



# THE COMMENTATOR

Vol. XLI, No. 5

The Student Newspaper of the New York University School of Law

November 29, 2007

## Victory for Law Students on Loan Repayment

By MARC BARANOV

In late September, aspiring public interest lawyers nationwide scored a major victory in the battle against ever-increasing student loan debt. After years of negotiations and debate on loan repayment assistance programs, Congress passed, and President George W. Bush signed, the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 (CCRAA). In part, the CCRAA allows recent law school graduates who work in “public service” to pay off their qualified federal loans at a reduced rate and have the balance of these loans completely forgiven after 120 monthly payments, or ten years.

“This is a decisive victory for law students,” said Daniel Suvor, Chair of the American Bar Association (ABA) Law Student Division. “Over the past several years, law student leaders aggressively lobbied for this change, prompting law students nationally to write thousands of letters and hold hundreds of meetings with their Senators and members of Congress.”

According to the ABA, 87% of law students borrow money to attend law school. The average law student graduates with \$83,181 in total educational debt from a private law school, and \$54,509 from a public law school. Additionally, according to the National Association of Law Placement, the median gross starting salary at a non-profit public service organization is approximately \$40,000.

“With standard loan repayment schedules, some young lawyers were being forced to opt out of public interest work to stay above the poverty line,” said American Association of Law Schools Executive Director Carl

Monk. “This law will allow public interest entities to compete with the big firms and successfully lure the best and brightest into their ranks.”

The new law offers substantial loan forgiveness for “public service” attorneys that make ten years of payments towards their qualifying federal student loans. After the ten-year period, “public service” attorneys will be eligible for total forgiveness of their remaining federal loans, regardless of the remaining balance owed. It is also noteworthy that the ten years of “public service” do not have to be consecutive.

Per the current language of the CCRAA, “public service” includes all full-time employment by government agencies and 501(c)(3) organizations (among other categories). Over the next year, the Department of Education will issue regulations that determine how broadly (or narrowly) this term will be interpreted. The new law also allows borrowers to enter into a reduced payment program that ties monthly payments to an affordable percentage of monthly income, which could potentially reduce monthly payments by as much as two-thirds.

As written, though, the CCRAA has potential pitfalls with regard to tax payments and marriage disincentives. Specifically, forgiveness at year ten might be construed as taxable income under the law, and the Department of Education might add both spouses’ incomes together to determine how much the borrower must pay, conceivably tripling or even quadrupling the borrower’s monthly repayment. Congress is currently in discussions over these very issues.



The Writers’ Guild of America (WGA), which has been on strike since November 5, 2007, held a rally in Washington Square Park on Tuesday, November 27. The rally drew several hundred supporters, though the union was hoping to bring out over a thousand. It did, however, give some famous names a chance to weigh in on the polarizing strike: Danny Glover, Gilbert Gottfried, and John Edwards were a few of the faces that took the microphone and voiced their support for the WGA’s cause.

## Library Memo Downplayed Seriousness of Masturbation Incident, Says Victim

By COMMENTATOR STAFF

Did you know that a few weeks ago, a female law student caught an unidentified male staring at her and masturbating in the isolated basement of the New York University School of Law library? Do you remember receiving a “Community Safety Memo” telling you about the incident in your email on November 7, 2007?

It’s not surprising if you don’t. Sadly, this “Community Safety Memo,” which vaguely referenced the masturbation incident in only one sentence, has been NYU’s only comment to the student body on the incident.

On the evening of October 23, 2007, a female student, who wishes to remain anonymous for security purposes, had been studying at a carrel in the level immediately below the first floor of the library for several hours when she noticed a man sit down on the floor a few feet away from her. Though he seemed to be watching her, she felt secure enough in the familiar law school library to attribute it to general bizarreness.

A few hours later, she began to hear an audible rubbing noise. It didn’t register at first, but after a few minutes, she turned around. The man had taken his

penis out of his shorts and was masturbating while staring at her. He jumped away when she turned around.

Startled, the student packed up her belongings and ran to the security desk in the lobby of Vanderbilt Hall.

The man was approximately six feet tall, with a large, athletic frame. He was Caucasian and had short-cropped black hair and a ruddy complexion. At the time of the incident, he was wearing a black t-shirt, khaki shorts, and white sneakers. He appeared to be approximately 40 years old, but could have been anywhere between ages 35 and 45. It is unknown whether he is affiliated with the university.

A similar incident was reported several hours later on the same night in the Kimmel Center, the center for undergraduate life. The description of the male in the Kimmel Center incident varied as to his clothing, but fit a similar physical description.

The female student set two goals after the incident: “First, I wanted to make sure that the student body was notified. I wanted women in the law school to know that if someone makes them feel uncomfortable, they should not ignore that feeling – they should leave. Having spent countless

hours in the law school library, I had a false sense of security. I wanted students to know that they may not be as safe as they think they are. Second, I wanted to make sure that the guy who did this was identified and appropriately sanctioned. He should not be allowed access to a university environment in which he can continue to harass women.”

Neither of her goals has been met.

