

Fate of exam software uncertain for spring exam period

By Alexa Lindauer

Technical glitches that forced many UConn Law students to take hand-written or take-home final examinations may not be fixed in time for spring finals, law school administrators said last week. It is hoped a new version of the software will resolve compatibility problems with the Microsoft Windows Vista operating system.

A demonstration version of Securexam, the test-taking software that locks down students' laptops for use during proctored exams, is due February 13. Administrators will test it and decide on or around March 7 whether it can be used for spring exams, according to Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Paul Chill.

Earlier last week, law school Registrar Lisa Rodino had expressed doubt as to whether the software would be ready by this term's May exam period, though at that point the demonstration version wasn't expected until March 1.

Students learned Securexam would be unavailable in an e-mail 10 days before the start of last semester's exams. Instructors in two classes moved to mandatory hand-written finals and seven classes switched to take-home examinations. Students in other classes were allowed to complete exams on their own word-processing software while proctors watched from the back of the room to prevent use of the Internet or e-mail.

Chill updated faculty on the situation in an e-mail last week, writing that the law school's contract with Securexam ends this year and that the school plans to start the bidding process for a new provider for the next academic year.

The law school moved to Securexam from another vendor more than a year ago, and administrators had been very satisfied with the software, Chill said. Last summer, a new version of Securexam designed for compatibility with Vista laptops was released. But when the software was tested midway through the semester, problems emerged.

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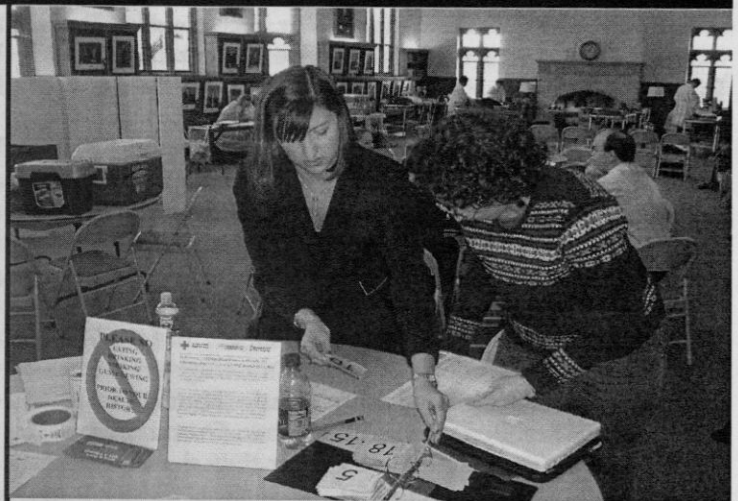


Photo courtesy of Peter Hitt

Faculty, staff and students from across the UConn Law community rolled up their sleeves to help the Health Law Interest Group meet its goal of 50 pints of usable blood at a Jan. 30 blood drive.

Missel's vision leads to a greener campus

By Dylan Kletter and Ross Friedberg

How many law students does it take to count light-bulbs? Three.

In putting a new twist on this timeless joke, Clayton Johnson and the two authors have counted nearly every light bulb on campus – and in so doing – have discovered a world of possibility for greening the UConn law campus.

No, we're not just really bored. But we, and I suspect a majority of the students, faculty, and staff, want an environmentally responsible and economically efficient campus. That's why the Environmental Law Society (ELS) has embarked on compiling a report to document what has been done, what is being done, and what could be done to make that goal a reality. But in so doing, we have also discovered that campus

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Love is in the air

Celebrate Valentine's Day with our special page devoted to movies and love letters

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Election special

With Super Tuesday in the rear view mirror, Democrats and Republicans assess the fallout

page 6

Donation discrimination

LAMBDA argues blood donation policy discriminates against homosexuals and violates state law

page 7

The Cranky DVD Reviewer: Six tips for Valentine's Day

By Tom Plotkin

The first three have happy endings, for when you're watching with your sweetie. The second three do not, so watch 'em if you're drinking alone that night.

