

## Students Complain of Tech Issues, Dean Listens

By Jesse Chen

Though Temple Law is known as one of the “most wired” law schools in the country, wireless internet access can be spotty and other technology issues daunt students as well. 2L Christopher De Barrena-Sarobe attested to what has been the bane of many other students.

“Wireless connections in the library can be pretty inconsistent,” De Barrena-Sarobe said. He pointed out that the library is one of the most important locations for internet access, as students are often there for research, citation checks, and other academic work.

However, he noted that the higher the floor, the less wireless internet reception he could find. The same problem occurred when he moved into the stacks. Heavy traffic at peak hours also prevented him from accessing important information.

The issue became even more frustrating when he needed to do a law journal citation check. He wanted the actual article, but he could not find reception.

“So I had to wander around the library for 20 minutes to get a [wireless] connection for a link,” De Barrena-Sarobe said.

1L Urmika Chatterjee was likewise confronted with a series of frustrations. Chatterjee did not bring a laptop to school her first semester, and relied instead on computers in the library.

“They’re pretty crappy,” she said. Chatterjee explained that she would hop from one computer to the next in an effort to find one to work on and which could connect to the internet. She said that only one or two would often be available and work.

Now in her second semester, Chatterjee has brought a laptop but found wireless internet coverage spotty, especially near the Federal Reporters where she usually works.

Still, these issues are not universal either in duration or magnitude.

For example, 3L Mike Pestrak found wireless internet access to be generally satisfactory during his Temple Law career.

“For the most part [access] is okay,” Pestrak said. He further said that connection problems tend to pop up only once every one or two weeks.

Temple Law’s Dean of Technology Shyam Nair responded to inquiries about these issues. Nair confirmed that most connection issues

regarding wireless “dead zones” came from access attempts in the library stack areas. He said that the physical design of Klein Hall, combined with the ability of stacks and books to “suck up” signals often cuts short the reach of wireless signals.

Regarding connection speeds, Nair explained that Temple Law connects to the internet via Temple University’s primary connection. Therefore, university-wide network infrastructure issues directly impact Temple Law’s connection.

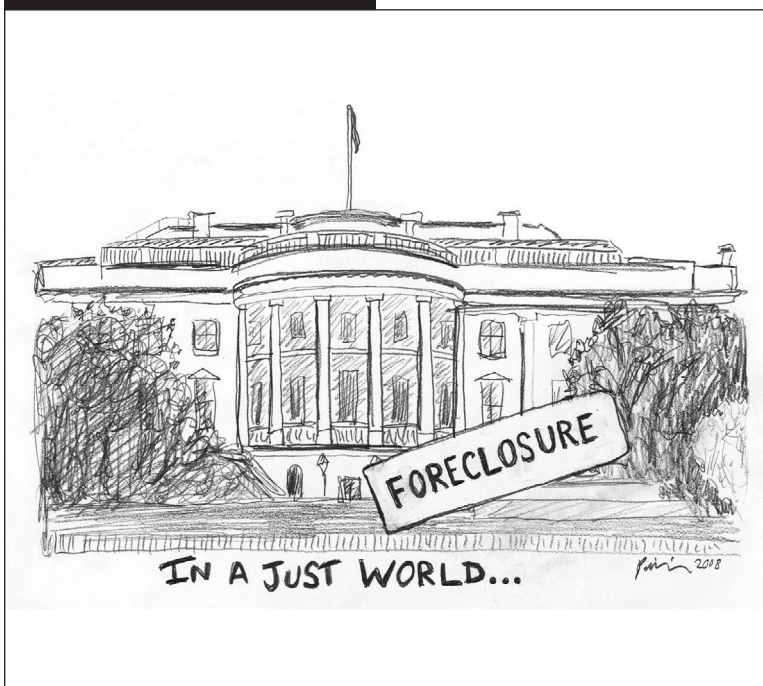
Nair also said, “[Temple Law has] the largest number of users among all other schools combined and during peak times, we have close to 400 simultaneous users on our wireless network in Klein.”

Though Nair does not believe bandwidth to be an issue, he said that wireless access points are being pushed to their limits during peak hours.

