



the Commentator

The Student Newspaper of the New York University School of Law

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Wilf Hall Brings Potential Benefits, Criticism to Law School

BY JOSEPH JEROME '11
MANAGING EDITOR

While most of the drilling and droning of construction ended in the spring and many of the legal institutes and offices moved in over the summer, NYU Law's newest building addition, Wilf Hall, was paraded before the student body in an informal open house on Sept. 7. Formerly a residential space and the longtime site of the historical Provincetown Playhouse, the new building on MacDougal Street aims to put a nicer face on the many research centers working out of the law school, and provide a more functional Provincetown Playhouse when the NYU Educational Theatre opens its season later this year.

Moving the school's institutes from cramped quarters in D'Agostino Hall into a new space has been a goal of the law school for years, according to Elizabeth Rohlfling, Executive Director of the Dean's Office.

"These centers have distinguished themselves," she said. "Their work touches on relevant policy concerns, and they desperately needed room to expand." Wilf Hall largely solves this dilemma, providing six stories of office suites dedicated to the ever growing number of legal think tanks affiliated with the law school. In

addition, the structure provides space for academic fellows, who were once consigned to cubbies in the library.

As part of the law school's master plan, Wilf Hall moves the admissions office from the distant Butterick Building and

Butterick Building allowed the school to save the cost of leasing office space and brought key departments back to campus.

The law school and the greater university have trumpeted the building as a positive addition to Greenwich Village. With



Balloons, cupcakes and well-wishers at the entrance of Wilf Hall during its open house on Sept. 7.

puts a welcome desk for admitted students right next door to Vanderbilt Hall. While students avoid long walks down Sixth Avenue, Rohlfling stated that the law school's move out of the

Wilf Hall, the university attempted to foster a dialogue with the Village community to avoid increasingly negative perceptions of NYU, especially in the wake of the university's massive expansion plan. When asked, Rohlfling said the Law School went to great lengths to build a contextual

building and to preserve the walls of the Provincetown Playhouse, while working with the NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development to develop an

enhanced performance space for this historic theater.

Though the law school's physical expansion appears at an end for the foreseeable future, Wilf Hall has nonetheless produced critics both inside and outside of the school. As a test case for the university as a whole, Wilf Hall may have produced mixed results. Maintaining the existing walls of the Provincetown Playhouse was a main point of contention between community leaders and the university, and when structural instability in one of the walls was discovered during construction last summer, some of it was demolished without any public announcement, angering community officials.

Andrew Berman of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Restoration has been a vocal critic of NYU's development plans. He stated that Wilf Hall was only "a tiny bone thrown to preservation in the form of retaining about five percent of the original building" and "a reminder of the [school's] inability to live up to its commitments and respect

the value of anything other than its short-term bottom line." Nevertheless, he said the building was "certainly more discreet and humanly-scaled" than most NYU projects.

Inside the law school community, several students outside the open house could be heard questioning the building's exterior vis-à-vis Vanderbilt Hall. In the basement of D'Agostino, the journals trapped in cubicles wondered why the new building seemed to have so few amenities for actual students. "The inherent inequities that exist due the division of space for journals creates a false impression that there is an order of importance based on the space a journal was assigned," said Nihar Shah, Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Law & Liberty. Though happy with the support the law school provides student journals, he questioned how his journal could grow in the future when the school's think tanks were given such priority.

"We have tried our best, realizing that not everyone is going to be happy," Rohlfling said.

New Assistant Dean Has International Background

BY MICHAEL MIX '11
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In an institution as diverse as NYU Law, it is only fitting that the law school has hired a new Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Global Programs whose experiences, both professional and personal, are equally varied. From Texas to Baghdad, Meera de Mel has an eclectic resume and plans to draw upon her different experiences in her new job.

As a youngster, de Mel spent some time living in India, Amherst, Massachusetts and College Station, Texas, three incredibly different locales.

"I had a really schizophrenic

upbringing," de Mel said. "I am half Indian, half Jewish, and we celebrated Christmas because we wanted presents and Easter because we wanted candy."

She studied math at Univer-

Review, she worked for the State Department, which included a year arguing cases before the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal in The Hague and a year in Baghdad as legal advisor to Ambassadors Khalilzad and Crocker.

