



# The Vermont Law School Forum

Volume XXX, No. 4  
WEATHER: 28/12, SNOW LIKELY

Thursday, February 10, 2005

South Royalton, Vermont

## REP. BERNARD SANDERS HOLDS TOWN HALL MEETING ON CIVIL LIBERTIES AT VERMONT LAW SCHOOL

by Brian Leeds, Class of '07

On Monday, January 31, Congressman Bernard Sanders (I-Vt.) hosted an informative Town Hall Meeting, open to the general public, at the Chase Center. His speech, "The Bush Administration and Your Constitutional Rights," centered largely on the Patriot Act and its potential impact upon individual rights and civil liberties. Over 300 VLS students, faculty, staff, administrators, and concerned Vermonters turned out for the discussion.

"We need to be aware that a cancer is threatening our basic civil liberties, our constitutional rights and our privacy rights," said Rep. Sanders. "The purpose of this meeting is to get an overview of where we now stand with regard to constitutional issues, and how we can most effectively address this crisis. In my view, terrorism is a very serious issue and the United States government must do all that it can to protect the American people from another terrorist attack. It is also my view, however, that we can effectively fight terrorism without undermining the constitutional rights which make us a free country."

Rep. Sanders voted against the Patriot Act when it was first passed in the wake of the terrorist attacks in the U.S. of Sept. 11, 2001, and he continues to be outspoken in

his criticism. The issue, Rep. Sanders mentioned, was not just the Patriot Act itself, which broadened the powers of law



**Rep. Bernard Sanders (I-Vt.)**

Photo Credit: Joel Barkin,  
Rep. Sanders' D.C. Press Office

enforcement and the federal government, but also how those who want to keep track of people are gaining more ways of doing so. For example, according to Rep. Sanders, there was an effort in Congress last year to require traceable computer chips in all drivers' licenses. "Someone with the right

kind of device could track your every movement," he said. "George Orwell, here we are. In a few short years, unless we change it, every single thing we do, every place we go, every person we meet could be recorded in a database."

Professors Stephen Dycus and Cheryl Hanna joined Rep. Sanders in the discussion on the current status of individual liberties and the Patriot Act. Professor Dycus is the lead author of *National Security Law*, the leading casebook in the field, and Professor Hanna is an expert on criminal law. Also participating in the meeting was Trina Magi, former President of the Vermont Library Association, and Ben Scotch, former Director of the Vermont ACLU. Each of the panelists made a short opening statement, after which the floor was opened for questions and comments. These ranged from heated rants against the Bush administration to questions about what can be done. One student challenged the one-sidedness of the discussion. "I was a little surprised the Vermont Law School would have only one side presented," she said. "I would think they would want both sides

**See Sanders, Page 3, Col. 1, No. 1**

**Also see**

**Civil Liberties, Page 7, Col. 1**

## CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER, LEGAL TRAILBLAZER ELAINE JONES LEADS VLS MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY OBSERVANCE

by Peter Miller, VLS Staff

Elaine R. Jones, the retired president and director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF), led Vermont Law School's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observance. The campus celebration and presentation took place on Tuesday, January 18, in the Chase Center, and was free and open to the public.

The LDF is the nation's oldest law firm fighting for equal rights and justice for people of color, women, and the poor. When Ms. Jones took the helm of the Legal Defense Fund in 1993, she became the first woman to head the organization.

After graduating with honors in political science from Howard University, Ms. Jones joined the Peace Corps and became one of the first African Americans to serve in Turkey. This began a long series of "firsts" in her career. Following her two-year Peace Corps stint, she became the first black woman to graduate from the

University of Virginia School of Law, and subsequently the first African American to serve on the board of governors of the American Bar Association.



**Elaine R. Jones**

In her early years at LDF, Ms. Jones was one of the first African American women to defend death row inmates. Only

two years out of law school, she was counsel of record in *Furman v. Georgia*, a landmark U.S. Supreme Court case that abolished the death penalty in 37 states. During this period, she also argued numerous employment discrimination cases, including class actions against some of the nation's largest employers (such as *Patterson v. American Tobacco Co.*, *Stallworth v. Monsanto*, and *Swint v. Pullman Standard*).

Ms. Jones also spoke at Vermont Law School's 1999 commencement ceremony, at which she received an honorary doctor of laws degree.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Day presentation was sponsored by Vermont Law School's faculty, staff, and the Student Diversity Committee; the Black Law Student Association; the Vermont Law School Student Ambassadors; and President and Dean Geoffrey Shields.

## VLS LAW STUDENTS FOR CHOICE HOST CELEBRATION OF 32ND ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE

by Kim Perdue, Class of '06

On January 20, the VLS chapter of Law Students for Choice hosted students, staff and faculty in a celebration of the 32nd anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court decision which made abortion legal in the U.S. The night included a four-course meal with a variety of wines and featured two guest speakers, Linn Duvall Harwell, founder of the Clara Bell Duvall Reproductive Freedom Project, and Dr. Cheryl Gibson, medical director of Planned Parenthood Northern New England.

The evening began with a showing of the documentary *Motherless*, a film which illustrates the lives of families like Mrs. Harwell, who lost their mothers to illegal and unsafe abortions before the *Roe* decision. Mrs. Harwell spoke to the group about the death of her mother, caused by complications from a self-induced abortion, and how that experience had shaped her life as an advocate for reproductive rights among other things.

Dr. Gibson shared her experiences as an abortion provider and the dangers associated with the position, those that require her, at times, to wear a bulletproof vest. She spoke about the various ways reproductive rights are being undermined, such as limits on access to emergency contraception and "conscience clauses" which allow doctors and pharmacists to refuse to prescribe and distribute birth control.

Both speakers expressed their optimism for the future of reproductive rights and emphasized the need for law students and budding attorneys to do their part in protecting the right to choose.

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**AND MORE!!!**



VERMONT LAW SCHOOL  
FORUM

CELEBRATING  
30  
YEARS

On Sat., Feb. 5, I was reminded of the fact that two years ago around this time, while writing a column for *The Forum*, I had a “spelling malfunction,” at least according to Word, the FCC of spelling, as I saw Duke University basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski collapse while talking to a referee. Fortunately, Coach K quickly got up from his “consciousness malfunction.” He probably just hadn’t eaten, or wasn’t quite over the shock of seeing a call go against the Dukies at home. As if it believes there’s a proper alternative proper spelling for this name, Word just it did again. Last year, in the Super Bowl, the world suddenly had a new phrase – “wardrobe malfunction,” courtesy of Janet Jackson. Then, on Nov. 15, Monday Night Football’s opening segment with the Eagles’ Terrell Owens and actress Nicollette Sheridan of ABC’s *Desperate Housewives* fame reignited the controversy after her staged “promotional wardrobe malfunction.”

With the pressure squarely on Fox, the broadcaster of this year’s Super Bowl, for the pre-game and halftime shows to go on without a hitch after last year’s Super Bowl “wardrobe malfunction” on CBS, the only cast of characters which remained the same were the Patriots. Without a doubt, Janet Jackson was nowhere near Alltel Stadium on Sunday night. Neither were Krzyzewski, Nicollette Sheridan, or Terrell Owens. After sportswriter Tony Kornheiser’s scathing *Washington Post* column of January 26; a rant against all 840 square miles of the city of Jacksonville, which takes in almost all of northeast Florida, if he showed, he’d have been run out of town by folks his column assumes would dine at Waffle House. Okay, T.O. was there, but his return from an ankle injury did not deter the New England Patriots from claiming their place in history by winning a third Super Bowl in four years, beating the Philadelphia Eagles, 24-21.