In response to this issue, he said that Temple Law is in the process of deploying additional access points on the 4th, 6th, and 8th floors of Klein Hall, and existing hardware on the 3rd

► See **Tech** p. 2

Drawing Board by Matthew Pillischer



## The Failure of Neo-Liberalism

By Matthew Pillischer

The scramble for economic solutions to the current recession will likely mean the end of 25 years of neoliberalism. Keynesian economics had been the accepted form of capitalism starting in the 1930s. But in the 70s and 80s there was a return to liberal, laissez-faire economics.

Under President Reagan we saw deregulation of the economy, union-busting, cuts in social welfare, and massive wage-cuts for the working class. On the other hand, Reagan provided tax cuts for the rich and promised the money would “trickle down” to everyone else.

In Britain, conservative prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, coined the slogan TINA: There Is No Alternative to free market capitalism. We are now seeing the instability and dangers of TINA and the neoliberal model.

The U.S. economy has almost tripled since 1973, but it’s all gone to the top. Real wages are lower today than they were 35

► See **Failure** p. 6

## Op-Ed: On The Speech

By Rahul Munshi

On March 18, Obama did something that politicians rarely do. He challenged us to rethink our approach on fundamental issues, specifically race and class in America. He challenged us to invite discussion, rather than to dismiss it. He challenged us to focus on the tangible effects of centuries of oppression, rather than to succumb to the distractions thrown at us by the media and special interests groups. Finally, he challenged us to not just simply set aside our regrettable past, but to understand it, for all its complexities, atrocities and achievements.

Generally, this is the only political speech in recent memory where the politician spoke to the audience candidly, as if listeners were intelligent adults who are frustrated with the lack of discourse surrounding issues that are perpetually swept under the rug. The frustration we feel with our government, both Democratic and Republican controlled, is that not only do they answer the questions incorrectly, but they ask the wrong questions.

For example: post-9/11. Instead of questioning why the US was attacked and what the US did to piss off some parts of the world, the administration chose to react militaristically, miscalculating the US' apparent supremacy and ability to create a new world order. The answer was wrong. But, before that, the questions they asked were wrong. Obama challenges us to break from the old framework of reactionary politics in an attempt to think deeply and discuss openly about issues that have marginalized poor Americans for generations.

Here is a particular line that resonated quite well with me: "This time, we want to talk about the fact that the real problem isn't that someone who does not look like you will TAKE your job, it's that the corporation you work for will SHIP it overseas for nothing more than a profit."

This sentence is the embodiment of my interpretation of Obama's "hope" for "change." This epic line captures an element of Obama's "hope" - the hope to tackle issues concurrently, rather than acting like issues are not intertwined. This harps on his sheer intelligence, honesty and seemingly genuine desire to progress past this period of disenfranchisement. Free-trade, immigration, health care, gentrification, corporate greed, racial marginalization, the recession - these are all inherently connected. I believe Obama has an understand-

► See **Op-Ed** p. 5

## Temple Law Student Speaks Out: Philadelphia School System Lacks Due Process

By Amanda Dougherty

As a mentor for children in a local homeless shelter, I recently discovered that one of the boys who lives there, "James,"<sup>1</sup> had a hearing the following morning concerning his possible expulsion from school. His mother was obviously disconcerted. Apparently James had been punched in the face by a boy at his school. The gym teacher intervened and the boy ran away. Meanwhile, upset about the situation, James began kicking doors and pacing the hallway.

In his anger, James stated that he would like to bring a gun in and shoot the boy who punched him. As a consequence, James has been kicked out of school without an official hearing. Meanwhile, the boy who punched James is in school again after having received a three-day suspension. James was not able to speak with the principal about being kicked out. He was impeded from presenting any evidence that his attacker had been harassing him for three months prior to the punching incident; his mother was never given any official notice that there was going to be a hearing, that James might be transferred, or that his suspension would run longer than three days. Instead, she was told about an unofficial hearing and possible expulsion just twenty-four hours prior to its occurrence.

That evening I also contacted a lawyer from the Education Law Center (ELC). This attorney informed me that going with the family might be insightful. He also said that it might be personally disappointing. It was both.

The "hearing" was not a real hearing, but rather a pre-hearing where one officer meets with the parents and child and takes action prior to an official hearing. This officer characterized James's words as a "terrorist threat," which is classified as a level two offense and punishable just as if he had actually brought a weapon into the school. During the meeting the officer placed a call to the school principal. We were not privy to this conversation, and afterwards he told us that the principal was not comfortable having James return. Solely on the basis of that discomfort, and without any inquiry as to whether his threats did or did not carry any force,

James was transferred temporarily to an alternative disciplinary school.