"I was the U.S. embassy's lawyer for the Mission in Baghdad," de Mel said. "That included being general counsel for the embassy, from handling petty employment issues ... to really fascinating legal advisor work for the U.S. ambassadors. We were negotiating Security

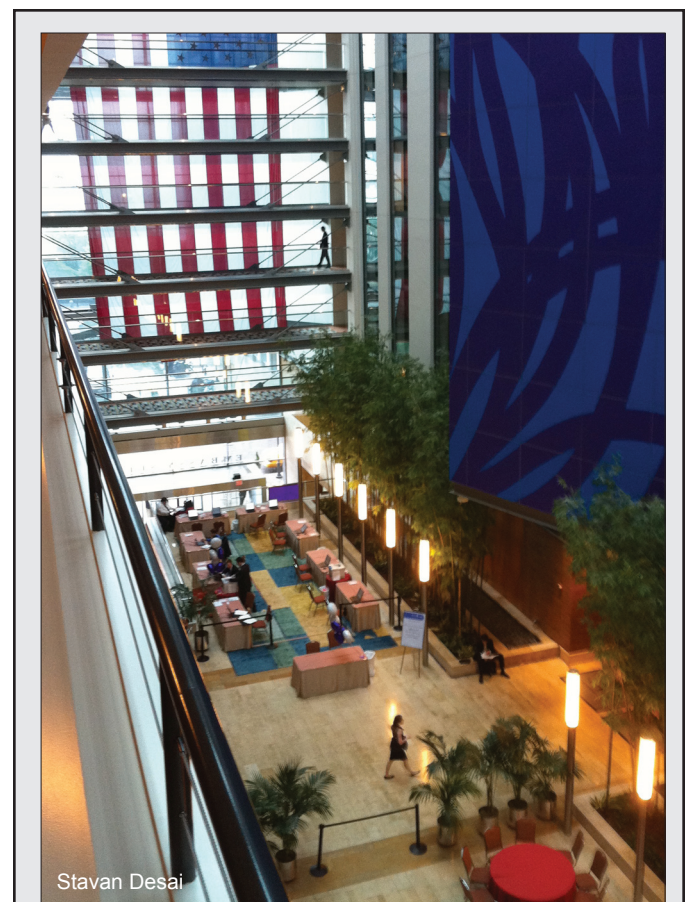
Council resolutions with the Iraqi government. I was going in meetings with the Iraqi prime ministers. ... We also did a lot of

See DE MEL page 4



Meera de Mel goes for a chopper ride next to former Ambassador to Iraq Zalmay Khalilzad.

sity of Texas at Austin and later taught math in East Harlem, a portent of her future in education. After graduating from NYU Law in 2005, where she was an Associate Editor on Law



Stavan Desai

Early Interview Week was held Aug. 23-26 at the Embassy Suites Hotel. For one 2L's perspective on the interview onslaught, see page 3.

FYI Your Commentator's new publishing schedule means new issues now arrive for your reading pleasure on Mondays, biweekly.

Let's Take a Trip Back in Time — All the Way to April, 2010

BY MICHAEL MIX '11
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It seems like everything interesting happens when *The Commentator* is on hiatus. Last year, the whole Dr. Li-Ann Thio debacle occurred during the summer, which meant that our writers could not comment on it until well after the fact. This year, shortly after our last issue went to print, the blogosphere nearly imploded after a Harvard law student leaked an email sent by a fellow student that many found to be racist.

I know, I know. You probably were completely sick of that Harvard email controversy five months ago, so why should you read about it now? Well, I swear I had these exact same thoughts in April, but wasn't able to put figurative pen to paper. So let's get out the DeLorean and take a trip back in time to April, 2010 — you are pumped for *Iron Man 2*, LeBron James hasn't yet taken his talents to South Beach, and you have to make sure your parents get together at the Enchantment Under the Sea dance.

The reason the Harvard

email controversy hits home for me (even five months later) isn't the content of the email itself. Regardless of what you think of the writer's viewpoint or whether or not it was racist, I'd like to instead focus on the motive of the student who leaked the email. Let's call the writer "A" and the leaker "B." According to information that came out after

A had previously been close friends. The disagreement that precipitated the dissemination of the email certainly does not excuse B's behavior (especially because it turns out that B was just as "racist" as A). I don't know how one seemingly minor argument could cause B to go off the deep end like that.

Furthermore, B's actions

a celebrity, it was kind of hard for someone to drag your reputation through the mud outside of high school. Now, all it takes is the click of a mouse.