The Big Sleep (1946) Humphrey Bogart married Lauren Bacall shortly before this was filmed; their love for each other is evident onscreen as they engage in playful verbal lovemaking through insolent one-upmanship and double-entendres. Bogart plays the definitive tough private eye, helping an heiress out of a blackmail jam, in this romantic comedy disguised as a mystery.

Breakfast at Tiffany's (1961) Audrey Hepburn, never more glamorous, is a party gal/gold-digger taking New York

by storm. George Peppard is the struggling writer who sublimates his unrequited love for her via selfless loyalty, even as her life careens out of control. **DISCLAIMER:** five minutes or so of a hideous racist caricature (Mickey Rooney grotesquely impersonating a Japanese person) mars an otherwise perfect movie. Be prepared to fast-forward.

Wild at Heart (1990) Sailor (Nic Cage) thinks he's Elvis, Lula (Laura Dern) is hotter than Georgia asphalt; together they share an IQ of 50 and a carnal passion transcending any boundary. As he breaks parole and they drive through the Southern night, they are bedeviled by a smorgasbord of psychos, not least Lula's vengeful mother, who will stop at nothing to keep

them apart. David Lynch's (*Blue Velvet*, *Twin Peaks*) redneck Romeo and Juliet is a romantic comedy in Hell. Warning: envelope-pushing language, sex & violence.

Manhattan (1980) Woody Allen's best, a black and white valentine to NYC scored by Gershwin. Woody is torn between a 16 year-old girl who loves him unconditionally, and Diane Keaton as a neurotic intellectual, who's an even bigger bundle of neurosis than he is. In no film before or since did Allen integrate comedy and drama so well.

Sunday, Bloody Sunday (1971) In London, a callow, beautiful man in his early 20's is having affairs with both a man in his 50's (Peter Finch) and a woman in her 40's (Glenda Jackson), who have

never met, yet know all about each other. This movie nails the contrast between heedless youth who feel entitled to the whole cake, and the rueful middle-aged who have learned to settle for half. One of the most realistic movies about love (gay, bi, and straight), as opposed to a love story, ever made.

Last Tango in Paris (1972) Marlon Brando, in a towering performance, is an American ex-pat in Paris going through a midlife crisis. His solution – anonymous sex with a young woman whose name he doesn't even know. What happens to these two people who for one week attempt to separate the erotic impulse from everyday life? Watch and find out...but it ain't pretty.

Pro Se

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From students to profs...with love

Professor Dailey: Much love for assigning readings that are both thought-provoking and short, reviewing prior class material at the beginning of each class, respecting each student's contribution, inviting interesting guest speakers to class, writing comprehensive and exceedingly fair exams, and for grading them quickly! Who could ask for anything more?

Professor Berger: I love your enthusiasm and constant high level of energy. You are a great teacher. I miss you this semester.

Dean & Professor Paul: You deserve some love for choosing to continue to teach and take on new responsibilities as Dean. Though the 1L's might not un-

derstand their wacky Property Law schedule, and I rarely saw you without tired eyes and coffee in hand last semester, it is good to know that you understand that the future success of the school and the quality of a student's educational experience go hand in hand.

Professor Bauer: We want to thank you for being a fabulous mentor and professor. You were extremely patient, helpful and non-judgmental. Thanks for always respecting our opinions and thoughts, and helping us grow as individuals and future lawyers.

Professor Lahav: We are sending much love for always being extremely prepared for class, leading

thought provoking discussions on what could be deemed dry topics and sharing your ever present wit and sarcasm. We also want to thank you for caring enough for the law school, your students and your profession to actually set some standards for your class. We will miss you when we leave law school.

Professor Mason: Much love for being extremely enthusiastic, being prepared for class, using diagrams and visual aides to enhance your teaching (the underutilized whiteboards appreciate this too), respecting all students' contributions to class, making complex material completely understandable, and being extremely patient. You are a fantastic professor!

B median rule emphasizes GPA, not learning

By Aaron Mensh

COMMENTARY

UConn Law allows professors teaching classes of eighteen students or fewer to disregard the 'B' median rule. A vast majority of these professors choose not to follow the 'B' median. Viewing the Registrar's grade distributions is illustrative – nearly all of the classes of eighteen students or below have an 'A-' median. Students battle to sign up for these small classes, knowing full well an 'A-' or better is likely waiting at the end of the semester.

