

Albany Money Machine. The study revealed that corporations either directly or through their PACs contributed substantial funds to the legislative parties. The report also showed that 15 to 20 percent of direct corporate contributions were given to the legislative party committees, as well as substantial percentages of the 38 to 50 percent made to the legislative party committees by all PACs.

The study also revealed that incumbents, rather

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than challengers, received the overwhelming majority of party funds. A report issued by the New York State Board of Elections in 1989, which summarizes the financing of the 1988 elections, when combined with the candidate filings, further substantiates the Commission's 1986 findings.

The fact that New York State election law permits unlimited funds to be spent on, or transferred to, candidates running for the state legislature might suggest that virtually no seat would go unchallenged. Yet by 1990 one-third of all seats were uncontested. Precisely because each party can raise and spend an unlimited amount of funds, potential challengers are discouraged, and districts are conceded to the opposition. A 1989 New York State Common Cause report "Changing State, Unchanging Legislature" quotes the testimony of Assembly Speaker Miller during Feerick Commission hearings in which he conceded "The bulk of the money is spent on the 22 seats out of 150...that are truly contestable." During the same hearings Senate Majority Leader Ralph Marino echoed Miller by stating "Obviously, we're not going to spend a lot on a race we can't win."

Conclusion

Based on the evidence, it may be presumptuous to assert that the reason corporations contribute to incumbents, particularly legislative leaders, and the legislative parties, is that they expect special favors in return, while incumbents amass enormous campaign funds which intimidate prospective challengers. There are undoubtedly some who are not alarmed by the above-mentioned statistics. Yet the evidence, if only circumstantial, compels further study and the issue of campaign finance practices, further inquiry because of what is at stake: democracy.

Even in the absence of hard and conclusive

evidence of the corrupting influence of corporate dollars upon the electoral integrity of New York's legislative elections, there remain some disturbing questions: Can a system which permits fully one-third of New York's state legislators to run unopposed be said to be truly democratic? Is a system which allows legislators to raise funds from corporations whose interests they control ethical? The answers to these and other questions are indeed elusive. Yet the necessity of democratic renewal compels us to search. Ironically, much of the world is exercising democracy for the first time, while in New York State it atrophies.

Brandon Mitchell is a General Studies senior and Pre-Law Editor of Helvidius.

Law School Profile: Yale Law School

By Brandon Mitchell

I visited Yale Law School on a warm and sunny late October day. I rode the Metroliner to New Haven with an increasing sense of reverence which was perhaps inevitable in light of Yale's reputation and prestige. Past Yale faculty has included William Howard Taft and William O. Douglas, both of whom went on to the Supreme Court. The alumni have been equally prominent, currently boasting several members of the US Senate.

Yet, my sense of reverence was dampened by ambivalence borne out of the Clarence Thomas hearings. Clarence Thomas and Anita Hill as well as Senator Specter and Senator Danforth, Thomas's patron, were all Yale Law graduates. Additionally, an important supporter of Thomas was the Dean of Yale Law School, Guido Calabresi. The hearings and the controversy had damaged everyone involved.

I was warmly greeted by Lauretta Tremblay the Assistant Director of Admissions, whom I had met a few weeks earlier during her visit to Columbia. Ms. Tremblay helped me find the schedule of classes I could attend and informed me of an upcoming tour of the school. I had some free time before class and decided to explore the school and surrounding area.

Yale Law School is completely self-contained. The classrooms, libraries, and dorms, as well as the faculty and administration offices are in the same building. The building also contains a day care center, locker rooms, and a computer center. The school is in a handsome Neo-Gothic building, occupying one square block.

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The center of the school is a lovely courtyard filled with trees and benches.

I attended First Year Constitutional Law course taught by Professor Robert Burt, a Yale Law graduate.