I would like to think that this kind of thing could never happen at NYU Law. We have a reputation of being a collegial place where students genuinely get along. But all it takes is one person to ruin that reputation, and NYU itself doesn't have a completely unblemished record (as evidenced by the Mr. Chuck scandal and the anti-Orthodox Jew graffiti in the bathroom stalls a few weeks ago).

Therefore, my advice to everyone as we begin this school year is quite simple and fairly ineloquent — don't be an asshole. I understand that everyone is competing with everyone else for grades, jobs, clerkships, etc. In this economy, every advantage counts. But if you find yourself contemplating an action with the sole intention of hurting someone else's reputation — online or otherwise — think again. We may be in

training to become lawyers, but that doesn't mean we should forget basic standards of human decency.

The media is not blameless either, as the email wouldn't have gone viral without the blogosphere's help. Too often nowadays, the media feels the need to report on stories without context and before checking facts. For example, apart from A's own reputation (the email was first published without context and Gawker later outed A's name), information was released about Harvard's BLSA and Federalist Society that later proved to be false. Certainly, with media outlets struggling to stay afloat, being the first to report a story is a huge advantage. But when private citizens' reputations are at stake, media outlets need to be much more careful. We shouldn't be giving people like B an easy outlet for their horrible behavior.

On that note, we're back from our trip to April, 2010. Just like I wish that nobody at NYU ever acts like B, I sincerely hope that none of you brought a sports almanac to your April selves, causing you to now be rich beyond belief.

Comment The Guy Behind the Guy Behind the Guy

the controversy initially hit, A and B had a falling out over a guy. B was so angry at A that she began writing nasty things on A's Facebook page. Not content with that, she decided to dredge up an old email that A had written, and send it to others at Harvard that she knew would be outraged.

I was honestly sickened when I found out the true story. It amazes me that B would actually take action with the probable intent of ruining A's life, especially because B and

are particularly worrisome in this day and age because of the ease of ruining someone's life. As our society becomes increasingly electronic, one's online reputation is paramount. In my Protection of Personality class last year, we read about two Yale students who took legal action after nasty things were written about them by anonymous posters on a message board, causing the students to not receive offers from firms. It used to be that if you weren't

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A Welcome From the SBA President

BY ERICA IVERSON '11
SBA PRESIDENT

Hello everyone!

To all of our new students, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to New York University. To the returning 2Ls and 3Ls: Welcome back for another great year. I hope all of you had wonderful summers and are looking forward to what lies ahead!

My name is Erica Iverson and I am the President of the Student Bar Association, or SBA for short. You may not have known this, but as a student at NYU School of Law you automatically become a member of the Student Bar Association when you enroll. The Board of Governors, which most refer to as the SBA, acts as the student governing body of the law school, and represents the student community to the law school administration. We have an Executive Board, consisting of traditional executive officer positions as well as two Social Chairs and one Student Senator. We also have representatives for the 2L and 3L classes on the Board of Governors. We will shortly be adding five 1L representatives, three LL.M representatives and one transfer representative to the Board.

The SBA Board plays an

integral role in many critical aspects of life at the law school. For instance, the SBA oversees and funds all student groups. The Board evaluates and sets each group's yearly budget, considers ad hoc funding requests and even votes on whether to approve new student groups. The Board also acts as a liaison between students and administrators; when the administration wants student input on a particular issue they contact the SBA Board. We address student questions, concerns and complaints in our bi-weekly SBA member meetings, and the SBA Board brings those issues to the attention of the Dean, Vice Deans and administrative staff at our monthly meetings. When major issues of concern to the entire law school community arise, the Board promotes dialogue between the administration and the students by advocating for Town Hall meetings. The SBA Board is always looking for student ideas regarding these Town Halls. We want to know what you want to talk about, so don't hesitate to contact one of your SBA representatives if you would like the Dean to address a particular topic.

One of the most visible functions of the SBA is to host weekly Thursday night parties. These are usually held at a local

bar or club and are a wonderful way for members of the NYU Law community connect and get to know each other. And if that's not reason enough, well, come out for the free drinks! I highly encourage all law school students to attend the Thursday night parties whenever possible. Yes, 2Ls and 3Ls — that means you too! And of course, if you are a new student here, don't be shy about coming out to these events. We are a close-knit and vibrant community, and taking a moment or two to relax with our fellow students is one way we continue to foster this environment.

