

State University, and the University of North Carolina. Both Yee and Castello believe that although Duke Uni-

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versity is part of the Research Triangle, Duke Law School is "extremely separate" from the Universities. Mr. Castello said that although the Duke administration may boast about its affiliation with the Research Triangle, it is, in fact, "no part of the great University like the brochure said." Contributing to this separatism are the inadequate physical facilities of the school itself. The small law building is sharply contrasted by the beautiful surrounding architecture of Duke University. "There are plans for expansion and renovation in the next couple of years," says Barbara Sheridan, acting assistant director of admission for Duke Law. "We are currently raising the money to do that," she said.

The lack of on-campus housing for law students also isolates them from the rest of the University. Students often live with the locals in Durham and find housing in apartment complexes, while others rent houses with their classmates. The proximity of these accommodations helps to alleviate the alienation that graduate students often feel from one another.

Law students, while noted for their studiousness, must have some life away from academics. They have the opportunity of mingling with the undergraduates of Duke University, but may not always want to avail themselves of that option. Castello found that many undergraduates are "pretentious, obnoxious people with a lot of money." Similarly, Yee found the social life unsatisfying, saying, "The social scene was lousy. It consisted of frat boys and sorority girls." "It can sometimes become very high school-ish," contended Castello. Yee agreed saying that it often times students were "cliquish and immature."

The Duke brochure asserts that the law students are a heterogeneous group from many different states and colleges. This claim seems specious: 47 percent of the students entering this Fall were from the South, 59 percent of students were male, 41 percent female, and only ten percent minorities. When asked how a Columbia University undergraduate education was valued in the admissions process, Barbara Sheridan replied, "We really like Columbia," although less than three students from Columbia University were accepted this Fall. Duke sent 24 undergraduates this Fall, while other Ivy League schools, such as Harvard, Princeton, Cornell, Yale, and Pennsylvania, matriculated more than three students each.

Admissions standards are high at Duke. The

admissions staff considers the student's LSAT score, GPA, and undergraduate institution attended to be the most important criteria. In addition, they consider extracurricular activities, volunteer work, internships, and recommendations.

In considering what he or she wants to do after law school, the student should consider Duke's solid reputation. "The education you get there is wonderful, and you have a great ability to go places from Duke," Castello said. Most graduates from Duke Law end up working in the Northeastern section of the United States. "They seem to encourage a profession that is corporate law oriented," stated Yee. As a whole, he found the students were "conservative and very corporate law and big firm minded." There are, of course, other options, such as judicial clerkships and public service. Although 70 percent of the students who graduated from Duke Law in 1991 went into private law firms, almost 20 percent were employed in federal and state judicial clerkships.

Every law school has its flaws, and Duke definitely has its share. What is ultimately important in law school, however, is how your mind will be shaped. Duke's excellent faculty, great reputation, and small student body more than compensates for its poor physical facilities. Duke is a great school that should seriously be looked into.

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Review of the Law School Forum

By Kim Abraham

Don't know what to do with your life? Feeling that your undergraduate Pre-Professionals-R-Us institution has left you with limited career possibilities? With actual employment opportunities looking grim (recession) and no chance at entry into medical school (no sciences), you seem faced with one obvious choice: Law School.

You are floundering in a sea of possibilities as your mind swims with questions. What do you do? You could have done what many other people floundering in the same sea do: attend the Law School Forum at the Vista Hotel, recently held in mid-September of this year.

You enter the large double doors that may possibly contain the answers to your questions and prayers. The prelude to the forum is an open room full of tables, behind which lurk Law School Admission Services (LSAS) agents ready to accost you with questionnaires

Helvidius

and saddle you with a "Thinking about law school?" bag, that will sit in your room, untouched for the duration of the semester. The prelude must be endured before being allowed to enter the hallowed ground of the Law Forum.

Directly across from the doors that enclose the forum, not surprisingly, stand more LSAS agents ready to ply you with their goods. LSAS publications such as *"The Official Guide to US Law Schools"* are available for specially reduced prices. Curiously, I bought the same guide at the Columbia Bookstore for the same specially reduced price.

Once you survive the prelude you qualify to enter the forum itself: the formidable place where you meet admissions officers and law students. The first morning of the Law Forum, 13 September 1991, the doors to the actual forum were opened 15 minutes late. Meanwhile, a large crowd of interested people and law school hopefuls had gathered in front of the doors. Many had stopped by on their way to work, hoping to quickly pick up some applications and leave. Others had just wanted to arrive early, before the crowd, yet inevitably became part of the it. The doors eventually opened, to a stampede, as everyone pushed their way through, under which the hopes of avoiding the crowds and being to work on time were completely trampled.

The diversity of the crowd was impressive and included college students of all races and cultures as well as a large number of graduates. Of these diverse people, however, everyone was in the same boat. As the Forum proceeded, the interested group appeared increasingly less interested; impressing an admissions officer became less important than trying not to sweat in the hot and stuffy room. Ultimately jackets were removed, sleeves rolled up and collars undone, in an effort to combat the oppressive heat and congestion.

Admissions officers and their assistants, usually second or third-year law students (Apparently first-year law students are too incoherent to answer questions.) waited behind long row of tables. There were usually two or three people from each law school per table. But too often they were greatly outnumbered by an interested crowd. Thus, while waiting to speak to an admissions officer from a school such as NYU, one could easily find one at the next table learning the merits of the University of Kansas Law School.

Once you have captured the attention of the admissions officer you may be disappointed to find the kind of information provided. They come equipped with introductory booklets, and armed with graphs that show the placement and salaries of their graduates. They do not, however, come prepared to answer questions such as: "How does the intellectual atmosphere compare with other schools?", and "Will I learn everything it takes to be successful, competent lawyer?" and, of course, "Could

this be the right law school for me?" Admissions officers look uncomfortable and sweat a little more when asked such questions. However, you rarely get the opportunity to do more than grab a booklet because there are others behind you waiting rather impatiently. They, too, will be disappointed if they try to get a more abstract sense of the school from the admissions team.

Ultimately, attending the Law School Forum will not give anyone direction. As far as surface information, the Law School Forum succeeds, but it fails at anything more in-depth. In considering whether or not to attend next year's Law School Forum, one must consider the kind of information desired and hope that the Vista Hotel decides to hold it in a larger and more accommodating room.

Kim Abraham is a Barnard College senior.

Law School Profile: Harvard Law School

By Niza Motola

Just five hours by bus from New York in the center of Cambridge stands the Harvard University Law School. Since it is the oldest law school in the nation, (established in 1815), there is a certain mystique around Harvard. Harvard has never fallen below number five since the beginning of rating manuals; indeed it has spent most of its time at number one.

The campus's physical facilities comprise sixteen buildings including dorms, dining halls, administrative offices and classrooms. All of the buildings are close to each other and within walking distance. The campus is picturesque, with traditional ivy-covered red brick buildings in surprisingly good condition. Harvard has the largest law school library in the world with 14 million volumes. The library is separated into two sections: Langdell Hall and The International Legal Studies Wing. The atmosphere is tranquil by New York standards; no one is really rushing anywhere, and the clerical assistants are helpful and courteous.

The school has over seventeen hundred students with an average of 540 per class. There are nearly one hundred professors who offer more than one hundred and twenty-five different courses, providing a diverse and varied curriculum. A Harvard Law education is not geared towards specialization in one specific area of the law; rather, it emphasizes a general and theoretical approach.

Last year 7500 students applied for an entering