The most ironic part of the “wardrobe malfunction” last year was that it did not occur on Fox, known for its envelope-pushing shows, but on CBS, whose core audience is generally perceived as being far older. This year, it was Fox and the NFL playing it safe. All of the songs which Paul McCartney, the star of the halftime show, played, were over 30 years old. The newest of these was likely “Live and Let Die,” the title track for the 1973 James Bond film. The closest McCartney came to a “wardrobe malfunction” was removing his jacket to reveal a long-sleeved red shirt.

As today’s review of the practicality of the Commerce Clause, I’ll take a quick look at the commercials, in case you missed them. In the “now I know where they are, VH1 in 30 seconds for \$2.4 million” category were Lay’s ads featuring rapper MC Hammer flying over a fence. In the “requisite animal” category were a series of ads by CareerBuilder.com featuring monkeys in an office. In the “sub-versive” category, Subway pitched a new line of toasted subs by staging a police car stopping what appeared to be an amorous couple parked for a hot makeout session, but as the pair of inquiring police officers learned, appearances can deceive. And finally, in the “is that supposed to be Vermont?” category, Ford casually noted that this time of year isn’t the best time to introduce a new convertible, by showing another traffic stop, in which the police officer pulls up behind a car at a red light. When the light turns green the car sits. The officer gets out, and attempts to inform the driver that the light is green, only to find the driver frozen, sunglasses and all.

With the temperatures lately, Ford may not be too shocked that I call their ad flawed and unoriginally stereotypical of states like Vermont, regardless of where it was actually filmed. This week may be a great time to debut that new Mustang. The calendar says we’re having Wynterfoest, but with the rapid snow melt and mud of late, I don’t know where “wynter” is. We’re probably in no danger of a flood like the one which hit VLS in 1978 (see page 3), but with temperatures in the 40’s for several days last week (actually hitting 50 degrees for a high on Super Bowl Sunday), I wondered whether we’d need to import snow for some of the events. Yes, in Vermont. In February. I do have to agree with Kornheiser that Jacksonville is not the warmest place for a Super Bowl game at night in February. I was in Jacksonville for the Gator Bowl on New Year’s 2004, and it’s not much warmer than up here at night.

Within these pages, you’ll find many new (and some returning) features which I, the editorial staff, and our contributing writers worked very hard to bring you. We hope you enjoy this issue and find it informative.

Sincerely,  
Jonathan Stein, Editor in Chief

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#### SUBMISSIONS POLICY

The Vermont Law School Forum is a jointly funded, student produced publication serving Vermont Law School and its surrounding community. Please contact *The Forum*’s office at 802/831-1299 or [forum@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:forum@vermontlaw.edu) for information on advertising, circulation, and purchasing subscriptions.

Every effort is made to publish *The Forum* monthly during the Fall and Spring semesters, and it is usually distributed on Mondays, although this is subject to change as needed. We encourage news articles, commentaries, and inquiries without prejudice. Copy and photo deadlines are announced to the VLS community via e-mail, though special arrangements may be made with *The Forum*’s editorial staff.

Submissions should be made by e-mail to [forum@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:forum@vermontlaw.edu), or on a 3 1/2" IBM-formatted floppy disk with your name and year on it. Printed photos submitted must be accompanied by your name and year in order to be returned. Hard copies of articles may also be provided. Documents submitted should be in Microsoft Word or Corel WordPerfect formatting. Any photos submitted electronically must have been scanned at a minimum of 300dpi to appear properly in print editions of *The Forum*.

Disks and hard copies should be placed in *The Forum*’s mailbox, on the left side of the student mailboxes in the Chase Center. Disks and photos submitted will be returned within a reasonable time. We reserve the right to edit all submissions as deemed necessary by *The Forum*’s editorial staff, and the editorial staff makes the final printing decisions. However, unless an article is without merit, lacks substantiation, or space is at a premium, we will do our best to see that submissions are printed.

The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the editorial staff.

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## CAMPUS NEWS & NOTES

### Award-Winning “Vagina Monologues” Returns to VLS

by Peter Miller, VLS Staff

A Vermont Law School production of Eve Ensler’s ground-breaking, Obie Award-winning play, “The Vagina Monologues,” will take place at the Chase Community Center on Saturday, February 19, at 8:00 p.m. The doors will open at 7:30 p.m. The benefit performance will be held in conjunction with V-Day, a global movement to stop violence against women and girls.

Hailed by the *New York Times* as “funny” and “poignant” and by the *Daily News* as “intelligent” and “courageous,” The Vagina Monologues delves into the mystery, humor, pain, power, wisdom, outrage, and excitement buried in women’s

experiences. The play has been performed to great acclaim throughout the world. Vermont Law School’s talented amateurs have performed the show to sold-out audiences since introducing the play regionally in 2003.

The performance will benefit Safeline, which provides services for survivors and victims of sexual assault and domestic abuse in Vermont’s Orange and Windsor counties.

Tickets are \$6.00 and may be purchased Monday-Friday the week of the show during daytime hours in the Chase Center breezeway, or reserved by e-mailing [vlsvday@hotmail.com](mailto:vlsvday@hotmail.com)

### MedLaw Poster Exhibition in Chase Center

by Susan B. Apel, VLS Faculty

This is an invitation to come to the Chase Center to view an exhibition of last semester’s MedLaw posters. This seminar course is offered for both medical and law students, and is taught at the Dartmouth Medical School by myself and Dr. Judy Stern. As part of the course, students were asked to construct a poster on a topic of their choice for poster presentations at the end of the course.

Topics range from emergency contraception, to the role of scientific review

boards, to the use of stem cells, as well as several others. The posters are beautiful to look at and interesting to read. I wanted to share them with the rest of the VLS community (after which the exhibition may travel to the Dartmouth Medical School), and the students agreed to this display of their work.

Posters are along the far outside wall of the Chase Center. My thanks to the Buildings and Grounds staff for their work in creating the exhibition.

### Coming Soon: The Solutions Conference

by Helene Busby, Class of '07

The Solutions Conference will be Friday April 8 – Sunday April 10. There will be speakers, panels, workshops, art, and much more. The purpose of the Solutions Conference is to not just discuss problems, but work toward finding active solutions to problems in the world and our community. Here is a list of ten reasons to get excited about the conference. In no particular order:

10. The Solutions Conference gives all of the student groups a chance to collaborate and hear what important and exciting issues they are working on.

9. How depressed are you about constantly hearing about how difficult and complicated local, national, and international problems

are? Wouldn’t it be great if there was a weekend to focus of figuring out and learning about different solutions that people from diverse fields and communities?

8. There will be a really hot and rad party Saturday night.

7. Where else are you going to find ONE conference with speakers on reproductive rights, water privatization and corporate power, immigration law, transgender issues, environmental education, indigenous autonomy, election reform, environmental issues, and many more?

