



First-Year Gender Gap Widens Dramatically

Citing Lower Yield, Admissions Vows to Enhance Outreach to Women; JD Student Body Only 41% Female

By HANNAH BAKER '13
STAFF WRITER

Why is this year's 1L class only 40 percent women? No one seems to know. But at least a few firm things can be said about this worrying statistic.

First of all, this is definitely a downturn. While men outnumber women, both at NYU and in law school in general, the difference has not been this sharp in a single NYU class since 1996.

Second, the biggest problem is at the yield stage — the stage at which admitted students decide between their offers and send in their deposits. In 2011, 45 percent of acceptance letters were sent out to women, about the same percentage as most years. But in the yield stage, the percentage of women dropped by five percent, revealing a disturbing truth: fewer women than men are choosing NYU as their law school.

Ken Kleinrock, Assistant Dean for Admissions, is concerned about the gap. "I take it almost personally," he said. He doesn't understand what it is that deterred a higher percentage of women from NYU this year, but he is determined to find out. The Office of Admissions is stepping up its efforts to reach out to women, particularly during the critical post-admission period. The office has asked for help from student groups such as

a delicate line between reaching out specifically to women and implying that all women share certain interests.

Outreach usually does work, though, Kleinrock said. It's worked in the past. The class of 2013 had an unusually low percentage of Asian students — 8.8 percent. The Office of Admissions spoke to student groups, coordinated outreach, and saw this year's group of Asian 1Ls rise to 13 percent. But admissions statistics are still far from accurately predictable, and the Office was blindsided by 2011's low yield of female 1Ls.

While this year's drop can be attributed to the yield, the percentage of women choosing some other law school over NYU is not the only problem. The national applicant pool for law school is as evenly split as the general population, but the "top" of the pool — the students that, based on GPA and LSAT scores are within the reach of NYU's possible consideration — is split 60/40 in favor of men. At almost all of the U.S. News and World Report's top ten law schools, men outnumber women by at least two to three percent. At NYU the difference is fairly drastic — the total JD student body is only 41 percent women.

There is no definitive answer on why this disparity exists, although there are many guesses. Despite the more than one hundred years that have passed since NYU first admitted women, female lawyers and law students still face bias and pressure at all stages of their careers.

Law Women, and will be meeting with committees of female alumni and professors to decide on a strategy.

Kleinrock says that he wants to make female applicants aware of some advantages about NYU — among them the high numbers of female faculty and the opportunities to study women's rights and gender issues in law. But at the same time, he said, "I don't want to be seen as pandering." It's

There is no definitive answer on why this disparity exists, although there are many guesses. Despite the more than one hundred years that have passed since NYU first admitted women, female lawyers and law students still face bias and pressure at all stages of their careers. But with any luck, at least next year we will see a more nearly equal percentage of women in the class of 2015.

Panel Probes Environmental Impacts of Factory Farming, Animal Antibiotics

By ELIZABETH HALLINAN '13
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It is no secret that there is something wrong with the food system in this country. Some Americans go hungry, while others suffer obesity from consuming too much high fructose corn syrup and too many nutrient-poor processed foods.

On Tuesday, October 25, NYU Law's Student Animal Legal Defense Fund and the Environmental Law Society hosted a panel to discuss another crisis in the American food culture: the environmental implications of concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), colloquially known as factory farms. The panel was comprised of Mark Bittman of *The New York Times*; Kevin Fulton of the sustainable Fulton Farms; Jonathan Lovvorn of the Human Society of the United States; and Jen Sorenson of the Natural Resources Defense Council. David Wolfson, who teaches NYU's Animal Law seminar, served as moderator.

Mr. Fulton explained that CAFOs are not the mom-and-pop family farms depicted on milk cartons. The EPA describes "animal feeding operations" as "agricultural operations where animals are kept and raised in confined situations ... which congregate animals, feed, manure and urine, dead animals, and production operations on a small land area."

