

The War for Wisconsin

By Adrian Bleifuss

A contingent of DePaul College of Law students—accompanied by Professor Leonard Cavise and Regional Vice President of the National Lawyers Guild Molly Armour—drove to Madison, Wisconsin, on March 12. There they joined more than 100,000 demonstrators protesting the passage of controversial anti-union legislation.

In February, newly elected Governor Scott Walker proposed a budget repair bill that would sharply limit the collective bargaining rights of government workers. The Wisconsin labor movement responded with a series of demonstrations that choked downtown Madison and resulted in the occupation of the capitol building.

State Senator Glenn Grothman, a Republican ally of the governor, described the occupied building as a “pigsty” and infamously characterized the sleep-in set as “a bunch of slobbers taking up the building ... largely college students and hangers-on.”

The DePaul students found the scene at Madison to be colorful and strangely upbeat. The labor unions were present in full force. A parade of tractors driven by farmers and their families snaked its way through the streets. A group of activists saluting the state’s famous dairy industry pranced about in cow costumes. The police and firefighter unions, although not directly affected by the new legislation, demonstrated in solidarity with their fellow public employees.

Speakers included labor leaders, Reverend Jesse Jackson and actress Susan Sarandon. Whenever a speaker finished addressing the crowd, the multitudes chanted “thank you, thank you,” conforming to the standard of niceness associated with the polite culture of the upper Midwest.

The scene impressed DePaul second-year law student Aaron Viscichini.

“The labor movement doesn’t seem like it’s been on the front burner of American political debate these days, so I was surprised to see such a big turnout in Madison.”

Many speakers focused on the launching of an anti-Walker campaign in 2012, when the governor becomes eligible for a recall. There also were vows to recall or unseat Walker’s allies in the legislature.

After the 2010 midterm elections, new Republican majorities in state legislatures throughout the Midwest have implemented a wave of initiatives that could change the dynamic of labor-capital relations, and sharply limit the scale of government services and public goods for generations to come. Republican governors and GOP-dominated state houses in Ohio and Indiana have launched assaults on the collective bargaining rights of public-sector employees, and the governor of Michigan has secured the right to dissolve entire municipal governments. While these conflicts continue to roil the Midwest as a whole, the state of Wisconsin has become its most prominent battlefield.



From left, Joanne Kinoy, Susan Kaplan, Aaron Viscichini, Amanda Graham, Molly Armour, Talitha Hazelton, Adrian Bleifuss, Professor Cavise, Joey Cavise and Patrick Cowlin.

It is fitting that Wisconsin should be the focal point for these struggles. Since the 19th century, the state has been at the vanguard of many progressive social developments. The waves of German immigrants who settled in Wisconsin brought with them the democratic and egalitarian ideals of the revolutions of 1848, a series of uprisings against the oppressive dynasties that ruled much of Europe. Later, the German tradition of social democratic politics took root in the state. The Social Democratic Party of Wisconsin, an affiliate of the Socialist Party of Eugene V. Debs and Norman Thomas, succeeded in sending Victor Berger to the House of Representatives, and a series of Socialists won mayoral elections in Milwaukee until as recently as the 1950s. Frank Zeidler, the last socialist mayor of Milwaukee, died in 2006.

The most famous icon of this Wisconsin progressive tradition was Robert La Follette Sr., who served the state first as governor and later as a senator in Washington. La Follette was a staunch supporter of the labor movement and of women’s suffrage. He opposed U.S. entry into World War I and denounced the government repression of anti-war voices in the 1910s and 1920s. The legacy of La Follette—often called “Fighting Bob” by his supporters—was invoked several times by speakers at the Madison rally.

The fate of Walker’s legislation may rest in the hands of the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Since the publication of this article, a hotly contested election between incumbent Justice David Prosser and his challenger JoAnne Kloppenburg remains unresolved and faces a possible recount. Many presume Prosser would side with a right-leaning majority on the court in upholding Walker’s controversial law, whereas Kloppenburg is believed to be more amenable to the interests of workers. For now, it appears that the War for Wisconsin will continue well into the next year.

Gain the Tools to Build Your Own Nonprofit

By Adrian Bleifuss

At a March 2011 workshop, attorneys from the Law Project of the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law stood before a room full of people committed to making the world a better place. Underpinning the workshop, titled 501(c)(3) Tax Exemption: Creating a Charity, was the Law Project's motto: strengthening nonprofits to build communities.

