

Cornell Law School

by Jennifer Kim

AS I WALKED ACROSS THE campus during my six-week stay, I couldn't help noticing the fresh air, the sprawling lawns and the clear skies that surrounded me. As one third-year law student said, "there isn't that typical cutthroat atmosphere that you would usually find at an Ivy League institution." Yet the competition exists, and how can it not? Intelligent students from all across the

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nation and world, students who are used to being at the top of their class, all come together in one place to become what they have always wanted to be: lawyers.

Cornell Law School, ranked fourteen in the U.S. News and World Report's America's Best Graduate Schools, is located in Ithaca, New York. The Law School, in the midst of Cornell University, combines the opportunities and resources that a campus of 18,000 students has to offer.

Ithaca is located in the Finger Lakes region of New York, and has gorges and waterfalls on either end of the campus. The community has approximately 100,000 permanent residents and has open countryside, state parks, vineyards, and year-round recreational facilities in the area.

With an enrollment of 560 J.D. (Doctor of Law) students and a full-time faculty of thirty-five, Cornell Law School is medium-sized among American law schools. About 22 percent of the students are minorities. Women constitute 38 percent of the students, and the student body has representatives from most states and approximately 250 colleges.

The average G.P.A. of accepted

students is a 3.55, while the average LSAT score placed the entering class of 1992 in the 94th percentile, or a score of 165. Other statistics include the following: 50 percent had full-time job experience other than summer jobs, 25 percent had been actively involved in student government or politics, 15 percent were editors and reporters on college publications or had journalism experience after graduation, and 10 percent had done graduate work.

Admission to Cornell Law School is highly selective; the acceptance rate is 22 percent. About 4200 applications for admission were received for the 180 places for the fall of 1993. According to the Admissions Committee, evidence of intellectual ability, motivation and character come into consideration. Faculty recommendations, undergraduate transcript, the LSAT score, and the personal statement all play important roles in the application process. The Committee also gives considerable weight to work experience, extracurricular and community activities, graduate study, and other special circumstances that are brought to its attention. In the catalogue and the application, minority-group status is regarded as a positive factor.

Cornell Law School also offers specialized and combined degrees. J.D./M.B.A. (Masters of Business Administration) in four years rather than five. J.D./M.I.L.R. (Master of Industrial and Labor Relations) can be acquired within two semesters after Law School. J.D./M.R.P. (Master of Regional Planning) or the J.D./M.A. in philosophy also takes four years instead of the traditional five. The J.D./Ph.D takes seven years instead of the traditional eight.

When asked about why she chose Cornell Law School over others, Carol Hobson, a third year law student and current employee of the Admissions Office said: "I was most impressed with their International Legal Program (Berger International Legal Studies Program; J.D. with Specialization in International Legal Affairs), but didn't want to attend a school that I hadn't visited. After I visited and talked to students, I believe my choice to attend Cornell was a wise one."

Hobson also talked about hous-

ing preferences: "You usually get what you are looking for. There is on campus housing, but most students choose to live off campus, because renting is very expensive and reasonably comfortable. There is always sufficient housing for students."

With regards to the social scene, Hobson replied, "There isn't much of a night life as there is, I presume, in New York City, but as a first year student, you don't have the time for one." According to the Cornell Law School catalogue, "The study of law, especially in the first year, demands so much time and energy that it not advisable for a student to try to earn a large proportion of the expenses incurred during the academic year." The social life for a first-year law student is on the average very limited. However, there is more time to spare after all of the first-year required courses such as Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Practice Training I and II, Torts, Criminal Law, Legal Process, and Property are completed. "The social scene is definitely better in the second and third year," Hobson concluded.

Tuition for 1993-1994 came to a

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sum of \$19,200. About 50 percent of the students receive scholarship awards, while 70 percent receive loan assistance. The estimated expenses for a student, including tuition, room, board, books, and incidentals are about \$30,270 for an academic year.

Cornell Law School's average starting salary was \$69,276 and was ranked by U.S. News and World Report at twelve for job placement success. In the past few years, 70 percent of the graduating class were hired directly after graduation and 80 percent of the class after the bar exam, according to Hobson.

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Cornell Law School also has their own law journal which gets published regularly throughout the school year. This gives students and faculty a chance to express opinions and ideas

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about the law and its various interpretations.

Hobson was courteous enough to give Helvidius an interview while the Dean of Admissions went off on sporadic road trips and couldn't be reached. Due to the difficulties that *Hchndius* had in trying to request and receive information from the Admissions Office, it is advised that you request an application early. It is also recommended that when you apply, you give yourself enough time to be able to check and see if they received your application.

