Official Senate Announcements

HALLOWEEN EXTRAVAGANZA!

Student Senate has a tremendous night of fun planned for you on All Hallow’s Eve this year! The climax of the evening will be the annual NYC Law Schools party—this year, we will be getting down at Public House, a block from Grand Central. The fun starts there at 9 pm, so bring your CLS ID, your best dance moves, and a rockin’ costume. Public House is located at 140 E. 41st St, between Lexington and Third Avenue.

But before all that starts, we’re hosting mad-pregame right here in Jerome Greene! The party starts at 5 pm with a family-friendly hour of candy and pumpkin-carving in Lenfest Café. Then at 6, the pizza and keg will come out as the teams for Liq-or-Treat start assembling. Liq-or-Treat will begin at 6:30, and finally, at 7:45, the costume-judging will take place, with the best costume getting a prize!

What is Liq-or-Treat? BLSA and the Senate are hosting rooms throughout our very own JGH where bands of costumed students will be able to go door-to-door, enjoying a different variety of liquid refreshment at each stop (non-alcoholic options will be available). Advance registration to join one of the Liq-or-Treat groups is required, so please RSVP to mkhazel1@gmail.com by Monday, October 29. You are welcome to register together with a group of friends, or feel free to come on your own and make new ones!

Website Revamp. The Student Senate website is back up, and accessible at http://www.columbia.edu/cu/law/senate. While it is still a work in progress, we hope that you will find it to be a useful resource that you will visit regularly. Among the things that you can find on the site are minutes from all our meetings, contact information for your senators, important links for your student life, and the current issue, as well as the archive, of The CLS Black Letter.

Free Speech Panel a Success. Student Senate held an event called “Free Speech in an Academic Setting” on Tuesday, during which the more than 75 attendees heard from and questioned three very passionate and distinctive CLS faculty members: Philip Hamburger, Michael Dorf, and Katherine Franke. While the panel was originally envisioned to focus on Mahmoud Ahmedinejad's recent visit and the free speech issues raised by it, the organizers sought to expand the scope of discussion to encompass recent hate incidents on Columbia’s campus.

Professor Hamburger questioned whether Ahmedinejad qualifies as a “distinguished speaker” in the academic sense, and asked whether universities ought to be in the business of...

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Scrabble Tournament Spells Fun! A fun and diverse group of CLS students took a break from their Wednesday night studies on October 17th to hang out, enjoy some healthy refreshments, and play Scrabble. The event was low-key and the competition friendly, but there was an incentive to challenge any dubious words—$10 gift certificates to Panino Sportivo for the two highest scores! The lucky and skilled winners were 3L Melissa Ginsberg and 1L Corey Miller, who both topped 200 points. More importantly, a good time was had by all! Stay tuned for more fun and exciting Senate social events in the near future.

RSVP for Thanksgiving Dinner. Following up on last week’s announcement about the Annual CLS Thanksgiving Dinner, remember to e-mail dys2101@columbia.edu by Monday, November 5, for the dinner and/or community service project. Please include spouses, partners, and children in your RSVP. Again, there will be a small contribution for the dinner, which will be waived if you participate in the community service project.
Your 2007-2008 Student Senate

Please contact us with questions or concerns! We are working hard to represent you.

E-mail us at senate@law.columbia.edu, and visit us at http://www.columbia.edu/cu/law/senate/.

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Senate Business

The full Student Senate typically meets every other Tuesday at 9:00 PM in JGH 105. Meetings are generally open to the entire student body. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 30.

The Senate’s most recent meeting was held this past Tuesday, October 16, and featured our annual visit from Dean David Schizer, who spoke about the state of the school and fielded questions from the senators. Detailed minutes are available at http://www.columbia.edu/cu/law/senate/docs/minutes101607.pdf.

Among the topics discussed with Dean Schizer were: the recent hate incidents on-campus; the physical law school expansion; ways to build a greater sense of community at the law school; a lunches with faculty program; the ongoing surge in faculty hiring and the need for greater student involvement in the faculty selection process; diversity issues in faculty hiring (only 3 faculty of color have been hired out of 16 new appointments in recent years); LLM recruitment policies; reforming the grading curve; our institutional response to the revolutionary changes in the Korean legal market; law student access to language courses; and much more.
Free Speech Panel a Success. (continued from page 1)

bringing politicians, especially those that are “distinguished” by their bad acts, to campus. He hinted at concerns that Columbia is now “on the map” and that intense media exposure, combined with the way that President Bollinger introduced Mr. Ahmedinejad, could be a dangerous combination. Professor Dorf argued that schools within a larger university ought to have discretion and autonomy in handling their own affairs, including inviting controversial speakers to campus. He also touched on the free speech issue by stating that while everyone acknowledges that private academic institutions are not bound by the first amendment as state actors, they ought to voluntarily craft speech standards, some of which are more, and some of which are less, restrictive than the first amendment, depending on context. In terms of the specific incidents at Columbia, Dorf said that the graffiti and noose incidents are easy under the law: graffiti is illegal (defacing property) but probably not a hate crime; and hanging a noose on a particular professor's door carries with it the obvious death threat, which the first amendment has never protected. Professor Franke took a different approach, saying she would have invited Ahmedinejad if she were in the position to. Stating that he is an important world figure and affects world politics, Franke stressed the importance of hearing a speaker's message and deciding for yourself. She noted that the head of the Taliban, President Musharraf, and other less-than-universally-loved individuals have visited Columbia and argued that it is important to hear from them. She also provoked a visible audience reaction when she argued that President Bush is viewed very negatively in other parts of the world, yet she would also invite him to speak at Columbia.