I wonder how many times kids who grow up in Northeast and West Philadelphia hear someone get angry and say, "I'd like to shoot him." I wonder how many of you reading this article have gotten stuck in traffic or had an argument with your boss and muttered, "Man, I'd really like to shoot that jerk." Granted this was probably said under your breath, or in the car out of the general public—but sometimes thirteen-year-old boys do not have the common sense to shut their mouths when they get angry. It's a trying time for Philadelphia, what with the increased violence and guns on the streets, but isn't that just another indicator of the care with which children ought to be treated?

This boy is an A and B student. He is soft-spoken at the shelter and helps his mother with his two younger siblings. Everyone that I spoke with at the shelter believes that this was wrongly decided.

Five days after his transfer, the pre-hearing officer's decision was affirmed by an official hearing. From what the mother told me, the hearing officer felt that the transfer was inappropriate—James, after all, had no record and his grades were good. However, the principal refused to permit James to return to his original school. During the two weeks when these hearings were occurring, James was not in school, nor was he given any schoolwork to do at home.

The ELC attorney informed me that it is rare that an attorney will take any hearing cases these days. This is primarily because it is unclear what attorneys can even do if they do find out about a hearing in time to attend. A decision last year established that the court system will not hear an appeal from a decision made by the school district, even at an unofficial hearing before a single official. *Tyson v. School District of Philadelphia*, 900 A.2d 990, 992 (Pa. Cmwlth. 2006). Even if there is an appeal based on due process, the case will probably be sent back down, but usually yielding the very same result. After all, principals always act in a rational, unbiased manner...right?

<sup>1</sup> This name has been changed for privacy reasons.

# Pennsylvania House Bill 81: Redistricting Rules Aimed At Restoring a Fair Political Landscape

By Zachary Hoover

Legislative redistricting, or the process by which the boundaries of legislative districts are periodically redrawn, is not the sexiest issue on the political landscape. More than many other issues however, it defines the political process nationally and in nearly every state. Political influence in redistricting strips power from our democracy, and reverses our system from one where people pick their politicians to one where politicians pick their people.

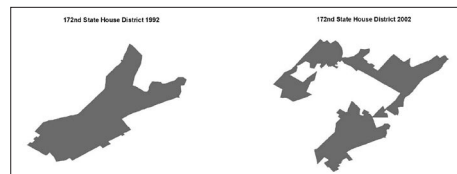
The process seems straightforward in Pennsylvania's Constitution: "The Commonwealth shall be divided into 50 senatorial and 203 representative districts, which shall be composed of compact and contiguous territory as nearly equal in population as practicable."

Of course, this is not how the process works in practice. Reapportionment is conducted by a five-member committee consisting of the majority and minority leaders of both the Senate and House, and a chairman of their choosing. In other words, those people with the greatest interest in drawing the lines to benefit themselves are the people who draw

the lines. Accordingly, political boundaries are created to guarantee the identity or party of the victor before the first vote is counted, and our general elections become increasingly less competitive.

Importantly, this is not a partisan problem. In Pennsylvania, where Republicans are in control of redistricting, Republican incumbents are protected. If Democrats were in control, Democratic incumbents would be protected. If both parties shared control, they would make deals to trade voters until as many incumbents as possible were safe.

A particularly egregious example is that of the former Republican Speaker of the Pennsylvania House, John Perzel, and his 172nd District in Philadelphia. Nearly beaten in the 2000 general election by a Democrat, Perzel's district dramatically changed when redistricting took effect in 2002 after the decennial census. The new 172nd district lumps together Republican neighborhoods from across the city on a block-by-block basis. It is only connected together theoretically in several places – say, at a point in the middle of a traffic intersection. Finally, the home of the Democrat who nearly beat Perzel in 2000 was



drawn outside the new district, and he was therefore ineligible to run again in 2002.

House Bill 81, currently in the State Government Committee, seeks to reduce the influence of politics in redistricting. Specifically, the bill increases the size of the reapportionment committee from 5 to 9 and requires a super-majority of 7 to enact any recommended plan. This reduces the probability that a majority party can impose its will on a minority party. All meetings, discussions, and deliberations of the committee must take place in public, and considering an advantage to a specific incumbent, challenger, party is prohibited. Finally, all districts are required to fit a mathematical formula whereby a circle is drawn around the outer boundaries of the district, and the district must fill in at least 15% of the circle.

