

their own internal pressures. Another Columbia graduate said that the degree of competition and intellectual prowess was as he had anticipated. Ultimately, however, I got the sense that the student is buying the Harvard name; the most difficult part of the experience seems to be the admissions process.

Most claimed that they "were not typical Harvard

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students" which just reinforced the diversity of the student body. Students who refused to comment outright seemed to be discontented with the school. A third year Dartmouth graduate stated that her expectations were different from her actual experiences. Social life is not the focus of the school: Floyd stated that people do not go out very much and that they are more work oriented. Another student stated that what one encounters is "lousy parties at Harvard." According to this student, the attitude is studious, although the college town atmosphere is good and he recommends MIT parties. The highlight of the partying atmosphere seemed to be watching *LA Law* on a big screen surrounded by free flowing kegs in the Hark Lounge.

It is also evident from talking to students that the full spectrum of political ideologies is represented at Harvard. A conservative student referred to the excess of "Limo-Liberals at Harvard who have paternalistic attitudes towards the masses." Basically what one can expect at Harvard is the same atmosphere as Columbia but intensified, because people that attend Harvard Law are there for a specific purpose.

Although, the education is not as rigorous as the Harvard myth propagates, a Harvard degree will get you far in the work force. Ninety to ninety-five percent of Harvard graduates have accepted job offers by graduation. The majority of the graduating class in 1990 (62 percent) accepted offers from law firms and 26 percent took judicial clerkship positions. Additionally, four percent of the graduates work in legal services and three percent work in government-related jobs, while the remaining five percent are dispersed in teaching, further education, and corporations.

If you are seeking a school with a powerful reputation, then Harvard might be for you, if you can clear the admissions hurdle. The resources available at Harvard are nearly unsurpassable, and once one obtains a JD, a

good job is nearly guaranteed, but if you seek a balance between social life and academic accomplishments after your years at Columbia, you might want to consider another school.

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The AILE Program: How to Enter Law School Your Senior Year of College

by Sergio Van Asch La Porta

The Accelerated Interdisciplinary Legal Education (AILE) program is a special program offered at Columbia Law School. Columbia began the program in the early 70s in order to provide a creative alternative to the standard educational structure: four years of high school, four years of undergraduate work, and the required number of years of graduate work. By enrolling in the AILE program, the student can complete a B. A. and a J.D. degree in six years. Essentially, students enter law school after completing their junior year. The qualifications for admission are slightly higher for AILE applicants than for regular applicants; they must possess leadership abilities, maturity, and the capability to grasp new material quickly. These strict qualifications mean that AILE students are "a shade better than average," according to James Milligan, Dean of the Law School. Both Columbia College and the Law School emphasize that this program is not for everyone—in fact, they discourage most students from applying.

Enrolling in the AILE program changes both the

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student's undergraduate and graduate experience in a number of ways. Once students are accepted into the program, they withdraw from their undergraduate insti-

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tution and formally enroll in the Law School. In addition to fulfilling the Law School's requirements, students

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must meet the demands of their undergraduate institutions. The Law School requires twelve points of interdisciplinary study in the second and third year from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and/or in the various professional schools of Columbia University. Students and their undergraduate institutions agree prior to enrollment in the program what courses they will take. As a result, some students may have to work on their senior thesis their second year of law school. Students usually receive their B.A. and J.D. degrees around the same time; however, the policy varies according to undergraduate institution.

The advantages of this program are significant. The financial gains are tremendous; one saves money by eliminating his or her senior year of college, and can start working a year earlier.

The program, of course, also has its disadvantages. The Law School still costs around \$18,000 a year, there is no special housing for AILE students, and financial aid is need based only and processed through the Law School.

Both Dean Blank of Columbia College and Dean Milligan were quick to play down the financial gains, agreeing with Roya Moadel, an AILE student from Barnard College, who stated that the program "is definitely not for everyone." "You must really want to do law," she added. She said she was lucky because she was able to work in a law firm before she started law school and knew that law was what she wanted to do.

The AILE program is in any case challenging, and for most the disadvantages outweigh the advantages. For example, students are unable to participate in junior year abroad programs because they skip their senior year. In addition, although students are not treated differently by the Law School once accepted, Dean Blank says that "one might just feel out of place" because there is a difference in experiences; many law students interned, or took a year off to work or travel. Although she recognizes that there are advantages to the program for some people, Dean Blank is "philosophically against the program" because she feels the college experience should be four years.

Twenty-eight undergraduate institutions par-

ticipate in the Columbia AILE program. Most are small, liberal arts colleges from New England or the Mid West. Universities that participate usually do not have their own law school. These twenty-eight institutions are: Barnard College, Bowdoin College, Brandeis University, Carleton College, Claremont McKenna College, Colgate University, Colorado College, Columbia College, Columbia School of Engineering and Applied Science, Columbia School of General Studies, Davidson College, Grinnell College, Hamilton College, Hampshire College, Johns Hopkins University, Knox College, Macalester College, Mount Holyoke College, Occidental College, Princeton University, Reed College, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Rice University, University of Rochester, St. Olaf College, Wabash College, and the College of Wooster.

Students interested in applying should take the early Spring LSAT in their junior year. For further information, students should contact either their pre-law advisor or their Dean of Students.

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