Revesz Foreshadows Curriculum Changes

BY BOBBIE ANDELSON ’08

One L.L.M. student and mother made an impassioned point: “I really wanted to go to NYU, but I almost considered going to Berkeley or Georgetown because of the childcare they offered,” she said. “I am not saying that NYU needs a childcare at the law school, but they should reserve spots at the best childcare facilities around the city for children of students and other members of the law school community. I came here in May, and I spent one week looking for childcare for my children and it was the most difficult thing I have done in my life. In New York, for whatever reason, everything happens way in advance. You don’t even know until May where you are going to school, and then it is probably too late to register in the childcare of your choice in Manhattan for September. I found childcare facilities that I liked that had waitlists of 50 children.”

Revesz agreed with the student that something needed to be done about the childcare options for student parents.

Many students also expressed frustration that the law school requires all students to own a PC laptop when they are given four years to develop necessary computer skills. Professor Samuel Issacharoff is chairing a committee looking into such possibilities as adding more specialized Professional Responsibility classes, incorporating the Professional Responsibility requirement into the clinical programs, and most intriguingly, incorporating the requirement into the first-year Lawyering Program.

The major concerns brought up by students included child care, the PC requirement, and reports that surfaced last school year regarding the Pentagon surveilling NYU law students.

JAG Recruitment Isn’t FAIR

BY JULIA FUMA ’07

FAIR v. Rumsfeld and the mood this year was a little different. A total of three students interviewed on Friday morning. Three met with Navy JAG and one of these students also interviewed with Army JAG. The amelioration activities for this year included a protest, the distribution of rainbow ribbons for everyone entering Vanderbilt and Furman, and a panel on issues of the exam-taking software.

When asked if there was any new information about reports that the Pentagon was surveilling NYU law students involved in the student group OUTlaw, a group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students and their supporters, Revesz replied: “An underseretary of state made a reference that there had been government surveillance at academic institutions, including NYU Law. They eventually admitted that it was an error, that it was an improper use of the legislation. It was an incredible misuse of government money that ought to have been used to monitor legitimate terrorism.

“We have not gotten information to our satisfaction regarding exactly what happened. It wasn’t clear what the nature of the surveillance was. It might have involved the monitoring of emails. It might have involved other things. We just don’t know. Assurances have been made that this was a misuse of power and it would not happen again. I thought it was extremely troubling.”

Fall Ball Sure to Be a Thrill for All

BY GEORGE MUSTES ’09

New York developers have long prided themselves on being able to turn any vacant building into a nightclub, but the New York University School of Law does it one better on November 2nd. One night only, Vanderbilt Hall will be transformed into a Halloween themed dance factory cum fairground for the annual Fall Ball.

Fortune tellers and face painters will wander the Halloween bespeckled halls while students grind the night away in Greenberg under the approving gaze of so many framed deans. Upstairs, Golding will provide arts and crafts projects for those of us who have yet to surrender our creativity and, finally, although the location is unknown, the enterprising student should have no problem following her ears to the karaoke room.

As always, the Fall Ball is run by the Office of Student Affairs. Open to all NYU law students and their spouses and domestic partners. Tickets will be placed in the Vanderbilt Hall student mailbox the week before the event. The party runs from 9:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m., and, like any true Halloween festivity, this is a costume event so kindly refrain from wearing any attire that would be considered appropriate in Vandy the other three-hundred and sixty-four days of the year. Currently, there is no planned costume competition, but perhaps...
Halloween Bash

Continued from page 1

Here are a few students who can see
that the leadership skills they lie
about in interviews and take the lead in organizing one.
If all this sounds like one
large, embarrassing middle-school
dance, fear not, an open bar will
time was that NYU Law spent
twenty-thousand dollars on you.
By the way, only ten to twelve-
thousand of those dollars are go-
ing into the entertainment so there
should be plenty of beverages
and pretzels to go around.

JAGs Protested

Continued from page 1

speech, association, and academic
freedom. But this past March, the
Supreme Court held that the gov-
erm this year’s amelioration panel
including “comments on the FAIR
decision and proposals for how to
oppose the ‘don’t ask don’t tell’
policy, post-FAIR, which had not
been the focus of pre-FAIR pan-
els.”
As for the protest, Brooks
said that the tactics seemed to
have changed somewhat. “One
noticeable difference was that the
student protest was more focused
on the JAG recruiters and engag-
ing the Military in conversation
than in past years; in contrast, we
did not notice verbal interaction
between the protesters and stu-
dent interviewees.”