While this measure may not fully eliminate political influence from redistricting in Pennsylvania, it would go a long way towards restoring integrity to a vital part of the Commonwealth's political process.

## LLM Too Taxing? Not for Temple JD Students

By: Kristin J. Jones

What can save you tuition, boost your resume, and make you really popular on April 15? The Temple Graduate Tax program!

"The goal of the program is to prepare you to hit the ground running," says Kathy Mandelbaum, who has been directing the program since she came to Temple eight years ago. "It sends a signal to employers that you have the skills to be a tax lawyer."

Students can decide to take courses full-time, part-time or take some time off. "We have lots of flexibility for students with jobs. Some of our students have also taken time off for babies and other careers," Mandelbaum explained. "There is a lot of in and out each semester."

The Graduate Tax Program prepares students for a variety of careers from estate planning to employee benefits; business entity tax to international tax. The focus of the program is tax planning, as are most tax law jobs, but there are also opportunities available for litigators, including courses on tax procedure.

Tax courses taken by JD students may be transferred to an LLM, Employee Benefits Certificate, or an Estate Planning Certificate. JD students can apply up to 12 of the 24 credits required for an LLM. The 12 credits can be composed of only six regular JD credits (the 87 credits required to graduate) and up to 6 overload credits (credits beyond the 87). The only class that doesn't count: Tax I.

Interested in applying? You can download applications on the Temple Law website or find them in the back of the catalog available outside Klein 710. You are invited to apply after you have taken two tax courses (including Tax I). There is no firm deadline for submitting your application, but your JD credits only count for four years, so don't wait too long!

For more information, please visit [www.law.temple.edu/tax](http://www.law.temple.edu/tax) or contact [Kathy.Mandelbaum@temple.edu](mailto:Kathy.Mandelbaum@temple.edu).

## Tech *continued from page 1*

and 6th floors have been upgraded.

Nair pinpointed other students' issues with network connectivity to students' own hardware.

"We found that students with a particular type of Intel wireless card could not connect consistently to the network," he said.

His staff in the IT Help Desk in Klein 104 worked individually with these students to restore their connections.

As for students' disappointment with the library's desktop computers, Nair said that the computers near the library reference desk and in the carrels have one year left in their three-year replacement cycle, and computers in the Student Research Lab are due to be replaced next year.

Nair said that students experiencing trouble with school computers or wireless connectivity should contact the IT Help Desk via any of the following means: email at [law@temple.edu](mailto:law@temple.edu), personally go to the IT Help Desk in K104, or drop a note in the suggestion box on the 3rd floor in the library.

What changes would you like to see at Temple Law? Sound off on our comment board at [templeprimafacie.com](http://templeprimafacie.com).

# Yakitori Boy Restaurant Review: Good Food, Bad Service

By Jesse Chen

**Yakitori Boy** 213 N. 11th Street, 19107

5 p.m. to 2 a.m., 7 days a week.

(215) 923-8088, <http://yakitoriboy-japas.com/>

\*This review is for the downstairs restaurant only.

Yakitori Boy is a newer Japanese tapas/"Japas" restaurant in Chinatown. It is an easy 5-minute walk north from the Market East SEPTA station.

## Food: How did the food taste? Was the food fresh?

Overall, the food is excellent. The restaurant features skewers and many other options in its extensive and colorful menu, but I stuck to sushi to best gauge how fresh and well prepared the food was. Sushi is something you can't mess up and then hide the mistake with sauce or heat. I started with a mini-udon noodle bowl that had a rich miso base and slippery, chewy noodles. Strangely, it came in a urinal-shaped bowl. In terms of sushi, I tried eel, king crab, and salmon rolls, along with an eel sampler plate. Each piece of sushi was fresh and well presented. With each bite came a complex yet harmonious melody of seafood, rice, and vegetables. I also ordered a large sliced and roasted squid, a welcome and delicious break between ginger and sushi bites.