Mr. Bittman worries about the environmental damage these operations cause. CAFOs are major polluters of local toxins (from overflowing manure lagoons, for example) and greenhouse gases. Mr. Bittman explained that meat is not as

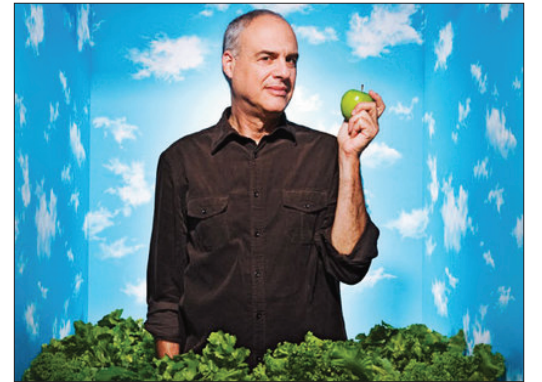
cheap as it appears because the price to consumers excludes the extensive environmental and health costs to society — what economists call "externalities." Mr. Fulton noted that Americans used to spend far more money on food than on health insurance, but that ratio has reversed. He speculated on a causal link: deteriorating food quality has made Americans sicker.

Ms. Sorenson explained that 80 percent of all antibiotics in the U.S. are fed to CAFO animals. These antibiotics are given subtherapeutically, meaning they are used not to improve animal health, but to enhance growth rates and improve feed efficiency. Unfortunately, as Mr. Bittman pointed out, this extraordinary overuse of antibiotics contributes to the growing prevalence of "superbugs" that are resistant to therapeutic use of these antibiotics when animals — or humans — need treatment.

As one audience member commented after the panel, a challenge to discussing factory farming is that, with so many issues of concern, it can be

difficult to know where to start. Animal welfare, human health, workers' rights, and many other issues are implicated in the mess of the CAFO system.

So what can we do? Mr. Bittman, author of several cookbooks, hopes that we start cooking more at home and rely-



Mark Bittman

ing less on the food industry to tell us what to eat. Ms. Sorenson suggested that focusing on human health concerns is an effective litigation tactic. Mr. Lovvorn has found nuisance law to be a fruitful litigation strategy. And Mr. Fulton invited the entire audience to see his sustainable farm at work in Nebraska. Judging by the warm reception given to him and all the speakers by the audience that night, I might not be the only one to take him up on his offer.



Unlike this farmer, factory farming relies on "animal feeding operations."

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Beating the White Witch: See the Sights this Holiday Season

BY LEIGHTON DELLINGER '12
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Now that Fall Ball is over it's time for us to get serious ... about the holiday season! Disclaimer: I love holidays. All of them. Christmas with my family is my favorite, but Thanksgiving is a close second. I think what I really love is the season and the attitude that goes with it. Suddenly, getting elbowed by a surly New Yorker on a cold day turns into a cheery interaction — "Excuse me! Happy holidays!" Fall leaves litter the streets and before long, small twinkly lights reflecting off banks of snow light up the city. Every window looks warm and inviting; stores and apartments take on the smells of the holiday — gingerbread, pumpkin, and apple pie; and riffs on turkey, dressing, and cranberry show up on special holiday menus.



The weather outside gets frightful, but there's a silver lining: Ice-skating, Christmas trees, and delicious holiday treats.

The problem with the holiday season in law school is a lot like the problem in Narnia: it's always winter and never Christmas. The most wonderful time of the year is spent cooped up in the library. Instead of sipping hot toddies and hot chocolate and singing carols over candlelight we drink horrible watery coffee under florescent lights with a sandwich from the deli while we angrily shush the LLMs using outside voices by the printers. I've always thought it sad that we are too preoccupied in December to really enjoy the holiday season, but in January when it's just cold outside we are free as birds (Schedule-wise. We will all, inevitably, spend January indoors under layers of wool, hibernating until the outdoors are again habitable).

But it doesn't have to be this way! We can beat the white witch! As I scramble to make my study schedule I have a few goals: get started early (This is always a goal. It never happens.), make time to enjoy the holiday season,

and take advantage of my super-flexible student schedule. I have a feeling that I will not get to go ice-skating in the middle of the day on a Tuesday when I am a "real person" with a "real job." But that is just a guess. Besides, New York City is the destination for the holidays. My favorite tourists — Midwesterners donning fashion-savvy combinations of cameras-with-neck-straps, jeans, and tennis shoes — will flood our city. For once, I want nothing else than to be where they are: they are the tastemakers of the holiday season.