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Upon entering the room, I noticed a raised podium at the end of the room, which strengthened my expectation that the upcoming session would be a Socratic torture test. To my surprise, Professor Burt was genial and soft spoken. He led the class through a relaxed, yet dynamic exploration of the issues of judicial versus legislative supremacy. In fact, Professor Burt's class was the first of several surprises I experienced that afternoon.

In spite of the relaxed environment, the students' intelligence and high motivation was very evident, characteristics repeatedly confirmed throughout the afternoon. For the 1990-91 academic year, Yale received 5,638 applications of which 373 were accepted and fewer than 200 enrolled. Of the 373 applicants accepted to Yale, over 90 percent had GPAs of 3.5 or higher and had scored 45 or better on the LSAT.

Despite the high academic standards, I did not encounter an atmosphere of pressure or tension. The students with whom I spoke, as well as my tour guide Lise Hamilton (a second-year graduate of Rutgers), credited the school's policies with promoting a sense of community and cooperation which alleviated much of the stress.

Yale Law School issues pass/fail grades during the first semester and does not publish class rankings. First-years are divided into small groups of approximately 17 students and each group attends all of their first semester courses together. Every first-year student is required to take four fixed courses: Constitutional Law I, Contracts I, Procedures I, and Torts I. A lecture series on legal history and ethics is also required.

After the first semester students are free to shape their own curriculum. They can select from the school's extensive and varied course listings, as well as enroll in courses outside of Yale Law. During the first five days of registration, students may sample as many courses as possible and rearrange their schedules accordingly. Lise, our guide, noted the popularity of sampling courses during the five-day period.

Prior to graduation, students are also required to take Criminal Law, Administration I, at least five units of required writing, supervised analytic writing, and must complete a substantial research paper. Two students

maintained that they would have benefitted from a course solely focused on the technical aspects of legal writing and research. Both students, however, highly praised the legal writing tutor. Criticism of the required writing was the only complaint expressed to me about the Yale curriculum. There are probably other valid criticisms of the curriculum and students may have been reticent for fear of seeing them in print, but given the breadth and diversity of the curriculum it is very likely that substantial complaints are few.

To qualify for the J.D., students must complete 82 credits of which only the above-mentioned courses are required. The Law school offers courses ranging from Advocacy for People with Disabilities to Bankruptcy and Philosophy of Law. Yale also offers Student Organized Research and Legislative Drafting Seminars. The seminars are wholly conceived by at least six students, who write and submit a proposal to the Dean. The Dean then finds a faculty member who is interested in leading the course. The Intensive Semester Program is one of many programs offering students the opportunity to combine work outside of the school with writing and coursework.

Yale also offers a wide variety of special and joint-degree programs. In conjunction with the Graduate School, Yale Law offers the opportunity for students to earn joint J.D./M.A. degrees and joint J.D./Ph.D. degrees. Separate admissions must be gained to each program. The Master of Studies in Law (MSL) degree offers non-lawyers such as scholars and teachers a better understanding of the relationship of law to their particular field of study. Within the MSL Program is the Fellowship in Law for Journalists. The Fellowship enables approximately five journalists per year, who cover legal and judicial issues, to improve their comprehension of legal issues and procedures. As noted above Yale permits students, after the first semester, to take courses at the graduate and undergraduate schools of Yale University provided that the courses are relevant to the students' law programs. Similar policies at other law schools around the country have aroused a heated and sometimes acrimonious debate. On one side of the issue stand the "traditionalists" who advocate a basic reliance on the Socratic method of instruction, case methods and theory, with very little non-law material. In opposition are schools such as Yale which not only permit students to take courses outside of the law school but include among their faculties scholars and professors in fields such as economics, philosophy, and psychoanalysis. I learned from students that Yale's broad course offerings and particularly its integration of law and humanities was a significant reason for their choice of Yale over other law schools. A second-year student said that he had selected Yale over Harvard because he felt that Yale's approach to the study of law would be more interesting. After our tour we sat in the

sun-drenched courtyard to discuss our observations and questions. Lise offered what I believe to be the most precise explanation of the benefits of integrating the study of law and the humanities. She believes that the integration enables students to better understand the relationship of the law to society and its possible ramifications.