Attendees came to the workshop from organizations with a variety of goals, from expanding a soup kitchen to providing free immigration legal services to bringing mobile classrooms to Haiti. Law Project attorneys Jody Adler (JD '81) and Erica Spangler-Raz (JD '06) guided attendees through the process of obtaining status.

The workshop is just one among many offered by the Law Project. "Our typical clients are community development organizations and social service agencies, and we help these groups with transactional legal matters," says Spangler-Raz. "My role as a staff attorney is to work with new nonprofits seeking 501(c)(3) status, but we've also helped groups with renting space, hiring employees, drafting bylaws, and other corporate and tax issues."

This workshop focused on the three Bs—budgets, business plans and boards. A nonprofit is run by a board, which must consist of at least three people. Unlike a for-profit corporation where the owners make all the decisions, the board has the power to both hire and fire the executive director. Adler points out that many founders/executive directors of nonprofit organizations tend to think of them as their "babies," and are reluctant to cede control.

"You know the phrase 'if you love something, let it go'?" quips Adler. "This applies to nonprofits."



Adler explains that the dispersal of power can be a good thing, because it allows organizations meant to exist for the public benefit to become more sustainable. If an organization survives on the charisma and energy of its founder and no one else knows exactly how it works, uncertainty exists when that individual is gone. She adds, having a board is not just a technical requirement—it's a good survival strategy.

However, workshop participants learned 501(c)(3) status is not for everyone. Certain activities, most prominently political lobbying, are prohibited to organizations with 501(c)(3) status. This is a hurdle for many organizations that want to engage in both direct services and broader advocacy on behalf of those they serve. Some groups choose to create distinct arms of the organization—one that provides services and one dedicated exclusively to political activity—in order to do the work they are committed to without running afoul of financial restrictions.

Overall, attendees valued the content of the workshop. DePaul third-year student Lily Jimenez says, "I thought it was extremely useful for people who are ready to start a nonprofit or take a leadership role in a nonprofit. The workshop focused on the real nuts and bolts of establishing a 501(c)(3), such as registering with the state, filing with the IRS and filing yearly reports. You could literally leave the workshop ready to file the paperwork."

Yaw Asare, the Law Project's community development fellow, sees the impact of the workshops on clients: "It's good for people to get details about business plans, budgets, boards—the small but important administrative things that people don't always think about."

For more information about the Law Project and a schedule of upcoming workshops, visit thelawproject.org.

Local Civil Rights Firm Defends the Fourth Amendment

By Sami Silverstein

Roshna Keen and Julie Thompson, attorneys at the Chicago civil rights firm Loevy & Loevy, joined DePaul students at the Center for Public Interest Law's April lunch panel about Fourth Amendment rights. The panel focused on Loevy & Loevy's recent victory against the Cook County Department of Corrections, which forced the jail to change its full-body cavity search procedures and won compensation for individuals subjected to these unconstitutional actions.

Kim Young brought the jail's unorthodox search procedures to Loevy & Loevy's attention after she was subjected to a full-body cavity search during intake for a traffic-related arrest.

"This class action lawsuit challenged Cook County Jail's policy to strip search all individuals during the intake process, regardless of what they were charged with," says Kelly O'Bryan (JD '10), a law clerk at Loevy & Loevy. During the panel, Keen and Thompson vividly described

the procedure of conducting full-body cavity searches on everyone processed at the Cook County Jail, regardless of the charges against them.

Cook County Jail's procedure began by separating women and men into two groups of approximately 100 people. The women were led to the gym and forced to go through the strip search as a group. Although this type of search happens at a number of penal institutions, the Cook County Jail went beyond the norm with its strip-search policy. According to Keen and Thompson, no other U.S. jail forces women to submit to group cavity searches.

The men were led into an underground tunnel and lined up against the wall shoulder-to-shoulder. Widespread reports allege that the naked men were beaten, threatened with dogs, and forced to repeat the procedure again and again if one person in the group was unable to follow the instructions.

Continued

Keen added that some of the men arrested on drug charges experienced withdrawal symptoms, such as involuntary loss of bladder and bowel control, during the procedures.

“Just because you got arrested for something doesn’t mean that you are stripped of any basic level of decency,” Keen says.