## Decor: Was the restaurant tastefully decorated? How was accessibility?

Modern and minimalist best describe the restaurant. Nothing stands out, but there aren't shapes and colors flying in your face either. However, there are other aspects which stuck out like sore thumbs. First, the front doors were heavy and clunky to open. Second, the tables for two were tiny. Too small, in fact, for the titanic slabs that the sushi came on. Soon after the food began arriving, I found my table completely cluttered with those large plates. Three dishes side-by-side took up the entire width of the table. Not good. Third, the bathrooms were located in the back and marked by tacky "M" and "W" wooden cutouts. The bathrooms themselves had a single blinding halogen bulb set into the ceiling, which contrasted with the soft, non-descript decor of the rest of the place. The faucet was also raised high above the sink and could have easily caused embarrassing splashing to a distracted patron.

## Environment: How much space and privacy was there? How noisy was the atmosphere?

I went in on a Saturday night, and the place was incredibly noisy, almost deafening: noise from the staff, noise from other patrons, noise from the speakers which played American pop-rock songs. Putting me next to the wall among a row of two-seaters resulted in putting me in the

unavoidable and unenviable position of having to hear other patrons' inanities -- who went to England, how so-and-so's date was, and even a neighbor's conversation in a foreign language followed by furtive glances in my direction which made me swear that they were talking about me. I couldn't hear what my waiter was saying, and my waiter had to lean in to hear what I was ordering. So I could hear things I didn't want to hear, and couldn't hear things that mattered. This utter lack of privacy and extreme noise took much away from my enjoyment of Japanese food's delicate subtleties.

## Service: Was the staff polite? Was service efficient, speedy & attentive?

I was greeted by a hostess who seemed incredibly distracted to the point of forgetting to bring me a menu. Then she didn't seem to know where to seat me. Although the server came promptly, the cacophonous atmosphere made communication seem more like a series of echoes; I would say something to the waiter, the waiter would put his hand to his ear and then repeat it back to me, I would do the same, rinse and repeat. Then I asked if I could get the sashimi for my eel plate combo, and even though he affirmed, I got rolls instead. Not a life and death thing,

but certainly points off for service. I also told him to slow down on the incoming food; I intended to savor and enjoy each bite. Instead, I ended up with the aforementioned clutter on my table without wiggle room. Throughout the meal, my waiter would weave in and out at inopportune moments to constantly shuffle the clutter of plates which made his presence incredibly intrusive. Finally, after I paid and was leaving, that same hostess who seated me ran up, shoved my receipt in my face, and proclaimed in a voice that cut through the din and was loud enough for other patrons to hear, "Excuse me! I think you're supposed to sign this." It was an honest mistake that she could have remedied with tact, but it was either her inexperience or her obtuse nature which led her to leave a bad taste for me at the end.

## Value: Was the experience a good deal price-wise?

Japanese food isn't cheap. Given that, this place isn't expensive as a Japanese restaurant. My bill ran to about \$50 for two people, plus tip. Good deals can be found in the combos and variety plates. You even get complimentary udamame (soy beans) appetizers.

**One Sentence Conclusion:** Decent but nothing to rave about.

Food: 5 stars  
Decor: 2.5 stars  
Environment: 2 stars  
Service: 1.5 stars  
Value: 3.5 stars  
Average: 2.9 out of 5 stars

## The Bar Review

Note: A mixed bag of bar and restaurant reviews, Ben's ratings are on a 6-star scale.

By Ben Parisi

*Note: I have not been to any restaurants or bars since the last issue, unless Qdoba or the lunch trucks count. (The Korean truck is highly recommended.) I offer this submission by way of apology to Prima Facie readers. Please check the next issue for a new review.*

### Campari

Campari is an Italian aperitif, profoundly bitter in flavor, but mildly sweet. The bitterness is similar to the bitter aftertaste of grapefruit,

and comes from the same chemical compound. The recipe for Campari is a closely held secret, but it is known that its bright red color comes from the cochineal insect (*Dactylopius coccus*). Campari became popular here during the Golden Age of American Literary Alcoholism, due in no small part to Ernest Hemingway. Though it goes well with soda, Hemingway found that, like so many things, it also goes well with gin.

This cocktail comes not from Hemingway's influence, but rather from my alteration of the Negroni (gin, vermouth, and Campari in equal

parts). This is less overpowering/icky, but still has the requisite kick.

### THE BEN PARISI

1 ounce gin (*Beekeeper*, or in those leaner, cheaper times, *Gordon's*)

1 1/2 ounce Campari

1 splash orange juice

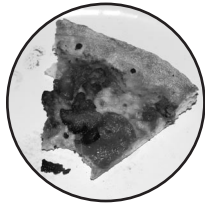
In a rocks or Old Fashioned glass, pour the Campari and gin over three or four ice cubes. Then, splash a tiny amount (about half an ounce) of orange juice in, stir. Correctly made, it should have a reddish-peach color, not pink.