In the days following the incident, she sent emails to the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) requesting that the student body be notified. She even offered them help drafting the memo. Many emails and more than two weeks later, the ambiguously worded memo finally went out to the student body. The memo, an attachment to a law-school-wide email entitled “VD Safety Memo,” summed up the masturbation incident in one sentence: “On October 23, 2007, a white male who appears to be in his 40s, was observed in the Law Library exhibiting himself indecently and engaging in inappropriate behavior.” The memo continued with “general safety tips recommended by the Department of Public Safety,” which included

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### Infra

Complaining about Registration: Everyone else is doing it, and now so are we. page 3

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## INTRUDER: Incidents of Exposure Occur Across Washington Square Campus

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advice to students to plan their walking route in advance and protect their pocketbooks.

The student who witnessed the incident reacted to the memo, saying: "What does protecting your pocketbook have to do with a sex crime? The notice diminished the seriousness of what occurred by including non-sequiturs and irrelevant information. The tone leaves readers amused rather than alarmed. The fact that I had to fight so hard to get the administration to send out even a vaguely written notice about a student security issue speaks very poorly about how the institution handled the incident."

The student also noted that NYU's peer universities in New York send out a sketch and a full page description of the incident to the entire student body for even minor crimes.

The student responded to OSA's email by pointing out that

"[n]either the sexual nature of the crime nor the proximity of the incident to me... are conveyed by this language. As such, it's hard to imagine the response from the NYU community being commensurate with the severity of the incident."

While NYU security has been investigating the case, watching security footage from that day and isolating an image of the perpetrator, he has still not been identified. They have reportedly notified security departments of other universities in New York City, including the law schools whose students, faculty and staff have access to the NYU Law library.

The student attempted to address the incident through the appropriate institutional channels, concerned about academic repercussions, but eventually agreed to speak with *The Commentator* to tell the students the truth behind the comically vague "Community Safety Notice" of November 7.

## THE COMMENTATOR

*The Student Newspaper of  
New York University School of Law*

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## Registration's Broke, But Are We Fixing It?

By ANDREW GEHRING '09

The law school seems to have a particular affinity for economic reasoning. Nearly every class offered addresses law and economics at some point, if they don't make that approach the focal point for every discussion. Given the prevalence of that mode of thinking in the classroom, you might think it would have influenced aspects of the school's administration, too. And maybe it has, but it certainly hasn't infiltrated everywhere it should have.

Allow me to be obtuse for another paragraph or so and not yet get to the elements of the running of the school I just insinuated were inadequate. There are two features of markets I want to (superficially) highlight before moving on. First, we should note that, in the absence of outside constraints or particular marketing ploys, supply rises to meet demand until an equilibrium is reached. Second, market allocation – again, in the absence of external limitations – is efficient. Products will go to those who value them most highly.

Now let's look at the law school's class registration system and how it doesn't have those same features. Initially, I'd point to the sometimes woefully inadequate number of sections of popular classes. The current 2Ls noticed it last year when the 1L sections of Property and Constitutional Law filled up before much

of the class had the opportunity to register for them. That particular issue has been at least partially remedied by adding a second section of Property this year, but students are still confronting the same problem with other classes that are perpetually popular. For instance, next semester's Evidence is full, and I entertain no realistic hopes of being able to find my way into it.

Those in charge of class availability likely justify the shortages with two facets of the registration system. Occasionally there are similar classes to the popular ones, which I'll call "weak substitutes," like the combination Evidence/Professional Responsibility class. These classes are rarely at capacity. But that's because they're *weak* substitutes. They're lesser classes. No one wants to take them, not because there isn't that much interest in taking Evidence, but because there isn't that much interest in taking the combination of the two classes. These classes can't do the job of satisfying those of us that were unable to get into the actual class we wanted.

The other potential aspect of the registration system that can be used to justify the lack of class sections is the fact that I'll get another chance at taking the class in my third year. And I'll probably get in, since 3Ls get first pick of classes. Problem solved. Except, this rationale ignores that fact that demand for a

class might be temporally limited, or at least have a temporal aspect. Maybe I want to take a class in the first semester of my 2L year in order to figure out if I'd like to do that kind of work long-term, which would influence my choice of where to work the summer after my 2L year. Or maybe I want to take the class to be better prepared for the job I know I'm going to be doing this next summer. Getting into that class my 3L year just won't cut it. The solution? Add more sections to classes that are always over-registered.

(I realize there are probably practical constraints on adding more sections, too, like cost and availability of professors. I'll leave discussion of those issues to the people in charge, though.)

The second failure of the registration system is the limitation on class trading. While it can occur with a little bit of trust and good timing, the school disapproves and certainly doesn't facilitate it. If we're going for efficiency in allocating classes to those who desire them most – which I suppose to be the purpose of the ranking system for selecting classes, instead of, say, random assignment – we should remove the restraints on the market. Above and beyond that, the school should foster class trading. The rankings might be fine for an initial allocation, but as students learn more about classes – both those they're registered for and those they aren't

– preferences change, and there should be a good system in place for redistribution at that point. The law school has no interest in having two people taking classes they aren't that interested in, when a simple trade could result in both being far more engaged.

The problems with the registration system aren't fatal; it's worked well enough for at least a

few years. But as registration comes upon us once again – and with a revamped registration system coming down the pipes sometime in the near future – it's worth thinking about whether these relatively fundamental components of the current system are worth changing. I, for one, think they are. And I'm not even that big a subscriber to the law and economics way of thinking.