The results of this system are disturbing. First, grades in these "eighteen" classes inflate a student's GPA because they are weighted equally with other classes. A higher GPA pushes a student past his or her peers in class ranking. More importantly, a higher GPA makes a student more appealing to potential employers directly influencing a student's first job out of law school and starting salary.

Since our school uses real-time class enrollment, do we want such important things to be determined not just by hard work and dedication, but by how quickly one can use PeopleSoft?

Second, many doctrinal classes that use the 'B' median are passed on by UConn Law students. 2L grades – the first set of marks based wholly on elective courses – are paramount. The Career Services Office estimates that only about 20% of each year's 2L's gain employment through On-Campus Interviews (OCI), the most common means for a student to earn a summer associate position at the type of (big) firm that leads to post-graduate employment. As a result, good 2L grades are essential.

Because of this, many people enroll in these "eighteen" courses, passing on larger 'B' median courses that are considered more important to one's core legal education.

Third, and most upsetting, is the fact that the 'B' median punishes students taking more traditional courses. A 2L who chooses to take Evidence, Administrative Law, or Criminal Procedure – all foundational courses graded on the 'B' median – will likely complete his or her second year with a lower GPA than someone who took smaller, more on-the-fringe classes. It is unjust to punish those who take core, doctrinal classes in their second year.

These smaller "eighteen" classes are vital. Clinics are challenging, and provide real-world experience. Seminars force students to step away from particular case law and apply knowledge in a larger context. Our school needs these courses. However, when students pass on foundational classes simply because they know a 'B' median applies, this is a wrong that must be addressed.

Fault for this system sits at the feet of legal employers, the administration, and the students. Since there is little chance of changing how employers approach law school GPA's, we must examine what the administration and student body can do.

First, the administration. Its best and easiest option is to eliminate the system altogether – every class needs to be graded on the 'B' median. Another fix could be to weigh these smaller classes differently. However, such a move would belittle these classes' value, something neither right nor fair to the professors that work so hard to teach them.

The administration must stop applying the 'B' median only to classes that fit a certain mold.

Next, the student body. It is disgusting how many students are preoccupied with class enrollments. One often overhears classmates concerned a class may reach 'B' median heights. In one seminar this past week, an adjunct professor was forced to tell his students that even though his class had "ballooned" to twenty students,

Dean Chill would still not impose the 'B' median. The professor sarcastically applauded afterwards. His message: "Is it really that important to you all?"

We must reconsider why we take the classes we do. We – not Dean Paul or Dean Chill – that are abusing the system.

The 'B' median may also be damaging our school's reputation. UConn Law is a small regional school trying to align itself with more prominent national schools. We have to make sure we are putting forth our best students when the most competitive and visible jobs come calling. This can only be attained through fair classroom competition. The system we have now is anything but fair.

With UConn Law's limited 'B' median, students are not competing amongst ourselves to become the strongest law students we can be. Instead, the limited 'B' median forces us to compete over whom can type a five-digit course code the quickest.

Eighteen students or not, our system deserves an F.

Comparing grades between median and non-median courses

Median

Evidence
8 As, 21 Bs, 2 Cs

Trusts and Estates
3 As, 19 Bs, 0 Cs

Non-Median

Therapeutic Jurisprudence
9 As, 6 Bs, 2 Cs

Taxation of American Indians
10 As, 7 Bs, 0 Cs

(Note: Courses chosen by newspaper staff randomly to illustrate typical grade distribution. All data from Registrar's Office Spring 2007 semester grade distribution.)

Exam software issues could lead to changes

Professors give more take-home exams, school may change vendor

from SOFTWARE, p. 1

"We worked with the vendor through October and November with revisions to the software," said Ann Crawford, the law school's associate director for information systems. "The problem that was occurring was going to affect installation; it could be resolved but only through getting down into a fairly technical file."

While staff with Securexam expertise could troubleshoot these problems, it was feared they could arise only minutes before the start of an exam. Administrators decided this would create unnecessary stress for students.

