



Nota Bene, 2000

Nota Bene, 2000s

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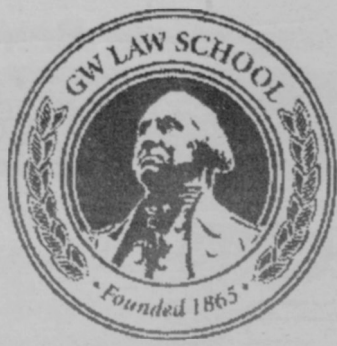
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NOTA BENE

Newspaper of the George Washington University Law School

Vol. 7, No. 2

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS The Law School Counts: "E-poll" is an "E-Bust"

*Student Response to Random
Presidential Poll is discouraging.*

By MATTHEW BRYANT
Staff Writer

Here, in the Nation's Capital, we gather to study law, to facilitate our careers as lawyers and future leaders of the Nation. The ground is ripe for political discussion and opinions. Setting out to poll our classmates' presidential picks for the upcoming election, I realized that canvassing individuals, while no doubt leading to a few good quotes, could not possibly convey an accurate depiction of the school's aggregate politics.

Thus I conducted random opinion poll. I set up an address at Yahoo! to receive votes from 65 randomly selected students. The rules were relatively simple: send an Email to the indicated address with the name of your favorite candidate in the subject line of the message. Along with the results of the poll, I planned to publish a few interviews with students.

Out of the 65 solicitations, I received 9 replies. The author of one reply, sent directly to my address, evidently didn't understand the instructions or wasn't familiar with the novel concept of a random opinion poll.

Of the 8 "votes", Mickey Mouse (who has yet to officially throw his hat into the ring, but is always a viable contender from the Circus Clown Caucus) soundly thrashed Alan Keyes and Gary Bauer, in an outcome reminiscent of World Cup Soccer, one (1) to nil. Far more interesting than his defeat of the of the Republican-hangers-on, is that Mr. Mouse tied with Republican candidate George W. Bush and Democratic candidate Bill Bradley.

Let the record show that while Mr. Mouse may command a portion of the GW Law School vote, this movement has not yet been reflected nationally.

Remaining then, are the strong contenders Vice

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GW Dubbed "Underachiever" in Bar Exam Pass Rates

By ANGELA HSU
News Editor

This month's issue of *The National Jurist* included an article that caused groans to be heard throughout the soft lounge. In an article entitled, "Bar Exam Winners and Losers," George Washington was listed as a Bar Pass "Underachiever" with a reported 1997-1998 bar pass rate of 81 percent.

The article added to the anxiety felt by many members of the student body who are nervously waiting to view the US News and World Report Law School rankings, due to be released in the upcoming months.

GW's ranking fell five places between 1998 and 1999 and some students wonder if the school is on a downward spiral.

Law student Eric Morton commented, "I'll be really mad if this pushes us out of the Top 25." Actually, the bar pass rate included in the article was used to calculate last year's US News and World Report ranking and consequently, it will have no effect on this year's rankings. The article, however, caused many to wonder if the law school is effectively preparing its students for the bar exam.

The "National Jurist" article focused on Texas Tech University Law School which has led the state in first time pass rates for three years. The dean of this "Overachiever" credits its school's strong academic support programs and a curriculum that keeps "in tune with the practice of law and not necessarily what the individual faculty members want to teach," as its recipe for success. Some other schools even go so far as to require its

second and third-year students to take certain courses that will be covered on the bar.

Dean Trangsrud thinks that GW's students can succeed at the bar without the coddling. "In the opinion of a vast majority of faculty, students, lawyers and those familiar with law schools, the more highly ranked schools have a stronger student body. We trust that our students are responsible and smart enough to make intelligent scheduling choices to take classes that will both interest and prepare them for the bar exam."

He points to the school bulletin, which advises students to plan a balanced program. Also, the school offers multiple sections in core subjects such as Corporations and Evidence. Both substantiate the school's commitment to providing the opportunity for students to familiarize themselves with subjects that will be present on the bar.

Beyond making the classes available, the school leaves it to the individual student to decide her preparation strategy. "We could teach to the test but considering the quality of the student body and the students' likely career paths, the faculty has adopted the mission of preparing the students for a lifetime in the practice of law and the challenges they will face," Trangsrud explains.