### Letter to the Editors: Military as Worthy of Support as Red Cross

TO THE EDITORS:

In support of Gavin Kovite's view ("DADT Change Requires Action from Within the Ranks," October 11, 2007), the American and International Red Cross discriminate: blood donations are not accepted from homosexual men (regardless of test results). Yet we allow and encourage the Red Cross to use NYU as a blood donation center as often as possible. We shouldn't discourage our students from giving blood, nor from serving in the military.

BARBARA BOVA, PH.D.

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## Deans and SBA Still at Impasse Over Fall Ball Drink Tickets

### Possible Resolution by Spring Fling

By TAREK KHANACHET '08

It is finally approaching the end of the semester, and I am sure everyone is beginning to feel the push towards exams. It has been a good fall, and I sincerely hope that everyone enjoyed their classes and had a good time.

This has been a relatively quiet semester for the SBA, although I feel that the SBA board has effectively represented the student body on the issues it cares about most, even if we don't always get what we would like from the administration.

The SBA worked very hard this fall to remedy the Fall Ball situation and raise the number of drink tickets and the hours of operation. We met several times with all of the Deans, and in the end could not reach a suitable solution. However, since this year's Fall Ball passed without incident, we are working with the Deans again to see if there is some room to make Spring Fling a better event with an increase in drink tickets. I will keep you posted

as things develop.

In other student life issues, the SBA worked with the Dean's Selection Committee over the summer and early fall to select a new Dean for Student Affairs. After much work, Pascale Walker – former associate director of PILC – will be joining NYU Law again in January. We are looking forward to her arrival, and to having the office of student affairs back in full working order.

This fall, the SBA also advocated extending the period for students using Macs to register for exams, and for the Wachtell and Golding cafes to lower sandwich prices and increase the number of their staff. Both of these issues have begun to be resolved, and we remain in contact with the administration on them.

Good luck on your last few weeks of classes and exam period. Keep your eyes peeled for announcements for the end-of-the-semester party, which will happen on the evening of the last day of finals. It is always a good time.



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## A Dosa of the Good Life:

### The True Story of How One Man's Vegetables Made Me Say "Uncle"

BY JULIAN DAYAL '08

I've always been morally opposed to vegetables. I didn't talk to my mom for a year after she went vegetarian. I had plenty to say, however, about vegetarianism's ugly step-cousin veganism. Veganism, to me, was the Original Sin. If only that apple had been a sirloin, preached I, the human race would never have had to endure such calamities as war, genocide and Jude Law (and Sienna Miller and I would be making out right now).

But I was wrong. Vegetables can be good. In fact, they can be great. This is a story about good, or great, food and the man behind it. His name is Thiru Kumar.

Let's back up a minute. For the unacquainted, and especially those 1Ls who are too busy waxing poetic about *res judicata* to fully notice their surroundings, I'm talking about the food cart that sits opposite Vanderbilt Hall on Washington Square South Monday through Friday (and some Saturdays). If you still can't picture it, it's the cart with the big line at lunchtime – the one where more than a few tofu-loving law students can always be found (though they can't get tofu there). For two and a half years I've been hearing about how great this cart is. Now, I'm something of a cart aficionado myself (the chicken sandwich at the cart in front of Stern is da bomb, despite being in front of Stern...) but the way people have always demanded I try this particular cart – "Oh you just have to. It's magnif!" – smelled of a putrid mix of Waco-style cultism and cocktail snobbery more often associated with Central Park South. Plus, plastered on the side of this cart in big, bold letters is the word "Vegan."

I'm intimidated by all non-proper nouns that start with the letter "v." Most notably... "vam-

pires." Nevertheless, I decided to go outside of my comfort zone and give this a shot (thanks Joel Osteen!). Could green food actually be good? I was skeptical. Still, I was determined to write an article before I graduated for which I could honestly say no animals were harmed, so I had to give this a shot. *The Commentator* also requested that I write an article that left the principles of good journalism unscathed. No dice.

A purpose-driven life wasn't built in a day, though my dosa was ready in five minutes flat.

Ordering it was a little awkward. I strode up to the cart with all the new age confidence cum hipster irreverence I could muster. But not even the borrowed yoga mat carrying case I swung over my shoulder could hide my discomfort/disdain. "What can I get you?" an all-too-cheery Kumar asked me. I desperately scanned the menu on the side of the cart for something I recognized, or at least, something I could pronounce. Nothing. Before my ignorance could reveal itself, however, Kumar's cell rang. "My man, how are you?" I was only privy to half of the conversation, but I was savvy enough to understand the caller was placing an order for a "masala dosa," to be picked up in 15 minutes. What the hell was going on? A cart that does phone orders – this I had never seen. Cultish suspicions confirmed, I deftly ordered myself a "masala dosa" and retreated to the side of the growing line.

