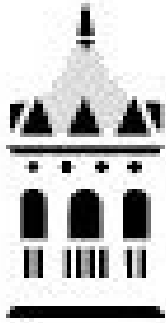


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VERMONT LAW SCHOOL FORUM

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October 2008

South Royalton, VT

Brazilian Attorneys from Petrobras Enrolled at VLS Over the Summer

By Daniel S. Sotelino ('09)

In August, Vermont Law School's Environmental Law Center held a two-week specialized professional course, "Introduction to the American Legal System & U.S. Environmental Law", for fourteen environmental attorneys from Petrobras, Brazil's petroleum and energy giant. The Petrobras attorneys came from all over Brazil, including Porto Alegre, Sao Paulo, Santos, Rio de Janeiro, Natal, Recife, Salvador, and Brasilia. Petrobras is 51% government-owned. To Brazilians, Petrobras is a household name, not only because it is the largest petroleum company in the nation, but also because of its numerous educational, cultural and environmental projects. It strives to be a "sustainable" company in all of its undertakings. Materials about Petrobras and some of their environmental projects are available at the Julien and Virginia Cornell Library.

Mark Latham (Associate Professor) and Rebecca Purdom (Summer Faculty) designed the curriculum and taught the course to the Petrobras attorneys. Daniel Sotelino ('09), a bilingual Brazilian-American, was

the teaching assistant. Mariah Sotelino worked as the logistical coordinator.

The objective of the course was to familiarize the Brazilian attorneys with a US law school setting, while providing substantive skills for success in subsequent law courses. In short, it was a comprehensive introduction to the U.S. common law system (with a focus on nuisance) and some statutory law (with brief introductions to the Administrative Procedure Act, the Clean Air Act, and the Clean Water Act). The students had varying levels of English skills, but overall, the group was able to keep up with the fast-paced course. Days were filled with class-time from 9 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:30-3:00 p.m., and occasional optional review sessions with the T.A. from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Evenings were evidently occupied with reading.

On Friday, August 8th, the entourage visited the Helen W. Buckner Nature Conservancy Preserve, where Tom Berry spoke to them about the role of private land preservation in the U.S. The group then viewed the International Paper

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The Petrobras attorneys with VLS faculty and staff at the Shields' house.

Upcoming Events

VLS Events

The International Law Society (ILS) of Vermont Law School will be hosting the International Law Students Association (ILSA) national fall conference on October 2-4, 2008 in Chase Community Center. The conference, entitled "Understanding Genocide: Prevention, Prosecution and Progress," will bring together legal scholars and law students from all over the country to discuss what constitutes a genocide and to raise awareness to atrocity crimes in order to make progress in this area of international law.

For more information, please visit their website: <http://sba.vermontlaw.edu/groups/ils/genocide/index.html>.

Community Events

With the beautiful fall foliage comes numerous autumn events, so put on your sweaters and head out on the town to check out these fantastic community activities!

Woodstock, Vermont : Check out Billing's Farm and Museum. Among the activities are historical trail tours, quilting exhibitions, and canning lessons. See <http://www.billingsfarm.org/index.html>. The Woodstock Union Arena will soon open for the ice skating season. The Woodstock Recreation Center has begun sign-up for various classes: including belly dance, yoga, and kickboxing as well as a full array of gym and pool opportunities. <http://www.myrecdept.com/vt/woodstock/default2.asp>. The Purple Crayon offers art classes for all age groups and brings the wonders of music into the craft. Go to <http://www.purplecrayon-productions.com/> for more information.

Killington, Vermont: Killington is hosting the Special Paramount Concert on October 12 as the finale to its summer Music Festival. Celebrate the 13th Annual Killington Brew Fest on October 4. Admission is \$15 - \$20, and includes

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Message From the Editor

Aloha Vermont Law Students, Faculty and Staff, and to whoever's hands this paper graces. This is my first year as Editor-in-Chief of Forum and I am very excited to bring Vermont Law School's newspaper to the forefront.

In fact, Vermont has provided many 'firsts' for me: it is the first time I have been on the East coast; the first I have been to a fair (Tunbridge Fair) that featured livestock, animal races, tractor pulls, and gigantic vegetables; the first time I have seen a "Deer Crossing" sign, followed by a "Bear Crossing" sign, and finally to my surprise a "Moose Crossing" sign; the first time I have seen a pancake stack as big around as my head (Eaton's Sugarhouse) and savored slow-cooked stone soup on the Town Green; and the first I have ever heard the wolf-like sound of a loon.

It has been a drastic change from the palm trees, 80-degree sunny weather year-round, and golden beaches that I am accustomed to. But I am glad to be here in Vermont studying law with other students and faculty who exude a passion that gives me an invaluable perspective that I would not have been able to experience had I been afraid to fly off the island.