The dean was more or less unfazed by the *National Jurist* article. "We offer one of the largest curriculums in the country with classes in a variety of subject areas and our clinical program in the hopes of developing a more well-rounded

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-Dean Trangsrud

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Young's "Targeted" Approach Working A retrospect of two years at the helm

By MATTHEW VLSSIDES
Staff Writer

Upon coming to the Law School, Dean Michael Young says that he had two goals. First, he would get people to "recognize that the Law School is an outstanding institution." Then, he would make it better.

Now in his second year, Dean Young believes that his "targeted" approach to fixing the Law School's chronic problems is working.

In recent history, "grossly inadequate" facilities, under-engaged alums and a dearth of activities have plagued the Law School and, perhaps, tarnished its reputation.

To Dean Young, the common thread to these problems was a simple lack of space. For example, he found that a lack of small study rooms prevented students from engaging in discussions. According to Dean Young, this was a serious problem because study groups "are at the heart of what it is to study law."

Add to this problem small offices and

clogged halls, and it became clear that additional space was critical.

Dean Young believes that both a new building project slated for April and the expansion into Stuart Hall will go far towards solving the Law School's chronic problems. Moreover, he pledges that expanded facilities will not mean larger incoming classes, though he expects significant additions to the faculty in the near future.

Aside from brick and mortar issues, Dean Young has overseen incremental reforms at the Law School. He presided over changes in the evening students' first year curriculum. He also created a joint committee of students and faculty to investigate how the



Dean Young

Career Development Office (CDO) might be improved.

The faculty recently voted to replace first semester torts with civil procedure for first year evening students. While Dean Young believes that this was probably a good thing, he does not feel that it was a "momentous" change. Responding to some who argue that current first year evening students should have had some input in the decision, Dean Young says that the change was prompted by comments made by evening students in past years, prior to his tenure.

As for the CDO, while it has not been "as effective as it could have been," Dean Young believes that its main problem has more to do with public relations than substance.

Indeed, he says that engaging student attention is not always easy. When an attempt was made to eliminate the grade grid, Dean Young says that he was unable to pique student interest. He found this a little odd. "Typically," he said, "students don't resist higher curves."

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OPINIONS

Revolution Anyone?

It has been suggested that we lack the militant and revolutionary character that was once evidenced by previous generations. Some say that we have settled into a state of complacency and contentment, accepting the unacceptable and tolerating the intolerable – all because we are too afraid to stand up for what we believe in. Sadly enough, this sentiment may be true. Yet, there is still time for us to salvage our reputation and take a firm stand in favor of changes that we would like to see at our law school.

Accordingly, staff writer Tashiba Jones has designated herself as leader of this revolution and created "The Law Student Bill of Rights," which is a manifesto compiled of numerous complaints and gripes

concerning the law school and what we will and will not accept.

1. First year students shall have individual lockers and are required to share them with no one.
2. Students shall be provided clean microwaves in which to heat their food and strict enforcement shall be given in order to prevent said food from being stolen from the refrigerators.
3. In accordance with section 2, we reserve the right to bring said food into library study rooms in order to eat while we study.
4. The tenure of the CDO staff will be governed by the students in accordance with how successful they are in helping us secure jobs.
5. Both the library steps and CDO stairways may be widened to accommodate students traveling in opposite directions at the same time.
6. The number of incoming students shall be decreased such that there will cease to be 10-minute "traffic jams" on the steps between classes.
7. Laser paper shall be freely given when printing in the computer laboratory in Burns library.

8. We have the right to vending machines that work. Furthermore, we adopt the "grocery store policy" which states that when we are unjustly enriched by the vending machine, we shall receive three times what was taken as a measure of punitive damages.

9. Signs that are more than two-months-old shall be removed from walls and doors of the law school.

10. We demand just compensation from the administration any time that our law school ratings go down.

Students, we urge you to join in the struggle. We will not back down from our demands. We shall liken ourselves to the states who refused to ratify the Constitution until the Framers guaranteed a Bill of Rights ensuring their individual liberties. Similarly, we shall show courage like the African American students who first integrated the University of Alabama despite the angry mob that confronted them. If it takes sit-ins, marches, or rallies, we will overcome. And if we do not, at least we are standing up for what we believe in. Besides, if we don't stand for something, we will surely fall for anything.