First, I will definitely go to the lighting of the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree this year. I will go. I say this every year, and every year I wind up spending the afternoon playing on Facebook or reading everything Gawker has ever posted instead of studying. This year, the tree will be lit on Wednesday, November 30 at 7 p.m. I will be there with bells (and a puffy coat) on.

I will also go ice-skating. My

South Texas roots make me a terrible ice-skater. I can't go quickly and I fall down. Constantly. If I invite you to join me at Bryant Park or the Highline this holiday season, you should make up an excuse to go another day — I will keep pace with six-year-olds and pull you down when I fall. I will have a great time so it may be an enjoyable experience for you, but it will be enjoyable the same way that "The Smurfs" movie was enjoyable when I saw it with my little cousin (she ate her weight in candy and giggled the whole time. That was adorable. Everything happening on the screen was horrible.)

For those of you staying in New York for Thanksgiving, and especially for Seinfeld fans, the inflation of the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade Balloon Inflation will take place on the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving. I'll be warm and beach-side in good ol' Corpus Christi, Texas, but if I were in NYC you would find me at Columbus Avenue and 77th Street watching Woody the Woodpecker inflate and pretending that I was (or maybe wasn't?) invited to Tim Watley's annual day-before-Thanksgiving party.

When we get back in January, New York will be like Narnia still — it will be cold and snowy and we will be inundated with "wintry mix," a deceptively cheerful moniker for a miserable slush of snow, rain, ice, and residual street urine. It will be fun because we won't have seen each other for a whole month and we will miss Triona and the hot chocolate from Tea Spot (and maybe, just maybe, the thrill of law school classes) but we won't have the chance to enjoy New York at the most magical time of the year. And for that, we should all make a little time to enjoy the holiday season!

Comment

The Eager Reader

the commentator

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FREE CHRISTMAS WALLPAPER

Juggling Two Girls and Waiting for 1L Boys to Grow Up Into Real People

By TRUTH BADER GINSBERG

Dear Truth,

Is there such a thing as implied monogamy? I've been worrying about this lately. I'm hooking up with this girl, but I don't want it to be exclusive. And by that I mean I made out with someone else this weekend and I'd like to pursue it further. But, um, I still like sleeping with the first girl. And it isn't just a sex thing with Girl One; I take her out on dates, we hang out with clothes on, have sleepovers, etc. Girl One and I haven't had any kind of conversation about exclusivity, or getting more serious, or anything like that. So nothing should prevent me from pursuing Girl Two simultaneously, right? But I don't know, it feels sleazy somehow. I'm worried this girl thinks we're exclusive, and thus me making out with someone else is some kind of constructive cheating. Thoughts?

Hey, so, can I get your number? You're a catch. You win 100 points right off the bat because you're thoughtful enough to even consider this sort of thing. Many people in your shoes would simply date and sleep with two people and not give it a second thought. It's the way of the world right now, especially in this city. I think

most people — myself included — subscribe to a theory of non-monogamy until monogamous. Call me jaded, but I think it's a perfectly reasonable presumption that a young stud like yourself can do whatever you want with whomever you want until one party cares enough to speak

you're not exclusive. I know. It sucks. But do it. But if you refuse, or if things just sometimes get carried away, I think all parties need to be explicitly aware that your arrangement is not exclusive. Nothing says dirty talk like informed consent agreements, hmm?

Dear Truth,

These dudes at this school are driving me nuts. I'm a 1L female. I got out of a relationship right before school started, so I've been having a good time being single. But what is with the dudes here? I've booked up with a few of them, and they're either so awkward the next day at school that I want to tear my hair out, or they're consciously trying to give me the cold shoulder so that I "don't get the wrong idea," or we have to have these stupid talks about how we don't want it to be awkward because we're in the same section, etc., etc. How can these guys not understand normal dating? I didn't know I'd be entering the twilight zone when I came to law school.