My goal with Forum this year is to accurately encapsulate the diverse richness VLS offers by providing a medium of expression. I am excited for the future of Forum and feel confident we will succeed in our goals via the invigorated Forum staff and its talented contributors. Thank you all for taking the time out of your busy lives to read and contribute to our vision. Enjoy!

Christal Cuadra JD 2010
'The Forum' Editor-in-Chief

Continued from pg. 1: Upcoming Events

a souvenir pint glass, four beer tickets, and live entertainment.

Quechee, Vermont: Spend a day at the Gorge and hike the trails, or ride in a colorful, hot-air balloon. <http://www.balloonsofvermont.com/>.

Rutland, Vermont: Enjoy the Castleton Colonial Days. October 4 will feature historical house tours, delightful costumes, and antique displays. The Paramount Theatre in Rutland will hold a theater series. This season's presentations include Judevine by David Budbill (October 11 – 12), Haunted Illusions (October 17), and Menopause the Musical (October 22 – 24). <http://www.paramountlive.org/littleriver.html>.

The Forum Staff



Name: Christal Cuadra
Year: J.D. 2010
Position: Editor-in-Chief
Contact: CCuadra@vls.edu

I was planted in O'ahu and grew out of the soils of Mānoa Valley. When I was ripe, my parents pulled me out of the ground and I hit it running, wide-eyed and smiling. I spent much of my youth travelling all over the continental U.S. pacing my father in 100-mile ultra-marathons and I competed in track races across the Nation throughout my collegiate career. I graduated from San Diego State University with a B.A. in Economics and a minor in English. Between my undergraduate studies and law school I worked for the Hawaii State Senator of Maui, specifically with the Ways and Means committee preparing the legislative budget. I am in my second year of J.D. studies at VLS. I am a member of the two student groups that have the best food at their meetings – APALSA and LALSA. On my free time away from the law books, I love to play outside whether it be running, surfing, hiking; I enjoy volunteering because it is definitely good food for my soul, and I love my long Sunday talks on the phone with my best friend (my dad).



Name: Samantha Balmes
Year: J.D. 2009
Position: Treasurer
Contact: SBalmes@vls.edu

As many of your legal writing professors may tell you, reading and writing for leisure is an excellent way to improve your skills. I truly believe this statement, which is why I am delighted to contribute to the Forum as an editor and writer. I have been contributing to the Forum since my first year at VLS and am excited to have the opportunity to participate in the Forum's renovations as Treasurer. Outside of the Forum you will find me coordinating the Book Club and the Benson Street Co-op. I am also the Fundraising Chair for ILS, so expect to see me tabling frequently. Apart from the VLS community I am teaching at the Windsor County Correction Facility, volunteering for Vermont Volunteer Services for Animals, working part-time at Encore! Books, clerking for Senator John F. Campbell, and am acting jungle gym for the neighbor's kids on the weekends. Though this seems like a plethora of obligations, I am also a mother and perform the full array of taxi, chef, nurse, and maid services. These experiences allow me to bring a diversity viewpoint to the Forum and allow me the opportunity to provide students with information outside the VLS community.



Name: Kevin Schrems
Year: J.D. 2011
Position: Contributing Editor
Contact: KSchrems@vls.edu

Kevin Schrems is a class of 2011 J.D. candidate. He also recently completed the M.E.L.P. degree (class of 2008), serving as a Senator for the SBA, participating in the Spring 2008 Specific Performance show, and working for the Dean's Office. Kevin grew up in Michigan near the small German city of Frankenmuth, also known as "Michigan's Little Bavaria". He graduated in 2006 from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Fisheries and Wildlife and a specialization in Environmental Studies. Kevin enjoys an array of activities including traveling around Vermont, watching or participating in sports, spending time with friends, and furthering his knowledge in environmental policy.

If the community events suggested do not strike your fancy, visit the following websites for a full range of events in the area:

Woodstock: <http://www.woodstockvt.com/woodstockvt/events.php?EventMonth=10-2008>

Killington: <http://www.killingtonchamber.com/oct.php>

Quechee: <http://www.hartfordvtchamber.com/calendar/>

Rutland: <http://www.rutlandvermont.com/CALENDAR/calendar.php#oct>

Bread and Puppet Theater on the Town Green

By Sara Phillips and Abel Russ



Forty people dressed in white pulled into town on a kaleidoscopic school bus filled with puppets and musical instruments. They were Bread and Puppet Theater from Glover, Vermont and had been invited to South Royalton by the Vermont Law School student chapter of the National Lawyers Guild.