The average class size at Yale, 17 students, is an attractive feature of the school. Classes are conducted in a variety of ways, which range from lectures to the dreaded Socratic method.

I spoke with several students during my afternoon at Yale about the diversity of the faculty. There was no consensus as to whether Yale had reached a satisfactory level of diversity, but I found that the students generally believed that Yale is making efforts to attract more minority faculty. Lise added during our tour of the faculty offices that most of the faculty is very accessible, an appraisal with which other students concurred. Our tour then brought us to the impressive Yale Law School Library. The main reading room is bright, high beamed, and imposing, similar to the main reading room at Butler Library. The library contains 800,000 books and microforms as well as the Lexis and Westlaw Legal Research

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Computer Systems. The Law School also contains a separate Foreign and International Library Annex. Law students have full access to all of the libraries at Yale University, which contain nearly one million volumes. During the semester the law library is open 24 hours a day, which in itself conjures frightening images of a crushing workload and long sleepless nights. In the courtyard I asked Lise a question that in retrospect should have been self-evident, how she and her classmates handled the workload. Her response was simple and concise, "Prioritize."

In addition to the extensive degree and course offerings, Yale Law school offers dozens of clinics, journals, and student organizations. Among the clinics available are: The Capital Defense Project, which assists in the defense of capital defense cases in the South; The Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization, which provides legal services to individuals who cannot afford an attorney; and The Temporary Restraining Order Project for Battered Women, which aids battered women in family court.

Law students in Connecticut can legally represent clients in state and federal proceedings, a practice which allows students to gain valuable and practical

experience. Consequently, the clinics are in great demand.

The law journals at Yale are as diverse and sought after as the clinics. With the exception of the *Yale Law Journal*, for which students must be chosen by the editorial board, all other journals are open to all students. Among the law journals are *Yale Journal of Law and Feminism*, *Yale Law and Policy Review*, and *Yale Journal on Regulation*.

The diversity of the courses, journals, and clinics is reflected in the student body as well as reflected by the student organizations. The Yale Law catalog indicates that the school's minority and female population are 22 percent and 42 percent respectively. It was also difficult to establish a consensus on whether the school's student diversity and particularly its minority enrollment has reached satisfactory levels. Yet, I did not find any of the rancor which the subject sometimes arouses at other schools. The students with whom I spoke felt satisfied that Yale was committed in increasing its minority student enrollment. The diversity of the student organizations are also a reflection of Yale's interest in minority issues. Among the student organizations at Yale are: The Black Law Students' Association (BLSA), The Latino Law Students' Association (LLSA), and The Pacific Islander. The student organizations serve as social and academic support services. Yale Law also includes First Generation Professionals, an organization for students from blue collar and lower-class backgrounds, and Students Against Graduating Early (SAGE) for students who have spent a good deal of their post-graduate lives in other careers. Perhaps the most eloquent description of role of these organizations was offered by Lise, who described them as a "safe place," which can ease the transition to law school. The organizations also provide workshops, forums, and outreach to the community of New Haven.

Yale Law School, like most of the country's top law schools, is quite expensive. Each year costs approximately \$30,000, including living expenses, tuition, and fees. Columbia students, however should be encouraged to apply. Excluding Yale, Harvard, and Princeton, Columbia and Barnard combined are at the high end of the spectrum of represented undergraduate institutions. Additionally, Yale has several creative plans for financing law school, such as the fixed tuition and pre-payment plans. Approximately two-thirds of the students receive some form of financial aid.

I discussed the admissions process with Lise, particularly the letters of recommendation, who observed that since most of the applicants are intelligent and accomplished, everyone was equal and that the letters must consequently convey some unique characteristics which set apart the individual applicant. Yale asks for two letters from professors, although additional letters are accepted. Students who are not applying immediately

Helvidius

after college and particularly older students are advised to also obtain letters from employers. According to Laurretta Tremblay, the first step in the admissions process consists of selecting the most promising quarter of all the applicants. Thus, an applicant would do well to remember Lise's observations.