In early 2009, the court found that the jail’s strip-search policy was unconstitutional and granted partial summary judgment in *Young v. County of Cook*. A jury trial led to extensive settlement negotiations.

“As a result of this lawsuit, in addition to compensating class members, the jail installed body scan machines and no longer strip searches individuals upon intake,” O’Bryan says.

The conflict over blanket strip searches is ongoing, with a circuit split on the permissibility of the practice. The Supreme Court will weigh in on the issue later this year in *Florence v. Board of Chosen Freeholders of Burlington County*, a case arising out of the 3rd Circuit.

DePaul Graduate Brings Legal Clinics to Chicago Public Schools

By Courtney Kelleles

Combining a passion for teaching and a dedication to social justice, **Dennis Anthony Kass** (JD ’06) founded the Chicago Law and Education Foundation (CLEAF). CLEAF is a nonprofit organization that establishes full-time legal clinics in Chicago Public Schools (CPS). This is the second 501 (c)(3) Kass has started since graduating from DePaul; the first was a scholarship program for CPS students created in 2007.

Kass decided to attend law school after working on social policy research with the Chicago Urban League. “We were doing these projects on social policy in housing discrimination and criminal justice,” he says. “I understood the policy, but I didn’t get the law part.”

He originally planned to work in public interest law, but, after one summer interning with the Legal Assistance Foundation (LAF), he started to change his plan. “LAF is spectacular—they provide an amazing service,” he explains, “but I just didn’t really enjoy the work.”

Kass quickly realized he wanted to return to teaching. His desire to combine education and law spawned the idea for CLEAF. Thus far, CLEAF has established legal clinics in five CPS high schools: Little Village Lawndale High School, Farragut Career Academy, Thomas Kelly High School, John Hancock High School and Tilden Career Community Academy High School. Kass credits DePaul’s legal clinic for teaching him the fundamentals of nonprofit governance.

“Without [the clinic] I don’t know that I would be doing what I am now. I don’t know if I would have even known that it was possible to really create these organizations.”

Originally, Kass planned only to start a legal clinic at Little Village Lawndale High School, where he currently teaches. The success of that clinic encouraged Kass to create CLEAF and expand the project. His goal is to have 10 to 15 legal clinics running in the next year, and eventually one in every CPS high school. In order to expand, Kass needs more centralized help and additional funding.



Kass with students Zoraida Hernandez (left) and Tierra Hutton (right) at the 2010 Little Village Lawndale High School graduation.

Kass, a full-time teacher, debate coach, model UN coach, pro bono attorney, and founding director of two nonprofit organizations, notes that his many commitments make it difficult for him to devote the necessary time to fundraising.

He explains, “I would probably have a much easier time getting funding for CLEAF if I put all my energy into it. But I can’t. I just won’t quit my teaching job.”

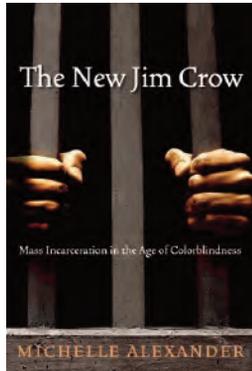
Kass advises students interested in public interest law to create a financial plan early on. He also recommends participating in a clinic and really fighting to get unique, hands-on experience during summer internships. His advice for starting a nonprofit organization echoes his advice on pursuing public interest law: have a financial plan. Kass cautions that the process of starting a nonprofit organization can be both expensive and complicated.

Ultimately though, Kass says, “Starting a nonprofit is like anything else in the law, once you know the process, it is not all that difficult. If I did it, you can.”

Kass welcomes law students interested in the nonprofit process to email him at dennisanthonykass@yahoo.com.

Telling the Truth about Racism

By Alix Strunk



Professor and legal scholar Michelle Alexander is dedicated to telling the hard truth about matters of race and racism. It is a truth, she says, that most Americans will deny. Alexander's new book, *THE NEW JIM CROW: MASS INCARCERATION IN THE AGE OF COLORBLINDNESS*, examines the interconnectedness of racism, the drug war and the prison industrial complex in the United States today.

In March, DePaul law students joined community members packing the hall at Roosevelt University, anxious to hear Alexander speak. A compelling and passionate speaker, Alexander captured the audience's attention, sparking anger at the injustice she exposed and stirring hope that it is within all of us to speak the truth and create change.