The National Lawyers Guild (NLG) was founded in

1937 as the nation's first racially integrated bar association. 25 years later, Bread and Puppet Theater was founded in New York City's Lower East Side. The NLG, an association dedicated to change in our political and economic system, unites lawyers, law students, legal workers, and puppets across America in service of the people. The NLG creates a political and social

force that regards human rights as more sacred than property interests. Bread and Puppet Theater mixes huge puppets, people, a brass band, and anti-elitist dances to address morality and the theme of universal peace. The NLG student chapter of Vermont Law School sought to combine forces with Bread and Puppet Theater in an effort to bring an artistic, political message to our community.

Thursday, August 28, 2008, marked an exciting day for the National Lawyers Guild as members of both the community and law school came together to experience the wonder of Bread and Puppet Theater. It was an unprecedented turnout as almost 300 people gathered upon the South Royalton green for the show, free of charge. As the farmer's market drew to a close,

a small marching band circled the park. A colorfully painted school bus sat on the edge of the green in the setting sun. When the band returned to the school bus, a large crowd had started to assemble. During the next half hour, the inhabitants of the bus presented the community of South Royalton with comedy, tragedy, political commentary, slapstick, turkeys, lion tamers, and singing chefs. Ultimately, the vaudeville patchwork had created a poignant critique of the American way of life.

The show was one of the most successful events in recent history for the NLG and served as a launching pad for future collaborations of law school and community members. Look for an encore next fall!



Photographs submitted by Sam Dixon.

Food and the Environment: SoRo Grocery Shopping

By Jack Sautter

So I had been dying to know for quite some time: is it really less expensive for me to make that bi-weekly run to West Lebanon for my groceries? If you are at all like me, you generally pick up a lot of fresh produce and the occasional six pack of beer at the South Royalton Cooperative Market—it's close and has good quality products. However, for purchases like meat, frozen goods, and bulk items, I generally make a run up to Randolph or to West Lebanon to go to a bigger grocery store to try to save some money and have more variety to choose

from.

But is this trip to West Lebanon or Randolph really less expensive? I wanted to find out. So, I conducted a bit of an experiment. I went to the three places that I normally shop to see which one is actually the least expensive. I went to all three on the same day. I did not use any benefit cards, nor did I receive a discount as a cooperative member of the South Royalton Market. I chose the items in my basket of goods before I went to any of the stores. What I found is not surprising—Price Chopper was the cheapest.

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Continued from pg. 1: Petrobras Attorneys

Company from the Vermont side of Lake Champlain, after having read *International Paper Company v. Ouellette*, 479 US 481 (1987). David Mears (director of the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic) and Stephen Kiernan (author/journalist) joined the group at Chimney Point for lunch and a discussion about the air and water quality in and around Lake Champlain. The Brazilians enjoyed a sunny weekend in Burlington and recharged for the final week of class.

Dean Jeff Shields and his wife, Genie Shields, hosted the Brazilian attorneys for cocktails on Wednesday, August 13th. After the students took their final examination on Friday August 15th, Marc Mihaly (Director of

the Environmental Law Center), Michael Dworkin (Director of the Energy Institute), Rebecca Purdom, Mark Latham, Alfie Bartley ('09), Mariah Sotelino (International Professional Programs Administrator), and Daniel Sotelino ('09), joined them for a farewell lunch. The Brazilians later went to dinner with Del Greer ('09), and Claudia Comstock (IT Administrative Assistant) who had been driving the group from and to the Quechee Inn every weekday.

The ELC looks forward to working more with Petrobras attorneys in the future. The group hopes to return for the next several summers to enroll in VLS's regular summer courses.

Environmental Law & Regulation in China

Summer Course

By Anna Ellis ('10)

This summer I took a class called “Environmental Law & Regulation in China” here at VLS. The class ended on Aug. 2nd and on Aug. 5th, eight of the American students in the class including myself, two of the Chinese students, and Professor Yang went to China to get a first-hand look at the legal and socio-political structures we had been studying from afar. It was quite an experience.

There was so much packed into the ten days of the “VLS” portion of my trip (I stayed on my own for five days after) that it is too much to try and relate in just a few paragraphs. Even a book might not be enough. To really get a feel for it, you need the visual connection. So instead of trying to illustrate everything, I will try to highlight some of what were, in my opinion, the more fascinating and memorable events.