In addition to these functions, the SBA Board is also tasked with assigning students to the various Student-Faculty Committees here at the law school. As their name implies, these committees consist of students and faculty members, and each one addresses a different important issue here at the school. From faculty appointments to budget review, these committees are a fantastic way for students to have their voices heard when it comes to important law school policy decisions. The current appointments will all expire at the end of the spring

See SBA page 4

Knocking on the Door: A 2L's Account of Early Interview Week

BY GARRETT SAITO '12
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The first six floors of the Embassy Suites in lower Manhattan were completely full. Outside each room, rows of fidgety law students dressed in their best waited nervously. Most played with folders filled with extra resumes, writing samples and transcripts or obsessively checked their phones for the time. At 20-minute intervals (to the second), one brave student (often me) would aggressively pound on the door, signaling to the hiring attorney inside that it was time for a new interview. This action inevitably set off a chain reaction down the hall, as each student knocked on his or her respective door. A few minutes after that, a fellow law student would emerge and the next interview would begin. Rinse and repeat, 20 times in a day. It was Early Interview Week at NYU's School of Law.

The entire experience was mildly surreal and, to the uninitiated, absolutely bizarre. The basics are pretty simple. As it turns out, the only way that most law students ever have a shot at working at a big, powerful, prestigious law firm, where they can work 80 hours a week and make \$160,000 a year starting out (affectionately called BIGLAW), is through on campus interviews (OCI). Generally, these programs occur at law schools all over the country in late August and early September during a law student's second year. At NYU, each law student bids on interview slots with various law

firms and is granted a certain number of interviews, to be conducted over four days, based on a complex lottery system that takes the student's bids and the popularity of the firm into account. At NYU, most students snagged between 20-25 interviews, though if you were a true masochist like me (or alternatively, absolutely terrified about not getting a job in this economy, like me), you could get up to 40 interviews (I had 35).

Firms come from all over the country to do these interviews. While the majority of firms represented were based in New York, plenty came from Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston, San Francisco, Asia and pretty much everywhere else. The interviews themselves are pretty perfunctory. They are only 20 minutes long and, due to time constraints, are generally completely superficial. After doing 10 or 12 in a day, the interviews really start to run together. Believe me, you get *really* good at explaining how you overcame a challenge, why you decided to attend law school, why you want to work in New York and what your greatest strength is after you've repeated it 20+ times. By the end, I felt a bit like a robot, mechanically falling back to the same answers (which often came out verbatim, despite my best efforts to the contrary) that I had perfected before. The process is like speed dating, except when you succeed, instead of getting a wonderful spouse, you get to be a slave to the BIGLAW machine.

The whole exercise seems a bit futile though because everyone knows that whether or not you will get a "callback" (that

a V5 firm – the V stands for "Vault" and refers to the Vault Rankings of law firms, which are based 100 percent on absurdly

impressive feats of rambling I have ever witnessed. For 15 solid minutes, the interviewer talked, touching on his kids, Greek restaurants, the situation in Sudan, 9/11 and, at the end, a little about his firm. At first, I had tried to interject and steer the interview back towards me and why I wanted to work at the firm but, as the rambling progressed, I gave up and instead marveled at this man's ability to continuously talk without prompting. I guess this shouldn't be surprising — after all, these were lawyers I was dealing with.

The whole process was exhausting, both mentally and physically (my throat felt horrible at the end of the week from talking so much), and very strange. And, with the legal job market in shambles, the experience was very stressful. With student loan bills that will generally top \$150,000, getting one of these BIGLAW jobs is a necessity for most law students. I often regret that I chose not to go to law school in 2005. During the boom years, I'm told that mediocre NYU law students "with a pulse" could regularly expect to receive 15+ callbacks and multiple job offers. This model has clearly changed in response to the economic downturn. I'm doing my callbacks now and am desperately hoping for a job offer to materialize. If not, I can still take solace in the fact that, during OCI, I got more promotional flash drives, pens, post it notes and highlighters than I could possibly use in marking up the classifieds.



coveted prize of OCI that every law student dreams of, which entitles them to go visit the firm's office a few weeks later for a more grueling three to four hour second round of interviews, and a chance at a summer job offer) depends mostly on what your grades are. Your entire resume, years of volunteer work, trips to Africa and sterling personality really take a back seat to two semesters of law school grades. Truth be told, this probably makes sense; the firms at OCI are interviewing dozens of students and grades seem to be the only easy way to really distinguish them from each other. This fact doesn't make the process any less dehumanizing though.