"We felt like we had no choice but to punt on the software," Chill said.

Professors were given the choice to give proctored or take-home exams, but administrators encouraged those on the fence to choose the take-home option. Prof. Paul Berman, who switched his Civil Procedure class to a take-home exam last semester, saw

an upside in the change.

"Frankly, I think take-home exams are more fair because they don't penalize people who write a little more slowly," Berman said. "And though being able to address legal issues in a quick time-frame is a useful legal skill, it's rare that in real law practice one would ever only have three hours to address a complex legal problem. When I heard about the software problem I was not particularly troubled; it gave me a reason to switch to the take-home format."

Although the change in the exam format did cause some anxiety for some students, Chill reported no complaints — with the exception of some students' concerns regarding cheating. Those prompted him to send an e-mail on December 7, which directed students to review the law school's policy on academic misconduct.

Neither Chill nor Berman were concerned a change

Administration, faculty respond to Securexam woes

"We felt like we had no choice but to punt on the software."

-- Dean Paul Chill

"When I heard about the software problem I was not particularly troubled; it gave me a reason to switch to the take-home format."

-- Professor Paul Berman

in exam format would put any students at a disadvantage. Chill said he views take-homes as a great equalizer. However, students who thrive in a limited-time exam may have been comparatively disadvantaged by a take-home exam on which their classmates performed better than they would have on a proctored test.

Both Chill and Crawford

made it clear that if Securexam cannot fix its software problems this semester, the law school will be looking for a new vendor. Unfortunately only two others exist, both of which have been deemed inadequate in the past.

In the meantime, students may be seeing more take-homes, blue books and over-the-shoulder proctor supervision this spring.

Team effort leads to increased energy efficiency on campus

from ELS, p. 1

forces have already begun work to achieve this goal.

In a twist of irony, the greatest friend of greening the law campus is the man who is responsible for consuming most of its energy: Jim Missel. You might be thinking who is this Missel character and what classes does he teach? Au contraire.

Jim Missel is the humble but visionary Facilities Director at the law school. Along with support from Dean

Laurie Werling, Jim has made tremendous strides to make the law school more environmentally and economically efficient — notwithstanding limited University (Storrs) funding and resources.

Despite a popular misconception, Jim and his crew have replaced over 90% of the law school's light bulbs with high efficiency CFLs. (Trust me, I have a permanent crick in my neck to prove it). In addition, most campus classrooms

and offices have light sensors which automatically shut off the lights when a room is not in use. Moreover, Jim's project to install double pane windows in Hosmer is nearly complete — a stellar feat given the school's complex architecture and historical status.

While obviously good for the environment, these initiatives also save the law school thousands of dollars in operating expenses. Most notably, Jim installed "VFD Chillers"

in the library to regulate the building's temperature which obviates the need to run the boilers at full capacity. This alone saves the law school over \$10,000 per year.

It is in this spirit that the ELS hopes its upcoming report will help continue to guide the law school down the green path. In the meantime, we encourage every community member to do their part to achieve this noble goal.

Celebrate Black History Month with BLSA

By Meagan Gordon

February is Black History Month! Every year at this time, the history of African Americans is recognized nationally. In addition, we reflect on the contributions African Americans continue to make to society, ranging from Dr. Percy Lavon Julian's findings that soybean extracts could relieve inflammatory arthritis to Granville Woods' modernizing of railroads with a synchronous multiple railway telegraph. Although information regarding such accomplishments is not always readily available, there is lot to celebrate!

This month the Black Law Students Association will host a series of events, including a symposium on Affordable & Fair Housing, a community trip to the Martin Luther King Jr. exhibit at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, and a discussion on recurring acts of torture within the United States. Venues in the greater Hartford community, including Trinity College and the Hartford Public Library, also have events planned to celebrate Black History Month. We hope to see law school community members at the various events!

Changes on the way for on-campus eatery

Juice bar, additional menu items highlight Truffles improvements

By John Kim

The term "Truffles" conjures numerous connotations: monster truck rallies, skewers of raw meat, and men with six packs jumping precariously into burning buildings are just a few of the things that come to mind.