# STUFF TEMPLE LAW PEOPLE LIKE

This column is devoted to stuff that Temple Law People like

By Marcel Pratt

**Eating Food for Events They Didn't Attend.** Occasionally, Temple Law Persons ("TLPs") stumble across catered hors d'oeuvres that have magically appeared in the Second Floor lobby. The TLP will approach the grub, and ask a familiar face, "Dude, what's this for?" Regardless of the answer, the TLP will make a plate of wings and meatballs—and if beverages are being served, a glass of beer or champagne. Does the TLP sneak away afterwards? No. They'll consume the food on the spot, despite the observant eyes of the actual attendees.



**Not Living in North Philly**—Greedy property owners are using the undergrads to speed up the gentrification process, but TLPs refuse to participate in the displacement of North Philly's residents. Instead, you can catch TLPs ballin' out of control in Center City, the Art Museum area, Olde City, and even Society Hill. A Center City crib is ideal because an alcoholic beverage is always less than 2 minutes away. Since law school facilitates alcoholism, a local bar is a necessity.

**Jaywalking Across Broad Street.** TLPs aren't experts in geometry, but they know the shortest distance to a point is a straight line. Yeah, jaywalking across Philly's most traveled street is dangerous. But from the steps of Klein, the quickest route to Wendy's, the Bookstore, and the Orange Line is to take a shortcut across four lanes of busy traffic. Law school is all about finding shortcuts, and TLPs are



good law students.

**Draught Horse.** TLPs love the Draught Horse—not because it's a great bar, but because it's the only bar. After the last final exam, droves of TLPs jaywalk to Da' Horse to consume beer and occasionally Jäger bombs.

**The Emergency Exit on the First Floor.** "Emergency Exit Only. Door Alarmed." False.



TLPs use this exit on a daily basis. Last year, the administration asked TLPs to stop using this exit, but we didn't listen. It's the quickest way to get to Barrack and the lunch trucks, especially from the locker room. TLPs also like to use the first floor handicap exit.

Personally, I like to press the blue button so the doors open for me.

**Litigating.** Temple Law has a reputation for training some of the best trial lawyers in the country. So naturally, TLPs love litigation. During class, some TLPs even litigate against their law professors. Every classroom has a few who consistently challenge the professor to a battle of legal knowledge and rhetoric. In some classes, the TLP actually wins.

**Being Liberal.** TLPs are left-wingers. The typical TLP classroom will mock, condemn, or outright laugh at a judicial opinion that begins "Scalia, J.:" See also the SPIN auction poster depicting Scalia as a bobblehead. TLPs wish they could resurrect Justices Billy Brennan and Thurgood Marshall—the High Court's Justin Timberlake and Usher Raymond.



## Spring Arrives in Philadelphia



Photo courtesy Kristen J. Jones

## Op-Ed *continued from page 2*

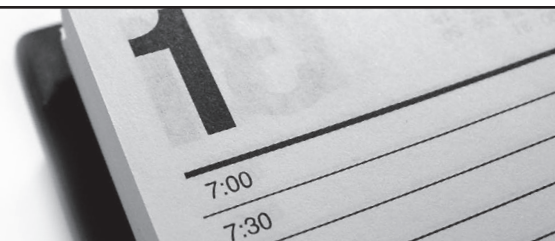
ing of this notion.

Obama's understanding and cultural fluency, combined with his ability to challenge how we approach fundamental problems -- that's what I think of when he says "hope" and "change." We know that his "change" will not happen overnight. He even admitted in this very speech that he is not naive enough to think that this election alone can eradicate the deeply-rooted problems in our classist society. But it's a start. And a damn good one, I believe.

These issues are deeply rooted in our histories, and we shall remain imprisoned by them until we acknowledge that our histories have influence on the present. When Obama utters

"Not this time" he doesn't merely mean that we shall not elect a Republican president this time. He means that, this time, we shall not blind ourselves from domestic atrocities just because the issues are too grand too confront. We have a deplorable history as a nation with regards to human rights abuses, and it is not un-American to say so. It would be un-American to refrain from intelligent discourse, to not fight against tyranny and oppression, and it would be un-American for us to sit idly by why a few individuals exploit, deceive and con their ways to power and wealth at the detriment of the majority.