Our “base camp” was Guangzhou in the southeast province of Guangdong. It was very hot and muggy, but one thing the heat tends to do to people—people who try and hide most of the daylight hours indoors or in the shade of a tree—is make people restless to get out at night. For me, one of the most fascinating and entertaining customs was the night-dancing. Most large towns and cities (Guangzhou’s population is approaching 12 million) have public squares spread throughout the tangles of high-rises, apartment buildings, and random street shops. Guangzhou is on the Pearl River, so there was a beautiful big square right on the river-walk. And around 7:30 every night, people would suddenly congregate to dance. There were all different kinds of dancing going on. There were couples learning waltzes together, and little kids

just jumping in here and there trying to figure out the steps. But the most fascinating was the coordinated aerobic dancing of the older women. I am not sure who or what system sends out the message every evening, but huge groups of women, probably in their 50s and 60s, show up, all wearing the same color shirt, and the ‘leader’ pops in a tape or CD of some crazy Chinese pop music, and the women go to town! They incorporate what looks like traditional dance with current pop moves and aerobic instruction. Often older men, presumably their husbands, sit on the benches around the square and smoke pipes and watch and chat with each other. The social atmosphere is fantastic. I decided that when I am 65, I am moving to China just so I can partake in these crazy dances—so much better than American retirement communities!

Naturally, as with any extremely multi-faceted country with millions and millions and millions of people, not everything was rosy and happy in China. Perhaps the most depressing sight was when we went on a short boat ride up the Yangtze River, which is the river the Three Gorges Dam now crosses. While on the boat, idly leaning against the rail watching the water slip by, we suddenly noticed some trash floating in the river. Never a good thing to see, but it happens, right? Well, suddenly, we noticed more and more of it. And then we noticed A LOT. There was a giant snake of trash floating down the middle current of the river, and it went on and on and on. It took maybe over an hour before the stream of trash trickled out to just a few pieces here and there. We had no idea where it came from, where it was going, who it was from, or who

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Summering at the SRLC

By Joe Starnes ('10)

I started my search for an internship last spring with one goal: I did not want to do legal research in a library. After a year of Constitutional Law, Civil Procedure and other first-year classes, I was ready to be a lawyer (okay, junior lawyer) and not a student. I had enough theory and was ready for some practice. Something that paid would be nice, too.

I searched for internships in Vermont that would satisfy my very basic goals and that would be convenient to South Royalton. It turned out that I did not need to look too far or hard. The South Royalton Legal Clinic (SRLC), just across Chelsea Street from campus, had everything I wanted from an internship. It was within walking distance of my house, I could earn work-study money there and, most importantly, I would get my hands dirty with real legal work.

The SRLC handles a variety of civil issues, ranging from appealing Social Security benefit decisions to providing Guardian Ad Litem for children. My colleagues and I worked in many areas of the law, including administrative law,

bankruptcy law, consumer-protection law, family law and immigration law. We did more than just research issues, we drafted strategy memos and client letters, we met and interviewed clients, we worked with discovery and even got some time in the courtroom. We were busy for sure, but we also got to be more than students, we got to be practitioners.

It was not all work and no play though at the SRLC. The interns shared offices and we all had fun together. One of the staff lawyers was good enough to bring ice cream on a couple of days and we even faced off against the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic in softball.

The SRLC presented me with a great opportunity to put my Constitutional-Law book down and actually get a feel for what it is like to practice law, while enjoying a laid-back atmosphere. I got to work with clients, engage in discovery, and develop adjudication strategies just like I would in the real world. And I did not have to leave South Royalton or Vermont for it either.

All in a Days Drive – Fall Foliage and Fun Activities

By Kevin Schrems ('11)

Autumn has arrived in Vermont! During this time of appellate briefs, legal memorandums, and mid-term exams, the colors of leaves changing are painting a beautiful skyline across the state. For those new to the Green Mountain State, or those that are not quite familiar with scenic areas, this mini travel guide is designed for simple day trips that will provide you with picturesque views and fun activities during the fall color season.

While engaging in my studies at Vermont Law School, I have taken the time to travel throughout

much of the state and will present to you three of my favorite scenic drives and locations. I will refer to these as the Middlebury Gap Loop, the Crossroads (pun intended) Loop, and the Stowe region. So grab your friends, a vehicle, a map, and a camera!

The Middlebury Gap Loop, located in mid-Vermont, provides an array of scenic turnoffs and mountain top views. To drive this loop, simply follow Route 107 west from South Royalton for approximately 15 miles and turn north on Route 100. When you reach the

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The Chase Race

By Christal Cuadra ('10)



Vermont Law School alumni and their families were invited back to campus on September 12-14, 2008 for a fun-filled weekend celebrating the 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, and 30th year reunions. The reunion weekend was packed full of events with dinners, golf tournaments, fly fishing and coinciding with the Tunbridge World's Fair. It also marked the 20th anniversary of the Chase Race.

The Chase Race began in 1988 in honor of former dean of VLS, Jonathon B. Chase. The money raised from the race supports the Jonathon B. Chase memorial Scholarship which funds students in pursuit of careers in civil rights and public interest advocacy. The race has three categories: 1) Solo runners complete a 15K out-and-back course along the White River, 2) Relay teams complete five two-mile legs, and 3) Walking teams, complete two two-miles legs. Whatever your athletic ability level, Chase Race is a great race for the novice to the seasoned veteran.