House Editorial

NOTA BENE

Newspaper of the George Washington University Law School

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Nota Bene is published bi-weekly by the students of The George Washington University Law School. Its office is located in the basement at 2008 G Street, NW, Washington D.C 20052, (202) 676-3879.

Views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of The George Washington University Law School or *Nota Bene*. House Editorials represent the views of a majority of the Editorial Board. Opinion columns are reflective of the views of the column's author(s). In articles, the source of information is identified, and an attempt is made to present a balanced view. In letters, the veracity of statements is strictly the responsibility of the author(s).

Nota Bene will consider for publication all articles, letters, announcements, cartoons or opinion pieces submitted by 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday before publication. All contributions must be submitted in WordPerfect, on a diskette, which will be returned approximately one week after publication. Letters should be no longer than 500 words and other submissions should be no longer than 1000 words. *Nota Bene* strives to treat all submissions in a fair and uniform manner. However, due to space constraints, submissions may be omitted and *Nota Bene* will make reasonable efforts to print them in a later

LETTERS

Reconsidering the Fall Interview Program: Mandating a Lottery System

To the Editor:

The Fall Interview Program has become a distant memory for most 2L's. To some, it was an orgy of validation. For many, it was a very disappointing time. It is time to reevaluate both the assumptions and strategies that the Law School uses to allow employers to recruit our students. This is not a bitter lamentation by a student who did not interview in the fall. In fact, I had more interviews than I could handle and that is part of the problem we have. The current Fall Interview Program marginalizes far too many good students. In the purgatory of law school prestige where George Washington finds itself, it is time we chart a course that declares that all of our students, every single one of them, is qualified for an interview.

Georgetown and a number of law schools use a lottery system where students can bid on employers. The law school sorts the bids and the employers *have to interview those students or interview no one*. This guarantees that every student will have a busy fall. Those students with the galactic credentials can still direct-write the Covington & Burling's of the world, which should ameliorate the concerns that we won't place students at such places.

There are several reasons why we should not continue the current bidding process with employers choosing. For one, it perpetuates the myth that the only good students at George Washington are in the top quarter of the class. The fact is that if all students from Georgetown can interview regardless of their class rank, then so should our students. There is no significant difference between a student in the bottom half of their class here or at Georgetown.

Secondly, more students will land positions with the firms they otherwise would not get an interview with. Personality and obstacles overcome go into the process. If a student with a compelling story and a 3.0 gets an interview with a number of DC firms, they may get an offer or at least a call back.

Thirdly, if we are to be a national law school with a national prominence, which we are on the cusp of, then we should require employers treat us the same. The paradox is that if we demand the respect that the great law schools demand, we will

be more likely to get it. If we are afraid to ask then we will be cursed to remain at the twenty something ranking we currently hold.

Lastly, it is good for the morale of our student body. When someone is in a suit everyday in September and other students can't scrap an interview, resentments are sure to abound. It is unfortunate that we really have two schools within one. Some students can compete for jobs with Yale and Harvard and others have a difficult time getting heard. The Law School will be better served if we close the gap between these two student realities. All of our students pay top dollar to study here (as pointed out by so many authors, we are a cash cow to the university). This law school owes every student an equal shot at jobs.

The arguments against this system would be that it would scare off employers or at the very least annoy them. That may be true, does that mean they will not interview here? I don't think so. This is exactly the market in which we should transition to the nationally preeminent place most of us think we are capable of being. Firms are raising salaries and competing in a tight labor market. Could prominent firms really afford to simply skip interviewing here and see our graduates gobbled up elsewhere? The answer is no, but they may grumble. If we establish this now, then firms will simply accept that this is the way we do things and continue to come here.

I do not write this as a veiled attack on a merit based system. Ultimately, firms will hire those students who they feel are qualified. We should just have the attitude as a Law School that all of our students are qualified. If you agree with this editorial and have gone through the *FIP*, let me know and I will circulate a petition to give to both the administration and the Student Bar Association. Finally, the CDO does a good job with the staff and resources they have. Everyone over there has been helpful and willing to listen. This editorial is aimed at the policy the administration sets regarding our image and employment recruiting policy. It is time for a change.