# Coming up: **Events**



## **Latin American Law Students Association, (LALSA)**

LALSA would like to congratulate our new E-Board!

*President:*

Janina Verano

*Vice President:*

Rebekah Rosas

*Secretary:*

Jennifer A. Santiago

*Treasurer:*

Suzy Prybella

Ladies, you have an awesome feat before you; continue to make the family proud!

## **Women's Law Caucus, (WLC)**

The Temple University Beasley School of Law Women's Law Caucus cordially invites the entire student body to attend our annual Spring Reception Honoring Judge Petrese B. Tucker, Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Thursday, April 17, 2008

5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Shusterman Hall

Student tickets are \$10 and may be purchased the week of the event, includes dinner, wine and beer.

### *Temple WLC Attends Ms. JD Summit*

Carla Kingery, a 2L and member of the Women's Law Caucus executive board, joined other representatives from over seventy law schools at the inaugural leadership summit for Ms. JD National Women's Law Student Organization. Ms. JD began as a blog dedicated to reinforcing and expanding the representation of women in law school and the legal profession by celebrating women's victories, addressing remaining challenges and facilitating ongoing progress through online dialogue. The new Law Student Organization seeks to expand Ms. JD further into the community through city-wide, regional and national events; and to facilitate cooperation and communication between law school women's organizations. For more information, please visit the website at [www.ms-jd.org](http://www.ms-jd.org) or contact Carla at [kcarla@temple.edu](mailto:kcarla@temple.edu).

## **Student Public Interest Network (SPIN)**

SPIN Auction set new records by raising almost \$25,000!

Generous bids at the 16th Annual Live Auction on March 5 totaled almost \$18,000 and supporters across the country contributed another \$7,000 through the Online Auction.

All contributions to the Student Public Interest Network (SPIN) directly assist Temple Law students by facilitating dynamic learning opportunities while benefiting the community as well. Last year, SPIN's Auction sponsored grants for 25 law students who together volunteered 10,000 hours of social justice legal work over the summer. Thanks to all of our supporters, a number of Temple law students will again spend their summer serving the clients of public interest legal organizations.

### *SPIN Congratulates Its New Board:*

*Chair:*

Shwetha Srinivasan

*Event Chair:*

Ilene Leventhal

*Solicitations Co-Chairs:*

Curt Parkins, Smruti Govan

*Treasurer/Sec:*

Jed Vanderklok

*Publicity Chair:*

Marita

*Forum Co-Chairs:*

Abby Biberman, Maggie Baldwin

*Small Events Chair:*

April Townsend

*Technology Chair:*

Colin Schwartz

## **Asian Pacific American Law Student Association (APALSA)**

APALSA is pleased to announce our new Executive Board for the 2008-2009 academic year:

*Co-Presidents:*

Gina Tran and Pong Chulirashaneekorn

*Vice President:*

Soohyun Cheong

*Secretary:*

Mary Hoang

*Treasurer:*

Tony Seing

## **Government Affairs Society (GAS)**

The Government Affairs Society congratulates their new President Jamie Ware and Vice-President Hadji Maloumi for the 2008-2009 academic year!

Jamie and Hadji have lots of great ideas for improving and expanding Government Affairs programs, including the Lecture Series and practical skills-oriented Issue Forums

Government Affairs remains focused on legislative advocacy, and also plans to expand its programs into other aspects of government relations and careers.

Government Affairs is recruiting for board leadership positions. Be part of the exciting year ahead! Interested students should contact Jamie at [jware@temple.edu](mailto:jware@temple.edu). Thanks.

## **Jewish Law Student Association (JLSA)**

The Honorable Anne E. Lazarus, Judge Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas – Thursday, April 17 at 12:15 in K1C. Free Lunch Will be Provided.

Please join the Jewish Law Student Association in welcoming the Honorable Anne E. Lazarus to Temple Law. Her Honor was the first Chancellor of the Louis D. Brandeis Law Society and presently sits on the bench of the Orphan's Court. She will discuss her view from the bench of legal practice in Philadelphia. She will also be available to answer questions concerning judicial expectations of legal interns and clerks. Don't miss this opportunity to fire off those burning questions that you've been dying to ask a Judge.

