



# the Commentator

The Student Newspaper of the New York University School of Law

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## West Fourth Story Tackles Rankings Tumble



Stavan Desai

*Law Revue's West Fourth Story pitted gunners versus slackers in assigning blame for NYU's slip in rankings, with a little bit of jazz hands, humor, sex, drugs and rock and roll. For more coverage of the Revue, including a review, see page 8.*

## Law School Magazine's First Public Forum Debates Law, Media in WikiLeaks Era

By JOSEPH JEROME '11  
MANAGING EDITOR

Each year *The Law School* magazine presents a roundtable discussion that gathers members of the wider law school community together to discuss a current topic. According to Jeanhee Kim, Managing Editor of *The Law School*, the idea behind the roundtables was, "to showcase the interests and professional strength of our community on major topics." Past years have confronted issues involving global governance, immigration and children's rights behind closed doors, but this year *The Law School* worked with the Forum to present its first public roundtable on the topic of law and accountability in the age of WikiLeaks.

It "made sense" to partner with the Forum, Kim said, even as she worried accommodating a roundtable where the speakers spoke with their backs to the audience was contrary to the usual spirit of the Forum. "I like to have people riff off each other," she said, "and I think it's important for everyone to sit face to face."

"I don't like to make people wait," Kim said. "I like it when everyone just starts talking." In that spirit, introductions were kept to a minimum and the result-

ing Forum gave the assembled audience a boisterous debate on national security and the role of investigative reporting from all angles in Greenberg Lounge on March 23, 2011.

As a snapshot of the greater NYU community, the roundtable featured a diverse mixture of viewpoints from guests including Brian Markley '00, who represented disgraced *New York Times* journalist Judith Miler; and vocal press critic and NYU journalism professor Jay Rosen; young law school faculty like Samuel Rascoff; and senior faculty, such as Norman Dorsen and Burt Neuborne, who cracked wise about fighting for civil liberties alongside President Lincoln. Professors Simon Chesterman, Katherine Strandburg and Diane Zimmerman rounded out the panel, which was moderated by Professor Ira Rubinstein.

Rubinstein began the discussion by asking what the root of the anxiety surrounding Wikileaks derives from.

According to Rascoff, WikiLeaks demonstrates that "we seem to be structurally incapable of keeping secrets ... law doesn't seem up to the task."

Neuborne wondered if part of the problem were not the increasing desire of government for more secrecy. He suggested the impetus behind WikiLeaks was the notion that, "a government that doesn't want to respect my privacy shouldn't have any secrets of its own," and he compared Wikileaks to Gutenberg's printing press in its capacity to disrupt government control of information.

"The press is freaked out by WikiLeaks," Rosen said, calling the entity, "a stateless news organization." He criticized the American press's "distorted, disappointing, and error-strewn" treatment of WikiLeaks, suggesting it was emblematic of a bigger problem. "Sources are voting with their leaks," he said, and he argued that the eagerness of sources to choose WikiLeaks over more established media outlets reflects a problem with the Fourth Estate.

Chesterman refuted the notion that WikiLeaks is anything like the Gutenberg's printing press or that anything WikiLeaks has done is comparable to *The New York Times's* release of the

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We're still mad that *The Commentator* wasn't in this year's Law Revue. page 8



# Still Nitpicking After All These Years: Editor-in-Chief Bids Adieu

By MICHAEL MIX '11  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Why is it so hard to say goodbye?

I've been asking myself that question over the past week as I try to write my last column as the Editor-in-Chief of *The Commentator*. I even wrote about 250 words of a previous draft that I scrapped and then wrote a review of *The Killing* in the interim just to keep myself occupied and delay the inevitable. I was stumped because I had pretty much tapped out all of my good law school-related ideas.

In search for inspiration, I read through my old columns and noticed a number of patterns, as is typical for any writer. As the hook for my final column, I thought that would revisit three of the themes that ran through my articles in order to sum up my experiences at *The Commentator* and NYU Law.

**1) Be Yourself** — In the Sept. 16, 2009 issue, my first as Editor-in-Chief, I wrote: “everyone needs to find out what specifically works for them; your study habits will probably translate to law school. Don’t change things up just because you are ‘supposed’ to do something a certain way.” That message could also have been from an ABC

after-school special but I actually think it is particularly appropriate for law school.

When I think back to my first days as a 1L, I thought that everyone was supposed to brief every case with five different highlighter colors. I thought that everyone outlined for only one class each semester and met with their study group at least weekly (I probably got this notion from the film *The Paper Chase*). I thought that everyone had to use a computer to take notes.

Fortunately, I soon realized that I was wrong. I soon developed my own style in order to better understand the material I was learning in class — I did indeed use a computer, but I only use yellow highlighters and my notes about cases aren’t as comprehensive as formal briefs. Everyone at this law school made it here for a reason, and there is no need to conform to a certain style just because that’s the way law students are supposed to act. I know people who don’t outline, have never been in a study group and don’t even read for class (shhhh, don’t tell the faculty). Therefore, “be yourself” is the best advice I can give any incoming or new law student.

**2) Don’t Mess With Lawyering** — As someone who is

always starving for content to put in *The Commentator*, the column I wrote on Jan. 20, 2010 was the gift that kept on giving. In it, I argued that the Special Committee to Review the Lawyering Program should definitely keep the non-traditional elements of Lawyering, such as client interviews and negotiation. I wrote, “the Special Committee should put on their Harry Chapin eight-track and listen to ‘Flowers are Red.’ Just because Lawyering

utes into class. That way, after the 10-minute break, there is 50 minutes left for the second half. Everybody recharges their batteries right as their attention is waning, and comes back for the second half refreshed and ready to go.” Truer words were never spoken.

Over the next two years, my theory was proven time and time again. I’ve had many professors who have no idea when to take a break; it infuriates me when we

I write over 800 words about when is the best time to take a break during class?

Since Managing Editor Joseph Jerome and I took over *The Commentator* at the beginning of our 2L year, I am immensely proud of what we accomplished. Among other things, we redesigned the paper, created new staff positions, published two fantastic four-page April Fools issues and instituted column monikers, *Commentator* candida and *Commentator* crosswords. For our readers out there, whoever you may be, I sincerely hope that we’ve put out a quality product over the past few years, and that we could make the law school experience slightly more entertaining.

So as to avoid making this article carry onto another page (which is a pain), I am not going to include a laundry list of good-byes, but I would like to point out a few people that influenced my time at *The Commentator*.