For Nick Durham, president of
Outlaw, the FAIR decision did
seem to change matters. “[The
protests] did seem different, in a
way, on both sides. Despite talk-
ing about it, since these protests
have been going on so long it’s al-
most as if they are old news.”
Durham also expressed his frus-
tration with the administration.
It is true they help us organize
the event, Sharon and Irene were en-
tirely instrumental. However, besides
a few administrators, when it comes
time to actually show up or hand
out ribbons not one professor
could dedicate a little time. I ex-
pected the Dean to at least pass by,
but I guess that’s out of the ques-
tion too.”
The effort to change the
nation’s policy has shifted to Con-
gress. While those lobbying ef-
forts might succeed one day, until
then the NYU’s amelioration will
continue. The budget for amelio-
ration has been between $1,500 and
$3,500 throughout the years. It is
clear how much it was this
year, but Durham is already look-
ing towards next year: “I’m actu-
ally working on a proposal right
now to get them to do more when
it comes to Amelioration funding/
programs because it definitely
does not seem adequate,” he said.
The Office of Student Affairs invites you to the 2006 Fall Ball

Halloween Bash

Dean Revesz and the Office of Student Affairs invite you to the 2006 Fall Ball

Thursday, November 2, 2006
9:00PM-1:00AM in Vanderbilt Hall

DJ, Karaoke, Fortune Tellers, Face Painters and Much More!

Admission is Free! Costume is Optional. Semi-Formal Attire Required.

A Ticket Has Been Placed in Your Vanderbilt Hall Student Mailbox in VH100.
This Ticket Along With Your Valid NYU LAW ID Must Be Presented At The Door.
Spouses and Domestic Partners Are Welcome with Valid Photo ID.
Everything that is legal is moral. Students or lawyers, believe that does nothing to prove that those enacted the Solomon Amendment. The fact that a congress and president makes them correct policies. Even Constitution’s confines does not sons may exist within the military’s discrimination. That the Supreme Court believes does not mean that it is right, from a normative, or moral perspective. That the Constitution does affirmatively protect our values of equality and fairness.

Chief Justice Marshall famously proclaimed that it is “emphatically the province and duty of the judicial department to say what the law is.” So it is an act of considerable importance for mere law students to say that the nation’s highest court is in fact wrong on the law. But it is something we must say. We did not come to law school to do easy things. We came to law school to do what was difficult, but worthwhile. And the more difficult thing to say is that discrimination against LGBT persons is wrong, although it is. The more difficult, but worthwhile thing to say is that discrimination is illegal and unconstitutional, even when the Supreme Court says otherwise.

America is an ideal nation. They are about the wrongness of it. Many of us in law school, myself included, feel that even in these times of unjust and unpopular war, service in the military can be a noble and worthwhile use of a legal education. My own grandfather, as a Captain of the Army and an instructor at the Army’s Judge Advocate General’s School, published an article in our own N.Y.U. Law Review. Dorns V. Kerg. The Absent Defendant and the Federal Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Civil Relief Act, 33 N.Y.U. L. Rev. 975 (1958). For those of us who believe in America, it is a painful thing to refrain or be prohibited from serving their country. We should not concede the law to serve such ignoble ends.

These protests are a footstep on the long march toward equality. They are an assertion of our belief in a better Constitution. They are a statement that the law is better than some claim it to be.
Let’s Add Discourse to Our Protests

BY MICHAEL BLAUVELT ’06

Almost one yearago, The Commentator featured a substan-
tial article addressing the on-cam-
pus recruiting protests. It was the first time that The Com-
menter or any other organization at New York University School of Law had made a concerted effort to consider military recruiting inter-
views on campus. It was also the first time I spoke publicly about my decision to in-
terview with the JAG Corps on campus. I did so with no other students or semia-
nian JAG protests. To its credit, the law school community responded admirably—expanding efforts to consider both sides in planning the protests. Now, after yet another set of JAG interviews and protests, it is clear that al-
though much has been done, much more is needed.

The administration, particu-
larly the Office of Career Services (already a strong advocate for the GLBT community), has done much to make me feel comfortable and welcome to participate in several a me-
lation panels to discuss my ex-
perience being assigned to the JAG Corps and to continue work with OUTlaw and others to find the proper balance between assert-
ing justifiable indignation over being prevented from openly serv-
ing in the military (and having the military see me as a threat to their reputation) and ensuring the safety of the in-
terviewing students.

As a student, I tried to emphasize what the community has demon-
strated great composure in its re-
spon to significant events. Long-term, I think that my experience with the JAG Corps is the most important event in my participation in the JAG on-campus interview process. By the time I made this decision, I have already 15统一性 of experience with the community and with the military, I have learned that there is not an un-
answerable reputation generally and par-
ticularly at NYU.

As a graduate, I tried this year to focus my message less on my ex-
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Commentator Arts

October 19, 2006

Reviewing The Classics of 2005

**Hostel: Blood, Guts, and No-Name Hotties**

Hostel consistently tops the critics’ list of 2005 classics.