At the law school campus, however, "Truffles" can only mean one thing: good food at an affordable price. Not surprisingly, Truffles located in the basement of Hosmer Hall has become a popular

meeting place for students and faculty sick of fast food and long drives to the nearest White Castle.

Fueled by student suggestions, Truffles has decided to enter into the new school semester with some major upgrades to both their facilities and their menu.

Starting next month, Truffles is introducing a revamped juice bar, which will serve coffee, exotic teas and smoothies. Additionally, there will be some cosmetic changes with new furniture and some

additional surprises to create a more welcoming environment for students who are looking for a quick bite or just want a place to study between classes. Most significantly, Truffles will be updating their already substantial menu with more items — including healthier options — at a cheaper cost.

If you have any suggestions for items you would like to see on the menu (read: tater tots) or proposals for the cafeteria makeover feel free to talk to the perpetually friendly staff at Truffles.

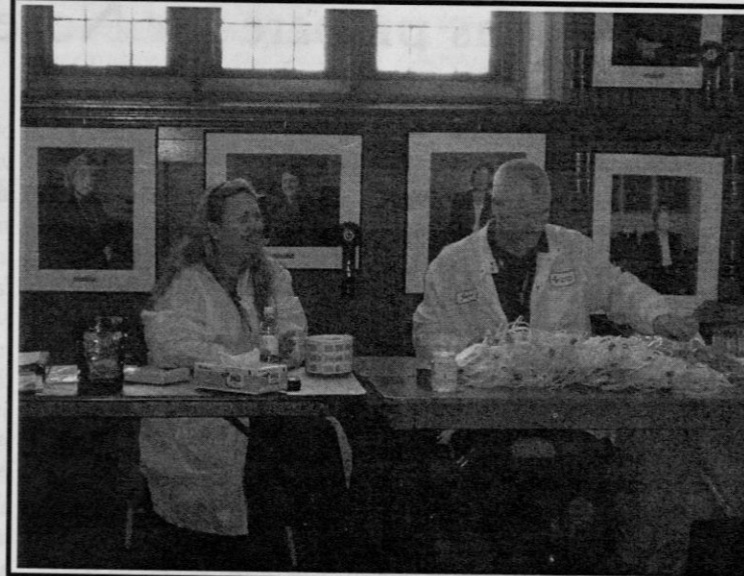


Photo courtesy of Peter Hitt

Workers from the American Red Cross prepare supplies for potential donors at a Jan. 30 blood drive held on-campus.

Are you interested in getting involved with Pro Se?

We need you to lend your voice and your talent to your student newspaper.

Contact us at pro.se.news@gmail.com to contribute

Competitive primaries spark Connecticut voters

By Patrick R. Linsey

UConn Law students last week found themselves waist-deep in the state's most competitive presidential primary in recent memory.

Several leading candidates, including Democratic Sen. Barack Obama, Ill., and Republican Sen. John McCain, Ariz., each of whom won a majority of his party's primary voters in the state, visited Connecticut in preparation for the primary. The contest was moved up to "Super Tuesday" this year to give Connecticut voters more influence in selecting the nominee.

Obama narrowly edged out New York Sen. Hillary Clinton 51 percent to 47 percent with Connecticut Democrats, giving the fresh-faced Illinoisan a mild upset. According to an exit poll by the Associated Press, Clinton won a majority of white women, while Obama had the lead among white men and younger voters.

Meanwhile, McCain cruised to the GOP victory in the Nutmeg State over former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, 52 percent to 33 percent. McCain now holds a commanding lead in the delegate count and it appears all but certain he will

eventually win the Republican nomination.

Romney has since withdrawn from the race. Despite holding on to second place in the delegate count, Romney suspended his campaign last week, citing the need for party unity in the face of Democratic opposition in the fall.

Soldiering on is the former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, who took just 7 percent of the vote in Connecticut but has appealed to the evangelical voters who hold great sway in Southern primaries.

Huckabee is far behind in the delegate count, leading

some analysts to speculate he is effectively campaigning for the vice presidency, but the former Baptist minister insisted last weekend he is hoping for a "miracle."