THE NEW JIM CROW posits that the racial caste system has not been eliminated despite an increasing celebration of "colorblindness." Instead, it has been redesigned. The racism codified by Jim Crow laws in the South is now disguised as legalized discrimination against incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people. The similarities Alexander laid out are astounding: under both systems, African-American men are denied the right to vote and sit on juries and are legally discriminated against in housing, employment and public benefits. Today, more African-American men are under correctional control than were enslaved in 1850, and, Alexander explained to the audience, African-American men do not commit more crimes and are not more deserving of prison than any others in the United States. The prison population has exploded not due to an increase in crime, which is currently at a historic low, but because of targeting by the police and the legal system.

"Today, more African-American men are under correctional control than were enslaved in 1850."

Under today's mass incarceration system, the racial caste system and the moral equivalent of Jim Crow continues. The language used to justify this system of control is different, but the structure and effect is the same. Facing this truth, what do we do?

Break the silence, challenged Alexander. Expose this system. On a personal level, admit our own complicity in the system as well as our own criminality. Most of us, Alexander says, have violated traffic laws; some of us have violated drug or other criminal laws (think Presidents Clinton, Bush and Obama's admissions of drug use). But only some of us—disproportionately African-American men—are being punished.

DePaul second-year law student Brian Orozco describes Alexander's lecture as the best he has ever heard on issues of prisons and crime.

Orozco agrees with Alexander's call to human rights advocates to join the fight. He says, "This is a huge problem that is not being properly addressed by the media, the government, or even other human rights advocates."

Third-year student Hillary Richardson agrees. "Ms. Alexander was so articulate in her anger, she made it impossible not to want to fight the powers that be."

The Reverend Calvin S. Morris, introducing Alexander, challenged the audience: "Listen, and be motivated and compelled to respond."

Read *THE NEW JIM CROW* and be compelled to respond.

The Journal for Social Justice Symposium: Moving Forward in Juvenile Justice

By Alix Strunk

On March 3, DePaul's *Journal for Social Justice* hosted its third annual symposium, "Juvenile Justice in Chicago: Moving Forward with Restorative Justice and Expungement." The event was made possible with generous support from the Vincentian Endowment Fund and was co-sponsored by the Center for Public Interest Law, Schiller DuCanto & Fleck Family Law Center, DePaul Egan Urban Center and National Lawyers Guild.

Acquisitions Editor Alix Strunk (JD '11) says, "Our idea for this symposium was to highlight the community and advocacy focus of our journal, and ensure the exchange of ideas didn't just stop when the symposium was over."

Strunk explains that the three-panel symposium "facilitated communication between advocates, as well as connecting students to future volunteer and action opportunities."

The first panel began with Randell Strickland of the MacArthur Foundation's Illinois Models for Change Juvenile Justice Initiative. Strickland discussed the disparate impact of incarceration on youth of color. He highlighted policy initiatives designed to transform the juvenile justice system by reducing reliance on confinement and developing community-based resources for young people. Carmen Casas, deputy chief probation officer of the Chicago Juvenile Court, focused on the unique issues facing girls in the juvenile justice system. Jane Rutherford, professor of law and director of the Schiller DuCanto & Fleck Family Law Center at DePaul, explained that the neurological differences between juveniles and adults make juveniles less culpable than their adult counterparts.

Continued

Carol Hutchins, a youth advocate and documentary filmmaker, began the second panel with a video on restorative justice. Panelists discussed restorative justice as a form of conflict resolution designed to promote dialogue, heal and restore order. Tom Bilyk, a supervising attorney for the Delinquency Division for the States Attorney's Office, focused on restorative justice initiatives in Chicago's Juvenile Court. Edith Crigler, associate executive director of Chicago Area Project, and Naomi Milstein, restorative justice specialist at Alternatives Inc., examined restorative justice efforts in Chicago schools and local communities.

The panel discussion inspired Bridget Owens (JD '12) to become involved with restorative justice in Chicago, she says. "As a result, this summer I will be clerking at the Juvenile Justice Division of the Cook County Public Defender."