## **Got events?**

To publish your student group announcements in the next *Prima Facie* issue, email them to [templeprimafacie@gmail.com](mailto:templeprimafacie@gmail.com).

# SPIN Live Auction



Photos courtesy SPIN

## Failure *continued from page 1*

years ago. People are dipping into savings, and 34 million Americans are borrowing against their houses.

Tens of thousands of people with subprime mortgages who thought, and in many cases were told by their banks, they would be able to readjust high interest rates were not able to when the housing market collapsed. Those who won't lose their homes may be left with mortgages more expensive than the value of their property.

The housing crisis is also being felt by the banks going into debt and investors around the globe who bought up securities comprised of these mortgage interests. U.S. Central banks have been pouring money into private banks to prevent the paralyzing of the credit system.

As an effort to lessen the effects of the previous Asian recession, interest rates were cut in 2001, which then set the stage for an artificially pumped-up housing boom. This, along with high-interest rates and adjustable mortgages, was the beginning of the housing bubble that we now see vastly deflating.

At the same time many people are forced onto food stamps, forced to take low-paying jobs, and forced to skip doctor visits for fear of costly bills, the U.S. government continues to spend billions of dollars to carry out the occupations in the Middle East. Additionally, taxpayers spend millions of dollars to keep a privatized prison system filled. A recent study reported 1 in every 100 Americans is behind bars. The wars abroad

are logical extensions of neoliberal economic policy. A government that works for unbridled freemarket capitalism and the success of its capitalist class in America logically must cross borders to access new markets and new resources. Strategic control of materials in the region means control of the market, and control of the world economy. But the policy in the Middle East is another crisis for the powers that be, which will likely also be dealt with in an imminent shift in tactic (but not the basic backing goal).

The big business solution to the neoliberal crisis at home and abroad will almost certainly be the Democrats in 2008. With any hope there will be some major changes in the system, bigger safety nets for average people, and corporate accountability for their part in creating the mess we're in. But Democrats won't bring the extent of change most Americans would like to see.

The majority of the American public, as well as physicians and nurses, believe there should be a single-payer universal health care system. Democratic Presidential candidates Obama and Clinton are against this. A majority of people want the U.S. out of Iraq. The Democrats won't get us out because it's too important as a strategic position for the American ruling class. If we're going to see a real overhaul of the system, it will take normal people organizing for social and political change independent of the two-party system.

# Students Help Rebuild New Orleans With Legal Skills, Manual Labor and Chance Encounters

By Charles Anderson

The Student Hurricane Network has sent over 3,000 law students to the Gulf Coast in the last three years. Over Spring Break, Temple Law Students joined in and traveled to New Orleans for their second spring break spent helping to rebuild.

Students, which included all years, worked on either physical rebuilding or helping to clear the massive backlog of cases piling up since Hurricane Katrina.

Group members spent 5-7 days in the region working on succession law and repainting houses. Temple students helped to alleviate a back-up of succession law cases which has plagued New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina, due to destroyed records and displaced families that need to be tracked down so that courts can assign title to the proper heirs and devisees.

Students also pitched in and helped a family of three generations renovate their home in the Holy Cross neighborhood of the 9th Ward.

Temple Law students got a lot of satisfaction out of the fact that although they were only there a week, they were able to help one woman who was one of the first to return to New Orleans after Katrina. At that time there were no utilities, she had to draw water directly from the Mississippi, and she had to take in her daughter and grandchildren after their home was destroyed.

Perhaps most inspiring, however, was a chance encounter with a man who could not get the government to help rebuild his home because he could not prove his grandparent's house had been left to him. He was living in a FEMA trailer with his son; he knew the trailer was toxic to stay in but they needed a place to live. The man was being threatened with eviction.

Temple Law students were able to refer this man to the Pro Bono Project, an organization providing free legal assistance to the poor in New Orleans, which helped get him critical legal aid.

## Jumble Puzzle

*Last Issue's Puzzle: "Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a wonderful stroke of luck." Who said this? Answer: Dalai Lama.*

### Who Said This?

**"Real success is not on the stage, but off the stage as a human being, and how you get along with your fellow men."**

--OOOOO OOOO, JO.

Unscramble these jumbled words related to stage performance to find the answer:

gittlhops O----O---

strenocc -----O-O

yarwobad ---OO-OO

madar ---O-

deviluale O-----

menicupor -----O

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