In the week before Connecticut's primary, both Obama and Clinton campaigned in Hartford and influential U.S. Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., promoted Obama on the law school's campus. McCain attended a rally in Fairfield, where he was joined by two prominent Connecticut legislators, longtime ally U.S. Rep. Christopher Shays, R-4, and Democrat-turned-independent U.S. Sen. Joe Lieberman.

Democrats, Republicans prepare for November battle

By Magdalena Wiktor

Momentum from Democrats' sweeping congressional victories in 2006 is propelling the party into an exciting Campaign 2008. Democrats are looking to build on recently captured majorities in the House and Senate and to take back the White House.

Here in Connecticut, Democrats currently represent four of five congressional districts. The remaining district, the Fourth, is the only congressional district in New England represented by a Republican (Rep. Christopher Shays). However, Greenwich Democrat Jim Himes, a Harvard-educated businessman and community leader, is hoping to unseat Shays in November. Himes has been successful in his campaign to this point, raising nearly a million dollars by the end of 2007.

In the presidential race, only Sens. Hillary Clinton, N.Y., and Barack Obama, Ill., still have their hats in the ring. The extremely close race

between these two shining stars of the party is inspiring Americans of all ages, races and genders to work towards a Democratic victory this November.

Here in Connecticut, Reps. Rosa DeLauro, John Larson, and (UConn Law alum) Chris Murphy announced their endorsement of Obama, while Rep. (and also a UConn Law alum) Joe Courtney and Sen. Chris Dodd chose to remain officially neutral ahead of the Feb. 5 primary. However, DeLauro and others have expressed positive sentiment toward both candidates.

Voter registration and turnout leading up to Democratic primaries across the country exceeded expectations and, in some cases, surpassed the numbers of available ballots. Surging turnout across the country, particularly among youth, could be a boon to Democrats as the party works to bring real change — starting with the inauguration of a Democratic president Jan. 20, 2009.

By Jason Goodson

Just like when L.L. Cool J. sang "Mama Said Knock You Out," don't call John McCain's recent primary victories a comeback, because he's been here for years.

The Arizona senator stuck to his guns and his principles when all the talking heads said he would fail and be booted from the race. Last summer, after supporting the troop surge in Iraq and an immigration compromise unpopular with many conservatives, McCain

was low on funding and had to let staff go from his second presidential campaign. While former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, former Tennessee Sen. Fred Thompson and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani were riding high in the polls, McCain looked like a goner. Flash forward six months and McCain is poised to be his party's nominee.

McCain is relying heavily on national security conservatives, as well as moderates and some Democrats. Their support makes sense. An increasingly stable Iraq has faded from the headlines. Meanwhile, McCain's tough mindset and willingness to take politically unpopular stances on key issues is what America wants right now. America needs a thinker, an administration that will listen to both sides of the aisle, and make tough decisions for the good of the country.

That is McCain, and if he can cement his delegate victory and secure the GOP nomination, he will win in November against any Democratic candidate. Especially New York Sen. Hillary Clinton.

Jason Goodson is a 1L and the editor of Rooster Talk (www.clubrelaford.com/roostertalk/), a blog on the political news and opinion site www.clubrelaford.com.

Red Cross donation policy has no place on UConn Law campus

By Raul Zamudio and Christophe Renaud

COMMENTARY

As many of you know, the Health Law Interest Group (HLIG) recently invited the Red Cross (RC) to conduct a blood drive on campus. Over the years, the RC has been prohibited from using the law school's facilities—and for good reason. The RC follows a policy that absolutely prohibits gay men from giving blood.

The HLIG claims that (1) there is a need for blood, (2) the policy comes from the FDA and not the RC, and (3) giving blood doesn't necessarily support discrimination. This line of reasoning is unpersuasive. First, if there is a critical need for blood, the RC can simply allow gays to give blood. Second, the FDA policy is a guideline, not a legal mandate; and since the RC has a virtual monopoly on blood donations it can lobby for a policy change. Third, giving blood does not necessarily support discrimination, but allowing the RC to use state facilities does.