I was able to get an interview with one of the most prestigious firms in the country

elitist sounding "prestige questionnaires" circulated among law firm associates). It quickly became apparent, within two minutes of the interview starting, that I had absolutely no chance of getting a callback at this firm; my grades simply weren't good enough. If the interviewer's total lack of enthusiasm was not enough, the dreaded "Do you have any questions for me?" prompt came out with more than 15 minutes to spare. This question, a staple of every interview, is a deathblow if delivered too early. In one such interview, when the question was dropped early on, I asked an innocuous question about why the interviewer had left his old firm. The partner interviewing me proceeded to embark on one of the most

Fashion Takes a Night Out on the Town on Mercer Street

BY JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ '11
STAFF WRITER

At a hot 3:00 in the afternoon, when I conducted my interviews, one workman on a ladder strung lights outside Rag & Bone and 3.1 Phillip Lim on Mercer Street. Half a block down a lone photographer slouched in a corner, waiting.

These were the visible day-of preparations for what would be the fabulous Mercer Street Block Party. It would be co-hosted that night by two young but precocious brands to celebrate Fashion's Night Out on Sept. 10, 2010.

Rag & Bone and 3.1 Phillip Lim are the new kids on

the block, both literally and figuratively. Their designers — Phillip Lim of 3.1 Phillip Lim, and David Neville and Marcis Wainwright of Rag & Bone — represent a rising generation of designers gaining the respect and adulation of fashion insiders all the way up the food chain. The brands' successes have allowed them to open stores on the coveted SoHo block of Mercer Street, between Prince

and Spring. Rag & Bone has been here for only a year, and 3.1 Phillip Lim for three. Yet Lim, Neville and Wainwright are making their marks and making friends in the neighborhood.

Lim, Neville, Wainwright

and the twentysomethings that staff their stores spent a month organizing the Mercer Street Block Party for Fashion's Night Out. This incarnation of Fashion's Night Out was to be deliciously simple. It would have all the elements of a late-summer barbeque, including live music, hamburgers and Diet Coke, as well as complementary gin cocktails. Rag & Bone co-designer David Neville's wife, Gucci Westman, the Global Artistic Director of Revlon, would provide in-store makeovers. Phillip Lim, designer of 3.1 Phillip Lim, would personally welcome guests into his location.

"Phillip likes interacting with the customers, mingling with them," said Chris Henderson, 26, a salesperson at Rag & Bone that afternoon.

Adding a dash of mainstream star power, Halle Berry would visit Rag & Bone to sign copies of the September Issue of *Vogue*, on which she posed for the cover. Finally, later in the

evening, art-nouveau pop-rock band My Gold Mask would perform at 3.1 Phillip Lim.

The salespeople at the Mercer stores emphasized that their party was conceived to be different from events at larger locations like Barney's New York or Bergdorf Goodman. Steven Rodriguez, 28, who worked security at 3.1 Phillip Lim, explained, "[our party] is going to be younger and more fun as compared to the parties uptown."

Henderson emphasized that this reflected the culture of the brands. "[Rag & Bone] is a very small, close-knit company," Henderson said. "People appreciate that, that we are a family, both humble and proud of our brand. So we want to have a fun, neighborhood party, very casual."

Eve Cahill, 25, who has been at 3.1 Phillip Lim since the store opened, cited the brand's motto of "cool, easy and chic."

Up the street at Marni,

salesperson Tony Lupinacci, 26, encapsulated the sentiment with three little words: "Simplicity is in."

Notwithstanding the democratic ethos, there was a token of exclusivity. One beverage was decidedly not to be served at the Block Party — regular Coke. "If there's gonna be Coke, it's gonna be Diet. Diet Coke — it's a fashion trait," said Steve Rodriguez.

The night of the party saw the hanging lights glow and the boulevard fill with the merry and the stylish. Men wore skinny jeans with tailored T-shirts, bright vests with slacks or three-piece suits. Women wore colorful, late-summer dresses or classic New York black. People arrived to represent the entire sartorial spectrum from to supercasual to uberglam, yet they were somehow united in that glorious downtown way. It seems like Lim, Neville and Wainwright have made friends indeed.