On a foggy, humid morning, sleepy-eyed runners came together to partake in what turned out to be a great way to celebrate a Saturday morning. At 9:30 a.m. the start gun went off, as the solo runners, relay teams and walkers zipped their way from the Town green down South Windsor Street.

While running the solo 15K, I found the road to be lonely at times. But the out-and-back nature of the course made it much more fun on the way back to see the smiles and cheers from other runners. Once I made my way to the relay teams' turn-around point, which was in front of the Hurricane Flats farm, I derived more motivation from the energy

the relay runners exuded. Up the last little hill, I sprinted to the finish and was greeted with high-fives and other sweaty bodies.

After the race there was an award ceremony to highlight the outstanding performances of the day. At the conclusion of the awards ceremony, the sun began to peep out as we hobbled to the quad for some BBQ. The food was great, there were smiles all around, and the sun was now in full force. There was even an appearance by our school's mascot – the fighting swan.

It was perfect start to a Saturday before we headed out to the Tunbridge Fair for even more fun. Hope to see you all out there next year!

Special thanks to Susan Davidson for providing me with awesome pictures of the race as well as the race results. A big thanks to all the volunteers – you were wonderful, and of course to all of the sponsors and participants.

Results

Solo Runners	Top Male:	Ian Nurse	50:08
	Top Female:	Christal Cuadra	1:02:01

Age Groups

29 & Under:	Male:	James Marren	54:02
	Female:	Christal Cuadra	1:02:01
30-39:	Male:	Ian Nurse	50:08
	Female:	Rebekah Smith	1:20:11
40-49:	Male:	J. Patrick Kennedy	1:00:55
50-59:	Male:	Tom Ozahowski	1:10:36
60+:	Male:	Steve Aikenhead	1:21:41

Running Relay

Open Men:	1st Place:	L.Rev.Olution	1:05:28
	2nd Place:	Judd's Team	1:20:19
	3rd Place:	Scally Wags	1:32:19
Open Female:	1st Place:	Pink Ladies	1:12:10
	2nd Place:	Go Green!	1:25:18
	3rd Place:	1L's	1:29:16
Open Mixed:	1st Place:	Underdogs	1:15:49
	2nd Place:	Truex Collins	1:16:58
	3rd Place:	Max & Sam's Yankees	1:22:00
18 yrs.&Und.:	1st Place:	Jogging Gerbals	1:27:56
Walking Relay:	1st Place:	Dean's Dream Team	1:01:40
	2nd Place:	LUI – Land Use Institute	1:04:35



Continued from pg. 4: China.

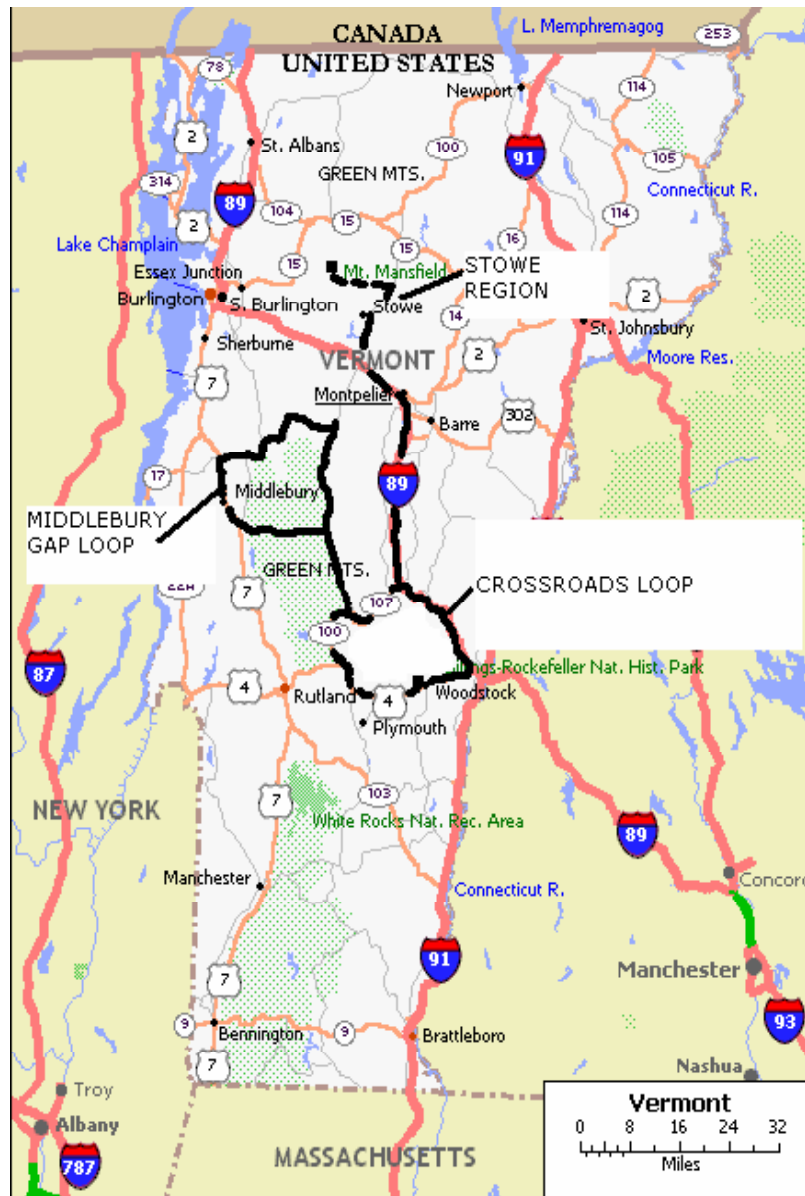
knew about it. There was no one for us to ask. We did not know if the local inhabitants noticed it either, but we did see at least one gentleman fishing in the river as the trash floated by.