Christopher J. Gawley
Second Year
Cjgawley@gwu.edu

I don't want to go off on a rant here...

Dear Editor:

A few short weeks ago I came upon this semester's first edition of *Nota Bene* and, to be frank, was quite happy to see that the editors, staff, etc. got back together and decided to continue with its normal functions. To be completely honest, I find that the paper offers one of the strongest voices to the students at this school. I realize that although as a 1L my voice is a puerile one, *Nota Bene* nonetheless offers law school students such as myself an outlet to express my thoughts about George Washington University, (as long as the matter is appropriate, of course). But what disturbed me about last semesters' mention of the discontinuation of the paper is that no one, besides maybe the editors of the paper and Professor Banzaff, displayed concern that it might be put to rest. Complaints abound in this law school, and it seems that the best way to express them is through this

paper (no reference to grades, as that might take up a four volume treatise).

I don't want to go off on a rant here, but can anyone explain to me why we have one of the most appallingly equipped computer labs that I have ever seen? I don't want to hear anyone defending our lab, if you are defending it then you probably have no idea what "e-commerce" means. What I am trying to say is that the technology in our lab is antiquated, if you would like an example please refer to the dot matrix printers. I don't even think it is possible to buy a dot matrix printer unless you can find one in a scrap heap. I believe that the administration continues to use them to prevent students from printing out an endless amount of documents. Why not use the copy card and pay for better printouts, you might be asking? I have been forced to be-

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LAW SCHOOL NEWS

LETTER FROM PAGE 2

come a patron at the Froggy Bottom Tavern so that I might take advantage of their Saturday night, \$10 all you can drink special, hence using a copy card is not the alternative that I had in mind.

Secondly, what is the deal with these "breakfasts with Dean Young." I believe that the idea is completely sound. It's actually refreshing that the dean of a law school, or for that matter any school of higher education, would take the time to sit down and address any of the problems us students may be having. But why does it have to be at 9:00 or 10:00 in the morning? Doesn't that discriminate against evening students. I have trouble attending not because I regularly have a freshman hangover, but because I have class. I would love to attend one of these gatherings, so that I could ask why we have dot matrix printers instead of laser jet printers. Or why none of the computers in our facility have CD-ROM drives. (If the undergraduates have them, I think we should be entitled to comparable hardware.) What I mean is that there are gross inadequacies present. As Matt Bryant expressed in the last edition, we don't even have any housing, forcing many of us to commute.

The point of my little rant is not to vent any anger I have toward the school. I realize that this is a phenomenal law school. What I am trying to convey to anyone reading this article is that this paper is a powerful tool. Use it. Contribute articles, talk about issues that are bothering you in reference to our administration, especially the way that they seem to be spending our money. My solution to the printer problem: we should use the money that pays for those stale bagels at the dean's breakfast and put it towards some new printers, preferably not the dot matrix variety.

Michael Andrew Orozco
First Year

If you would like to submit a letter or article to *Nota Bene*, please put it on disk in WordPerfect or Rich Text format. All submission for the next issue should be delivered to the *Nota Bene* box in the Record's Office by Thursday, February 24 at 5:00 p.m.
Questions? 202-676-3879

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The Binder Please: Professors get the Grade from their Students

By JENNY SPLITTER
Opinions Editor

Are you one of those students who brood over those professor evaluations at the end of every semester? Or are you the type who steals the pencil and just throws the evaluation in the trash? Either way, some students feel like the evaluations do little good because no one ever sees them.

"Every time I fill an evaluation out, I wonder if the professor ever really looks at them," Angela Hsu commented.

In anticipation of registration for next fall, a lengthy examination of the "rate the professor overall" category in the spring evaluation binders revealed just which professors do well by GW law students and which do not.

Most professors score between a 3 (average) and a 4 (very good). Very few professors get more than a 4 from students. Some first year subjects generally garner low marks for their professors. Property professors Brauneis, Johnston and Schwartz did not do better than a 3.42 (Brauneis), with the lowest score, a 3.34, going to Professor Johnston. Only Professor Steinhardt escaped a lackluster score. Students gave him a 4.54, making Steinhardt a high-scorer for the semester.