Thanks to **Andrew Gehring '09** and **Robert Gerrity '09**, the former Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor respectively, for showing me the ropes and entrusting the

paper to two rising 2Ls. Thanks to **Joseph Jerome** for being a great Managing Editor and really helping me out with the technical and design aspects of the paper. Thanks to **Stavan Desai** for joining our merry little band at the beginning of 2L

year, as it was immensely helpful to have a third person doing layout. Thanks to **Paul O’Grady**, **Tom Sarff** and everyone else in the NYU Law administration who helped cut through the red tape. Thanks to the rest of the **Commentator Staff**, old and new, for (occasionally) getting your articles in on time, helping me out of a few jams and writing consistently interesting stories and columns. Good luck to **Leighton Dellinger**, **Terra Judge** and **Matthew Kelly**, who will be taking over *The Commentator* next year. I have complete confidence that you all will do a great job.

When I was in college, it was a tradition for a graduating columnist to explain the significance of his or her moniker. My moniker, “The Guy Behind the Guy Behind the Guy,” is a quote from the fantastic 1996 film *Swingers*, and I picked it mostly because I really like the movie. But in looking back, I think it was appropriate, as I usually eschewed complex analysis of deep issues in my columns. Instead, I thought of myself as the guy in the back of the room, nitpicking the little things like when to call for a break. Even if you do not know why I think of these things to be critical about, I am the guy who you ultimately agree with.

## Comment

### The Guy Behind The Guy Behind the Guy

doesn’t conform to the notion of a traditional legal-research-and-writing course does not mean it should be abolished.” A friend of mine disagreed with me and wrote a letter to the editor. Then, in the two subsequent issues, others responded to his letter to the editor. All in all, there were four separate articles/letters about the issue. For *The Commentator*, that counts as a huge hot-button issue.

Looking back with almost a year and a half of hindsight, I still agree with myself 100 percent. Students still learn writing and research in Lawyering, but I think that the nontraditional elements were pivotal in my development as a law student. No one writes a brief in a vacuum; there is always a client whose needs are at the forefront. I also think that most NYU students would agree that the Lawyering negotiation is perhaps the most fun part of 1L year that does not involve drinking.

**3) Sweat the Small Stuff** — The handful of people who read my column on a regular basis know that I frequently like to complain about pretty minor things. Among other things, I’ve criticized professors who ban laptops (Feb. 2, 2009), professors who don’t start class on time (Mar. 3, 2010) and the administration for the asinine way that journal credits are assigned (Feb. 21, 2011). But perhaps my favorite nitpicky criticism of the law school was a column I wrote at the end of my 1L year (Apr. 8, 2009) in which I outlined my theory on the best time for professors to take a break during the typical 110-minute class. I wrote: “Based on my highly unscientific study of watching people around me, I don’t think that myself or my classmates can pay attention for more than 50 minutes at a time. As a result, it makes perfect sense to have a break exactly 50 min-

are at a natural breaking point 50 minutes into class, but the professor decides to move on to a new case or a new issue. If a class goes more than an hour without a break, everyone starts getting restless and people stop paying attention. Therefore, I still wholeheartedly believe that

**It has been a fantastic experience to be able to write on something non-law school related every other week ... The Commentator is a great outlet for comment and criticism of the law school; where else could I write over 800 words about when is the best time to take a break during class?**

it is imperative to take a break around 50 minutes into class.

You might think that I am insane to dwell on such a small matter like breaks during class. But even though most professors are incredibly intelligent and are titans in their respective fields, many of them could definitely improve their teaching skills. Even if some of them are not naturally gifted teachers, they still can go that extra mile to make their classroom experience better by taking breaks at the right time or by not banning laptops (though obviously, some really good professors ban laptops and take breaks at the worst times). If I write about a classroom behavior that infuriates me and just one professor makes a change, I have done my job.

With that said, I’d like to quickly reflect back on my time at *The Commentator*. Most people at law school have one activity that defines their time here; for me, I value *The Commentator* well above my other activities. It has been a fantastic experience to be able to write on something non-law school related every other week, and have my work read by literally dozens of people (or less, but hopefully more). *The Commentator* is a great outlet for comment and criticism of the law school; where else could

## thecommentator

The Student Newspaper of the New York University School of Law

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*The Commentator* serves as a forum for news, opinions and ideas of members of the Law School community. The Editorial Board consists of the Editor-in-Chief and the Managing Editor. Only editorials and policies developed by the Editorial Board reflect the opinion of the Editorial Board. All other opinions expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of *The Commentator*. *The Commentator* is issued on alternate Wednesdays during the academic year except during vacations and examination periods. Advertising rates are available on request. Subscriptions are also available at a rate of \$15 per year. Letters to the Editor should be sent to the following address, either on paper or via e-mail. All submissions become property of *The Commentator*.

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The Managing Editor’s Jaded Loveletter to *The Commentator*

By JOSEPH JEROME ’11  
MANAGING EDITOR

I concluded my first year on *The Commentator* with an essay about sharing my overwhelmingly positive experiences at the school with a group of pre-Ls. Our then Editor-in-Chief called it, “a love letter to the school, written by a still-starry-eyed 1L.” In his final editorial, Andrew Gehring ’09 was unable to produce, as he termed it, a companion love letter by a jaded 3L, but he did encourage our readers to reflect on something positive about their law school experience.

Two years later, I find myself frustrated by Andrew’s challenge. With the positive glow of being admitted into the then-number-five law school in the land having long ago faded away, I have morphed into one of those typical jaded 3Ls. I imagine most sign up for law school with the goal of embracing a profession, but as my time here comes to an end, I perhaps have even less direction than when I sat down for my first Lawyering class. I am one of those poor 3Ls who leaves wondering what the value of law school is, whether our law-based society actually generates justice, and why-oh-why do 20-somethings drink so much.

But I don’t wish for my final words in *The Commentator* to end on a negative note, so let me end with an ode to *The Commentator*, the one thing about NYU Law I absolutely loved.

Yes, you read me right: *The Commentator*.

When I walked across the Vanderbilt courtyard for the first time three years ago this month, I didn’t even know this silly, haphazardly read paper even existed, let alone that it would provide a welcome respite from briefing, outlining and attempting to master the art of legal writing.

When I was a 1L, one of my friends wondered why I was wasting my time on something so profoundly non-legal, and my answer was simply that it was “fun.”

my casebooks at home and take advantage of the myriad wonderful panels and lectures put on all over New York University. *The Commentator* even let me play around with Photoshop in an environment where most students only ever use Westlaw, Microsoft Word and maybe iTunes.

I had a great time contributing to *The Commentator*, and for all my grouching, I am happy the law school administration continues to support us. No, we never got the new office in Wilf Hall the paper was once promised, but from our boiling-hot, dark dungeon in the Mercer residence, *The Commentator* provided me with a forum to express myself when law school itself did not.

For that, I am grateful.