I could go on and on, but in the interest of brevity, I will just say this. Never have I seen such outstanding measures of modernity and development and progress alongside so much poverty and need and filth. China is too big for one person to comprehend, and I saw a mere sliver of the country. I would encourage everyone to try and get over there and see for oneself. If you are interested in humanity and the environment and the health of the planet—physically, metaphysically, and intellectually—everyone needs to at least attempt to get an understanding of the culture and history and desires of the Chinese. And I guarantee if you go, you will not leave before meeting some extraordinarily caring, intelligent, hospital, funny, and warm people.

Continued from pg. 4: All in a Days Drive.

town of Hancock, turn west onto Route 125 and follow for approximately 15 miles to Route 7 north. Heading north on Route 7, you will drive through Middlebury and will come across Route 17 at New Haven Junction. Turn east onto Route 17 and drive approximately 25 miles until the town of Irasville, and then turn right back onto Route 100 for approximately 32 miles, which will complete the loop south to Route 107. Overall, the Middlebury Gap Loop both tracks along and across the Green Mountain National Forest. I recommend stopping at Texas Falls, the Middlebury Gap, and the Robert Frost Wayside Area and Trail on Route 125. In addition, if you have extra time during the day, visit the town of Middlebury on Route 7 and explore the business district. The Otter Creek Falls in downtown Middlebury is a must-see stop for those who enjoy the rushing sounds of water crashing down over rocks and boulders. Heading east on Route 17 provides spectacular views as you begin on relatively flat land heading into and up the Green Mountains. Finally, while heading south on Route 100 between Irasville and Hancock, is the Moss Glen Falls. I was surprised to find that these falls are located right off Route 100. Interestingly, the White River, flowing next to VLS, begins near the Moss Glen Falls as well.

The second scenic day trip is the Crossroads Loop, located in middle and eastern Ver-



mont. This Loop passes through cities and towns likely most familiar to you, including Killington, Woodstock, and Quechee. Like the Middlebury Gap Loop, follow Route 107 west from South Royalton. When Route 100 splits north and south, after approximately 15 miles, continue south on Route 100, driving towards Killington. After driving 9 miles on Route 100, you will reach Route 4. Turn east onto Route 4 and drive nearly 25 miles until you reach I-89. Travel north on I-89 until the Sharon exit to complete the Loop. The Crossroads Loop provides numerous activities and views of the fall colors. For those of you who would like to hike a short distance, the Appalachian Trail crosses Gifford Woods State Park. I highly recommend the Pond and Waterfall Loop, a 3.5-mile easy hike with pleasant pools and waterfalls. If you wish to see the “forest through the trees”, drive up to the Killington Resort and take the K-1 Gondola to the top of Killington Peak, preferably on a clear day. The Gondola operates from 10am to 5pm daily and will cost \$15 round-trip per person. Finally, the Quechee Gorge along Route 4, near Quechee, is a must-see stop. Known as “Vermont’s Little Grand Canyon”, Quechee Gorge will provide many camera-worthy pictures, especially during the fall foliage season. Walking trails, gift shops, and restaurants can potentially fulfill a days worth of enjoyment.

The third and final recommended travel destination is the Stowe region, located approximately 1 hour north of South Royalton. To get to Stowe, drive north on I-89 for approximately 40 miles until you reach Exit 10. Turn right onto Route 100 for approximately 10 miles to reach the town of Stowe. Stowe has numerous fall activities, such as visiting Cold Hollow Cider Mill, the Trapp Family Lodge horse-drawn wagon and carriage rides, and, similar to Killington Resort, the Stowe Mountain Resort also has a gondola that will take you nearly to the top of Mount Mansfield. The gondola ride, which is longer than Killington, is \$22 round-trip and runs daily from 10am to 5pm. You may also drive to the top to Mount Mansfield on the Auto Toll Road for \$23 per car from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Finally, what would a day be in Vermont without having Ben and Jerry’s ice cream? Driving back to South Royalton from Stowe, stop at the Ben and Jerry’s Ice Cream Factory in Waterbury.