Constitutional law students overall like their professors much better. The lowest rating was only 3.65, given to Professor Cheh, whereas the high marks went to Professor Maggs, who scored a 4.76. Professor Clark (3.73), Dienes (3.95) and Barron (4.49) all fell somewhere in between.

Contracts professors also fared much better. Professors Wilmarth (4.26), Van Alstine (4.37) and Hamburger (4.05) all broke the 4 mark, with Professor Thomas (3.77) and Professor Lerman (3.42) trailing a bit behind (Professor Kovacic's evaluations were not in the binders).

The range was closer in Civil Procedure. Professor Molot was the low-scorer at 3.6 while Professor Raven-Hansen scored a 4.21. Professors Shaffner (3.65), Schaffner (3.94), and Friedenthal (4.03) did not fall far

behind.

A precious few professors were able to earn an average 5 score from their students. Professor Johnston was apparently able to escape the reputation he earned from Property students. His PR students gave him a 5.0.

The only other professor to score a 5.0 is Professor Halpern, who teaches a Tax Policy Seminar. Other top high scorers are the aforementioned Maggs, Hourcle for Federal Facilities (4.67), and Butler for Criminal Procedure (4.62). Close behind are Lees (4.6) for Government Contracts and Brown (4.57) for International Taxation I.

There are also the low-scorers. The very lowest score went to Professors Cooney (2.25) for Business Planning Marks (2.39) for Lawyers, Lobbying & the Law and Van Hoogs (2.80) for International Trade. Also included in the top low score list are Professors Sloan (3.0) for Appellate Practice and Sharpe (3.08) for Remedies.

The low scorers happen to generally teach smaller classes. For most scores, students can check the binders, located on the first floor of the library, for the professor of their choice.

Here is a short list of some other more well-known professors and courses. Professor Kovacic earned a 3.48 for Antitrust and Professor Lupu earned a 4.44 for a Constitutional Law Seminar. In Administrative Law, Professors Park and Schwartz both earned a 3.76, Professor Pierce scored a 3.74 and Professor Banzhaf scored a 3.40. For International Law, Professor Burgenthal scored a 3.2 from his students.

In the area of International Business Transactions, Professor Murphy earned a 3.13, while Professor Alexandrov earned a 3.83. Corporations Professor Wilmarth earned a 4.02 while Federal Income Tax Professor Peroni earned a 4.15. Finally, in the area of Intellectual Property, Professor Mossinghoff scored a 3.88, Brauneis a 3.9, Oman a 3.91 and Adelman a 4.08.

The evaluations currently kept in the library are generally spring courses only. Next fall, students can check on the rest of their professors.



Maggs consistently scores well in student reviews.

POLLS FROM PAGE 1

President Al Gore and Arizona Senator John McCain. Senator McCain wrapped up the Law School's republican nomination with a two (2) unequivocal votes, a landslide for our purposes.

Vice President Gore, however, made a very strong showing and took the day with three (3) votes.

What This Means

With such a pathetic showing of interest in, or opinion of, "hard news", I directed my remaining efforts to those whom I expected had something to say. These three classmates of ours probably would not agree on much, but they do depict an interesting "State of the Union".

Not surprisingly, all three brought up one common theme on their own accord—and this theme is, I think, the lesson of the polling responses—stagnation of the political process and the resulting lack of interest on behalf of students and voters.

The President of the GW Law School Chapter of the Federalist Society, Matthew Hank, has direct experience with the apparent student apathy. Mr. Hank, in fact, doesn't regard it as apathy, but as student preoccupation. Most students, he believes, want to be politically active and moreover, under the proper circumstances, will be. To support this Mr. Hank cites various Society sponsored events which have procured handsome attendance and heated debate.

Mr. Hank does acknowledge, however, that the

students' "time is extremely limited so getting them to attend a discussion of law and public policy requires an extensive explanation of the topic's importance and why our speakers are qualified to explore the subject." The success the Society has experienced is result of the hard work its officers advertising the event and the issue it represents. This serves to focus student interest.

