Official Senate Announcements

CLS NCAA Tournament Brackets Deadline Thursday. It’s that time of year! Caesar fell to it, and so shall you. That’s right, it’s March Madness time! We are once again hosting a competition for all CLS students to see who is the most knowledgeable (or at least luckiest) college hoops fan. Visit http://tournament.fantasysports.yahoo.com/t1/register/joinprivategroup and enter Group ID Number “38103” and Password “schizer” to sign up. Your picks must be made before the first game this Thursday, March 20! Winners will be announced at the Final game watch on Monday, April 7th. (Prize to be announced.) You could also possibly win $5 million from Yahoo! if you pick the perfect bracket or $10,000 for the best bracket on Yahoo! (see official rules on Yahoo! website). Questions? Please contact LaRue Robinson, llr2114@columbia.edu. Good luck!!

Barristers’ Ball 2008 Biggest Ever! The sold-out event, moved for the first time to Lerner Hall, attracted 750 CLS students and their dates on Saturday, March 8th, to a night filled with lively company, great music and dancing, classmates dressed to the nines, and skillfully-concocted libations. The professional photos are available at http://www.opevents.com. Look for yourself or your friends by clicking on “Photos,” then on “Barrister’s Ball 2008.”

Correction: Grad Ball Subsidy Opinion Column Incomplete

Jason Lear’s opinion piece in last week’s issue of The CLS Black Letter was edited for length and content in a manner that the author found eliminated his central argument. We apologize that we did not at the very least inform the author and the readership that opinion pieces submitted may be edited for considerations of space or factual accuracy. To correct this oversight, we now bring you the excised portion of the column, which was to have appeared after the first sentence of the second paragraph, slightly revised by the author to address certain editorial concerns.

First, the graduation ball was so mismanaged last year that it made a huge dent in the student activity budget this year. That’s because, though the student activity fee was raised last year, sucking more money out of everyone’s pockets, instead of increasing the anemic, (and, compared to our peer schools) sometimes embarrassing budgets for student benefit, the increases went toward paying for last year’s fiasco. As a result, all around, money has been tighter than it should be. The graduation committee has performed nobly with a smaller budget, but every other Senate arm was directly impacted and has had to deal with the shortages. (Ed. note: The graduation committee’s budget is set at the same level as it was last year.)

LAW SCHOOL JOKE OF THE WEEK

You know you’re a law student when . . .

• you consider caffeine to be a major food group.
• you appreciate the fact that you get to choose which twenty hours out of the day you have to work.
• you find yourself citing sources in conversation.
• you’ve ever sent a personal letter with footnotes.
• you rate coffee shops by the availability of outlets for your laptop.
• the concept of free time scares you.
• you’ve ever brought books with you on vacation and actually studied.
• you hope it snows during spring break so you can get more studying in.

1 “[T]he Week” only signifies this, and not necessarily any other, week.
The full Student Senate typically meets every other Monday at 9:10 PM in JGH 105. Meetings are generally open to the entire student body. Our next meeting will take place this Monday, March 31, 2008.

Once they have been approved, the minutes from our most recent meeting of March 10 will be posted at http://www.columbia.edu/cu/law/senate/meetings.html. Highlights of the meeting include an hour-long visit from Student Services; the approval of an ad hoc budget request from the Student Hurricane Network to help fund a spring break caravan for CLS students to assist in the Gulf Coast with Katrina-related work; the recognition of a student group (St. Thomas More Society); and a discussion of potential forms of student involvement in the faculty appointments process.

In addition, two days after the meeting, Dean Michelle Greenberg-Kobrin informed the Senate executive board that Student Services would shortly begin work to implement the proposed room reservation system that the Senate recommended in a resolution passed on February 25, 2008.
News & Notes

BLSA’s Paul Robeson Conference: Friday, April 18, 10 am – 4 pm, JGH 107.

2.6 million Americans are now at risk of losing their homes. The face of this problem is primarily black, Latino and poor. Hear professors and practitioners from around the country speak about the subprime crisis, find out why this is happening, and what we can do to help save homes. There will also be a luncheon in Drapkin Lounge. Contact Chris Wilson cmw2133@columbia.edu or Erin White eew2113@columbia.edu for more information.

The Blue Book Goes Online.

An online version of *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation*, the bane of many a law journal staff editor and a publication of the *Columbia Law Review*, was launched on February 15, 2008. As the standard system of American legal citation, *The Bluebook* is the best selling law-related book in the world. Now in its eighteenth edition, it was first compiled in 1926, and is a wholly student-run joint project of the *Columbia Law Review*, *Harvard Law Review*, *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*, and *The Yale Law Journal*.

“It has been fantastic to contribute to the development of this new project throughout the past year,” says outgoing Editor-in-Chief of the *Columbia Law Review*, Karin Portlock ’08. “In particular, we hope that the new online version of *The Bluebook* becomes a widely used resource for the legal community.”

The online version is available at [www.legalbluebook.com](http://www.legalbluebook.com), with subscriptions costing $25 for the first year and $15 per year for renewals.

PILF Auction Raises Over $80,000.

Thursday, March 6th, marked a very good day for public interest law, as CLS’s Public Interest Law Foundation hosted one of its most lucrative auctions in recent memory. Around 450 individuals attended the 16th Annual “Bid for Justice” Auction, enjoying the unique blue “PILF-tini” and trying to win items ranging from thousand-dollar chandeliers (which went for $300) to a lesson on “How to Use a Mac” (which went for $5).

The proceeds from the event will be used to help fund public interest summers for CLS students and to provide grants to community organizations doing innovative public interest legal work.

*Excitement abounds during the live auction portion of the evening.*

If you have a news item that everyone should know about, please email senate@law.columbia.edu.
This Week at CLS
March 17 – March 23, 2008

Monday
• Spring break at full speed.

Tuesday
• Stop and smell the flowers.

Wednesday
• Columbia University Seminar on the Problem of Peace: “China’s Environment and Development: Issues and Results.” 6:30 PM (Dinner), 7:30 - 9:00 PM (Discussion); Faculty House. Please RSVP to jonathan.gant@gmail.com, and specify whether attending both portions or only discussion; those attending dinner may purchase their meal upon arrival.

Thursday
• Over half over already?!

Friday
• Better get back to readin’.

Saturday
• One last hurrah?

Sunday
• It was fun while it lasted.

Event information is taken from the Advisor, a Student Services e-publication. To have your event listed, follow the link below and submit the on-line form. These must be submitted by 10am on Thursday, the week BEFORE your event. http://www.law.columbia.edu/current_student/studentorgs_abc/studentorgevent/eventform.