Professor Leonard Cavise, director of the Center for Public Interest Law, moderated the final panel, which

focused on expungement of juvenile records. Dorothy Goldsmith of the North Lawndale Community Justice for Youth Institute emphasized the importance of expunging these records, as they are not automatically sealed when juvenile offenders turn 18. A juvenile offender can utilize record expungement to help increase the possibility of a successful future. Soledad McGrath, a post-graduate child law policy fellow at the Civitas Child Law Center at Loyola School of Law, emphasized policy initiatives and community-based efforts for improving access to expungement. Kate Winner, an attorney with the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago, distributed pro se expungement packets and advised attendees on opportunities to get involved in their communities.

Regarding the close of the symposium, Strunk says, "I was pleased to see people so engaged, and I hope we were able to help keep the conversation moving forward."

Progressive Approaches to Law at the 2011 Rebellious Lawyering Conference

By Renee Gross and Joey Scott

The 17th annual Rebellious Lawyering Conference (RebLaw)—the largest student-run public interest conference in the nation—took place February 18 to 20 at Yale University Law School. RebLaw features panels, workshops, keynote speakers and networking opportunities for students interested in progressive legal subjects and public interest law.

It brings together law students from around the country to discuss progressive approaches to law and social change. Thanks to funding from Dean Warren Wolfson, Center for Public Interest Law committee members Joey Scott and Renee Gross both attended RebLaw.

This year's keynote speaker was Burt Neuborne, a civil liberties defender and professor at New York University School of Law. Neuborne spoke to participants about the marginalizing effect of the U.S. election process. He pointed out that many low-income individuals are dissuaded from making their voices heard at the polls, because they have to work Election Day and there is no on-site voter registration. He challenged students to combat these "transactional costs" of voting. "[We] could turn Election Day into a holiday or allow people to register at the polls," says Neuborne.

Sunita Patel, a staff attorney at the Center for Constitutional Rights, led a workshop on facilitating dissent. She advised students on how to address the tension inherent in supporting progressive movements as a lawyer while staying true to the representation model of lawyer-client relationships.

"It's important to remember that we can't support minority groups if we've been arrested in a protest," says Patel, encouraging students to participate as legal observers as a way to balance these sometimes conflicting objectives.

Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, addressed transgender rights and policies supporting self-identification and gender neutrality. She discussed the battle that some transgendered people face with health care providers when reconstructive surgeries are excluded from their coverage.

Michael Fischl, professor of law at the University of Connecticut, moderated a panel on the labor rights movement. Panelists discussed union struggles to maintain collective bargaining rights while responding to fiscal tightening at state and federal levels. Panelists also shared resources for organizing effective political rallies and organization tactics from the American Legislative Exchange Council.

Steven Brown, executive director of the Rhode Island Affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union, led a panel concerning the prison industrial complex and the problems arising from privatization of these institutions. This panel focused on a case involving a Pennsylvania judge convicted of racketeering and sending hundreds of youth offenders (often appearing pro se) to private, for-profit detention centers in exchange for illicit payments from the builder and facility owner.

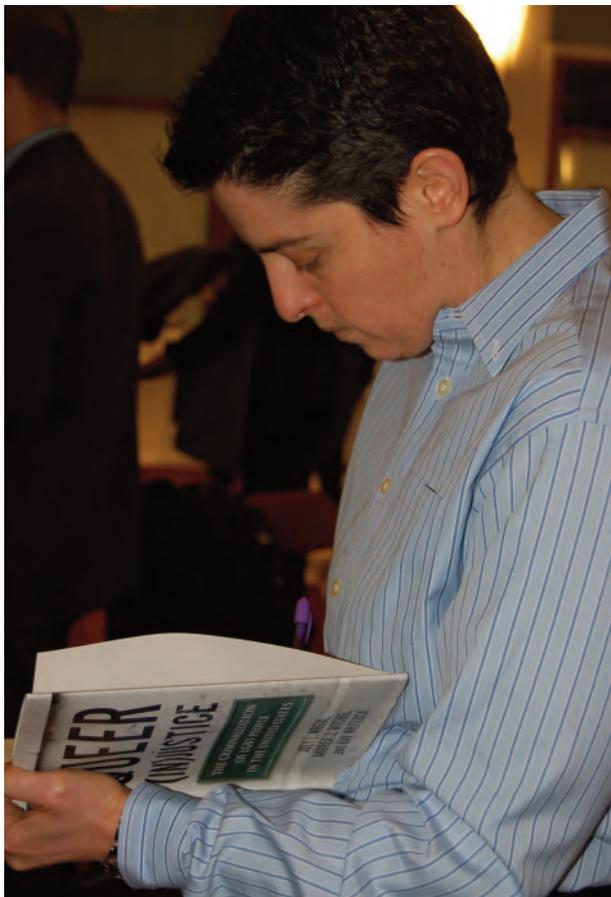
The many inspiring speakers and panels left strong impressions on law student attendees. According to Gross, "RebLaw was very hard-hitting, but I enjoyed it." Both Gross and Scott plan to attend RebLaw next year, and hope that DePaul will continue its tradition of sending progressive law students to this event.