See *Solutions*, Page 3,  
Col. 1, No. 2

### THE STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:

## WYNTERFÖEST 2005

Thursday 2/10

12:45-2:00 p.m.  
INT’L. FOOD FEST  
Chase Center

5:30 p.m.  
FACULTY FOLLIES  
Chase Center

Faculty & Staff Welcome!



Saturday 2/12

3:30 p.m.  
BROOMBALL  
South Royalton Town  
Green

8:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m.  
“BARRISTER’S BALL”  
(PROM!)  
Killington Grand

## CAMPUS NEWS & NOTES

### **Sanders, from Page 1:**

presented so we, as law students, could learn."

Rep. Sanders encouraged organization among those that opposed these policies, as well as stressing the need for a better understanding between liberals and conservatives. "It is not moderate Republicans, it is conservative Republicans, people who love their guns and don't want their guns taken away, who are going to join you," Rep. Sanders said. "Do you talk to them and or just think they're jerks who aren't as bright as you? Well, that's what they think about you."

One man asked how to best strike a balance between preserving civil liberties and vigilance against terrorist threats. Magi said it was something people would have to decide for themselves. "I think it's really legitimate to be afraid of terrorists," she said. "We can also be afraid of an overreaching government that stretches too far into our lives. There are plenty of examples of lives that were ruined by a government that was not restrained."

Congressman Sanders noted that there was more to the issue than a simple tradeoff and that reductions in privacy don't necessarily lead to increases in security. He cited the internment of Japanese citizens during World War II, the McCarthyism of the 1950s and several other examples of how the government can be just as much of a threat to the people as those from whom it is supposed to protect them.

### **Solutions, from Page 2:**

6. Where else are you going to find a conference with such an array of topics *in Vermont*?

5. There will actually be people from outside of the SoRo/VLS Community coming to our campus! It's a great weekend to have friends from out of town come up and see what awesome stuff VLS is doing.

4. Solutions is from April 8-10, which is far enough from finals so that you can attend and still have plenty of time to do those pesky outlines the next weekend.

Professor Hanna spoke about the Patriot Act, explaining that the provisions civil libertarians find most troublesome and unconstitutional have been difficult to challenge in court because of the secrecy with which the law allows the government to operate. "In order to challenge something, you have to have a case," she said. "You need someone who has been harmed. With the Patriot Act, so much of the harm has been clandestine. You might not even know if you were the target of an investigation."

Professor Dycus challenged the notion that the law should only concern those involved with terrorism. "It would be a terrible mistake to believe none of this concerns you," he said. "You might be right to think that you will never be taken away in the night and detained in a military brig ... but you shouldn't be sure. Besides, what our government does ... [is done] in our name."

The Congressman's and the other participants' speeches were well received by the crowd. Some expressed continuing concern over terrorist threats and showed support for the Patriot Act, pointing out that its provisions expand capabilities that law enforcement already had. Most would agree that the Town Hall Meeting was an important exchange of information and a privilege to be hosted at Vermont Law School. Rep. Sanders specifically thanked VLS Dean and President Geoffrey Shields, as well as VLS staff member Spencer Hanes (Class of '04) for helping to organize this event.

3. No one is saying that a three day conference can find solutions to all of the world's problems. However, we have to start somewhere so come join us to hear what ideas people have about solving problems and contribute some of your own (if you want to, but you don't have to).

2. If you offer up the extra room or couch in your apartment or house, the Solutions organizers promise to hook you up with cool people to stay at your place.

1. You can give up your ironic detachment for at least one weekend, can't you?

### **Environmental Law Society Update**

by Lori Choquette, Class of '07

This semester promises to be a busy one for Environmental Law Society (ELS) members and the VLS community. We are co-sponsoring several events with other VLS student groups and have quite a number of our own plans in the works. Here is a brief listing of the coming attractions.

We hosted a successful lunchtime speaker event on January 27. VLS Professor Parenteau expounded upon the challenges presented by the current executive administration to the strength and survival of the Endangered Species Act. He also discussed how the law has helped protect critical habitat for several endangered species throughout the country and how future protection of habitat is critical to species survival. ELS provided snacks for the attendees and set up a table with information on endangered species.

On February 17 and 18, ELS and BLSA will co-sponsor an Environmental Justice Panel. The keynote speaker is Robert Bullard, a professor of sociology at Clark Atlanta University. Professor Bullard is one of the leading authorities in the nation regarding environmental justice, and he has written or edited several books on the subject. More significantly, he has played a major role in organizing and mobilizing the environmental justice movement over the past two decades.

On March 17 and 18, ELS and WLG will co-sponsor a conference on environmental waste and its effect on the reproductive system. Sandra Steingraber, an ecologist, author, and cancer survivor, is the guest speaker. She is an internationally recognized expert on the environmental links to cancer and reproductive health. Her books include *Having Faith*, *Living Downstream*, and *Post-Diagnosis*.

The most important ELS event of the spring semester is Earth Week (April 11-15). ELS will conduct a series of activities throughout the week including a Film for Thought, daily informational tabling events, an alternative-fuel car show, several speaker events, and The Lorax. The Save the Ales fundraiser and Fashion Show provide the grand finale of our Earth Week festivities. The goal of the fundraiser is to increase awareness of global warming, to donate proceeds to a good cause, and to drink good microbrew! The Fashion Show, co-sponsored by WLG, is the highlight of the Save the Ales event. VLS students are invited to strut their stuff on the catwalk wearing self-created fashions made only of recycled or reused materials. It is sure to be a good time for all!

Watch your e-mail inbox and the ELS bulletin board for more details on the upcoming events. For anyone interested in joining ELS or just seeing what we are all about, feel free to attend our bi-monthly Tuesday meetings in the Chase Loft at 5:30 p.m.

### **Women's Law Group News**

by Ashley Carson, Class of '06

The Women's Law Group is off to an exciting start for Spring Semester. We kicked off the semester with a fun little cocktail party, featuring Meg and Kelly's Fondue extravaganza! February, March, and April will be busy months for our group, and we hope that you will participate in the activities we have planned! We always welcome new members, so please join us for our general meetings.

**Saturday, February 19 – Party at Crossroads after the Vagina Monologues**  
WLG will be hosting the after party following the *Vagina Monologues* at Crossroads! Last year "Club Climax" turned out to be quite the party. All of the proceeds from this party will be donated to Safeline or another organization in need.

**Accepting Women of the Year Award Nominations**

We will be soon be accepting nominations for Women of the Year awards to honor students, faculty and staff who have been outstanding role models and influential to women on campus and in the community. More information to follow, please e-mail sbrooks@vermontlaw.edu with questions.

**March is National Women's History Month – Theme: Women Change America"**

**Tuesday, March 8 is Int'l Women's Day**  
**Thursday, March 17 – The first day of our conference: Pollution's Progeny: The Impact of Environmental Toxins on Our Reproductive Health**

Our annual conference will begin on March 17, and continue through the next day. We are proud to have the ELS co-sponsoring the conference. The keynote speaker will be Sandra Steingraber, the author of *Living Downstream* and *Having Faith*. She is also an ecologist, cancer survivor, and an internationally recognized expert on environmental links to cancer. The conference hopes to address many different aspects of environmental toxins as they relate to the reproductive health of women.

**April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month**  
We are planning an event to educate and discuss sexual assault. More info to follow!  
**Solutions Conference – April 8-10**

Our plan is to discuss solutions for the problems presented in our *Pollution's Progeny* conference.