I tend to believe most law students enter law school with the goal of taking the bull by the horns and leaving a mark on

this institution. I know I did, but surrounded by an extraordinary student body, certainly my accomplishments were much more modest in scope. Michael Mix assuredly deserves most of the credit, but at least I can say I helped usher a great tradition at this school toward its 45th volume.

Some will wonder what value stacks of *The Commentator* dumped around the law school provide. As an outgrowth of the Student Bar Association newsletter, *The Commentator*’s initial purpose has long been supplanted by the Coases list-serv. But unlike any law journal

in *The Commentator* is really something.

The paper could always be better, however. It’s no secret that *The Commentator* is a shell of what it once was, particularly when it comes to providing a critical eye on the inner-workings of NYU Law. We never really explored the value of law school in the wake of *The Times* expose this January. We avoided low-hanging gossip that probably had some merit. More importantly, we haven’t made it onto the front page of Above the Law in years, and we all know ATL is the metric by

which news’ relevancy is judged. My point is that there’s a lot of stuff going on around Vanderbilt Hall that deserves to be commented upon, so write about it! Or at least harass Leighton and Terra until they do!

I wanted to close by vaguely thanking all of those who helped me in one way or another these past few years, whether it was agreeing to an interview, tipping me off to a story, or sending a quick note of support for (or even disapproval of) something I wrote. I also wanted to thank my longtime Mercer cellmate, Michael Mix, not only for his dedication to this enterprise but for his biweekly insight into the law school experience. Whether I agreed with him or not, I always marveled at his insight and capacity to constructively critique so many different things!

Comment

The Reluctant Law Student

*The Commentator* provided me with an outlet to goad the Student Bar Association into providing an ice-cream social. *The Commentator* encouraged me to keep writing when Bluebooking and the grind of legal research often did just the opposite. *The Commentator* gave me a ready-made excuse to leave

or group event, *The Commentator* provides a written record of the experiences and opinions of an odd cross-section of our student body, faculty, and greater community.

If *The Commentator* does nothing else, it serves as tangible proof that the NYU Law community is as unique as the admissions department sales pitch suggests. Just this year, our “law school paper” had columnists talking about everything from sex to life abroad; we had students interview New York City cabbies, and take on the semester using a Kindle.

*The Commentator* truly provides an unvarnished view of what life for an NYU Law student can be, and no matter what I find disagreeable about law school itself, the sum total of that experience as reflected



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Joseph Jerome

NYU Journalism Professor Jay Rosen makes his views heard.

## WIKILEAKS: Security and Media Experts Bemoan Quality of Media

*Continued from page 1*

Pentagon Papers. Reflecting on his long time in Singapore, Chesterman spoke fondly of American investigative journalism and criticized WikiLeaks for being quantity journalism rather than quality journalism at best, gossip at worst.

Rubinstein spoke up to inquire whether the sheer scale of WikiLeaks' releases made a difference in the analysis, but the roundtable seemed to think the volume of information was irrelevant. Instead, the roundtable returned to the question of whether WikiLeaks was really journalism, becoming a meditation on the First Amendment functional goal of ensuring government oversight.

Markley warned that WikiLeaks' behavior could present "collateral damage" to the mainstream press, pointing to the extinction of support for a federal First Amendment press shield law in the wake of WikiLeaks. He argued that for an organization attempting to portray itself as interested in journalism that WikiLeaks "isn't very journalistic," though Markley admitted the distinction was irrelevant for purposes of First Amendment protection.

Chesterman emphasized the "real work" that goes into investigative journalism, which he suggested WikiLeaks does not do. Zimmerman spoke up to note that there is a big difference between defining journalism in lay language versus in legal terms. Rosen suggested that WikiLeaks "explodes the notion" that a professional press is the only group entitled to carry out a First Amendment function of monitoring government, which really belongs to the people at large.

"Let's get some disagreement," Neuborne interjected. "The whole blogosphere is a massive perversion of the press. The press was a filtering mechanism: information would pass through some responsible

set of hands who would make a good or bad judgment." He believed our modern-day notion of the press has become a "giant trash can." "I don't trust anything I read," he said.

While other panelists were not quite so critical of the modern press at large, there were no shortage of digs at what Chesterman termed, "ad hoc citizen journalism." "The threat to the mainstream media doesn't come from WikiLeaks," he said, "but from the whole blogosphere. It's an economic threat."

Zimmerman agreed, arguing that the responsible press is not going anywhere because it is outmoded but rather "we want news for free." At the same time, she saw something admirable in WikiLeaks behavior. "WikiLeaks has been much more careful than we had any right to expect."

Rosen shifted criticism away from WikiLeaks and back toward government at large. He queried whether the effect of WikiLeaks might be mitigated if public statements and private behavior were more in line with each other. "I write everything with that in mind," he said, explaining he drafts personal email with the expectation that it is not really private.

Markley agreed that public and private behavior should be in line but claimed a general need for secrecy.

"The only two institutions in America who can keep secrets are the Supreme Court and Apple," Rascoff interrupted. "Can you imagine if the specs for iPad3 were on WikiLeaks tomorrow?"

The panelists having completely bounced ideas off one another during the discussion, several questions were taken from the audience before the Forum was put to bed. A transcript of the entire event will be published in the next *The Law School* available this fall. "I hope the event comes across as current and grabs readers' attentions," Kim said.

## Mozzi '11 Navigates Hot Bench to Take Annual Marden Moot Court Competition

By MICHAEL MIX '11  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Hugh Murtagh '11 had barely gotten out the first few words of his argument when Judge Thomas Griffith of the D.C. Circuit interrupted him mid-sentence and asked a probing question. This moment was a portent of what was to come at the annual Orison S. Marden Moot Court Competition, as the panel of three judges peppered the four finalists with seemingly endless questions and ever-changing hypotheticals. Ultimately, Griffith, Debra Ann Livingston of the Second Circuit and David Hamilton of the Seventh Circuit ruled that Anthony Mozzi '11 was the winner of the competition, beating out fellow finalists Murtagh, David Hodges '12 and Jeremy Hays '12.

The Marden Competition is the year-long, intraschool Moot Court competition that is open to all 2Ls and 3Ls and is administered by the Moot Court Board. In the fall, over 50 participants briefed and argued the issue — based on the fictional characters of the TV show *Friday Night Lights* — of whether it is constitutionally permissible to issue a peremptory challenge of

a potential juror based on his or her religious practice. The top-12 competitors then advanced to the Semifinal Round, which took place this spring.

The Semifinal Round consisted of a dual-issue problem based on the fictional characters of the former TV show *The Wire*. Under the facts of the case, police placed a GPS device under the car of D'Angelo Barksdale, the nephew of a prominent drug lord. The GPS, which was affixed to the automobile without a warrant, gave the police real-time data about the location of Barksdale's car for 42 days. The police used the data to conclude that Barksdale was making drug runs to the Bronx and then arrested him. He was convicted on counts of conspiracy to distribute and to possess to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine and 50 grams or more of cocaine base.