(This article contains words that may be offensive to some people. The Commentator is not a family publication. It is for bitter, worn-out law students.)

BY KARTIK VENGUSWAMY ’07

I have a request. If you’re a director that has reached iconic status and can command a following with just your name, you owe it to the movie-going public to use discretion in tagging your name onto movies. Quentin, I’m looking at you here. Seriously - couldn’t you be happy just giving a blurb they could use on the box? Instead, it’s “Tarantino presents Hostel” and I end up sitting through 2 hours of body parts.

A couple of friends on vacation decide to go to Slovakia because that’s where the hot girls are. Turns out the hot girls are kidnapped. Then rich people pay money to fuck with the kids - if it can be burnt, chopped, drilled, or mangled, there’s no good chance that such is done in this movie. And there’s just no point: it’s just one horrific, stomach-turning scene after another. I mean, kudos for getting some truly inspired blubbering out of the frightened amateur actors, but I couldn’t be entirely sure I wasn’t just watching a snuff film here!

But if your entire movie is about kidnapping Americans in Slovakia to perform bizarre and pointless amputations, you’re going to need more of a plot hook than “and isn’t that bad?” I’ll be the first to admit that I’m not a bastion of good taste. (See enjoyment of Saw) But this is a really sick, twisted, sadistic movie. I suppose I shouldn’t pass moral judgment on people that might like watching this, but don’t go into this expecting something like Saw, where the gore is in the title!

Imagine Dead Alive, only the guy behind the effects is Cronenberg and his phenomenal vision. Not after all I heard about Aragorn could act. Not after William Hurt got an Oscar nomination for roughly 2 minutes of screen time.

I wasn’t impressed. Don’t get me wrong - the movie’s interesting. Viggo’s a former mobster who’s tossed out his old life and moved to the midwest. He’s married, has kids, owns a diner, basically “lives the American Dream” to quote Hurt. One day he thwarts a robbery, makes the national news, and the old Philly mob comes calling. Violence ensues. (You knew it was coming, isn’t in the title?)

The thing is, it’s not really anything new. Seriously. Split personality, where a calm, unassuming guy hides a mean killer? It’s been done (and quite well by movies like In the Bedroom). Will Tom be able to rebuild the shattered bonds of marriage and parenthood? You’ll have to excuse me if I’m not on the edge of my seat. To quote from an IMDB troll (and I know exactly how weak that makes my next point), if this had starred Steven Seagal over a tagline of “This Time, They Messed With The Wrong Man,” or had been directed by Uwe Bull or some other jackass, no one would think twice about this movie. But give it Hurt and Viggo and Cronenberg, have an awkward sex scene on the stairs, and suddenly all the stereotypes and cliched plot devices become ironic and clever, and not just dumb.

I’m not saying this movie was bad; but it was really this great and deep look at the long-term impacts of violence in small town America or whatever else people say? Absolutely not. But, in retrospect, I guess I shouldn’t be surprised. It’s entirely possible I just don’t get Cronenberg. I mean, the man is responsible for that masterpiece of film-making eXistenZ.

**A History of Violence**

A History of Violence is heavy on the violence, but light on the history.

BY KARTIK VENGUSWAMY ’07

I was originally planning on waiting to write until I saw something truly terrible that I could rip on. In other words, I certainly wasn’t expecting to write a review about this movie. Not after all I heard about Cronenberg and his phenomenal vision. Not after everyone told me that Aragorn could act. Not after William Hurt got an Oscar nomination for roughly 2 minutes of screen time.

I wasn’t impressed. Don’t get me wrong - the movie’s interesting. Viggo’s a former mobster who’s tossed out his old life and moved to the midwest. He’s married, has kids, owns a diner, basically “lives the American Dream” to quote Hurt. One day he thwarts a robbery, makes the national news, and the old Philly mob comes calling. Violence ensues. (You knew it was coming, isn’t in the title?)

The thing is, it’s not really anything new. Seriously. Split personality, where a calm, unassuming guy hides a mean killer? It’s been done. Watch how violence and killing can tear apart a family and a small town? It’s been done (and quite well by movies like In the Bedroom). Will Tom be able to rebuild the shattered bonds of marriage and parenthood? You’ll have to excuse me if I’m not on the edge of my seat. To quote from an IMDB troll (and I know exactly how weak that makes my next point), if this had starred Steven Seagal over a tagline of “This Time, They Messed With The Wrong Man,” or had been directed by Uwe Bull or some other jackass, no one would think twice about this movie. But give it Hurt and Viggo and Cronenberg, have an awkward sex scene on the stairs, and suddenly all the stereotypes and cliched plot devices become ironic and clever, and not just dumb.