Yale Law graduates are in high demand and can be found in a variety of fields. The catalog reports that of the 1990 graduates who responded to Yale's survey, 47 percent went on to judicial clerkships, 39 percent took jobs at law firms and business organizations, and eight percent and five percent respectively went to jobs in the public sector and academia.

Yale Law School encourages its graduates to enter public interest and academic fields by offering the Career Options Assistance Program (COAP). COAP assumes students' repayments of law school loans in exchange for their entering low paying academic and public interest fields.

Yale Law School is very impressive, but inevitably has its share of drawbacks. Zina Shaffer, the registrar and director of financial aid conceded that Yale Law suffers from a shortage of classroom space.

In nearly every aspect which one could consider in choosing a law school, Yale Law School has formidable assets. Its prestige and reputation are among the highest in the US. Its faculty and student body are highly accomplished and successful. Yale Law also offers a creative and challenging curriculum. Thus, a prospective law school applicant, aware of the toil and expense, would be well advised to apply to Yale.

Yet, I was struck by other qualities at Yale which were difficult to categorize. I arrived unannounced and late in the day at Shaffer's office to find someone who welcomed me and made herself available to answer my questions. In response to my question about the unique qualities of Yale she offered that "a sense of family and warmth," is an integral part of the experience. The warmth and friendliness of Yale had indeed been a prominent yet virtually unnoticed part of my visit. I had fully expected the members of the administration and Lise to be friendly, but I was impressed by their warmth and candor. The students with whom I spoke at random during our tour were equally enthusiastic and friendly. Yale Law School is an especially compelling choice to anyone considering law school because in addition to its obvious assets, there also exists a sense of community and warmth, qualities which can't be gained through money or prestige.

Brandon Mitchell is a General Studies junior and Pre-Law Editor o/Helvidius.

Law School Profile: Duke University in North Carolina

By Pamela Yee

After experiencing an undergraduate education at Columbia University, you know what you liked and disliked about it. These preferences should be part of the criteria by which you choose your future law school. Most would probably agree that the prestigious, intellectual atmosphere at Columbia suits their tastes, but you may feel that being part of a large student body in an urban university is no longer appealing.

Duke University Law School, located in Durham, North Carolina, offers an excellent alternative to the student who seeks a slower-paced, rural atmosphere but wants to enjoy the reputation of a great university. Duke's rigorous and intellectually rich environment is augmented by the personal attention students receive as a result of the small student body. This Fall's entering class was composed of 195 students. Bernard Yee, a 1986 graduate of Columbia College and a Duke Law graduate of 1989, agrees that the small student body at Duke "contributed greatly to the learning process because it enabled the faculty to be more accessible."

Competition has been a fixture at the Duke; students entering in the Fall of 1991 had particularly impressive credentials. The mean GPA was 3.65 with a LSAT of 44. Duke Law claims, however, that their small and sometimes informal classes stress academic collaboration rather than competition. One might expect a southern school to have a more relaxed atmosphere than a school in an urban area; Duke is probably somewhere in the middle—not too relaxed and not too cut-throat.

Academic life at Duke is excellent not only due to the intelligent student body, but the distinguished faculty as well. Brian Castello, a 1986 graduate from Indiana University and a 1989 graduate of Duke Law, said, "The faculty at Duke were high caliber and, unfortunately, underrated." Faculty members hold not only J.D. degrees, but degrees in philosophy, psychiatry, economics, religion, political science, and history. A number of faculty are scholars in fields such as federal banking, ethnic conflict, and feminist legal theory. Students are encouraged to take part in this diversity by pursuing joint-degree programs in public policy, business, philosophy, history, and economics.

The Law School is a member of the Research Triangle, constituted of Duke University, North Carolina