The court sentenced Barksdale to prison followed by five years of supervised release. During his supervised release, Barksdale's probation officer could require him to enroll in a substance abuse program if he tested positive for drugs; could determine the number, type and frequency of drug tests Barksdale

had to take; and could require him to wear an ankle bracelet.

Therefore, the two questions presented in the Semifinal Round were whether the warrantless use of GPS for prolonged surveillance constituted a "search" under the Fourth Amendment and whether imposing a sentence is a judicial function that may not be delegated. The participants were divided into teams of two, and each person briefed and argued one issue. In the final round, Murtagh and Mozzi argued the GPS surveillance question as petitioner and respondent respectively, and Hodges and Hays argued the delegation question as petitioner and respondent respectively.

Even though the judges admitted that they were a "hot bench," asking a plethora of difficult questions about where to law the line on each issue, all the judges effusively praised the competitors' oral advocacy skills. Griffith admitted that the Marden finalists were better than most of the lawyers who argued before him every day and Livingston joked that as a former professor, she was frustrated that as a judge, she could not regularly give praise to excellent oral arguments.

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# Times Paywall Is Not So Bad

By JOSEPH JEROME '11  
MANAGING EDITOR

After reading our Editor-in-Chief's last editorial denouncing *The New York Times'* new paywall, it would seem Mr. Mix is trying to have his cake and eat it, too. As he's a long-time newspaper man, I was surprised to find him not only exhorting *The Times* to give its goods for free but also blaming the paper for not having the foresight to charge for its content when it launched its website in 1996. Certainly, many people were anticipating the disruptive capacity of the internet 15 years ago, but it is also easy to forget that when *The Times* began posting online, the "internet" for most Americans

readers how often they read through online advertisements, let alone click on them for more information. I imagine quite rarely.

Perhaps Mr. Mix is suggesting *The Times* move toward the sort of comprehensive advertising Gawker is hawking with its much maligned redesign. Advertisers can sponsor entire pages, advertising and content intermingle and the reader can never be certain whether she's getting news or a sales pitch. I, for one, would prefer if the paper of record weren't so tarnished.

The alternatives are private philanthropy or public subsidies, but beyond the impracticalities of both, each path has the potential to unduly place the prestige of *The*

*Times* in someone else's pocket. We need only look at *The Commentator*, which only survives thanks to the largesse of the law school and remains both indebted to and, yes, under the thumb, of our administrators as a result.

*The Times* provides more than just the news. Just the news is a barren collection of links at the Drudge Report.



amounted to an AOL email inbox and some chatrooms. Amazon did not yet exist and the notion of paying for something online, sending one's credit card information into the ether, could make anyone nervous.

The very idea of extensively reading the news on a phone — let alone a tablet — would have struck not only *The Times* but also its readers as a bit strange. Now, obviously, when what we now know as the internet further developed, whole industries suddenly found themselves with their pants down. One need only look at the devastation wrought on the recording industry as proof of this. However, simply because a whole generation grew up on the idea of free Napster-fueled music doesn't mean Apple shouldn't have tried out the iTunes experiment. While news is inherently a different beast, *The Times'* paywall is a similar attempt to impose order and generate revenue where once there was neither.

What is most troubling is that Mr. Mix provides no real solution to *The Times'* revenue woes. His argument boils down to blind faith that boosting online ad revenue under established practices will somehow allow online journalism to flourish. It will not. For one, Mr. Mix believes that as more people move to read newspapers online, ad revenue will increase. The reality is that online newspapers already attract huge audiences — far more readers than have ever read print editions. The entire online commercial strategy for papers like *The Times* rests upon the theory that the bigger the audience, the more the site can charge for advertising. More problematic, however, is that online readers largely tune out advertising anyway. As a simple rhetorical matter, I would ask

While Mr. Mix can suggest outlets like *The Huffington Post* provide quality news and opinion, their reporting — if we can actually call it reporting rather than punditry — is driven largely by the efforts of *The Times*. *The Times'* investigative reporting, editorial scope, and resources far exceed *Slate* or any other free online alternative. Even Mr. Mix gushes over *The Times'* multimedia feature on sports announcer Gus Johnson, encouraging the paper to do more of the same. The thing is, marshalling such resources costs money.

As a logical proposition, it seems absurd that readers who value this reporting are not willing to pay a dime for it. I have already seen a number of friends hit their quota of free *Times* articles and express a surprisingly palpable sense of dismay. Sure, some readers may be rushing off to *The Washington Post* for their free fix of news, but maybe the paywall is the first step toward reorienting younger readers to the idea that great content cannot be free. Mr. Mix somehow sees some value in *ESPN Insider*; I still pick up paper copies of gaming magazines out of some love of the printed medium. If our generation somehow sees these as more unique, more worth paying for than the paper which uncovered the government's warrantless surveillance programs or went to the mat to publish the Pentagon Papers, that's a shame.

A paywall may not be the solution; in fact, it will likely prove problematic in the short-term; but I think the jury is out on the potential long-term benefits of a paywall. Either way, there's nothing wrong with *The Times* trying to extract some value out providing quality content in print, online, and on everyone's phone.

# Are Journals An Outdated Model?

By JOSEPH JEROME '11  
MANAGING EDITOR

In prior years, *The Commentator* has gone to great length to offer the incoming heads of the journals and Moot Court Board the opportunity to tell you, our 1L readers, why you should want to join their organizations. Sometimes we've done this to fill a few pages of space; other times we viewed any additional information about the journals as a valuable public service our paper can provide. This year, since my time on the journals is over and my motivation for pestering nine stressed-out 2Ls for information is non-existent, I thought I would fill some space in this final issue with some concerns I have for NYU's journals.

For one, NYU simply has too many journals. As a practical matter, this has produced the space-allocation disaster that is the D'Ag basement, where a popular journal such as the *Journal of Law and Business* is crammed into a few cubicles while other, more established journals have empty conference rooms — free to loan out, however! More importantly, the proliferation of journals raises the question of whether so many journals are capable of producing worthwhile scholarship.

NYU likes to pass the buck in this department, arguing that any decrease in the caliber of legal academia's product is due to the explosion of scholarship coming out of lower-ranked schools, but we are part of the problem, as well. Most of our peer schools have more journals than one can easily count. Part of this is a legitimate desire to explore different niches of the law, but if the questions out of each year's journal information sessions are any guide, journal membership is largely about adding another line to the resume. I understand this, but our current system is flawed.