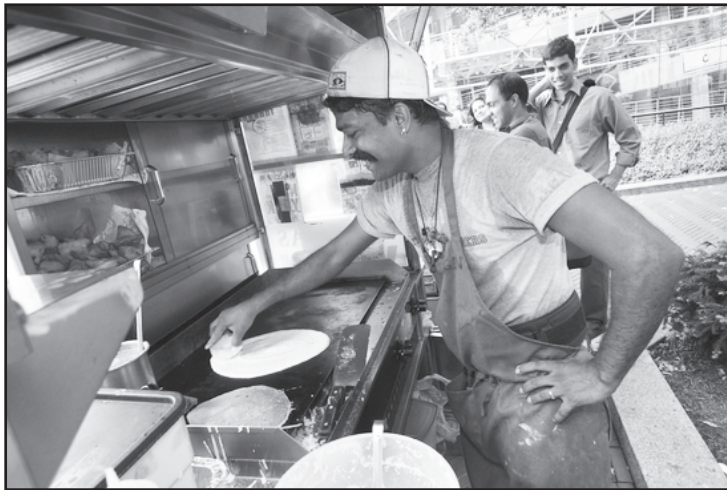
Kumar continued to field orders from his phone and his in-person customers, many of whom

he knew by name, all the while paying careful but effortless attention to the array of colorful things cooking on his grill. Once cooked to his satisfaction, by all accounts a very high bar, there was some slicing and some dicing and then – bam! – a once-bland styrofoam plate was now full of, admittedly, some very inviting food.

I added a little hot sauce for good measure and took my masala

fear of change, the insidiousness of untested assumptions? No. I had never wanted to write such trivial nonsense. But the story of Thiru Kumar and his dosas – that was something I could get behind.

Thiru "Dosa Man" Kumar is Kumar's full name, at least as far as the legions of his loyal customers are concerned. Born and raised in Sri Lanka, the 38-year-old Kumar immigrated to the US in 1995 after



winning the jackpot in the "greencard lottery." "I'm just glad I'm not from Iraq," Kumar probably would have said if asked, in reference to the overwhelming difficulty Iraqis are having today at guessing the winning numbers in the greencard lottery.

Three days after arriving in the country, Kumar became a construction worker. He followed that up with stints as a mechanic and as a cook at a South Indian restaurant. Restaurant life taught him a few things. One: He craved the great outdoors where he could interact with his customers and where they could see for themselves how their food was being cooked. Two: People loved his dosas. Three: He could make the dosas a helluva lot better if he could work off of his own recipes. The rest, as they say, is history.

In 2000, Kumar was granted full citizenship. In 2001, he was granted a street vendor's license. In 2005 and 2006 he finished second out of 10,000 competitors in the annual Vandy Street Vendor Awards for the best cart food in the city. This year, he won the whole damn thing. He clinched the title with his

dosa to one place where I could be sure no one would negatively judge my fastidiously cultivated modern-day-Hemingway-hero-manhood for having gone vegan: the chessboard tables of Washington Square Park. I have a career record of 0 wins and many losses, and no one there thinks I have any manhood at all. Move One: P-QB4, otherwise known as the "Sicilian Defense" (especially appropriate for a stallion like myself, I've always felt). Bite One: Hmm? Bite Two: Mmm. Bite Three: Oh yes!

I lost in about 17 moves and finished my dosa in roughly half that many bites. It was so unexpectedly good that I knew I had found my story. Was this the opportunity to write that searching introspective piece I had always wanted to write about the difficulty of confronting difference, the

Pondicherry Dosa, a light dosa (which is kind of like a crepe – perhaps I should have mentioned that earlier) stuffed with raw vegetables and curried potato masala. Since first trying it, this Sicilian Stallion (i.e. me) has occasionally chosen it over pepperoni and sausage pizza to satisfy those lunchtime hunger pangs. Uncle!

The postscript. I never thought I'd get excited about vegetables. But it's happening. Does this make me a convert? Does this mean I will never again eat meat cooked from an animal I killed with my bare hands? No, and emphatically no. But Thiru Kumar makes a mean dosa. And so long as he continues to make the commute from Flushing, Queens, where he lives with his wife and daughter, to Washington Square South; so long as I continue to live in the Village, where – Kumar correctly recognized – so many weird people live that the neighborhood would naturally welcome the world's first and only 100% vegan street cart; so long as cholesterol, the bad kind, is not your friend; so long as these things are true, and perhaps even if they someday aren't, I will continue to venture across the street to eat some damn tasty food cooked by one of the most affable and good-natured guys you'll ever meet. I recommend you do the same.

All of that said, I will continue my strict policy of never, NEVER, allowing even a waft of tofu to enter my nostrils. Tofu, rantings and ravings of new age hippies aside, does NOT taste like whatever you cook it with. It tastes like crap under all circumstances. Kind of like Jude Law.

Which reminds me: Sienna – how 'bout we get together and do something you never could with Jude: enjoy a dosa of the good life?

## Year in Review: The Unlikely Pop Stars of 2007

BY RAHUL SHARMA '10

**Britney Spears** – Britney bet everything in Vegas and lost. Her unnatural disaster at the MTV Video Music Awards was all the more unfortunate because the single she was promoting, "Gimme More," is actually very good. But it was the musical event of the year anyway – the performance your parents were as likely to know about as your inscrutable tween cousin. The reason for that, of course, isn't viral video or celebrity gossip blogs, but what in this day and age might be dubbed "old media": late night talk show monologues.