If you have any questions about the event or any ideas for future events, please e-mail senate@law.columbia.edu.

NEWS & NOTES

NEW ID CARD DISTRIBUTION SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED. For your convenience, CLS Student Services has arranged to distribute the new, high-tech Columbia ID cards to students this week in the lobby of William and June Warren Hall (“Big Warren”) from 11 am to 2 pm. You will need to present your old card in order to get your new one, so please make sure to bring your CUID with you. Card distribution will take place according to the following schedule (arranged by last name):

Monday, October 22:  Abasta-Vilaplana to Figueroa
Tuesday, October 23:  Finkle to Lebigre
Wednesday, October 24:  Lee to Rice
Thursday, October 25:  Richards to Zylberberg

If it is impossible for you to comply with this schedule, beginning this Friday, October 26, you may pick up your card at the Student Services desk, on the 5th floor of William and June Warren. Please be aware that you must pick up your card by November 16. After that date, your old card will no longer work.

CLS ALUM RECOGNIZED BY NATIONAL BOOK FOUNDATION. Charles Yu ’01 was among five young fiction writers recognized by the foundation as “5 Under 35” — a small group of writers who were selected by previous National Book Award finalists or winners as “someone whose work is particularly promising and exciting and is among the best of a new generation of writers.” Yu was selected for his book Third Class Superhero by Richard Powers, 2006 National Book Award winner for The Echo Maker. The five young authors will be honored at a celebration in Manhattan on November 12 at Tribeca Cinemas, where they will be introduced by the authors who selected them and then will read an excerpt from their most recent book.

Yu, who lives in Los Angeles and practices law full-time, carves out time to write from midnight to 3 am, according to a release by the foundation. Yu’s fiction has been published in several magazines and literary journals, including Oxford Magazine, The Gettysburg Review, Harvard Review, Mid-American Review, Mississippi Review and Alaska Quarterly Review. His work has been cited for special mention in The Pushcart Prize Anthology XXVII and reprinted in Robert Olen Butler Prize Stories 2004.

If you have a news item that everyone should know about, please email senate@law.columbia.edu.

Please be kind and double-side your printouts!
This Week at CLS
October 22 - 28, 2007

Monday
- Koleinu: “Circumcision and Parental Rights,” Mark D. Harris and Michael S. Lazaroff. 12:10 - 1:00 PM; JG 546.
- Panel Discussion: “LGBTQ Access to Family Courts.” 12:00 - 1:00 PM; JG 103.
- SJI Lecture: Deborah Karpatkin ’80 (NYCLU) on the “Faces of Liberty” Exhibit. 12:20 PM; Law Library, Handler Rare Books Room.
- Study Abroad Info Session: Japan. 12:20 pm; WJW 600.
- Externship Expo. 6:00 - 8:00 PM; JG 103. (Faculty Panel at 6/Student Q&A at 7)

Tuesday
- Career Services Q&A Session: LLM Interview Skills. 12:15 PM; Lerner Hall, Arledge Auditorium.
- Public Interest Summer Brown Bag: Environmental Law/Environmental Justice. 12:20 - 1:20 PM; WJW 103.
- CPIL Panel: Civil Rights Litigation Opportunities at Cochran, Neufeld & Scheck. 12:20 - 1:10 PM; WJW L104.
- HRI Practitioner Speaker Series: Aisling Reidy, Senior Legal Advisor, Human Rights Watch. 12:20 PM; JG 646.
- IMPACT Panel Discussion: “Voter ID goes to the Supreme Court.” 6:00-7:30 PM; JG 103.

Wednesday
- Book Talk: “The Oil and the Glory: The Pursuit of Empire and Fortune on the Caspian Sea,” Steve LeVine. 12:00 PM; 1512 International Affairs Building.
- CJAN Panel: Crack Cocaine Sentencing. Moderated by Professor Gerard Lynch. 6:30 - 7:30 PM; JG 106.
- DeVinimus: Bordeaux Tasting. 7:30 - 10:00 PM; JG 102. RSVP to devinimus@gmail.com by 10 PM on 10/21.

Thursday
- Kernochan Center: Arts Law Summer Internships Brown Bag Lunch. 12:10 - 1:00 PM; JG 304.
- 1L Elective Informational Session. 12:10 pm; JG 106 (overflow JG 103).
- Career Services Group Discussion: Getting a Dual Degree (JD-MBA). 12:15 pm; JG Annex, 2nd Floor Lounge.
- Study Abroad Info Session: South Africa. 12:20 PM; WJW 103.
- Movie Screening: Trudell. 4:00 - 5:30 PM; JG 105.
- Center for Public Interest Law presents: PUBLIC INTEREST LAWYERING 101. 5:15 - 7:00 PM; JG 103.

Friday

Saturday
- ELS & Alpine Society: Bear Mountain Hike. 9:45 AM - 4:00 PM; buses leave from 116th Street & Amsterdam.
- California Society Campus Golf Tournament 4:00 - 11:00 PM; Little Warren Hall 10th Floor.

Sunday
- Your event here!

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