By lumping all of our journals — and the Moot Court

Board, which makes even less sense — into one massive writing competition, the school perpetuates the notion of journal membership as an academic honor rather a commitment to academic dialog. In a lot of respects, the writing competition apes the process of applying to law school. Most of the slots for *Law Review* are long-taken by the time it comes to craft a clever legal note for the exercise, so *Law Review* becomes the Holy Grail of the exercise. The other journals serve as "safety" picks, and they spend the summer picking through one hundred near-identical applicants. I understand the system is designed to simplify the application process, but considering the writing competition is largely written and directed by *Law Review*, it should just be its own competition. Let the other journals do what they will!

From my perspective as a member of secondary journal, the biggest problem with journal membership outside of *Law Review* is getting new members to buy into journal's mission. The current system encourages journals to collect as big a body of 2L staff editors as possible to serve as C&S-ing laborers in order to push through as many articles as possible in a short time horizon. The window of opportunity where the majority of new 2L staff and the engaged 3Ls are enthusiastic about the goals of the journal is small. By December even, 2Ls are tired of the grind and 3Ls are checked out entirely.

One obvious solution, which other schools follow, is to allow 1Ls onto journals. Not only would this increase each journal's institutional memory, but it also gets more students Bluebooking when they are ostensibly most-engaged in the exercise via Lawyering. The biggest problem, however, is that the writing competition does not really reflect what the journals need to be. Healthy journal membership requires students who are interested in more than just adding a line on their resume and are willing to do more than C&S, or take a stab at writing a note. Our journals combine to put on interesting symposiums and are

the most established collections of student-talent at the school, but the end product is just always more and more hard copies of issues.

The traditional law journal, up to and including the *Law Review*, strikes me as a dinosaur desperate to be wiped out. The long tradition of the law journal can best be viewed by a quick tour of boxes upon unopened boxes of old journals which line the D'Ag basement. Most of these journals will sit gathering dust, destined to one day be thrown away. The school has moved slowly toward an e-publishing alternative, and this likely has a lot to do with professors who imagine value in hard copies of journals, even as next to no one reads physical copies of journals (or even single articles) anymore. But, as a result, all the energy in the journals goes into putting out issues. Journal editor-in-chief meetings revolve around issues with the school's sole journal publisher and status updates on where the newest issue stands. Subsequently, we dump PDFs of articles online as an afterthought, and the end product is a vast mess of legal scholarship that awaits judgment on its relevancy and value until a Westlaw search can be run. (Yes, I see the irony in gushing about the value of paper copies of *The Commentator* while telling the journals to publish their work online.)

The simple fact is that the journals need to become more dynamic, more multimedia. In this respect, IPELS is an intriguing role-model, simultaneously presenting scholarship primarily online while also flooding the law school with a steady stream of compelling events. As a result, it probably has more a tangible presence on campus without the need for many of the trappings our traditional journals have as their birthright. There is no reason the other journals, with their larger resources and bigger staffs, cannot do more unless we as a law school community are prepared to admit that journal membership has squat to do with enriching the legal academy and has everything to do with giving 2Ls something to talk about at EIW.

# Chanay Reflects on Law School Career

By DENNIS CHANAY '11  
STAFF WRITER

As of April, 2011, I, Dennis Chanay, have served three years at NYU Law. In deciding where I should go with this article, I asked some of my friends to help me measure my experiences. How do you wrap your head around this experience and describe how it has taken you from here to there? One friend suggested a "1 million, 576 thousand, 800 minutes" theme. I said, "lame *Rent* reference." She retorted "cups of coffee." I said, weak.<sup>1</sup>

There has been work. There has been fun. There has been singing and dancing, personal growth and life-long friends. But alas, I was getting ahead of myself. I cannot say farewell to NYU Law. I am not mentally prepared to say goodbye. Why? Because I am too afraid to tempt fate.

I will never forget my first week at NYU Law. They fed us gourmet sandwiches before

promising that law would find its way into our heads "through osmosis." See *Dean Ricky*. During our first final exams (fall of 2008), I never wished so hard for anything to be true. I may have even slept with a book under my pillow a night or two, possibly. These trivial facts are lost to time, due to the great purging of brain cells that followed.<sup>2</sup> Only now, reflecting on the trials of 1L year and the subsequent battle to keep an equal amount of law flowing inward as it does naturally outward, do I understand the osmosis reference.

If you have always known that you wanted to be a lawyer; if you have kept this faith from 2008 to the present day, without wavering — I am very happy for you. But, there have been too many moments when I have felt nothing but trapped; chained by the hasty decisions of my 21-year-old self. Conversely, there have been times when I truly believed the horrid things spilling out of my mouth, as I ran like a smiling sociopath from EIW room to EIW room.<sup>3</sup>

But on balance, law school (if nothing else) offers an extended opportunity to explore and formulate just what it is that we want to do with our lives. NYU also provides excellent knowledge, training, and support for when you make this decision, especially if you happen to choose law (and I suspect even if you don't).

It would have been futile to have tried to sum up this time at NYU in 700 words or less. The closest measurement I can think of would be money, and this has easily been the best quarter of a million dollars<sup>4</sup> that I have ever spent. Hopefully, like all great accomplishments, this saga will end with formal attire, hand shaking and the exchange of paper work. *Cf. Divorce*.

Footnotes:

1. Friends are only a pre-law school memory.
2. See Tucker Max's forthcoming epic: *The Alcoholicast*.
3. Perhaps I should inform OCS that I'm joining Amway. Anybody in?
4. HOLY #\$\$~%& !!!!!!!!!!!!!



# A Mystery Veteran and a Mystery Gumshoe Review *The Killing*

## *The Veteran*

By ERICA IVERSON '11  
STAFF WRITER

As a seasoned mystery show viewer and longtime fan of AMC's dramatic line-up, I was very excited to hear that the network that brought us *Mad Men* and *Breaking Bad* would be presenting a new crime-type drama. To give the reader a sense of my mystery taste, I am a fan of everything from the more lighthearted whodunits like *Psych* to the grittier and less well-known British drama *Cracker*, starring Robbie Coltrane as the title antihero. I grew up watching both the traditional detectives — Sherlock Holmes, Hercule Poirot, Miss Marple — as well as the classic suspense thrillers — virtually anything Hitchcock, *Charade* and film noir. I would be hard-pressed to select a favorite mystery movie growing up; I loved *Rear Window* and *North By Northwest*, but *Strangers on a Train* would probably take the top prize, with *Rebecca* easily making the top-5.