A Vegetarian Restaurant that will Butter Up the Biggest Carnivore

BY STAVAN DESAI '11
ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR
AND ELYSE FEUER '11
STAFF EDITOR

Dirt Candy, which is owner and chef Amanda Cohen's moniker for vegetables, opened about two years ago and is a hidden gem that we've been able to dine at on several occasions. Dirt Candy is a vegetarian restaurant that also caters to the vegan crowd. However, don't expect meat substitutes or anything a horse would eat; Dirt Candy spares no flavor (or butter) and offers a new and tasty way of thinking about vegetables.

Chef Cohen recently competed against Masaharu Morimoto on Food Network's *Iron Chef America*. She was the first vegetarian chef to ever battle in Kitchen Stadium. We made our reservations for a table for two two to three weeks out; we suggest you try the restaurant during the week or make your reservations well in advance. While we dined, many people walked in to see if they could get a table and were told the next available reservation was 11:30 p.m. Additionally, since the restaurant is quite small, when a party takes longer than expected you can see the next waiting impatiently outside, the only place to stand.

When you walk in you will either Cohen or Danielle, one of her two sous chefs, will seat you. The restaurant seats only about 18 diners and the dining room can feel a bit cramped at times. However, Dirt Candy still boasts charm in its simplicity of design and functionality.

After Danielle seated us, she asked whether we were vegan and took our drink orders. The wine and beer menu is a bit

limited—offering usually four whites, four reds and one beer—but the wines Cohen has chosen are dynamic and pair well with her dishes. We also appreciated that half glasses are an option for every wine on the menu.

To start we had the Jalapeno Hush Puppies, served with whipped maple butter (\$6). These fried treats are crisp on the outside with a dense muffin-like texture on the inside. Cohen spared us by ensuring they aren't



Elyse Feuer

greasy and delights us with the spicy jalapeno flavor. The maple butter is creamy, rich and pairs wonderfully with the spicy hush puppies. The butter is good enough to eat a spoonful of, which is why we appreciate that when Cohen brings bread out, she leaves the maple butter for the table in addition to the herb oil.

Next we had two appetizers, the Celery! (\$12) and the Mushroom! (\$13). To convey her excitement over vegetables, Cohen names each dish after the vegetable starring in it and concludes with an exclamation mark.

The Mushroom! is beautifully plated with a balsamic reduction drizzled on the bottom, a cube of Portobello mousse in one corner, a pear and fennel compote in another, grilled Portobello mushrooms in another and crostini in the final corner. The mousse is smooth, dense and earthy, and is famous for

winning PETA's faux foie gras challenge not too long ago. The chilled compote complements the mousse and contrasts nicely with the paper-thin slices of grilled mushroom. The dish is very hands-on, and the diners are left to build their appetizer any way that please. If you run out of crostini, just ask, and they'll bring you more — they don't want any of that mousse to go to waste!

The Celery! is one of our favorite dishes on the entire menu. The dish consists of thinly shaved raw celery topped with oyster mushrooms tossed in a Chinese celery and almond pesto. The pesto is garlicky, thick and has an intense flavor profile. The dish is garnished with cheese curds, light almost to the point of being hollow, yet still substantial enough to add extra crunch and flavor to the dish. The mushrooms are cooked lightly but retain their texture. The range of temperatures and textures on this dish works extremely well and made us realize how versatile and flavorful celery can be.

For our main dishes, we opted for the Zucchini! (\$19) and the Tomato! (\$19). The Zucchini! was a tarragon and mint pasta topped with sautéed zucchini, yogurt saffron sauce, falafel balls and pickled red onion and garnished with a dehydrated zucchini crisp. The falafel balls were pretty standard but added some meatiness to the dish. The pasta was cooked perfectly al dente but its herb flavor was overwhelmed by the sauce, which, while delicious, overpowered the flavor of the pasta. Mint is a fantastic herb to use in pasta

so we wished more of the herb flavor could have come through. The tangy sauce paired well with the sautéed zucchini; however, we could've used a bit more of the zucchini on top considering it was the star of the dish. Also, while the red onions added acidity to the dish, we would have liked a bit more acidity in the sauce to cut the richness of the yogurt. Overall the dish was satisfying but we felt there could've been more of the star ingredient present.