Recognizing QUEER (IN)JUSTICE

By Liz Lyons

On February 25, Adjunct Professor Joey Mogul and Andrea Ritchie stood before a packed room at the DePaul Center asking that we stand with them in solidarity in the struggle against transphobia and homophobia in the criminal legal system. The crowd was celebrating the release of *QUEER (IN)JUSTICE: THE CRIMINALIZATION OF LGBT PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES*, which Ritchie and Mogul co-authored with Kay Whitlock.

In *QUEER (IN)JUSTICE*, the three authors bring the reader through the past and present of abuses faced by the queer community in the name of criminal justice. The 2003 police raid of a Detroit club frequented by primarily African-American LGBT people is highlighted in the book, along with police misconduct from the Stonewall riots in New York City and the 2003 rape of a trans-woman by two LAPD officers.



Professor Joey Mogul signs a copy of her new book, QUEER (IN)JUSTICE.

The injustice suffered by the queer community does not end with blatant abuse by officers of the law. The book highlights the prevalence of anti-queer rhetoric in open court, and the statistical over-representation of LGBT people in prisons. Before *Lawrence v. Texas* struck down sodomy laws nationwide in 2003, court decisions unabashedly referred to suspected queers as “perverted persons,” or guilty of “crimes against nature.” In 1968, the authors point out, a trans-woman was convicted of



Professor Joey Mogul (right) with DePaul Civil Rights Clinic instructor Owen Daniel-McCarter and client Monica Franklin at the QUEER (IN)JUSTICE book reception.

vagrancy while wearing a disguise calculated to conceal “his” identity: she had been waiting in a subway station “disguised” in a white evening gown and makeup.

Even after *Lawrence*, in 2009, the National Center for Lesbian Rights published a report demonstrating that LGBT youths are “disproportionately charged with and adjudicated for sex offenses in cases that the system typically overlooks when heterosexual youth are involved. Even in cases involving nonsexual offenses, courts sometimes order LGBT youth to submit to ... sex offender treatment programs based merely on their sexual orientation or gender identity.”

The result is a prison population and death row full of LGBT people with dubious convictions and sentences that are overly severe.

Andrea Smith, an associate professor at the University of California Riverside, lauded the book: “Drawing on years of research, activism and legal advocacy, *QUEER (IN)JUSTICE* is a searing examination of queer experiences—as ‘suspects,’ defendants, prisoners and survivors of crime.”

Kay Whitlock brings her experience as a Montana-based activist in LGBT rights as well as economic and environmental issues. Andrea Ritchie, based out of New York City, focuses primarily on police misconduct against queer people of color. Joey Mogul, a familiar face around DePaul College of Law, is director of the Civil Rights Clinic, partner at People’s Law Office and active member of the National Lawyer’s Guild. Mogul has been fighting against police misconduct around Chicago, including the Jon Burge torture cases, for many years.

The three authors put together a powerful overview of the abuses that LGBT people have faced—and continue to face—in our communities. With the presentation of their book, Mogul and Ritchie have issued a call to action to everyone concerned with issues of justice.

The SBA Budget: *Where is Our Money?*

By Hillary Richardson and Courtney Kelledees

The DePaul Student Bar Association's (SBA) long-standing refusal to publish meaningful information about its spending procedures reflects a lack of transparency and the accountability expected of an elected governing body. A basic principle of representative democracy—open process and communication between representatives and constituents—is missing from the SBA's interactions with DePaul students on this subject.

The SBA budget has long been a source of contention among law students. Over the years, a number of student groups have petitioned the SBA to publish its budget. These requests have been repeatedly denied. This semester, after pressure from students, the SBA finally disseminated a letter and accompanying graphic (see chart at right).