Even today, when I feel like watching a guilty pleasure movie, I will often go with the classic capers rather than the classic chick flicks (though I am certainly not unwilling to watch the latter). As such, though I generally like the mystery genre as a rule, I am also very critical of any new mystery television shows. I would never deny that there are elements of the USA shows that I enjoy, that many of the network's mystery/comedy selections make for fun and mindless viewing, and that I will often sit down and stream early *Monk* episodes on Netflix when I'm looking for background viewing. However, it takes a lot for me to elevate a mystery/suspense show to the "I love it" level.

*The Killing* presents a long-term story arc that will span the entire season, something that I think works particularly well with this type of drama. It is set in Seattle (full disclosure: I was born and raised there), and while I am disappointed with the way they portray the weather (I SWEAR it doesn't down-pour constantly ... it's more of a steady drizzle in the fall/winter months), the show does an otherwise amazing job with the crime elements. The show evokes elements of *Cracker* as well as the more recent British crime drama *Wallander* in its more realistic treatment of the police and their work. I've long been bothered by shows like *Law and Order* on one hand, where complex homicide plots

are easily exposed and resolved by the lead detectives, and the "outside detective" stories on the other (yes—even Sherlock), which portray the police as perpetually bungling idiots.

Instead, *The Killing* presents a world where the police are



competent, but not superhuman — they dress in plainclothes, they use drugs to get information from high school girls, they look and act like normal people. It presents a world where teenagers are treated and act as hybrid children and adults, in perfect imitation of reality. And most importantly, it presents an easily believable range of emotions from the characters involved. In that sense, the show follows seamlessly on the heels of *Breaking Bad*.

The acting thus far has been beyond satisfactory. I especially enjoy Joel Kinnaman's portrayal of a former narcotics officer-turned-homicide detective. He musters the perfect combination of sketchy and secretly clever, and I predict the plot will thicken with regards to his move from drug-busting to murderer-napping. Mireille Enos, who plays lead detective Sarah Linden, similarly evokes the emotional numbness that must accompany any such job, while still demonstrating the character's dogged nature. And of course Billy Campbell's mayoral candidate character is shown to politician perfection — not quite the good guy, not quite the bad guy, and very possibly deeply involved with the murder of the young Rosie Larsen.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, AMC has struck gold once more with a show that has thus far highlighted the humanity of the individual characters, while still providing a healthy dose of suspense, mystery and thrill. Assuming that this show continues to impress, I would not hesitate to place it on a par with its British predecessors. So if you're looking for a great way to procrastinate during finals season, tune into *The Killing*, Sunday nights at 10 PM on AMC.

By MICHAEL MIX '11  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I usually don't really have any loyalty to television networks, but in the past few years, I have made an exception for AMC. I have watched

the body of Rosie Larson (Katie Findlay) is found in the trunk of a car owned by the campaign of mayoral candidate Darren Richmond (Billy Campbell). Linden decides to postpone her move and finish the investigation with her new partner Stephen Holder (Joel Kinnaman). Not surprisingly, virtually every character acts suspiciously, including Rosie's parents (Brent Sexton and Michelle Forbes) and Richmond's two campaign aides (Kristin Lehman and Eric Ladin).

I usually dislike mystery shows because they tend to wrap up too nicely week-to-week. I prefer plots that stretch out over several episodes, in order to give the story and the characters a chance to develop. Thankfully, this show is the latter.

One of the things that struck me immediately about the show is its tone. Unlike many police procedurals on the air today, *The Killing* moves at an incredibly slow pace, taking its time. In the first two episodes, very little of the plot is actually revealed, and we spend a lot of time watching Linden thinking and reacting to the other characters. There are also many harrowing scenes depicting Rosie's parents' reactions and subsequent actions after finding out about her death.

every episode of their four previous original shows — *Mad Men*, *Breaking Bad*, *Rubicon* and *The Walking Dead* — and have enjoyed them all to varying degrees (*Mad Men* is my favorite drama on TV, *Breaking Bad* is pretty phenomenal in its own right, *Rubicon* was very good but unfortunately was cancelled and *The Walking Dead* was wildly uneven but



still entertaining). Therefore, even though I am normally not a mystery fan, I looked forward to AMC's fifth show, *The Killing*, with anticipation.

*The Killing*, which had its two-hour premiere on Apr. 3, is based on a Danish show and revolves around one murder investigation over the course of the entire season. Detective Sarah Linden (Mireille Enos) is working her last day as a Seattle detective before a move to San Francisco when

In letting the show breathe without feeling the need to catch a bad guy every episode, creator and showrunner Veena Sud lets her actors do some pretty great work in the first couple of episodes. I really like Enos's take on her character so far; Linden doesn't wear her emotions on her sleeve, but you can tell that something about this murder is specifically affecting her. I also like the fact that she seems to have a family life outside of the job; many typical television

procedurals include one-dimensional characters who only exist to solve mysteries over an hour-long span.

Kinnaman, a Swedish actor, is enjoyable playing his character as undisciplined to the point of creepy; in one striking scene, he smokes marijuana (or at least pretends to) at Rosie's school in order to get two girls to give him important information for the investigation. Kinnaman kind of reminds me of a taller and slightly better spoken Jesse Pinkman from *Breaking Bad*, and if Kinnaman has even half of the acting skill of Aaron Paul, then *The Killing* will be in good shape. Moreover, as the grieving parents, Sexton and Forbes have been great so far.

I was less keen on the campaign subplot. It is hard to criticize the actors because their material so far has seemed pretty clichéd for a show that isn't about politics. Richmond seems too saintly and his aides seem too pushy at this point. I hope that Sud gives these characters some depth.

Despite this misstep, I hope that *The Killing* thrives. With the notable exception of *Twin Peaks*, there haven't really been any recent successful American television shows which involved a mystery solved over an entire season without week-to-week mini-mysteries (*Veronica Mars* is one of many examples of shows with episodic and long-term

mysteries). Therefore, AMC is banking on viewers who will tune in every week, even though the satisfaction of a solved murder will be delayed until (presumably) the season finale. Unfortunately, its slow pace more closely mirrors the unsuccessful (in terms of ratings) *Rubicon* than AMC's other shows. Still though, since America seems to like mysteries more than espionage, hopefully *The Killing* will help AMC go five-for-five in terms of quality original programming.