**Tuesday, April 19 – Equal Pay Day**

Equal Pay Day is observed in April to indicate how far into each year a woman must work to earn as much as a man earned in the previous year. Tuesday symbolizes the day when women's wages catch up to men's wages from the previous week. Because women on average earn less, they must work longer for the same pay. For women of color, the wage gap is greater. Last year a small group of VLS women went to the state house in Montpelier wearing red (symbolizing how much women and minorities are "in the red"). It was a great way to meet people in the Vermont legislature, and other women's interest groups. We hope to have a large turn out this year.

## **RETRO FORUM: FEB. 15, 1978 (VOL. III, No. 7)**



On Monday Jan. 9, 1978, the White River overflowed into the VLS parking lot due to heavy snow, followed by unseasonably warm temperatures and steady rain. 14 students' cars were flooded, including this unfortunate one.

(Headline: Water Strikes VLS)

## **Stop in @ NorthStar**



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Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon**

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## **SBA HAPPENINGS**

*by Jerry Edwards, Class of '05*

### ***"B"ELATED CURVE INCREASE***

Last semester the faculty decided that the recommended average grade increase from a B- to a B. This would apply to all first year courses other than Legal Writing II and all courses with an enrollment of 40 or greater. At their first meeting this semester, the faculty decided to make the new curve effective fall semester 2005.

Increasing the grade curve is an issue that the faculty has discussed in the past. Last fall Olaseni Bello (Class of '06) introduced a resolution to the Student Bar Association (SBA) recommending a grade curve increase. This resolution asserted that VLS students are disadvantaged in the market place by the B-curve. The resolution passed by a 19-1 vote at the November 9<sup>th</sup> SBA meeting.

Olaseni Bello, Courtney Queen (Class of '06), and Jonathan Holter and Jerry Edwards (Class of '05) presented the SBA resolution to faculty at the November faculty meeting. The faculty voted to increase the curve to a B and delegated the planning of implementation of the new curve to the Board of Review. Professor Willbanks, Chair of the Board of Review, held discussions with students about curve implementation strategies last fall.

Beginning in the 2005 fall semester, returning students' transcripts will differentiate between those classes graded under the B- curve and those classes graded under the B curve. The B curve will not be retroactive.

### ***NEW 2L SENATOR ELECTED***

On February 4th, Axel Swanson was elected to fill the 2L senate seat in the Student Bar Association (SBA) vacated by Olaseni Bello. Olaseni is currently in London for a semester in practice. Axel served as a 1L senator in the SBA last year and has remained active in the SBA despite his losing bid for the Vice-Presidency last spring to 3L Jen Willis. Axel is currently the head of Students for Community Outreach and Education (SCORE), a student group which coordinates student volunteerism in the local community.

### ***SEMINAL SEMESTER FOR THE SBA***

The fall semester was a very busy one for the Student Bar Association (SBA). Student participation in governance has increased dramatically as student

attendance at SBA meetings increased to an average of 40 students per week. Student discussion of governance issues has also increased with the creation of the SBA TWEN site where students can post messages and solicit feedback. The SBA partnered with faculty, staff and administrators to address the closure of the South Royalton House Pub, the B-Curve, campus lighting and student health insurance.

Eight resolutions were introduced in the SBA Senate last fall. These resolutions addressed a variety of issues such as carpooling, computer labs, class scheduling and everyone e-mail. Four resolutions passed, three failed and one was withdrawn. The four passing resolutions encouraged student carpooling, created a B- curve research committee, recommended increasing the B- curve and recommended VLS supply students with business cards. All of these resolutions were well received by the VLS administration.

The SBA amended its standing rules last semester to allow for a yearly expenditure from the SBA investment fund, an account of rollover student activity funds, for permanent improvement.

The SBA allocated over \$19,000 dollars to seventeen student groups for speaker and sports events for the fall semester. The SBA also hosted an orientation party, a student organization day, a brown bag lunch with the Dean, Oktoberfest and a last day of classes party.

Five new student groups were recognized by the SBA. These new student groups, Just Democracy, DigiPix, Law Democrats, Law Students for Choice and the Riverview Community Speakers bring the student organization count at VLS to 48.

This semester the SBA promises to resolve issues remaining from last semester including, student health insurance, everyone e-mail, DUI intervention and student organization office space and webpages. Student business cards are now available! In its two meetings this semester the SBA has held an informational on Career Services and Accreditation Review. The SBA also passed its ninth resolution last week, which recommends the creation of a Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) Committee to advise the institution on investments. The SBA meets in Oakes 208 every Tuesday at 12:45.

## **got opinions?**

If you're a member of the VLS community, you most certainly do! Like those you see here? Don't like them? Speak out! Submitted Opinion and Editorial Commentary articles are gladly accepted without prejudice and are printed where space is available, pursuant to our Submissions Policy, printed on page 2 in this and every issue.

Articles can now be submitted to *The Forum* via e-mail at [forum@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:forum@vermontlaw.edu).

## CAREER CORNER

### International Law – “A World of Opportunities”

by Benjamin Brueggemann, Class of '06

Globalization drives the world we live in today. Countries are increasingly interdependent upon each other. This mutual dependency evolved in a new exciting field of law, International Law. There are many aspects to International Law, and hence there are many opportunities.

American University's Washington College of Law (WCL) promoted an International Law career forum. Recently, five students of Vermont Law School's chapter of the International Law Society had an opportunity to fly down to Washington, DC to attend this career forum.

The Career Forum featured several speakers from eight different topics on International Law. The day was divided into two halves. In the morning WCL's career service department presented the “nuts and bolts for getting a job in International Law”, where they would talk of networking, resources for getting a job etc. The afternoon was divided into two sessions. The forums were set up with three to four speakers on one specific topic of International Law. The topics included: International Criminal Law, International Environmental Law, International Human Rights, International Business Law, International Trade Law, Public Policy and Development and more. Each of these forums provided an opportunity for students to meet the speakers, create networking opportunities and learn more about their chosen topic of International law.

#### INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

The Human Rights forum featured four speakers ranging from Dean Grossman of WCL, who himself pursued a career in Human Rights, two immigration lawyers and another lawyer working for Human Rights First.

Dean Grossman explained that it is difficult to pursue a career in International Human Rights, if pay is a factor for you. He broke a career in Human Rights down to three possibilities. First, one could work on Human Rights on a part-time basis and work full time in a different unrelated field of law. Second, one could work in a Human Rights related field, such as immigration. One can do business immigration to earn a living, but also work on asylum cases to truly work on something one believes in. Lastly, one could work full-time at an International Organization, an agency of the U.S. Guard, or a non-governmental organization.

Dean Grossman points out that it is possible to make a living with International Human Rights, but maybe won't earn as much money as working in a law firm. In contrast it is important to think about “what the right package for you is.” To be able to work in an area of law that has particular importance to you might off-set your financial concerns. Especially in the area of Human Rights, people fight for a certain

belief. Ask yourself what makes you really happy? How do you see yourself?

The two immigration lawyers talked of the importance of immigration and the gratification they receive from their work. They point out that asylum cases are usually the more interesting cases, but also the one's that do not get paid very well, because these clients usually do not have a lot of money. Business immigration is a good way to off-set this discrepancy. Immigration is a good way to work in a field you truly believe in [Human Rights] and at the same time, be able to earn a living.