For over ten years, Connecticut courts and legislature have specifically protected the GLBT community. In 1995, the Gay and Lesbian Law Students Organization (Lambda) sued UConn law school for injunctive relief to prohibit military recruiters from using the law school's facilities because of the military's discriminatory policies. Despite the law school's nondiscrimination policy, recruiters wanted equal access to state facilities and career services. Lambda argued that state

facilities, pursuant to a state statute, could not be used to further discrimination. Specifically, Lambda pointed to C.G.S. 46a-81i, which states, "no state facility may be used in the furtherance of any discrimination, nor may any state agency become a party to any agreement, arrangement or plan which has the effect of sanctioning discrimination." In *Gay & Lesbian Law Students Ass'n v. Board of Trustees*, the Connecticut Appellate court stated that the issue involved "an injunction barring the use of school facilities by any organization, including the military, that discriminated on the basis of sexual orientation."

Not only does the RC policy frustrate the law school's nondiscrimination policy, but Connecticut courts and the legislature have specifically stated that an agency is prohibited from becoming a party to any agreement or arrangement that had the effect of sanctioning or furthering discrimination. Remedial statutes such as the GRL must "be liberally construed in favor of those whom the legislature intended" to benefit. Accordingly, as long as the RC discriminates against gay men, it is barred from using the law school's facilities.

No one underestimates the importance of giving blood. But the Red Cross's policy perpetuates discrimination and furthers irrational beliefs about gay men: that they are promiscuous, untrustworthy, and HIV positive. The law school's complacency is equally discriminatory in effect and poses a serious harm to GLBT students.

Where are my grades and why can't I have them on time?

By Sarah Saadian

COMMENTARY

At the close of every semester, students eager for their grades are forced to wait far past official deadlines until professors choose to submit them to the Registrar's office. The deadline for the Fall term came and went on January 24. As of February 6, some professors still had not submitted grades.

Why do professors disregard these deadlines? Perhaps the issue may be the ineffectiveness (or lack) of enforcement. It is not as though professors are unaware of this deadline. Surely they are aware of the effect this can have on students. Some may be prevented from completing the February Bar application on time or applying for jobs with a complete transcript. It adds even more stress to the psychological experiment that is law school.

To me, the fact that professors consistently turn in grades late reflects a larger problem looming around our campus. Or should I say campuses?

In large part, the faculty exists in a community separate from that of students. Our paths cross for only a few short hours a week in the classroom. Social and academic events hosted by students generally experience low attendance by professors. I know of few professors who have approached student groups looking for a way to engage with students outside the classroom. Considering these circumstances, it is not surprising that many professors do not feel compelled to respect rules imposed on them for the benefit of students.

The time has come for a responsive faculty that seeks to exist in a community with students, instead of isolating itself in an ivory tower.

Pro Se is pleased to offer the law school community a forum for the civil exchange of ideas. Pieces on the opinion page reflect the views of their authors and not necessarily the newspaper.

If you are interested in contributing an opinion piece, please send an e-mail to pro.se.news@gmail.com.

The Back Page

Patriots make (revisionist) history with perfect season

By John Kim

[Disclaimer: This article was written before the Super Bowl, but based on our discussions with New England Patriots fans during the season we can almost guarantee its factual accuracy.]

Sunday, February 3, 2008:

A victorious and defiant Tom Brady hoisted up the Lombardi Trophy last Sunday then cradled it in his arms like an illegitimate child as the undefeated New England Patriots (19-0) outscored and outclassed the pedestrian New York Giants to win Super Bowl XLII -- a mere formality on their way to football immortality. Supremely confident Patriots fans on the UCONN Law school campus were hardly surprised by the results of the contest as Super Bowl parties

quickly devolved into fans taking turns patting each other on the back.

"There was never any doubt in my mind that the Patriots would win," yawned Jonathan Burby, a 2L Patriots fan and a member of the Arts, Entertainment and Sports Law Society. "Much like the dimple in Tom Brady's chin, they were destined to be perfect."

However, some Pats fans -- no doubt accustomed to excellence -- were not as impressed with the results of the game.