**Journey** – It was the perfect choice for Tony Soprano to put on the jukebox as it all came to an end. He occasionally liked to see himself as average, especially when he felt beleaguered by his status – remember his rant about all the happy wanderers in the world? "Don't Stop Believing"

allowed him to be one of them ("Just a city boy / Born and raised in south Detroit / He took the midnight train going anywhere"). Dr. Melfi was right: there was no cure for Tony's delusions. Still, everyone deserves the boundless optimism of a Journey song now and then, even mobsters.

**Barack Obama** – No question: if the election is to be decided by a battle of the bands, Barack Obama wins. Who needs a plurality when there's a reggaeton song about you? (Go to [amigosdeobama.com](http://amigosdeobama.com) if you're curious.) And then there's his secret weapon: the inimitable Obama Girl. She's at her best when defending her man, which might be why "Obama Girl vs. Giuliani Girl" (on YouTube) is such a classic. Is it the dance-off? The pillow fight? The heart-breaking cameo by Kucinich Girl?

There are some decisions you shouldn't have to make.

**Flight of the Conchords** – Anyone can be on TV, even the "fourth most popular folk duo in New Zealand." The awkward silences



in the HBO series only made it more exciting when Bret and Jermaine broke into song. One minute they're eating cereal, the next lamenting the life of an unemployed hipster ("No one cares, no one

sympathizes / You just stay home and play synthesizers"). No wonder the novelty music paparazzi were all over them.

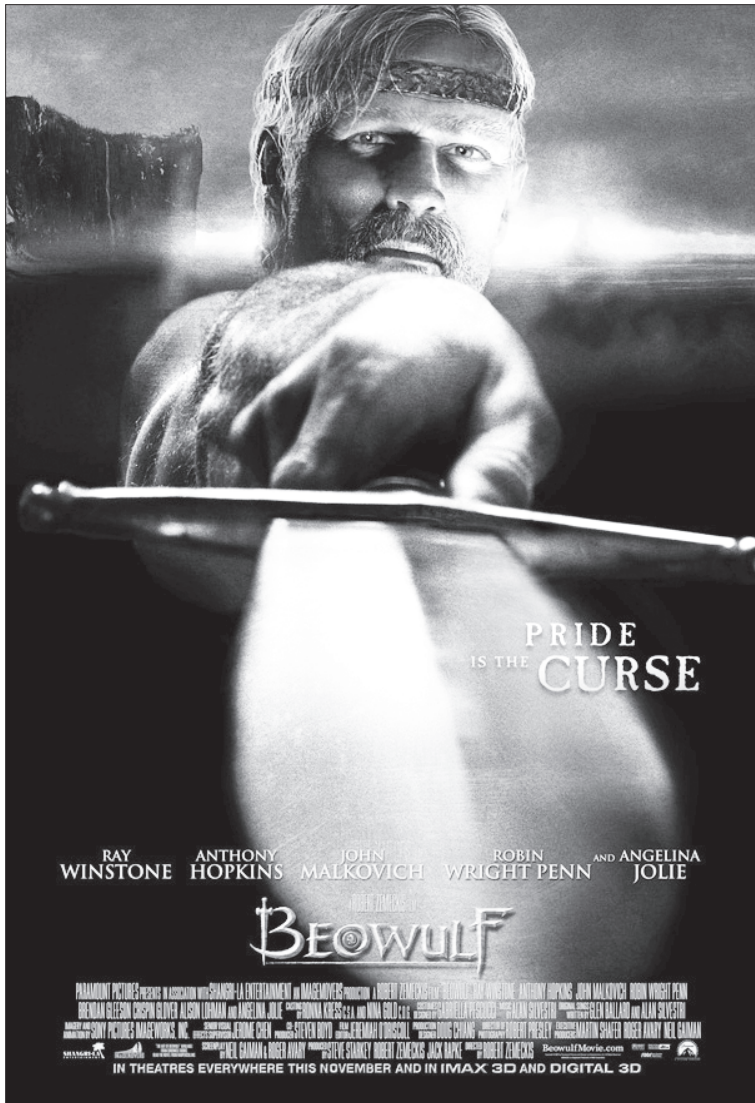
**Tracy Jordan** – Still, a lot of people wouldn't trade 18 seconds of "Werewolf Bar-Mitzvah" for a whole season of *Conchords*. NBC did the smart thing and pulled the video from YouTube, even though it was better publicity for *30 Rock* among young males (the target advertising demographic) than the show winning an Emmy.

**Soulja Boy** – Did anyone expect that one of the most amazing things on YouTube would be an instructional video? It's hypnotic to watch Soulja Boy and his, um, crew show everyone how to dance to "Crank That (Superman)." The poet David Berman once said that something about line dancing was "so democratic

and cool," and he had a point: no more feeling inadequate 'cos of your two left feet, just follow the leader. Soulja Boy went him one better – we're not just equals, we're superheroes.

**Paul Potts** – He recently quit his job as manager at Carphone Warehouse. His first opera performance was at a karaoke bar in 1999. And his teeth are... well, let's just say he isn't doing anything to counter British stereotypes. Is it any wonder this guy is a star? Well, yes. Paul Potts's performance of "Nessun Dorma" on *Britain's Got Talent* didn't have to be the rags-to-riches story that TV producers dream of: it could easily have been a humiliating joke (which those same producers also dream of). Instead, it was a triumph, one that made him into an international star. And when opera enthusiasts griped about how he wasn't the real thing, didn't they realize it made him only more loveable?