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NYU recently announced that it will purchase approximately 118,000,000 kWh of wind power.

NYU Announces Plan to Purchase 118 Million kWh of Wind Power—the Largest Purchase of any U.S. College or University

**By Johnathon Smith**

Recently, New York University announced that it would purchase approximately 118,000,000 kWh of wind power, which is equal to the amount of power that the University purchases from Con Edison. In a press release that the University sent out on October 5th, this purchase will “be the largest purchase of wind power by any U.S. college or university, according to the EPA’s Green Power Partnership Program, the largest purchase of wind power by any institution in New York City, and the 11th largest purchase nationally.” The decision, which was publicly announced at a NYU University Senate meeting is only one part of a larger sustainability project, called the Green Action Plan (GAP), by Michael Alfano, NYU’s executive vice president, who stated: “We are all familiar with the increasing pressures from the burning of fossil fuels that risk our health, compromise our national security, and imperil the planet. This purchase of renewable energy, our pursuit of greater conservation, and the promise of a more sustainable campus are institutional responsibilities, consistent with our community’s values and made more relevant by the Mayor’s recent announcement of an ambitious environmental agenda for New York City, of which NYU wants to be a part. Cities and universities share an important characteristic—they are the places that draw in man-kind to confront, contemplate, and address our most pressing challenges. It is in that spirit that we take this step.”

This is an exciting step, and we at the SBA welcome and approve of any steps taken by the University to combat inefficiencies in energy use at NYU. While this is a broad step taken that will have repercussions throughout the university, including here at the law school, there are of course steps that we can take individually to make our campus greener. I am sure most, if not all, of us are guilty of keeping our laptops on unnecessarily long and of keeping lights on when they should have been turned off. By being conscientious of how we are using energy we can all do our small part to make the campus greener.

Over the next year the SBA will be looking into ways in which the law school campus can take steps to make our campus is green and energy-efficient. We hope to work with faculty, student groups, and all other interested parties to take the steps we can to make NYU Law as efficient as possible. If you have suggestions please do not hesitate to contact me or your favorite SBA representative.

**The Kindergarten Cops**

**By Ian Samuel ’08**

The law school’s exam taking methods are foolish and ought to be changed.

For the 1Ls who do not yet know, or historians who are reading this to discover what a backward age we lived in, let me briefly describe this process to you. Before you are allowed to take your exams, you must install a piece of software called “ExamSoft.” This software is buggy and runs only on Windows. Its purpose is to ensure that you do not cheat by, for example, chatting on AIM with John Roberts during your Constitutional Law exam. To do this, it “locks” your entire computer, rendering your computer little more than an expensive, hot type- writer.

The use of clumsy “anti-cheating” software treats adult students in professional school as if they are no more trustworthy than a group of gumbunctious nine-year-olds with jam on their faces. Other law schools simply use an honor code, the contents of which will be familiar to readers who attended college. At Chicago, students type their exams into any word processor they like and then, at the end of the exam period, they e-mail the professor the document. If prospective lawyers can’t be trusted to assist on their exams, should they even be admitted to the bar?

**This Space Reserved For Your Opinion. Send it to fuma@nyu.edu**
The Journal of Legislation and Public Policy presents…

Immigration Reform: Balancing Integration and Enforcement

Greenberg Lounge, 10:00am - 4:30pm, Friday, October 27
www.law.nyu.edu/journals/legislation/symposium/fall2006.html

Is there a contradiction between being a welcoming society and being a lawful society? President Bush says no. Come hear what our panelists say.

Introduction by Dean Revesz of NYU Law

Aziz Huq, Associate Counsel Brennan Center for Justice, moderating a panel including:
- Judy Rabinovitz, Senior Staff Counsel American Civil Liberties Union
- Cristina Rodriguez, Assistant Professor of Law, NYU Law
- Nancy Morawetz, Professor of Clinical Law, NYU Law
- Kris Kobach, Daniel L. Brenner/UMKC Scholar and Professor of Law, University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law

Deborah Malamud, An-Bryce Professor of Law, NYU Law, moderating a panel including:
- David Martin, Warner-Booker Distinguished Professor of International Law, University of Virginia Law School
- Michael Hethmon, General Counsel, Immigration Law Reform Institute
- Muzaffar Chishti, Director, Migration Policy Institute, New York City
- Hon. John M. Walker, Jr., Chief Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

Keynote: Marcelo M. Suarez-Orozco, Courtney Sale Ross University Professor of Globalization and Education, NYU Steinhardt School of Education

Fall Ball. After Halloween.

DUMB

Write for The Commentator.

Defend Fall Ball. Or Halloween.