I think your problem isn't the fact that these guys are 1Ls, necessarily; it's the fact that a lot of them are just young. I can't find the exact statistics, but something like 30 percent of the 1L class came directly from college to law school, and another 40-plus percent took

only one or two years off. That means over two-thirds of the people you run into on a daily basis are under 25 or 26. And you know what that means for the males — and females — of this cohort? Many at this age don't really have enough life experience to know what they're doing.

Before you call me a conde-

in one of those heart-swelling, cue-music moments that these friends have grown up before my very eyes over the past two years. The guy who always prioritized his work over his personal life is now on OkCupid. The one who wouldn't even look at anyone bigger than a size two is going on dates with a size ten. The one who refused

“The moral of the story: these guys (and ladies) get a clue at some point. Right now, they can't see four feet in front of their casebook. But give it time and don't worry about it, and for goodness sake, please don't internalize it.”

up and strike “the talk” match. Who knows; maybe Girl One has a dish or two on the side as well. And even if she doesn't, until you both establish that you two want to lock it down, you're free agents. Please note that my answer addresses none of the auxiliary problems you might encounter (e.g., running into Girl One while out with Girl Two, or Girl Two sees Girl One's name pop up on your iPhone ... you get the idea). So watch those oats at your own risk.

Oh, and one caveat: if you're not using a condom with Girl One, and/or if you don't intend to with Girl Two, that changes things a bit. First off, be smart and use a condom if

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Habeas Coitus with Truth Bader Ginsberg

scending and bitter 3L, tossing recklessly blanket generalizations around, let me share a story. This weekend, I was hanging out with some of my male 3L friends, all of whom began law school at ages 23 to 25. I've known these guys since early on in our first year at NYU, and I remember the way in which many of them used to behave: like teenagers. Or, like, this weird hybrid of a smart brain plus a penis plus a barely nascent emotional intelligence. Sorry, guys. Please continue to be my friend after reading this. But seriously, they wouldn't have known (or didn't know) a good thing if and when it hit them over the head. They were in love with the New York City dating scene's circus; they were in love with the law, with their professors, with study groups; they were in love with sex and accumulating attention from potential dates. They were in love with attracting women, but they usually weren't even “in like” with the women themselves. And this applies to myself and many of my female friends as well.

But! It hit me on Saturday

to assign the “girlfriend” label to the lady he saw every night of the week for months now lives with her. The one who never let any girl live up to his long-distance ex is now picking up thirty-somethings at the bar. And these friends got to witness my learning curve too, as I stumbled immaturely through my own personal life. I don't quite know how to describe the paradigm shift, but something just ... happened over the past couple years. To put a Dawson's Creek point on it, we grew up together.

The moral of the story: these guys (and ladies) get a clue at some point. Right now, they can't see four feet in front of their casebook. But give it time and don't worry about it, and for goodness sake, please don't internalize it. This isn't really about you. Every early-twenty-something eventually becomes a real person at some point (I'm not there yet, but my fingers are crossed). And for now? Look elsewhere. Onward and upward. Date these folks in a few years, once they grow into their own skin and begin to be able to look beyond it.

Union Asks for Wage, Benefit Increases in Contract Negotiations with NYU

By NOELIA RODRIGUEZ

The Union of Clerical, Administrative and Technical Staff at NYU (Local 3882, NYSUT, AFT, AFL-CIO) is currently in contract negotiations with the University. UCATS is not asking for anything NYU cannot afford: wages that keep up with the rising cost of living in New York and affordable health insurance.

However, despite a profit of over \$114 million last year, NYU has made wage and benefit proposals that add up to six years of pay cuts for the clerical and technical staff.

NYU's current health insurance proposal increases premiums for family coverage as much as 270 percent by 2016; in addition, NYU has proposed steep increases in co-payments, coinsurance and out-of-pocket maximums amounting to thousands of dollars. The Univer-

sity's proposed annual wage increases would be completely obliterated by the proposed increases in health insurance costs.

Most alarming, however, is NYU's request that UCATS

ance process for complaints of discrimination.