Corey Smith of Human Rights First, talked of the importance of non-governmental organizations. He spoke of the importance of pro bono work that so many lawyers are doing and that his organization is supporting. In addition, non-governmental organizations provide a setting where lawyers are able to use their skills to support their own beliefs.

#### INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

A panel of four professionals in the International Environmental law field gave their opinions on current trends in this sector. The speakers, Mike Walker of the EPA, Carlos Fernandez of the Nature Conservancy, Charles DiLeva from the World Bank and Donald Goldberg of the Center for International Environmental law all agreed that the future of International Environmental law issues would be in areas of trade and human rights. The intersection of environmental law with these areas would be the new focus of litigation, such as lawsuits on the behalf of indigenous peoples suffering the effects of global warming, or trade disputes centering on environmental concerns. The panelists advised students to broaden their scope from pure environmental issues, and instead to study the effects of environmental impacts on human interests.

#### NETWORKING

“Networking or not working!” Jill Rhodes, from the Department of Homeland Security said of the importance of networking, during the *Public Policy and Development* forum. She explained that in law school, she was never the brightest student; however she had great networking capabilities. It was the people she met throughout her career that helped her advance. Networking is a tool, that is just as important as your grades. It is vital that you get to know the people that are working in your area of law. No matter what law you want to study, the more people you know the greater your chances of getting the job you want.

The international job market is ever increasing as the world is becoming smaller and smaller. International law is an exciting, innovative field that provides a wide range of opportunities.

### Office of Career Services Update

by Matthew Houde, VLS Staff

Matching the weather, the spring semester has started with a flurry at the Office of Career Services (OCS). In addition to meeting with many students individually, we have been busy organizing several programmatic events. We wanted to take this opportunity to share those with you.

#### WHAT'S NEW FOR ALL STUDENTS?

On February 11, we will be holding an interview workshop. Local practitioners will be participating to share their insight and expertise. Keep an eye out for additional details as this will be a terrific opportunity for students preparing for job or internship interviews.

In an effort to raise awareness of the services provided by the Career Services Office, we will be seated at a table in Chase periodically throughout the spring. We are calling it our satellite office and welcome students to stop by and ask whatever questions they may have. As always, we also invite you to stop by the office and meet with a career counselor for individual sessions. To schedule an appointment, please contact Theresa Manning in the Career Services Office at 802/831-1243, or by email at [tmanning@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:tmanning@vermontlaw.edu).

#### WHAT'S NEW FOR 1LS AND 2LS THIS SPRING?

We have been focusing much of our effort on employers that typically hire in the spring for summer 2005 internships. As a result, public interest employers - by which we mean non-profit and governmental organizations - have been the recent centerpiece of our programmatic efforts. The OCS will be hosting a “Spring Interview Week for Public Interest Summer Internships” the week of February 14. During this time, local employers will be conducting on-campus interviews and/or have asked our office to collect resumes

for them. This will help to coordinate the process of matching interns with public sector agencies and non-profit organizations for summer 2005 internships.

To help students through the process of seeking public interest employment, we have conducted a series of presentations on applying for, and funding, summer positions in the public interest arena. Please do not hesitate to contact our office if you were unable to attend one of those presentations.

Also, if you missed the opportunity to apply to those employers that are participating in the interview week, are looking for a position outside this local area, or simply want to apply to more local employers, there are many opportunities still available. Please contact the OCS to learn more.

#### WHAT'S NEW FOR 3LS?

While not new, you should be aware of the Groupwise shared folder maintained by our office, which contains alumni job bulletins from other law schools. These bulletins contain job listings for different regions of the country and often have listings for recent graduates, which you soon will be. If you do not have access to this resource, please contact Mary Russ ([mruss@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:mruss@vermontlaw.edu)) to receive access.

For those 3LS pursuing public interest work, please take note of the school's Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP), which provides financial support for graduates embarking on public interest careers. The LRAP is administered by the Financial Aid Office, so students should consult with Dino Koff for specific program information.

Now is the time to ratchet up your job search efforts. Most small law firms, as well as public and non-profit employers, hire 3LS in the spring and, historically, that is where most of our students end up securing their first position. If you are unsure of how to begin this process please make an appointment with one of the counselors and we will help you get started.

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#### OUR 2ND ANNUAL “VLS IDOL” KARAOKE COMPETITION!!

The VLS Fighting Swans ice hockey team braved both cold and border guards January 30, bringing their spectacular 5-0 record into Montréal for a game against their Canadian rivals, the McGill University School of Law Redmen. After scorching their previous opponents, Dartmouth College's Tuck Business School Big Green (by a score of 12-3); the Vermont Technical College Green Knights (by scores of 7-3 and 7-1); and Colby-Sawyer College Chargers (by forfeit and 6-1), the Swans sought higher competition in the province of Québec, the land that produced storied hockey names like Lemieux, Richard and Roy, where hockey is not just a game but a way of life. Morale was low from the very beginning.

"We're gonna get totally killed," said team inspirational leader and VLS staff member Ricky "Bones" Bonnett. "But it should be fun." Bones was likely referring to the game of Jan. 17, 2004, to which Vermont Law also brought a 5-0 record, but lost their first game in Union Arena, as McGill spoiled the Fighting Swans' Woodstock debut in front of over 50 VLS students, ranging from 1Ls to 3Ls and MSELs, as well as other associated individuals, by a score of 8-3. The game also marked their first loss of the 2003-'04 campaign, in which VLS finished the season 6-4-0 prior to the annual Mud Season tournament. In the Mud Season tournament last season, the

## FIGHTING SWAN SPORTS

### Swans Cross Border in Battle of North America

by Brian Leeds, Class of '07

Fighting Swans did not fare very well, going 0-8-2.

Bonnett's unfortunate prediction proved accurate in the early goings, as the speedy McGill squad quickly jumped out to a 2-0 lead. Momentum and bounces were not in VLS's favor either, typified when a fluttering puck leapt from the blade of 3L sniper Zak Johnson's stick on a clear breakaway. Heads hung heavy on the Fighting Swan bench, and spirits seemed dim. Shaky and dehydrated from the night before, unable to steady their legs, the Fighting Swans crawled into the first intermission, fortunate to be down only 4-0. Only the stalwart goaltending of Ben Canonica held VLS from outright embarrassment. "That first period made me physically sick," said 2L forward Aaron Miller. "Seriously. I just threw up. Those guys are pretty fast."

After a thorough scolding from team captain 2L Rick Hughes and motivational leader Andy "Franchise" Weber, the Swans settled into a defensive game. Realizing that the run-and-gun technique would prove fatal against this experienced Canadian team, VLS retreated into a more conservative posture, stressing fundamental hockey and "lots of whistles." The tactic paid off

halfway through the second period, when forward Kirk Kardashian (Class of '04) intercepted a breakout pass and found 2L Thatcher Hinman waiting at the goalmouth for a slick backhand under the big McGill keeper.