I hope you utilize this article as a guide to increase your travels throughout Vermont, while taking the time to stop and appreciate the state’s natural beauty and culture. Safe travels!

Continued from pg. 6: Food and Environment

However, it wasn’t the cheapest by much when you figure that you are paying \$4 a gallon for gas. With driving around West Lebanon, it is generally about a gallon in each direction if I drive to Price Chopper... that’s an \$8 premium on shopping.

It isn’t a bad idea to consider where your dollars are also going. Money spent at the South Royalton Market stays in South Royalton, instead of going to an out of state corporation. The cooperative market also buys local produce, breads and meats—meaning that you are directly supporting Vermont farmers.

Keeping it local also means that you have a smaller carbon footprint. Local food has less distance to travel to get to your market. And, most importantly, you don’t have to drive! The largest carbon contributions in the transportation chain for a typical food purchase are the miles that YOU drive to the store.

Next time you are thinking about where to shop in the coming year, it might be worth it to pause and think about the costs and benefits of where you are buying your food. Depending on what you value, it might just be best to buy that next loaf of bread down the street instead of leaving town.

See Table on pg. 8

On Voting

By Damon Amyx

The country is abuzz, as it has been for months, with presidential campaigns and the upcoming elections in November. People ask each other who they'll vote for, and when November draws nearer, the question will be asked more frequently, and public campaigns will be conducted exhorting every citizen to vote.

There are two problems with this. First, the singular public emphasis on voting ignores the fact that the President is but the head of one of three branches of government. The President can have a strong influence on policy and has the power to make political appointments, but there is far more to government and democracy than this single person. Congress, administrative agencies, the judiciary, and interest groups all play major roles in government, collectively diminishing the importance of the President as center of political power, but this so often escapes public attention. The

incumbency rate in the Senate hovers somewhere around 96%—why? Because most elections are uncontested, and people either don't vote or cast their votes ignorantly.

This leads to the second—and worse—problem with insisting that everyone should vote in the presidential election. So few people actually understand the issues and what the candidates stand for. Voting records in public office and the details of candidates' backgrounds never really enter the fore; most voters base their opinions on pundits' rhetoric and propaganda. This is terribly dangerous.

H.G. Wells said it best in his Brief Outline of History: "Votes in themselves are worthless things. Men had votes in Italy in the time of Gracchi. Their votes did not help them. Until a man has education, a vote is a useless and dangerous thing for him to possess." A vote cast without knowledge behind it is worse than not voting at all.

Consider this. Let's say that ten percent of the voting population actually researches the candidates and the challenges facing our country, and then cast their votes based on their own informed opinions. The other 90 percent of the population votes in ignorance. What those 90 percent wind up doing is watering down the influence of those who actually know what's going on. Those 90 percent have little or no real information guiding their decision. The result is national leadership elected without regard to facts, voting records, or indeed, what is best for our country.

Don't be among those 90 percent. Don't buy into the rhetoric. If you want to vote, then learn about what you're doing. There is nothing patriotic or praiseworthy in voting ignorantly. As Wells recognized, education is the key to a successful democracy.

I'm Fired Up...

By Joshua Thompson ('10)

... And slightly biased I suppose. All I keep hearing is, "history has been made can you believe it?" Well history has been made but in a very minor way. History being made is not the most important issue here in this election. Skin color, gender, and age are nothing but a detail; rather character is the most important issue. This election calls for a purely good individual to obtain the position of the President of the United States. Past times have maybe overlooked the true character of a candidate, and focused predominately on foreign policy, economic background, or military prowess. The character I am talking about is not the Christian right's view on the matter. You know the deal to nausea by now, "is he pro-life? What are his views on gay-marriage?" Although individuals views on these matters do make up ones character, actions speak much louder than words as the past eight years have proven. I for one choose Senator Obama for President, whom chose to effect change, rather than take the dollar out of college. I choose a man who will sit down with our "enemies" as opposed to attacking or isolating them. I choose a man who has not fought in a war. I choose a man who fights for universal healthcare, rather than drilling in our homeland. If you want an article lobbying or advocating policies, just visit the respective candidates websites.

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Recipe Corner By Jaclyn Laferriere ('10)

Sometimes the best dessert is a basic chocolate cake with a well-made simple buttercream frosting.