"I was a little disappointed that they only outscored them by 28 points...in the third quarter," exclaimed a less-than-giddy Fallon Depina 3L who listened to the game from her 2009 Delorean. "Although that interception [off Eli Manning] late in the fourth quarter

was pretty impressive."

New York Giants fans on campus seemed to take the loss in stride, as they were just happy their team could share the field with the 2008 New England Patriots.

"What a great Super Bowl," gushed New York Giants fan and New York native Alejandra Silva 1L in between bites of a Boston cr me pie. "This game has made me realize that Boston is truly the center of the sports universe."

Some members of the UCONN Law class -- including the authors of this article -- did not even bother watching the game, knowing full well that the New England Patriots would prevail.

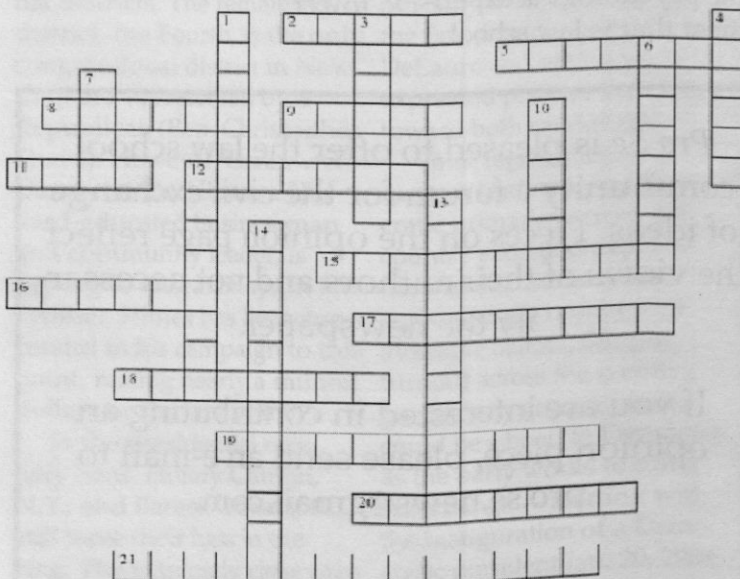
"I didn't waste my time watching the game since I already knew the Pats would win," claimed self-assured 1L

Tony Lu as he headed off for the victory parade in downtown Boston. Tony was last seen in a Randy Moss jersey standing on the tracks of the green line.

While skeptics might argue that the collective confidence of Patriots Nation borders on hubris and can only lead to a tragic and catastrophic ending, clearly the results of Super Bowl XLII prove otherwise. Patriots fans have been described as arrogant and cocky, but one thing they have definitely proven true is that games are won on paper and not on the field.

"I've already ordered my 2009 Patriots Championship DVD," remarked Adam Marks 2L. "Hopefully it will be as good as the 2003 Red Sox Championship DVD that I still haven't got to watching."

UConn Law School Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

2. Always "cooking" up insurance problems in class.
5. Proprietor of Pearls of Wisdom
8. South Asian Law Student Association event/holiday.
9. First UCONN law graduate admitted to the Connecticut Bar and the first woman to plead before the Connecticut Supreme Court of Errors.
11. "Feline" Connecticut Supreme Court Justice
12. Plaintiff in the famous "hairy hand" case.
15. Hatfield to Westlaw's McCoy
16. First name of UConn Law Alumnus and son of Ted Kennedy
17. Street where Law students go to play.
18. Former interim Dean of Law School.
19. Justice "Educated Appendage."

20. Mock Trial Competition.

21. Symposium topic "Unconscious _____."

DOWN

1. Ayatollah of Student Bar Association.
3. First name of Pro Se founder and spiritual leader
4. Summer Employment Guru.
6. Best French fries on the campus.
7. Last name of the Treasurer of the Arts, Entertainment and Sports Law Society.
10. Director of UCONN Law IP Clinic who enjoys burger bites.
12. Local Wednesday night watering hole.
13. Ran the marathon in 490 B.C. ..
14. Professor of Law who clerked for Supreme Court Justice Brennan.