Contract negotiations began on September 16. On October 27, at a bargaining session with NYU representatives, more than 120 UCATS members spoke out against NYU's proposals and articulated the financial hardships they endure currently, noting that six years of pay cuts would be devastating. Although the University claims that they

have not presented their final offer, they have neither modified nor withdrawn any of their proposals. UCATS' previous contract with NYU, which expired October 31, will be extended while negotiations continue.

For more information regarding the status of negotiations and UCATS events, please visit the union's contract blog for daily updates: <http://ucats3882.blogspot.com/>.

Comment

Letter to the Editor

members waive their right to seek relief from discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), limiting discrimination complaints solely to the grievance and arbitration provisions of the contract. This comes after NYU's recent settlement of an EEOC lawsuit, culminating in a Consent Decree that included the payment of \$210,000 to an employee and increased oversight of the griev-

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The State of Cinema: James Gray/Joaquin Phoenix Brooklyn Double Feature

“We Own the Night,” “Two Lovers” Showcase Astounding Performances by the Famed Actor

BY THOMAS PRIETO '13
STAFF EDITOR

Photos of brutal fights between the NYPD and criminals in the late 1970s flash by on the screen as a jazz band plays the sort of somber, trumpet-led song one might expect to hear in a Bogart noir. The song fades out on a photo of a police officer (in spectacular '70s plaid pants) examining a body at the morgue. A faint electronic

Mendes, who is wearing a short black dress, lustily laying on a decadently golden couch. So begins one of the best (and sexiest) opening scenes in 21st century American cinema.

The film that this scene opens, “We Own the Night” (2007), has a pretty basic plot. Joaquin Phoenix plays Bobby Green, the manager of a successful nightclub in Brighton Beach. His brother, Joseph Grusinsky



Gwyneth Paltrow plays a self-destructive blonde across an awkward yet charismatic Joaquin Phoenix in “Two Lovers.”

Comment

The Man With a Name

drumbeat begins to fade in. The image suddenly changes as Blondie’s “Heart of Glass” surges. Joaquin Phoenix, who is wearing a red shirt, emerges from the shadows and walks toward the camera. A reverse shot shows the beautiful Eva

(Mark Wahlberg), is a rising star in the NYPD and his father, Burt Grusinsky (Robert Duval), is the police deputy chief. After a Russian gangster that frequents his nightclub makes an attempt on his brother’s life, Bobby Green is compelled to

join his family, with which he has a complicated history, in their war against crime.

James Gray’s subsequent and most recent film, “Two Lovers” (2008), also has a rather basic plot. Joaquin Phoenix, who stars in three of Gray’s four feature films, plays Leonard — an awk-

ward yet charismatic young man that is torn between two women: the self-destructive blonde, Michelle (Gwyneth Paltrow), and the family-approved and safe brunette, Sandra (Vinessa Shaw). Although these plots may seem rather boilerplate, Gray handles them with such deft and sincerity that he avoids clichés and forced melodrama. He is also able to elicit some spectacular performances from his actors. Phoenix is astounding in both roles, but especially so as Leonard in “Two Lovers.” Paltrow delivers a great performance, as does the always-fantastic Isabella Rossellini, as Leonard’s mother.

Gray’s films focus on the conflicts that arise between individuals and their families. These conflicts arise because the protagonist has desires or aspirations that are divergent from those of his family. Bobby Green just wants to manage some clubs with his girlfriend, but his family wants him to join the fight against a rising crime syndicate in New York. Leonard wants to run away with Michelle, but his family wants him to settle down with Sandra and run the family business. The draw of the outside world functions as an obstacle for both Leonard and Bobby. Gray conveys this visually by flushing the interior of our protagonists’ homes with an uncomfortable golden light. Leonard’s family apartment is like a jail composed entirely of hallways and picture frames. Leonard and Bobby’s dreams are delusions. There’s really no way they could turn out as planned.