## Beowulf: Action Comics Meet Maxim Magazine



If a fan of the action genre:  
**(5) A must-see**

Ratings guide: (5) A must-see. (4) Worth the admission. (3) Netflix it. (2) Wait for TV, if at all. (1) I wanted to walk out.



in incredible detail. The movie is Computer Generation, as was Gollum in *The Lord of the Rings*, not animation. Just as *300* was to *Gladiator*, *Beowulf* is to *The Lord of the Rings*, insofar as the emotional anchors of the story are held back in exchange for a faster arrival at wonderfully gory action scenes. Very early on in the movie, you get the pleasure of seeing bodies torn in half and a monster at the perfect nexus between wretched and human where you can't wait to see the hero brutally slay him, but know you'll feel guilty right after.

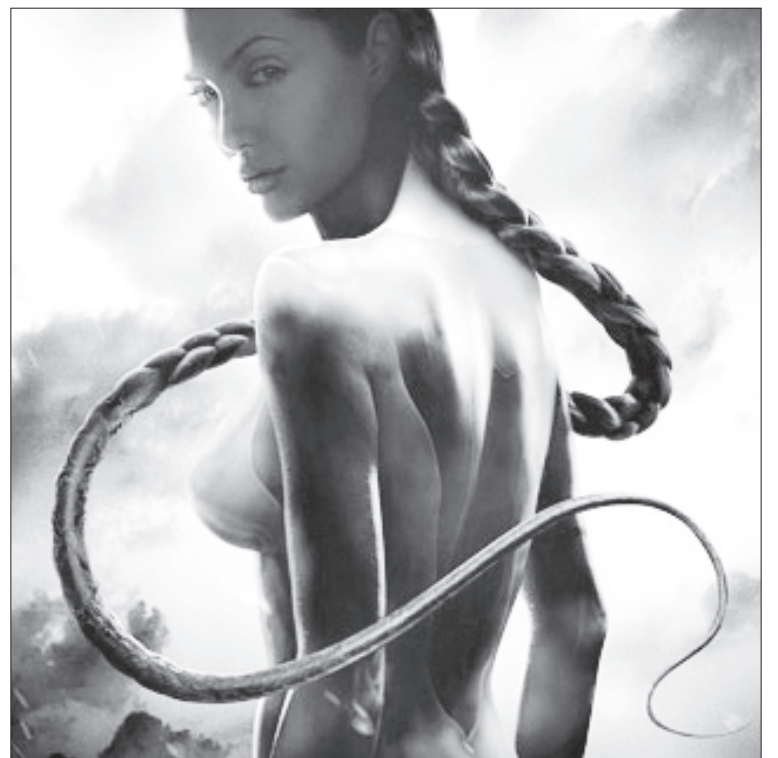
Preparing to meet his enemy of immense proportions, Beowulf (played by Ray Winstone) de-robes to face Grendel (Crispin Glover) with no sword, no shield, no armor and no clothes. Here, Zemeckis provides for a few minutes' comic relief in what Roger Ebert appropriately called "AustinPowersism," or the use of people, furniture and just about anything possible to cover up Beowulf's private parts. For those unfamiliar with the poem, Grendel cannot be killed by sword or spear, so there is a reason Beowulf eschews his weapon. He proclaims that he tosses his armor and clothes aside so that he and Grendel will fight as equals, but also, if you ask me, so that Zemeckis can play the *Austin Powers* game.

The fight scene between the title character and Grendel, the famed monster, was fantastic. Beowulf engages in acrobatics, fierce hand-to-hand combat and has a war cry – "I am Beowulf!" – reminiscent of *300*'s "This is Sparta!" The confrontation has all the key elements of a mid-movie fight scene: gratifying defeat of a villain, casualties on the hero's side but not to the hero himself, his body remaining as unscathed as his

courage. Beowulf quickly learns that Grendel is not the last of his problems, and here the movie makes a sharp departure from the original epic poem.

Grendel's mother, a swamp hag in the poem, is played by the computer-generated version of a nude Angelina Jolie. The effect of turning the poem's disgusting

Beowulf's manhood, the movie was full of blatant dirty jokes. For example, when one of Beowulf's soldiers tries to woo (to put it nicely) a townswoman, she protests, saying that Grendel could come at any point and "you won't hear him when he comes." I think you can guess the tenor of the response from the soldier. Other



character into the movie's image of beauty was to humanize the selfless, courageous hero, turning him into a man fraught by temptations of greed and lust. (Oh yeah, plus upping tickets sales from those willing to pay \$10 for a computer-generated version of a naked Jolie.) Both Beowulf and King Hrothgar (Sir Anthony Hopkins), the Danish king at the time Beowulf arrives, fall prey to temptation by Jolie's character. She appears to them covered in nothing but liquid gold that almost completely drips off, clinging only to a few key spots, keeping the movie in PG-13 territory. This reinterpretation of Grendel's mother comments on the problem of man's fallibility, the kingdom's problems being spawned by man's infidelities.

Besides the laughs from seeing a helmet and other items placed just right to cover

comedic relief came from the King's high advisor, Unferth (John Malkovich), whose sarcastic insults to Beowulf incite the hero's first revelation of his imperfection, when he responds by insulting Unferth and embellishing tales of his own heroics.

