eyes. But this small oddity aside, Coraline finds her other parents to be pretty much perfect. Of course, Coraline slowly learns her other mother is not quite who she appears, and her dream world literally unravels into a nightmare.

Watching Coraline is a comparable experience. Everything begins wonderfully before tracks start to appear all over the place, but the film makes one fantastic first impression. For the first 15 minutes, I thought I was watching a horror film! The jumpscare at 43 seconds in which the flashlight briefly lights up the room. The nightmarish myrmidons, the creepy old cabin. The baleful cry of a single female voice pierces the night air, which may or may not have an eerie chill.

By the way, the voice acting caught me off guard. Coraline is voiced by Dakota Fanning, which I thought would distract me given that actress’s overexposure. I was surprised to find that Desperate Housewife Teri Hatcher and John “PC” Hodgman as Mother and Father Jones, respectively, were no more bothersome. When mom is baking and dad is yelling at his computer, I immediately pulled me out of the film. To the very end, I was stunned by how constricted my views of Coraline’s parents were by their voice actors.

So the voice acting bothered me, the 3-D was a waste, the plot was slow and potentially pointless, but I would not hesitate to recommend the film to anyone. Coraline is the ultimate triumph of style over substance—the creepy yet beautiful world Selick creates is a unique and satisfying experience for the eyes. The film is quite literally worth seeing.
Thursday, February 12 saw the annual University Games take over Coles Sports Center. The law school fielded a full team to compete against students from Stern, Wagner, Gallatin, and the other schools at NYU. Taking third place overall, the law school placed in a number of events:

- 1st Place Volleyball
- 1st Place Sumo Wrestling
- 2nd Place Basketball
- 2nd Place Foosball
- 3rd Place Rock-Climbing
- 3rd Place Rock-Paper-Scissors

Photos Contributed by Chuck Esbroun’10 and Robert Gerrity’09