VEGAN

Make sure you use vegan sugar. As cane sugar is often processed using charred animal bones, many vegans use only beet sugar. See <http://www.vegsource.com/jo/qa/qasugar.htm> for more information. Personally, I hate the taste of beet sugar, but it's often a miniscule difference in recipes. For a vegan powdered sugar substitute, see <http://www.veganchef.com/veganpowder.htm>.

Vegan chocolate cake from <http://www.boutell.com/vegetarian/cake.html>. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Line two 8- or 9-inch round cake layers with parchment paper and pan spray.

In large bowl, mix together:

- 3 c flour
- 2 c sugar
- 6 T cocoa powder (best if sifted in)
- 2 t baking soda
- 1 t salt

In separate bowl, combine:

- ¾ c vegetable oil
- 2 T vinegar

Preparing for Upcoming Conferences On Military Related Environmental Concerns

By Weston A. Watts Jr., ('09)

Last night in Chase Loft we had a good meeting about what members of MREC would like to accomplish this year; we have a lot of opportunities to make a difference. Last year and the year before we focused on ways to help grassroots organizations and communities gain access to national decision-makers addressing their problems, and we are looking forward to providing this service again. This November presents several chances.

In Paris officials of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries, private firms, and defense and climate organizations will meet to adopt a consensus statement on how military-private partnerships can reduce their contributions to climate change. Officials of defense ministries will discuss case studies and innovations, environmental agency officials will present opportunities for progress, and authors will present insight into areas where growth can occur. At the end, the members will adopt a consensus statement that will influence how the military will address possibly the biggest problem facing our generation.

From our work last year, we have some insights to offer participants that do not appear on the agenda, so we are looking at developing a brief report and offering it to inform participants. Our work last year revealed how visiting forces can benefit from greater access to regional decision-makers in developing appropriate alternative energy projects, and how NATO member forces could broaden their support for host nation capacity building to slow desertification and deforestation. These areas present opportunities for the concerns that communities expressed to influence policies they may otherwise have no power to shape, so we look forward to doing our part. Doing our part will also mean improving our survey reports.

Last year we prepared reports based on comments from sources all over the world, but we had to assemble them so quickly that they could have been better prepared to help members of intergovernmental meetings. In preparing for upcoming consultative meetings, we have

2 t vanilla
2 c cold water
Stir the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients until smooth. Split into pans, then spin the pans to avoid the unworkable hump in the middle of the cakes. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes, rotating pans halfway through. Allow to cool completely, then frost.



Jaclyn displaying the Vegan Chocolate Cake at the Goddess Potluck.

Vegan chocolate frosting from <http://hubpages.com/hub/Vegan-Chocolate-Frosting-Recipe>

Start to beat with electric beater:

½ c vegan margarine, softened

Sift in and cream:

1 c vegan powdered sugar (see above)

dash of salt (really important!)

Then add:

1 T vanilla

2 T vegan soymilk (not vanilla flavored)

Sift in:

1 additional c vegan powdered sugar

1/3 c cocoa powder

Depending on the consistency, you may want to add more soymilk or powdered sugar, or refrigerate to set up.

Continued from pg. 6: Food and Environment Table

	SoRo, VT - Coop	Randolph, VT - Shaw's	West Leb, NH - Price Chopper
Yello Onions	\$1.03	\$0.80	\$0.80
Tomatoes (Vine Ripened)	\$3.99	\$2.49	\$2.49
Bananas	\$1.19	\$0.79	\$0.79
Apples (Pink Lady)	\$2.29	\$1.99	\$1.99
Spinach (Baby Spinach)	\$7.99	\$7.29	\$5.99
Ground Beef	\$4.19	\$2.99	\$2.79
Chicken Breast	\$7.09	\$3.79	\$3.49
Milk (1%)	\$4.99	\$4.29	\$4.79
Corn Flakes (18 oz.)	\$4.59	\$3.79	\$3.99
6 Pack Long Trail Alt Bier	\$8.99	\$8.99	\$7.49
Total Cost of Basket:	\$46.34	\$37.21	\$34.61
Average Cost Per Item:	\$4.63	\$3.72	\$3.46
Distance to SoRo (miles):	0	15	21
Owner of Grocery Store:	SoRo Community	Albertson's Corporation	Wal-Mart Corporation

Basket of goods from three grocery stores. Prices (unless otherwise indicated) are dollars per pound. Milk is dollars per gallon.

the opportunity to review our survey materials, follow up with sources if necessary, and develop concise, issue specific reports for both the NATO meeting and the consultative meetings. In this way, we may help the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) develop a program of work that will involve a broader range of people, consistent with its work developing multi-lateral environmental agreements for the 21st Century (especially Montevideo Programme III).

If you are interested in these fall opportunities or would like to learn more, feel free to email me (wwatts@vermontlaw.edu) or join the MREC

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