The movie's biggest weakness was in its final moments, when it fell prey to the Sequel Sales Syndrome that has plagued our cinematic era. It seems nowadays that every movie has to leave open the possibility of a sequel in case the first movie sells well. Jolie's character had tempted the king and Beowulf, resulting in plagues to their respective kingdoms. Okay, I can accept a young hero in his prime finding an incredibly beautiful and powerful demon and giving into temptation in his ignorance of her malevolence. At the end, though, the same demon continues tempting men that know of her power and the inevitable outcome of being with her, just in order to leave the door to a sequel open. While the quality of the computer animation was stunning at points, it did look waxy other times, but if you're in the mood for a few great action scenes and a surprising amount of comedic moments, catch *Beowulf* before it leaves the theaters.

By STEPHEN ILG '10

Did you ever watch Disney's *The Lion King* to try to see those dirty words written in the sand, or *The Little Mermaid* to find that inappropriate wedding moment? I'd bet Robert Zemeckis did, because he infused *Beowulf* with so much sexual innuendo you'd miss half of it if it wasn't so blatant. At last, young males with drawers full of action comics and *Maxim* magazines can have it all in one. *Beowulf* is the movie-version of the old English epic poem of the same name, circa 700 AD. As you might expect from a movie adaptation, a few significant plot points diverge from the original, including a sexual injection by beautifying the most evil character in the story. Thankfully, one of those departures was

the language – so you won't miss any of the action while updating Olde English in your head (a read of the original will remind you that 20th and 8th century English differ in much more than prevalence of "thee" and "thou").



*Beowulf* is the second production by Robert Zemeckis which uses Performance Capture Technology. (*Polar Express* was the first.) As the name suggests, Performance Capture Technology uses sensors placed on actors' bodies to record their movements

and has a war cry – "I am Beowulf!" – reminiscent of *300*'s "This is Sparta!" The confrontation has all the key elements of a mid-movie fight scene: gratifying defeat of a villain, casualties on the hero's side but not to the hero himself, his body remaining as unscathed as his







*The 2008 SLAP season brought together 24 light-contact and seven full-contact teams. Despite some cancellations due to field reservation foul-ups, over 300 law students participated this season – competing in more than 150 games played through rain and darkness.*



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## Tortfeasors Fight Through The Pain to Win SLAP's 2008 Light-Contact Championship

By Christopher Filburn '09

The Student-Lawyer Athletic Program (SLAP) concluded its fall flag-football season on November 16. The eight-week season concluded with a twelve-team playoff in the light-contact division, capped with a victory by Todres' Tortfeasors, a 2L team which had fallen just short in the finals the previous year. A week earlier TMT, a mixed 2L/3L team, had captured the full-contact title in a four-team playoff.

The Tortfeasors' win came at the end of an impressive run, winning four consecutive games in one afternoon. The Tortfeasors had come just short of gaining a playoff bye, finishing fifth in the standings at the end of the light-contact regular season. As a result, the team not only had to win their play-in game – getting revenge over 2L rival Appalachian State, which had beaten the Tortfeasors in the regular season – but also had to defeat higher seeds on their way to the final. In the final, the Tortfeasors met The Pain – another 2L team who had played a full three games – and won in close fashion, capturing the light-contact championship by a single score.

By contrast, TMT faced a much shorter road to their victory. Full-contact – which differs from light-contact both in that teams are permitted to physically block on the line and that there is no coed requirement – generally has significantly fewer teams, and thus a

shorter playoff. That aside, each of the full-contact games was extremely close – being decided by a single score in each instance. Ultimately, TMT was able to defeat a pair of 2L teams – Guiding McLovin and OJ's All-Stars – on the road to victory.

Most SLAP teams are formed by lawyering groups in their 1L year. This year, 11 1L teams joined the league, with four of those teams ultimately making the playoffs and one – The Spider Pigs – advancing as far as the semifinals. The flag-football league gives participating students opportunities for exercise, camaraderie, and a chance to vent the competitive fire that all law students seem to possess.

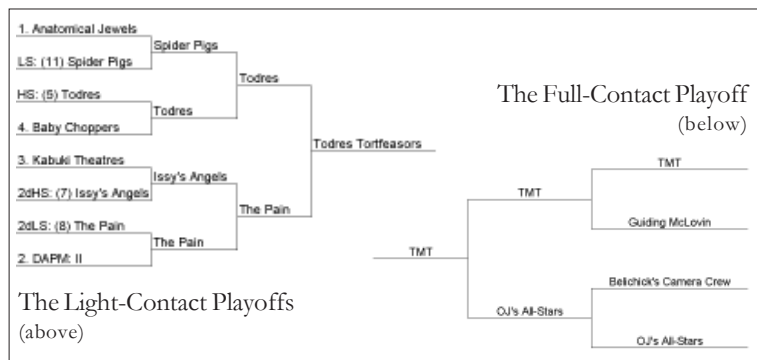
All told, the SLAP season consisted of 24 light-contact and seven full-contact teams, comprised of over 300 law students and resulting in more than 150 games played through rain and darkness. The regular season began on September 21, with teams playing games on Friday afternoons in East River Park.