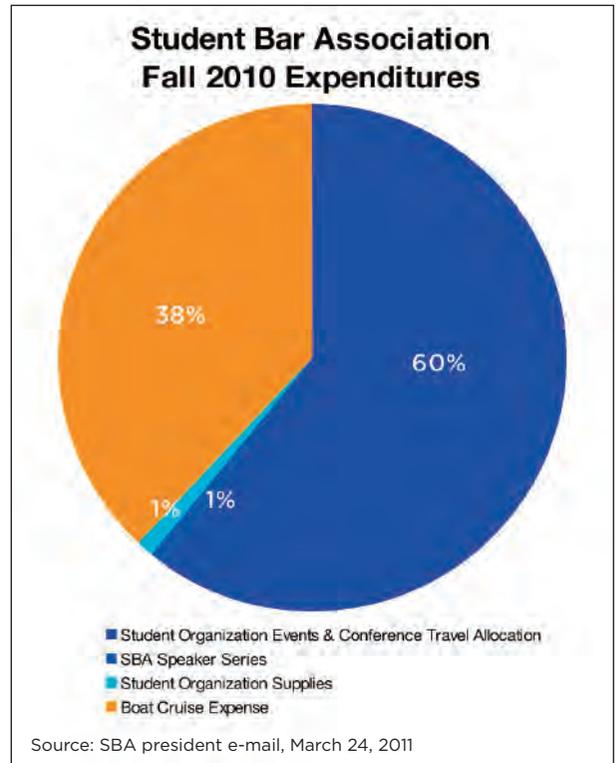
While we commend the SBA for responding to student concerns, we must point out that this is not a budget. Budgets, as commonly defined, contain dollar amounts; this graph does not. Budgets compare revenue and expenditures; this pie chart does not. The information released by the SBA contains no actual numbers and reveals nothing about the total amounts received and disbursed by the SBA. Rather, it is a mere estimate of ratios of dollars spent. Further, the SBA's letter gives no information regarding the process used to determine these ratios.

The SBA has given students various reasons for refusing to reveal the actual amounts reflected in its budget. Its purported concern was that "infighting" and jealousy among student groups would result if student organizations found out how much funding other organizations receive.

For a student government to use this type of rationale is infantilizing and offensive. DePaul law students are adults. We are all enrolled in a professional school, and we are entering a profession in which we will be expected to act with transparency, accountability and the capacity to handle fiscal responsibility.

The SBA's second major contention has been that any numbers it publishes would not be completely accurate, as it continues to receive requests and have unforeseen expenditures throughout the year. Anyone who has ever managed a budget—personal or professional—recognizes that projected budgets are estimates. However, this is no excuse for becoming an informational black hole and could easily be remedied with updates for actual revenue and expenses.

According to the SBA constitution, the president, vice president and treasurer make all budgetary decisions. To the best of our knowledge, these three individuals are the only people who know the size of the SBA budget and exactly how that money is being administered. Where does this money come from? It's ours. The SBA's budget is funded by student fees automatically levied by the university to all full- and part-time students enrolled in the law school.



Since the SBA refuses to reveal an actual budget report, we've made calculations based on these student fees. According to U.S. News & World Report, DePaul currently enrolls 853 full-time and 203 part-time law students. By logging into Campus Connect, you can see that each student is assessed a \$20 per semester fee that goes to the Student Bar Association. Twenty dollars per semester multiplied by 1,056 students amounts to \$42,240 per year for the SBA. This is too large a number to not know where it's going, and too much money to be used at the sole discretion of three people. (Obviously, these numbers are only an educated guess based on the information available to us; if we are mistaken, we invite the SBA to correct us.)

What we are asking is not impossible, or even unusual. Publicly held businesses, reputable nonprofits and governmental institutions all publish their budgets. Other law schools' SBAs publish budget reports. DePaul's undergraduate Student Government Association not only publishes its budget but also holds an open forum on spending priorities in which all students can participate and ask questions. These organizations are able to shine a light on their financial processes not because they are immune from "jealousy" and "infighting," but because they invite discourse, promote accountability and, ultimately, benefit the budgeting process by opening it to their constituents. We simply want to know how our money is being spent. Until now, the SBA has not adequately answered that question. We encourage next year's SBA to change its policy and publish a meaningful budget report.

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