The Swans continued to apply pressure. Inspired by the encouragement of the handful of VLS faithful that had made the long trip to watch the team, their play noticeably improved throughout the second. The enthusiasm of the fans was finally rewarded, when standout 2L center Will Senning crossed into the offensive zone, darted behind a McGill defender and snapped a deceptive shot into the lower corner of the net, cutting the score to 4-2. Mood shifted on the Vermont bench. Players began to sense that they had a chance to pull the upset. "I thought we had a chance to pull the upset," said defensive star Sam Ames.

The score remained the same into the third, thanks to the acrobatic goaltending of Canonica and some tenacious defensive work by first-year power forward Britta Hinrichsen. With time winding down, the Swans pressed the McGill squad and peppered their net with shots from every angle. But the early lead proved

insurmountable. The Canadian squad managed to desperately cling to their early lead, handing the Swans their first defeat of the season, a very respectful 4-2 loss. Proud in defeat, the team left the arena with heads held high. They descended into the cold Montréal night to take in the foreign atmosphere and Montréal's best in high culture.

On February 5, the Fighting Swans went on the road again, this time to Colby-Sawyer College in New London, N.H., and the teams skated to a 9-9 tie in a high-scoring affair. The Swans have several upcoming games throughout the spring semester, including a not-to-be-missed first-annual Law School Tournament expected in the first week of March. The Swans have called Union Arena in Woodstock home for just over a year now. There will also be another year of Mud Season tournament play beginning soon, to be held at the Fighting Swans former home, Champion Arena in Lebanon, N.H. The Fighting Swans encourage all students, faculty, administrators and everyone else to stay tuned to the everyone e-mails for details on future games, come down, wear GREEN and CHEER ON OUR FIGHTING SWANS!

*(Jonathan Stein, formerly The Forum's sports editor, contributed historical information regarding last season, as well as the scores for previous games played this year.)*

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BACON	3.50	4.00	4.50
BAKED HAM	3.25	3.75	4.25
BOLOGNA	3.25	3.75	4.25
COOKED HAM	3.25	3.75	4.25
CORNED BEEF	3.50	4.00	4.50
HOT HAM	3.25	3.75	4.25
PASTRAMI	3.50	4.00	4.50
PB & J	2.25	SANDWICH ONLY	
REAL ITALIAN	4.25	4.75	5.25
ROAST BEEF	3.50	4.00	4.50
SALAMI	3.25	3.75	4.25
TURKEY	3.25	3.75	4.25

**ADD CHEESES:** AMERICAN (WHITE OR YELLOW), CHEDDAR, PROVOLONE, SWISS

**ADD VEGGIES:** LETTUCE, TOMATO, ONION, PICKLES, BLACK OLIVES, PEPPERS (GREEN OR BANANA)

**ADD SANDWICH DRESSINGS:** MAYONNAISE, ITALIAN, RANCH, THOUSAND ISLAND, MUSTARD (YELLOW, HONEY, OR STONEGROUND)

### **SALADS**

SM. TOSS	2.25
LG. TOSS	3.75
SM. CHEF	3.50
LG. CHEF	5.00

**SALAD DRESSINGS FOR THESE SALADS:**  
RANCH, ITALIAN, FRENCH, CAESAR,  
HONEY MUSTARD, THOUSAND ISLAND,  
BLEU CHEESE, PARMESAN PEPPERCORN

<u>MEAT CHOICES WHEN AVAILABLE:</u>	<u>SANDWICH OR BULKIE</u>	<u>WRAP</u>	<u>GRINDER</u>
BBQ CHICKEN	3.50	4.00	4.50
BUFFALO CHICKEN	3.50	4.00	4.50
CAJUN HAM	3.50	4.00	4.50
CHICKEN SALAD	4.25	4.75	5.25
CRANBERRY CKN SALAD	4.50	5.00	5.50
EGG SALAD	2.75	3.25	3.75
HAM SALAD	4.25	4.75	5.25
ROAST PORK	3.50	4.00	4.50
SMOKED HAM	3.25	3.75	4.25
SMOKED TURKEY	3.25	3.75	4.25
TUNA SALAD	4.25	4.75	5.25

**SPECIAL SANDWICH DRESSINGS (ADD .25):** GARLIC MUSTARD, CRANBERRY HORSERADISH, MIRACLE WHIP, MAPLE MUSTARD, CRANBERRY HONEY MUSTARD

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CHICKEN FINGERS	3.95
MOZZARELLA STICKS	3.95
CHICKEN STRIPS	3.95
ONION RINGS	2.25
FISH & CHIPS (HADDOCK)	5.25
POPCORN CHICKEN - PINT	5.95
FISHWICH (HADDOCK)	3.25

### **SALADS BY THE POUND**

COLE SLAW	2.29
FOUR BEAN	2.69
MACARONI	2.49
POTATO	2.39

**COMMENTARY****On Civil Liberties**

by Congressman Bernard Sanders (I-Vt.)

In the United States today there is a great concern about terrorism. Our country suffered a horrendous tragedy on September 11th, 2001 – and there is no doubt in my mind that there are people on this earth who would like to attack us again. Is terrorism a serious problem? The answer is “Yes, it is.” Should the United States and the rest of the world do all that we can to protect innocent people from terrorist attacks? The answer, once again in my view, is “Yes, we should.”

But the question that we are struggling with in Congress and throughout our country is: “Do we have to sacrifice our basic liberties and constitutional rights in order to protect ourselves from the threat of global terrorism?” And in my view, the answer to that question must be a resounding “NO.” With proper intelligence work and effective law enforcement, we can fight terrorism, protect the American people, and maintain the freedoms which make us a great nation – and that is what we must do. I’m very happy to say that this viewpoint is held not just by progressives and liberals, it is held by conservatives as well. Some of my major allies on this issue in Congress hold political views very different from mine, but we are in absolute agreement that basic constitutional rights in this country are under assault – and that we’ve got to fight back to maintain the freedoms which make us a great nation.

As you all know Congress, at the request of President Bush and Attorney General John Ashcroft, passed the hastily drafted so-called USA Patriot Act some 6 weeks after 9/11. I voted against that bill, and was the first member of Congress to introduce legislation to amend it. My legislation, “The Freedom to Read Act” amends Section 215, a provision which allows government agents to monitor the reading habits of Americans without probable cause. With the support of librarians and bookstore owners, and a very strong national grass-roots campaign, we attracted very strong bi-partisan co-sponsorship in the last Congress. More importantly, when that bill was brought to the floor as an amendment, it won by 10 votes at the end of regulation voting time. It took House Majority Leader Tom DeLay [(R-Tex.)] and the Republican leadership an additional 20 minutes beyond the normal voting time limits to finally twist enough Republican arms to defeat that amendment 210-210.

A year before that, an amendment brought to the House floor by a conservative Republican from Idaho, Butch Otter, which would have denied funding for the fiscal year 2004 for the implementation of Section 213 of the USA Patriot Act, the so-called “sneak and peak” provision, won by an overwhelming vote. Not too surprisingly, the Republican Leadership did not include that vote in the Conference committee or the final legislation.

I’m sure we’ve heard all heard the argument; “These new laws are meant for terrorists, not me, so why should I care

about them? I’m not a terrorist!” From the controversial and unconstitutional portions of the Patriot Act, to “no-fly” lists, to the arrest of journalists who do not reveal their sources, to pre-emptive questioning of anti-war demonstrators, to the way prisoners of war in Guantanamo are treated, this Administration has repeatedly demonstrated a total disdain for civil liberties.