# Spy Novel Meets Wacky Comedy Meets Christian Allegory

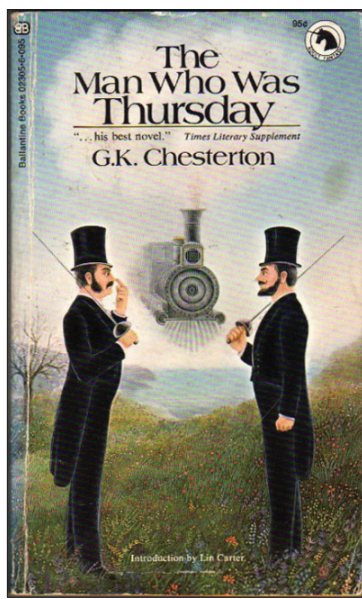
By HANNAH BAKER '13  
STAFF WRITER

What follows is not a book review, but an unsolicited advertisement for one of the best novels ever written, G. K. Chesterton's *The Man Who Was Thursday*. The very slipperiness and categorization that make this novel so good can lead to difficulties when describing it, so know that even if the synopsis below doesn't sound like your cup of tea, you should still read *The Man Who Was Thursday*. It's short. It's funny. It's a work of genius.

My usual one-sentence blurb is: It's a spy novel meets wacky comedy meets Christian allegory. All these things are true, techni-

cally speaking, but would you expect a spy novel to resolve the question of a Czar's assassination by having everyone shrug off the whole idea and decide to have a mystical masked ball instead? Would it surprise you if a dry and wacky comedy contained deeply emotional and subtle ideas about the Problem of Evil and the flaws of pessimism? And do most religious allegories really include high-speed chase scenes involving elephants and balloons?

No, no, and no. *The Man Who Was Thursday* is in a class of its own. The truest thing I can say about it is that it made me happy. But I hate it when other people recommend books simply by saying, without elaboration, "It's



good," so here's my best shot at a plot synopsis that does not ruin all the surprises. Gabriel Syme, poet of respectability, gentleman and police detective, has devoted his life to opposing the evil insidious anarchists who are plotting the downfall of society. These are not the kind of anarchists who want to set up peaceful Libertarian communes — these anarchists want to smash down every barrier, burn down every wall, and in general wipe the smug smile off of the face of genial authority — or so it seems to Syme, who is delighted to find himself in disguise as Thursday, an operative of the Central Anarchist's Council.

Led by the enigmatic Sunday,

a terrifying fat man, the Central Anarchist's Council, in accordance with its policy of hiding in plain sight, has its meetings over breakfast on the terrace of a nice restaurant. This very meeting, Sunday finishes his eggs, looks our hero in the eyes, and announces that he has an announcement ...

Which you'll have to read the book to find. Once you start you'll have to go on, past the swordfights, disguises, German philosophy, torch-bearing mobs, lobster mayonnaise, dancing, finger-tapping codes and general hilarity — all the way to the very end, where you can decide for yourself if the book lives up to its subtitle, "a nightmare."

# Sarah Vowell's Newest Work Offers a Quirky, Witty History of Hawaii

By LEIGHTON DELLINGER '12  
STAFF EDITOR

Sarah Vowell is at it again. She was hilarious in *The Partly Cloudy Patriot*; she was witty and smart in *Assassination Vacation* and she just kills it on "This American Life." I suppose it would be appropriate if I disclosed my love for Sarah Vowell. I decided years ago that I want to be Sarah Vowell when I grow up. Or now. Whichever, I don't care.

Vowell, who lives in downtown New York, is among the distinguished visitors who frequently read from their new works at the Barnes & Noble at Union Square. I heard Vowell was publishing a new book last fall — I immediately pre-ordered the book and reserved Wednesday, March 23 to camp out to see the woman I hope to become one day. The reading was at 7; at 4 pm I was the only one there. *C.f.*, when Tina Fey spoke last Friday I arrived at 4:30 and was relegated to standing room at the back and a place at the end of a book-signing line at least three hours long.

At 4 o'clock, the reading room was empty and it stayed that way (with lonely ol' me perched in the front row of a sea of seats) until about an hour before Vowell arrived. The room eventually filled up, though it was nothing compared to the crowd drawn by Fey, and we were treated to a reading from a woman in heinous Uggs boots and cargo pants with a high-pitched voice (readers on Amazon have reviewed this book: "If David Sedaris and Sarah Vowell had a child only dolphins could hear it talk.").

For a law student accustomed to respecting women in power suits who speak about securities regulation, Vowell's reading made for a refreshing afternoon. She was as witty, smart, and off-the-cuff in person as she is in print. Discussing a character to whom she showed compassion in the book, "I really identified with him. I guess

because he's so grumpy."

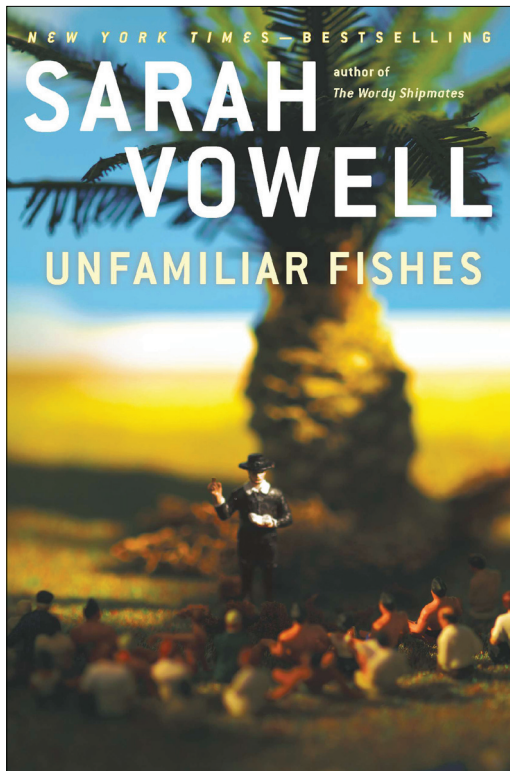
For readers less eager than I (your very own Eager Reader): this delightfully cantankerous interaction was not at all a surprise. Sarah Vowell is as funny as David Sedaris and as smart as Bill Bryson and travels to only the dweebiest locales. Her style is pretty easy to define: she's the sharp kind of smart, like David

American experience. This time, she has gone to Hawaii to tell the story of the colonization of America's fiftieth state, "where Manifest Destiny got sun-burned." Readers of Vowell's *The Wordy Shipmates* will recall that she has a particularly anti-colonization sway. But she's so funny about it! Missionaries and sperm whale-hunting sailors on leave on the islands play antagonists to the Vowell's delightfully zen Hawaiian natives.

And as always, Vowell's story is peppered with deviations and personal asides. Writing about sailors gets her to a favorite sailor, Herman Melville, and a story of visiting New Bedford, Massachusetts, to see where Captain Ahab's creator hung his hat (which, it turns out, was in the federal customs office in poverty). Vowell gets distracted, basically advertising the New Bedford Whaling Museum, which hosts an annual *Moby Dick* marathon. Visitors are invited every January to relish a 25-hour reading, cover-to-cover, of the titillating classic.

My own Vowell-style aside: this is my official appeal to Portmanteau. I would *love* to take a field trip this dorky. What is more adventurous than sitting down to "Call me Ishmael" and committing to staying in that seat for 25 hours?