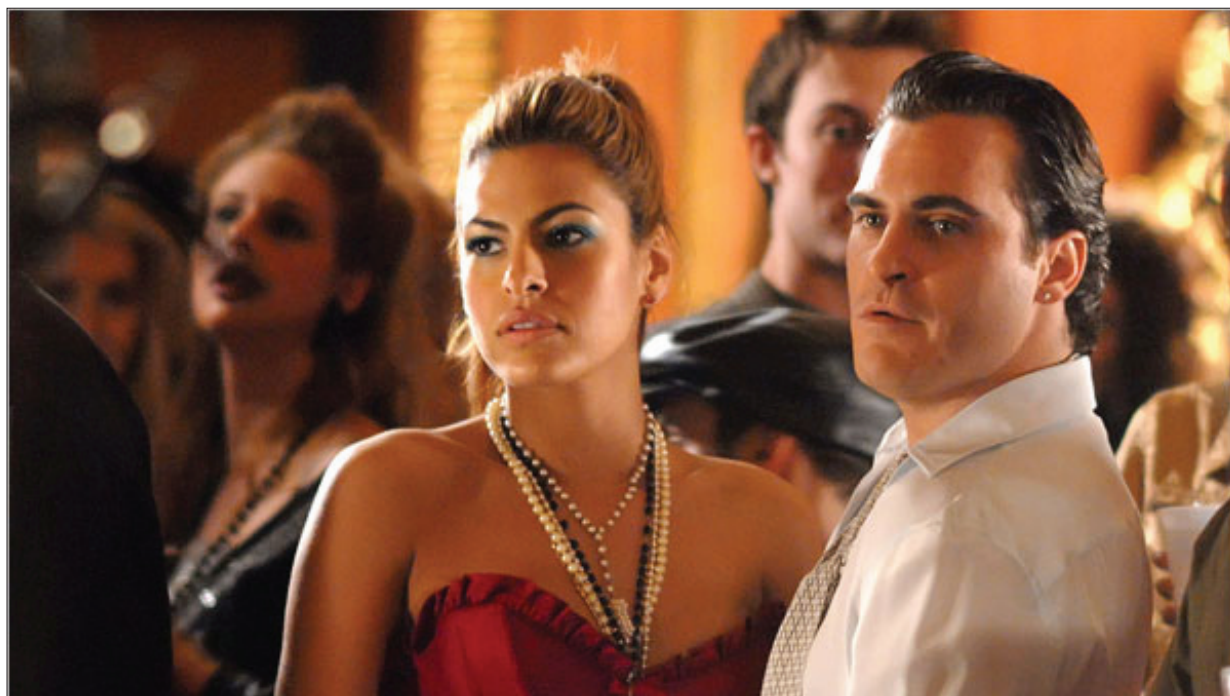
This refusal by Gray to glorify either of our protagonists’ choices leads to some incredibly

awkward, yet sincere, moments. It also raises some difficult questions. If Leonard settles for Sandra instead of Michelle, is this a good thing? Do we want him to live out his ill-fated dreams with Michelle instead? What of Sandra then? Is it not unfair that she be treated as an alternative in case things don’t work out with Michelle? Or are things more complicated and less binary than they seem? Is it possible that redemption can lay in resignation?

James Gray carries this idea of sincerity over to the film’s dialogue. Unlike most films, which have hyper-stylized writing — from the high quip ratio of Quentin Tarantino’s scripts to the every-word-is-profound dialogue of Paul Thomas Anderson’s scripts — the dialogue in Gray’s films is decidedly mundane. His characters sometimes say to each other for the sake of saying something to each other. They make bad jokes or inane statements to help pass the time while eating dinner or during long cab rides. Gray uses his actor’s facial expressions to convey many of the emotions that others might convey with words.

Let us also not forget that James Gray can shoot one heck of an action sequence. “We Own the Night” features a chase scene in the rain that equals anything in “Drive.” Shot almost entirely from Joaquin Phoenix’s perspective, we are forced to stand by as helplessly as Phoenix’s character while Russian gangsters attempt to murder him and his father. The chase is shot in a beautiful blue tint that makes everything look like a shade of grey or black. As moments of violence enter the picture, the film’s palette is continually muted and Phoenix’s character transforms from charming and charismatic to troubled and brooding.

“We Own the Night” is available on DVD. “Two Lovers” is available on DVD and for instant streaming on Netflix.



Eva Mendes and Joaquin Phoenix combine for the one of the 21st century’s sexiest opening scenes in “We Own the Night.”