One major problem that we should address tonight, and it is a major problem, is that the Patriot Act provisions automatically make every citizen a suspect. We are blurring the line between presumed innocence and presumed guilt, and the burden of proof is shifting from the government to the average American citizen. No longer is it a matter of innocent until proven guilty: everyone is a potential terrorist, and both probable cause and proof are not longer necessary.

But we must not limit our discussion solely to the outrageous provisions of the Patriot Act. We need to be aware that a cancer is threatening our civil liberties, our constitutional rights, and our privacy rights. They are being attacked NOT ONLY by the Patriot Act, but by advances in technology and a growing government—and corporate – movement toward constant surveillance.

Modern technology gives the private sector the ability to know a great deal about each of us. Every time you use a credit card, every web page you visit on the internet, every bill you pay or do not pay, every medical procedure you have done or doctor’s visit you make, is recorded electronically. Cities have surveillance cameras which track the people who walk on the streets. Cars can automatically register how far you drive and how fast you go. And all of this is before chip-embedded passports, which go into effect this year. Or smart drivers’ licenses. I am sorry to tell you that there is already an effort in Congress to include standardized computer chips in every driver’s license, chips that could be read remotely. What that would mean is that someone with the right kind of device could track your every movement. The government, yes. But also businesses, which would be able to identify you the second you walked into a store and even tell where you went within the store.

Add to this the increased use of surveillance – both by the government, which wants to keep track of every citizen and what he or she does, and of businesses, which want to keep track of every consumer and what he or she does or buys or is ill with – and you can see the dangers ahead. In a few short years, every single thing we do, every place we go, every person we meet, could be recorded as part of a database.

This is not just futuristic. It is here now. A program called MATRIX already combines information about individuals from both government databases and private-sector data files. Although the participating private companies and government agencies have refused access

to program details, according to news reports and documents obtained by the ACLU, the kind of information to be searched includes credit histories, driver’s license photographs, marriage and divorce records, Social Security numbers, dates of birth, and the names and addresses of family members, neighbors and business associates. The good news is that the backlash against this program has been fierce, with only five of the original sixteen states still participating.

Let’s be clear: these are civil liberties and privacy, there are dangerous times. Much work is needed to undo the unlawful assaults on civil liberties that have occurred over the past four years, and to prevent other erosions of our rights from occurring. If we do not stand up and fight for our privacy rights today, where will we be when newer and even more advanced technology and surveillance methods kick into gear? For this is about far more than our freedom to read, important as that is, without the government looking over our shoulder. We are entering a time when, unless we fight back, not just the government but the major corporations will know more about us than our spouses, our children, our friends.

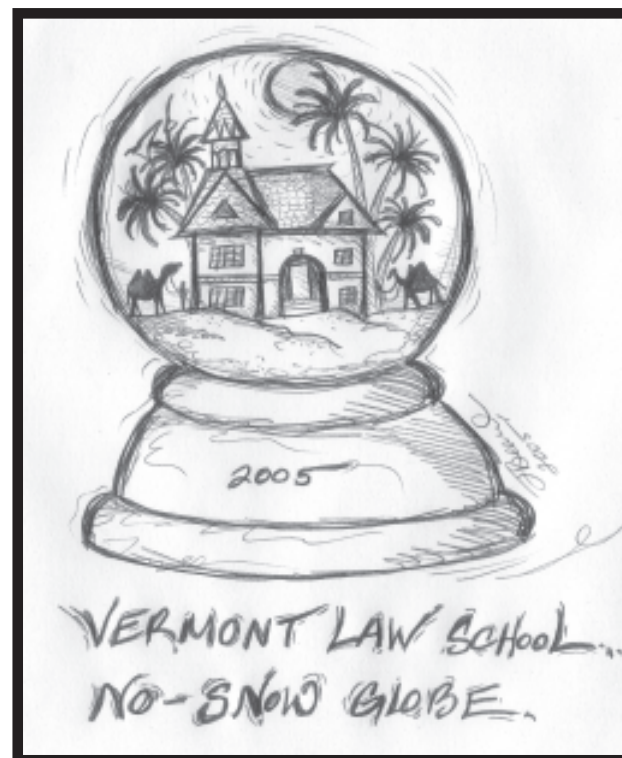
Let me conclude by quoting someone I have very little in common with politically – the very conservative former Republican House Majority Leader, Dick Armey of Texas. He said: “Are we going to save ourselves from international terrorism in order to deny the fundamental liberties we protect to ourselves?” This is what we must ask ourselves: do we want to willfully hand over our precious civil liberties in an effort to save them? If not, where do we go from here?

**Remembering Auschwitz**by Pavel A. Reznikov,  
Class of '05

60 years ago today, the Red Army liberated Auschwitz (Oswiecim in Polish/Russian classification) concentration camp - the largest and the deadliest among the death prisons of the Third Reich. 4.5 million people, mostly Jews, perished in the 50-camp Auschwitz-Birkenau system and over 1.5 million in Auschwitz alone by the time of the liberation.

On January 27, 1945, the 322nd infantry division of General Rybalko’s Third Armored Army, which moved westward as a part of the major Soviet Supreme Command’s Visla-Oder offensive by the 1st Ukrainian Front led by Marshal Ivan Konev, liberated Auschwitz, at the time guarded by the Waffen SS’s Toten Kopf Division - the most ferocious, skilled and well-equipped in Germany . . . they stood no chance. Both my grandfathers fought in the Great Patriotic War, as we, Russians, call it. They both were in Germany and were part of the liberation force that swept through Eastern Europe before the Red Banner was on top of the Reichstag and Germany signed the capitulation treaty on May 9, 1945.

Let us remember the Holocaust victims not only on this day and bow our heads in silence, let us never forget the lessons of history and the heroes that sacrificed their lives and future to liberate people they did not know, but nonetheless loved and were ready to die for - as three hundred Soviet liberators of Auschwitz did sixty years ago today.

**STRICT LAUGHIBILITY** by Jamie Beard, Class of '06

**ENTERTAINMENT****Movies I Didn't See**by Brian Leeds, *Class of '07*

"Cold enough for ya?"

I wrote this about a week ago, back when the air temperature was colder than Anne Coulter's teat. And I figured that this headline would stand, considering that we attend law school on the Ice Planet Hoth and all. But since that time, the temperature has risen up to a sweltering 36 degrees, and there is no seeming end to this heat wave anywhere in sight. So much for my corny little headline.

But, enough complaining. As always, I didn't catch a single minute of any of these movies. Let's check em out!

**Hide and Seek**

I see dead people. Sadly, I'm talking about Robert DeNiro's career. You won't find a bigger fan of Bobby D on the planet, but even I have to say that this Hollywood giant is going down faster than Paris Hilton at Mardi Gras. *Analyze This/That, Godsend, Showtime* – DeNiro is officially the Brett Favre of Tinseltown. I know he made us all laugh playing the in-law to a Focker, but as Sick Boy from *Trainspotting* would say, "'Tis merely a blip on an otherwise downward trajectory." Just sad when one of the greatest actors ever does his best work in 20 years in an AmEx commercial. Regarding the movie, if I wanted to have my heart stopped for 90 minutes by a young child, I'd hand my niece a box of crayons and lock her in a room with my CD collection.