In the spring, the SLAP board – which consists of six students – will sponsor a number of competitive softball teams that will attend a regional law school tournament in Virginia. In addition, the SLAP board will be looking into forming an interschool softball league with other New York City law schools. The board – with a few new members – will also begin looking to continue its flag-football tradition, preparing for the new season that will begin next September.



Todres' Tortfeasors put the hurt on The Pain November 16 to become SLAP's 2008 Light-Contact Champions. TMT (not pictured) captured the full-contact title on November 9.

| Team Name                                    | Wins | Losses | Forfeits | OT Losses | Total Pts | Pt Diff |
|--|------|--------|----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| Anatomical Jewels                            | 6    | 0      | 0        | 0         | 28        | 120     |
| Death Angel Punishment Massacre: The Revenge | 5    | 1      | 0        | 0         | 25        | 90      |
| Kabuki Theatre                               | 5    | 1      | 0        | 0         | 25        | 90      |
| Baby Choppers                                | 5    | 1      | 0        | 0         | 25        | 50.3    |
| Todres' Tortfeasors                          | 4    | 2      | 0        | 1         | 21        | 134     |
| Excessive Force                              | 4    | 2      | 0        | 1         | 21        | -13.3   |
| Issy's Angels                                | 4    | 2      | 0        | 0         | 20        | 104     |
| The Pain                                     | 5    | 1      | 1        | 0         | 20        | 82      |
| Pierson v. Post Route                        | 4    | 2      | 0        | 0         | 20        | 25      |
| Unestoppable                                 | 3    | 3      | 0        | 1         | 16        | 35      |
| The Spider Pigs                              | 3    | 3      | 0        | 1         | 16        | -5      |
| Appalachain St                               | 3    | 3      | 0        | 0         | 15        | 107     |
| Law-Talking Guys                             | 3    | 3      | 0        | 0         | 15        | 44      |
| Brady Quinn Medicine Woman                   | 3    | 3      | 0        | 0         | 15        | 30      |
| Flags of Furry                               | 3    | 3      | 0        | 0         | 15        | -36     |
| Daddy's Dearests                             | 3    | 3      | 0        | 0         | 15        | -55     |
| Stiff-arm Statute                            | 2    | 4      | 0        | 1         | 11        | -61     |
| Dunder-Mifflin                               | 2    | 4      | 0        | 0         | 10        | 32      |
| Blown Coverage                               | 2    | 4      | 0        | 0         | 10        | -77     |
| Contextual Dynamos                           | 2    | 4      | 0        | 0         | 10        | -98     |
| Team Wolf                                    | 2    | 4      | 0        | 0         | 10        | -127    |
| Dancing Pandas                               | 1    | 5      | 0        | 0         | 5         | -119    |
| Bad Newz Kennels                             | 1    | 5      | 2        | 0         | -5        | -132.3  |
| Ginsberg's Ninjas                            | 0    | 6      | 1        | 0         | -5        | -230.4  |



Color Me Crossword  
puzzle solutions:  
(See puzzle on page 6.)

Color Me Crossword puzzle solutions:

Across: 1. RASPBERRY, 2. BLUE, 3. BOOK, 4. GRASS, 5. CHERRY, 6. SKY, 7. FLOOD, 8. CHIPS, 9. BIRDS, 10. PRINCE, 11. CORN, 12. JEWELRY, 13. MORNINGS, 14. WHALE, 15. EYES, 16. RIBBON, 17. BIRDS, 18. BIRDS, 19. BIRDS, 20. BIRDS, 21. BIRDS, 22. BIRDS, 23. BIRDS, 24. BIRDS, 25. BIRDS, 26. BIRDS, 27. BIRDS, 28. BIRDS, 29. BIRDS, 30. BIRDS, 31. BIRDS, 32. BIRDS, 33. BIRDS, 34. BIRDS, 35. BIRDS, 36. BIRDS, 37. BIRDS, 38. BIRDS, 39. BIRDS, 40. BIRDS, 41. BIRDS, 42. BIRDS, 43. BIRDS, 44. BIRDS, 45. BIRDS, 46. BIRDS, 47. BIRDS, 48. BIRDS, 49. BIRDS, 50. BIRDS, 51. BIRDS, 52. BIRDS, 53. BIRDS, 54. BIRDS, 55. BIRDS, 56. BIRDS, 57. BIRDS, 58. BIRDS, 59. BIRDS, 60. BIRDS, 61. BIRDS, 62. BIRDS, 63. BIRDS, 64. BIRDS, 65. BIRDS, 66. BIRDS, 67. BIRDS, 68. BIRDS, 69. BIRDS, 70. BIRDS, 71. BIRDS, 72. BIRDS, 73. BIRDS, 74. BIRDS, 75. BIRDS, 76. BIRDS, 77. BIRDS, 78. BIRDS, 79. BIRDS, 80. BIRDS, 81. BIRDS, 82. BIRDS, 83. BIRDS, 84. BIRDS, 85. BIRDS, 86. BIRDS, 87. BIRDS, 88. BIRDS, 89. BIRDS, 90. BIRDS, 91. BIRDS, 92. BIRDS, 93. BIRDS, 94. BIRDS, 95. BIRDS, 96. BIRDS, 97. BIRDS, 98. BIRDS, 99. BIRDS, 100. BIRDS.