My favorite side journey into Vowell's most interesting historical characters? Touring The Mission House Museum in Honolulu, Vowell sees a portrait of Hiram Bingham, one of the ministers out-posted in Hawaii, painted by Samuel Morse. Yes, Samuel Morse of the Morse code infamy. He's a favorite of Vowell's, "I



Rakoff, and when something intrigues her — usually some historical event or development — she travels to all the key (or obscure) locales related to the event to explain it better, and dig up irony. But she's grouchy and skeptical — in her funniest appearance on The Daily Show she criticized American tourists in New York: "They wrap themselves in our attack (referring to 9-11) and then they leave and talk about what snobs we are. If the East Coast is American enough For Al-Qaeda, it should be American enough for them."

Despite her distinctively New York attitude (adopted as an adult by the Oklahoma native), Vowell's work is predicated on the more general

## Comment

### The Eager Reader

love [his] sitrning protrait of the Revolutionary War hero Marquis de Lafayette hanging in New York's City Hall." Apparently, the world's most popular tapper was a painter in a former life. In fact, "he was in Washington painting [the portrait of Lafayette] when he received news his wife was ailing back home in Connecticut. He raced toward her but by the time he arrived, she had died. And so he started monkeying around with a machine to speed up communication, an achievement that would eclipse the reputation of his art."

Vowell's work abounds with fun facts like this one: *Hawaii Five-O's* Detective Chin Ho Kelly was named for the developer of the Ilikai, a famous hotel in Honolulu. Apparently, it was also Elvis' favorite hotel on the island. Vowell's deep-seated appreciation for Americana — of both the historical and pop-culture variety — is more apparent in her former work (like *Radio On: A Listener's Diary*), but it's sprinkled throughout *Unfamiliar Fishes* granting a break from more traditional tales of Hawaiian history.

She tells the story of poi, "the staple of Hawaiian food." The legend goes that when mother earth mated with father sky their first child was stillborn and buried. The root vegetable that grew from that grave? Taro, which is mashed and served as poi to great acclaim throughout the islands: "not simply a local favorite, the equivalent of, say, cheese to the French, or cheesesteaks to the Philadelphians ... The root is an object of the tenderest solicitude, from the day it is planted until the hour

it is eaten." The child born after the taro-child was the Hawaiian man; you read that correctly, Hawaiian legend places everyone's favorite dinner accompaniment as your big brother.

Which sounds weird when summarized in a newspaper article but is presented by Vowell with great respect and envy from her Judeo-Christian perspective in which "humans are not caretakers; they are overseers, dominators of their dominion. This conceit comes with some pretty obvious ecological consequences. Plus in this beginning, the fruit of the land doesn't always nourish the people. In fact, the fruit of knowledge poisons them with fancy ideas and so they are cast out of a garden bearing a striking resemblance to the island of Kauai. (Though having been to the pleasantly sleepy Kauai, I can see how after a few days of lollygagging amidst the foliage, a woman would bite into just about anything to scare up something to read.)"

So there she is, insightful, funny and charmingly dorky all in one paragraph about a close relative to the potato. And, apparently, the rest of mankind.

What are the critics saying? They're raving, of course. My recommendation? Give Vowell a try. For my friends on whom I have been pushing my idol for years, c'mon and relent already. She's smart; you're smart (and good-looking too! Have I wooed you yet?) and she will alternate between making you laugh out loud and read interesting tidbits to your friends. She's also my hero and I would like if you bumped her sales so she'll keep producing.





# WEST FOURTH STORY

By DOUG MARTIN '11  
STAFF WRITER

What's the worst part about the home stretch of the semester? Surely it is the fact that there is no more Law Revue to look forward to.

Each spring, the people of Law Revue put on a fantastic, mostly original show and remind us why we love NYU Law. This year was no different. But what can be said about Law Revue that isn't said each year? Fantastic musical numbers with tunes from classics and contemporary songs? Check. Hilarious impressions of law school faculty and administration? Check. Funny examples of law school archetypal characters? Check and check.

This year, Law Revue had all the familiar elements we have come to know and love. One element from previous years that was not present, however, was poor sound quality. This year, thanks in part to funding from the Student Bar Association (*Ed.'s note: Doug Martin is the outgoing Student Senator on the Student Bar Association*), Law Revue upgraded its microphones and various other sounds equipment. This enabled the audience to enjoy not only the sight but the sound of such scintillating and sultry soloists as Sarah Koper '12, Sam Jackson '12 and Carley Palmer '11 (sorry, there were no more soloists with first names starting with "S." Besides, Carley did an amazing job

anyway, even if her name starts with a "C"). Formerly, the well-thought-out parody songs were difficult to appreciate. Generally, you knew what was going on, and you could follow the lyrics in the program, but you could hardly hear the vocalists over the band. Now, we know what we suspected all along — our fellow law students have pipes, and they know how to use them.

Jackson played Dean Richard Revesz expertly this year, but it was a bit confusing when Justin Roller '13 played Ricky during one of the non-plotline scenes. Palmer definitely played out of character as one of the gunner squad, showing the breadth of her acting ability. Other highlights included Mike Biondi '11 as Professor Barry Friedman (although the poor former Vice Dean gets targeted quite a bit), and Rob Keele '12 playing a spot on stoner.

Law Revue continued to offer numerous amusing insights into law school life. This year the plot was driven by a humorous take on a subject that has spawned some real anxiety here at NYU — the second year in a row of being out of the top-5 law schools according to *U.S. News & World Report*. One of the best things about Law Revue is its ability to say things that we're all thinking, even if we don't know we're thinking it. Unfortunately, the fake administration in the show couldn't give a satisfactory an-

swer for why we're still No. 6 any more than the real one could.

While as a whole, this year's musical was better than the previous two years, the videos were a left a little to be desired. Arthur Miller, the subject of this year's promotional video, is interesting to a point, but twice in three years? However, even if the subject matter was a bit worn, the videos were still expertly done.

The audience this year was a bit less boisterous. This can be expected after two years in a row of "banning" alcohol. Still, the audience was definitely part of the show, especially on Friday, which was Alumni Night. Meghan Dwyer '11 was a particularly popular member of the cast, according to the amount of times her name was screamed. Of course, Dwyer is a wonderful performer, so maybe this does not mean that the Law Revue alumni were more than moderately intoxicated. But they were. And it was great. Perhaps we do not need to worry about allowing alcohol, because as the lyrics said, "We know that you snuck in beer." Alcohol or no, if this year's show is any indication, Law Revue is still fantastic, and will remain so for years to come.



Photos by Stavan Desai  
Layout by Joseph Jerome