**Alone in the Dark**

Christian Slater, Steven Dorff, and Tara Reid's new breasts star in this adaptation of a video game that came out about ten years ago and was popular with a bunch of adult males that have never kissed a girl before. Look at that cast! A murderers row of Hollywood has-beens. Why not just go the extra yard and get Chumbawamba to do the soundtrack? Does anyone else get the impression that this movie is going to figure prominently in someone's "E!: True Hollywood Story"? "I was coked out of my mind when we made that movie. I hardly remember shooting. I'm standing in front of a blue screen with a fake M-16 in my hand and blood smeared on my face, and I don't even know what's going on. That was rock bottom. I was out of control and I needed help." You're an enabler if you pay money to see this movie.

**Are We There Yet?**

Straight outta Compton comes pretty much the end of civilization as we know it. Former hardcore gangsta rapper Ice Cube, author of the lyrics, "*Here's a murder rap to keep you dancin'/With a crime record like Charles Manson,*" stars as a huggable boyfriend to an overwhelmed mother of two, determined to prove his loyalty by driving her mischievous kids across the country. Did I mention that it stars Ice Cube? M.C. Ren must be spinning in his grave. And it's also the highest-grossing film right now in George W. Bush's America! I could almost cry. In fact, I think I will.

**The Aviator**

I was going to save this for my forthcoming Oscar preview column, considering it's going to win Best Picture and all, but I need to purge the last review out of my skull. Anyway, Leo DiCaprio stars in this cameo-laden bio pic about the philandering and pathologically insane mogul Howard Hughes. For those that don't know, Hughes produced some of the greatest films ever, bedded scores of young starlets, revolutionized the aviation field, and eventually stored his own urine in pickle jars. Directed by the incomparable Martin Scorsese — if Marty doesn't win the Oscar, I'm lighting myself on fire — this is a labor of love from a true film-buff who recreates a special era of American cinema, before the time when gangsta rappers escorted children across the country. I don't say this often, but you should go see this one.

**Assault on Precinct 13**

And now back to your regularly scheduled crap. This is a remake of an old John Carpenter movie that is only notable because Carpenter originally made it for about \$500. Apparently some budding film tyrant caught it on IFC one night and decided to give it the big-budget treatment it never deserved. Please don't make me review this film. Ethan Hawke makes my eyeballs bleed. Subtract a star (and some dignity) if you only bought a ticket because you thought Drea de Matteo would take her clothes off.

**Coach Carter**

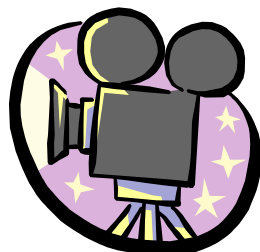
Hollywood does this a lot these days, but this is basically a cliché movie masquerading as an excuse to make a soundtrack album that will outsell the film. And they probably suckered Samuel L. Jackson in with a bag of money and the opportunity to make "Pulp Fiction 2: Jules Walks the Earth." Speaking of which, would anyone mind if Sam just put on the wig and played Jules in all these bad movies that he stumbles through? "I said box out, mutha f\*\*ker. Do you speak English? What country are you from? What? What ain't no country I ever heard of. They speak English in What? What? Say what again, say what AGAIN!!!" I'd pay \$8.50 to see *that* movie. OK, I'm babbling now.

~ ~ ~

**Bonus Review: The 2005 Presidential State of the Union Address**

I didn't watch it. But apparently, for the 140th year in a row, the state of the union is strong. That's good to know.

See you in the next edition!

**HOROSCOPES**

by Swami Eero St. Propers

**Aquarius (Jan. 20/21-Feb. 18/19):** New England 24, Philadelphia 21.

**Pisces (Feb. 19/20-Mar. 20/21):** The stars suggest that you wrap yourself head to toe in tin foil this week. Not that it will help you any, but we could really use the laugh in Civ Pro.

**Aries (Mar. 21/22-Apr. 19/20):** Fat, drunk, and stupid is no way to get through life, son. R.I.P. Dean Wormer. Anyway, if you're fat, drunk and stupid, the stars think you suck. That's just how it goes, tubby.

**Taurus (Apr. 20/21-May 20/21):** You got it and you're gonna flaunt it, no matter what! Unfortunately "it" is crabs, and now you'll never date in this town again.

**Gemini (May 21/22-June 21/22):** Carpe diem, right? Make the most of your opportunity this week by going up to that special someone you've been lusting after all semester. Dude, she's standing right there. Go for it! Now's your chance. [Giggle, snort.] Oh my God! The stars can't believe you fell for that! Seriously, you have no chance in hell.

**Cancer (June 22/23-July 23/24):** You'll create a near panic among copy editors across the nation this week as they try to decide if "smooshed" is an actual word, given that it's really the only accurate way to describe your untimely demise.

**Leo (July 24/25-Aug. 23/24):** Love is in the air this week! You can almost smell it. Oh wait, that's not love. Geez. Leo apologizes. Leo has been on a new diet this week. Wow. Our bad, dog. Our bad.

**Virgo (Aug. 24/25-Sept. 22/23):** This is your week. Be bold! Be daring! Be adventurous! Try something new! Virgo knows that you have nothing else going for you. You're such a loser. Awww. Did Virgo say that out loud? You friggin' loser.

**Libra (Sept. 23/24-Oct. 23/24):** The stars are really digging the new Avril Lavigne album right now. And they're not ashamed to admit that. They just thought you should know.

**Scorpio (Oct. 24/25-Nov. 21/22):** They say you can't take it with you. But in your case, you should still try to take the chainsaw. Because, holy hell, you're going to need it, considering where you're going.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22/23-Dec. 21/22):** Jupiter is aligned with Venus this week, and you know what that means. Wink wink. [Cue Barry White music.]

**Capricorn (Dec. 22/23-Jan. 19/20):** Capricorn is thinking about starting up a Clash tribute band this week. Are you in? We'll open with "Spanish Bombs" and close with "I Fought the Law." You can play drums, right? Sweet. Capricorn is pretty high right now.

## 2005 VERMONT LAW SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT WEEK ACTIVITIES

**Tuesday, May 17 - 6:30pm:****Dinner & Dance Cruise on Lake Champlain**

The ticket price is \$24 per person and will include the cruise, dinner, dancing and bus transportation to and from campus. Bus departs VLS at 4:15. For more information or to reserve a ticket contact Meg Munsey at [mmunsey@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:mmunsey@vermontlaw.edu).

**Thursday, May 19 - 5:00pm:****Dean's BBQ at the Home of Dean & Mrs. Shields**

Rain location on the South Royalton Village Green under a tent.

**Friday, May 20 - 11:45am:****Debevoise Hall Dedication Ceremony**

A simple luncheon will be served.

**5:00pm: Awards Presentation Ceremony &  
Cocktail Reception with Faculty and  
Administration in Oakes Hall**
**Saturday, May 21- 10:30am:**
**2005 Commencement Ceremony  
on the South Royalton Village Green**

Following the Ceremony a Luncheon Reception and Cash Bar. We are looking forward to another special Commencement at VLS and hope that you can be with us. If you have any questions concerning any of the events, please do not hesitate to contact Susan Elder at 802/831-1237, or toll free at 800/227-1395 (ext. 1237), or via e-mail at [selder@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:selder@vermontlaw.edu).