The Tomato! dish will make carnivores rejoice at being able to enjoy a meaty, hearty meal at a vegetarian restaurant. Cohen's tomato spaetzle, which looks like the inside seeds of a tomato but thankfully lacks the slimy texture, was delicious and perfectly cooked in a tomato sauce with a curry-like flavor and a bit of coconut milk. The spaetzle was topped with a jicama and brussels sprout salad and three fried green tomatoes. The salad, served cool and crunchy, contrasted nicely with the spaetzle. The breaded fried green tomatoes were crisp and perfectly cooked on the outside while retaining a firm and



Elyse Feuer

meaty texture on the inside. Even the biggest carnivore will find this dish satisfying and filling.

We rounded the meal out with Cohen's Red Pepper Velvet Cake. Yes, even the desserts are infused with vegetable flavor here! The cake gets its orangey

color from a red pepper juice reduction, a clever play on traditional red velvet, which gets its color from red food dye. The cake is frosted with cream cheese frosting and served white chocolate peanut ice cream topped with dehydrated red pepper flakes. The cake itself is dense, somewhat like a carrot cake. For those who are wary to taste a dessert made of vegetables, it doesn't actually have a strong vegetable flavor. The cake was a bit too dry for our taste but all was forgiven when we tasted the white chocolate peanut ice cream, which may be the most delicious thing we have ever put in our mouths. The ice cream was rich and the flavors were clean and unlike any ice cream we'd ever had before.

All in all, the food is inventive, adventurous and simply delicious and Cohen is so perky and charming that you find yourself wishing she'd sit down and join you. While Dirt Candy certainly hasn't worked out all its kinks yet, we have yet to find another restaurant taking such a fresh look at vegetables and encouraging all to look differently at what is usually treated as a side dish (and an afterthought). If you find yourself craving something different, and particularly if you usually write off vegetarian restaurants, head over to Dirt Candy (after you make your reservation well in advance) and sample what can only be described as fun and creative food.

Dirt Candy is located at 430 East 9th Street near Avenue A and is open for dinner Tuesday through Saturday. 212-228-7732. Credit cards accepted.

Want more inspired ideas about where to dine in New York City? Check out our food blog at IdCross-TheStreetForThat.Wordpress.Com.

SBA: Relax and Enjoy

Continued from Page 2

semester, at which point the SBA Board will review applications for next year. If you are interested, I highly encourage all of you to speak with any of the officers or representatives on the SBA Board to learn more about how you can participate in these committees.

I hope this overview has given you all a better understanding of what the SBA is and does. I am always happy to answer questions, so please don't hesitate to contact me if you want to know more about the law school, the SBA or ... whatever!

And lastly, I want to remind everyone to take a deep breath and relax. 1Ls, these next three years are going to go by faster than you can possibly imagine, so remember to take time to step back, get to know your classmates and have fun. Law school can be tough, but we are all here to support each other and make sure no one gets too crazed. 2Ls and 3Ls, I know the economy is rough right now, but we'll make it through! Best of luck to those applying for jobs and clerkships — it will all work out!

See you all at the Thursday party. Cheers!

DE MEL: Envisions Proactive Agenda

Continued from Page 1

legislative support. We worked very closely with the Iraqi Parliament because they had to rewrite all their laws."

After her time in Baghdad, de Mel spent a year as a senior policy advisor to the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. She then returned to NYU Law as Director of Global Initiatives for the Hauser program.

"I loved [NYU Law] ... and I really liked the people that I was going to end up working with," de Mel said. "I had enough varied professional experiences that I knew that one of the most important things was working for people you really enjoy. I kind of did it on a gut. ... I had no grand

strategy, no big plan."

As the new Assistant Dean, taking over the position from Pascale Walker, de Mel has a vision of what her office can offer to the students, above and beyond its traditional responsibilities.

"I don't think that people have the opportunity to try to conceptualize their careers in terms of the life they want to live," de Mel said. "Our office [should] have a proactive agenda of not only producing well-trained lawyers but also really happy lawyers. This should be a once in a lifetime experience and we should be sending people out in the world to be imaginative and fulfilled. ... [Students] have taken enough life insurance poli-

cies on [their lives] right now that [they] should not make decisions out of just risk aversion. A lot of times you get to this point and people get really conservative."

In order to get her message across, de Mel envisions exposing students to professionals who have had outside the box careers. Her own career is evidence of the flexibility of a J.D.

"We should be, as an administration and as a faculty, helping people to conceptualize their careers holistically and creatively," de Mel said. "I think we do that in sort of places and pockets, and if we create a tone where it's OK to not know which box you want to fall in and maybe none of them, that is what Student Affairs can do."