The Cornell community is very relaxed compared to the high impact stress that one feels in NYC. Not only does the community have a more relaxed tone, but there is also a sense of serenity when one is surrounded by such scenic areas. The campus' natural element, such as the waterfalls and gorges, allow the student to be able to work at a slower pace than the hurry one usually feels in NYC. There isn't less work, in fact some might say there's more, but since there aren't as many distractions as there are in NYC, you can focus more on your priorities. Hobson agreed by saying, "The campus complimented the facilities. If you are considering getting away from the city, give Cornell very strong consideration." •

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New York Race

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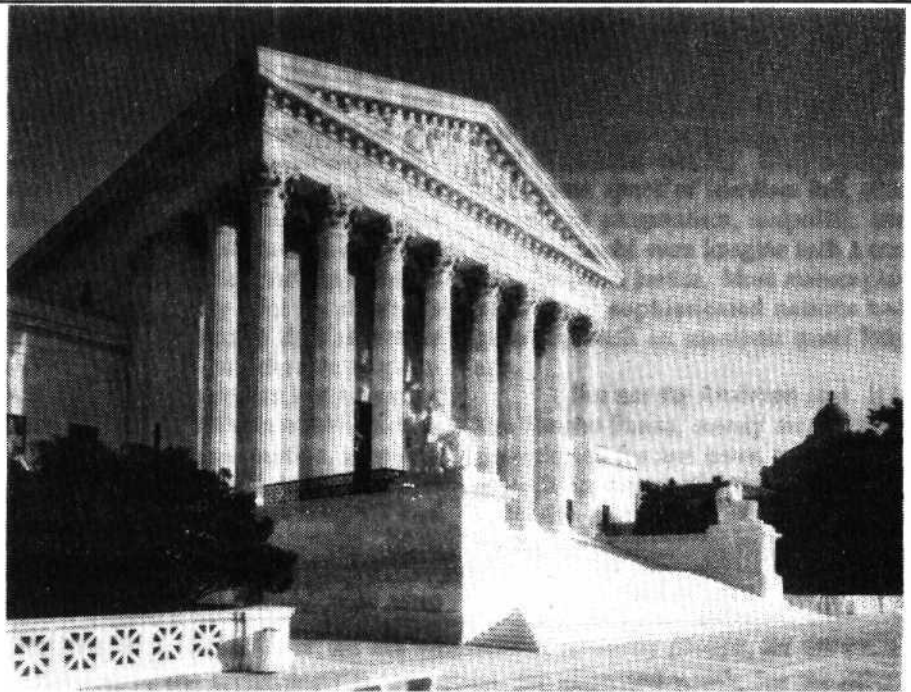
In the disturbance, Yankel Rosenbaum, a Jewish scholar was killed by a crowd allegedly screaming "kill the Jew". The disturbance lasted for three days. In the aftermath of the crisis, mayor Dinkins was accused by the Jewish residents of Crown Heights of not sending in the cops soon enough and allowing a "pogrom" (state sanctioned violence) to occur. He gained a reputation in some circles as a man who was inherently out of touch and who was more concerned with protecting the Black community than any other group. While this reputation was based on rumor, falsehood and half truths, no matter how much it was dispelled, its gut theme, that Dinkins cared for blacks more than anyone else, hung around his neck like an albatross.

In New York City, there are over 7.5 million people competing for scarce government resources such health care, housing, education, placement of facilities, police protection and jobs, to name a few. Voters understand that city government cannot meet all of their needs, so they will vote for the person who they believe will meet more of their needs. There is an underlying belief that if the person you elect to governmental office is like you— i.e. of the same race, religion or ethnic background— the ser-

vices you receive will be better. They know firsthand about your relationship with the police and thus they know how you expect this critical body of public servants to tend to your needs. The person who is like you will protect you.

For the first time in 74 years, the nation's two largest cities, New York and Los Angeles have Republican mayors. And the question that lingers in New York City is why.

This is the theme that Crown Heights echoed and the voters took it to the polls with them. They wanted their quality of life to improve and in their minds, the mythological lesson of Crown Heights was that the person who will improve your quality of life the most is the man who looks like you. He knows inherently the problems you have because due to his race, they are his too. Is the myth true? Probably not. Anyone who runs for citywide office does not run as a power trip; they run because they want to tackle the big problems for all of the people. It is too thankless of a job to run for any other reason. •



Columbia Law School has graduated six Associate Justices and three Chief Justices of the United States Supreme Court.

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