The Chapter President of The National Lawyers Guild, Zachary Wolfe, spoke more generally and addressed the apparent apathy of society large. Curiously, Mr. Wolfe shared a general observation with Mr. Hank: lack of participation is not an indicator of outright apathy.

To support this, Mr. Wolfe (speaking strictly for himself and not for the Guild which, like the Federalist Society, does not endorse candidates or comment on the campaign) cited the campaign of Bill Bradley as "the most encouraging development in mainstream politics" for some time. Mr. Wolfe himself admits that Bill Bradley is the first candidate in a long time for whom he would be happy to support, rather than merely accept as the lesser of two evils.

Mr. Wolfe indicates the growth of the moderate movement has usurped the Democratic ideals of his party. According to Mr. Wolfe, the Democratic party in recent years has abandoned its representation of low-income and working class people, as well as its commitment to provide quality education in public schools and a sound health care system for the nation. These issues, urges Mr. Wolfe, are important to the people and their abandonment has led to the people's abandonment of the political process.

These concerns are repeated in my "man on the street" interview with Aaron Schlossberg, a 1L from Phila-

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LAW SCHOOL NEWS

NOTICE

from the CDO

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RANKINGS FROM PAGE 1

student. The schools in the Top 50 will usually aspire to a more challenging curriculum because of the quality of their students."

When asked why GW's MD bar pass rate for 1997-1998 fell below that of previous years, Transrud could offer no explanation. Instead, he pointed out that for the most recent exam with the majority of first-time testers sitting for the New York bar, GW had a 90% bar pass rate, comparable to bar pass rates of other highly ranked law schools such as Georgetown and NYU.

Transrud went on to suggest that, besides examining the school's efforts in preparing its students for the test, one should consider the students' role in guaranteeing their own success. "It's been my experience that those students who do not believe in intense preparation prior to the bar due to the fact that they've received good grades throughout their law school career tend to perform more poorly than those who take test preparation seriously."

Transrud again emphasized that GW students are more than capable of succeeding at the bar even when they have left it to bar preparation courses to teach them the subject material. When asked what students who can't afford to take such a course should do, Transrud replied, "They should borrow the money."

Some students are concerned about the administration's failure to address the bar pass rate and the school's slip in the US News and World Report law school rankings. As Jenny Splitter commented, "I know it's not supposed to matter so much but I came to GW because it was in the Top 20. Now we're number 25 and who knows where we'll be this year. Is the school even doing anything about it?"

Transrud explained that our bar pass rate had nothing to do with last year's five point slip in US News. "We were hurt last year by the magazine's decision to use a cost of living adjustment in its comparison of resources available to law schools. This benefited law schools in rural areas which the rankings reflect."

In his personal opinion, the cost of living adjustment is not reflective of an accurate ranking because in terms of attracting a strong student body and faculty, urban institutions have consistently held an advantage over rural law schools. "The fact is, we've successfully recruited faculty from Texas, Illinois, Colorado and other more ru-

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delphia. Mr. Schlossberg who supports John McCain, indicated that the actual differences between the candidates these days are "de minimis."

Mr. Schlossberg cited education and Medicare, as well as improving the executive enforcement of criminal law as important national issues, but suggested that, especially in time of peace and prosperity, it takes an honest and forthright leader to rally public support.

According to Mr. Schlossberg, "what is important to me is that when the leader of my country stands up to tell me his agenda or his desires, he does not cloud serious notions over with euphemistic platitudes which mean nothing."

Mr. Schlossberg would prefer to have to stomach a decision with which he does not entirely agree, if he knows the true motives behind it; rather than a decision couched in rhetoric and political evasiveness designed to pander to public emotion. He likens this to our study of cases: either side can persuasively argue their position, at issue is the interpretation of various theories and standards of measure—in the political realm this is equitable to the honest presentation of issues and goals.

"I want to be proud to be part of a nation that prides itself on its devotion to justice, and I want this devotion to be evident through the actions and words of its president." According to Mr. Schlossberg, John McCain is the man for the job.

The Next Four Years

Everyone agrees, to some extent, that the Nation needs to "come together" to reestablish the standard of

government. To what end? This is where participation comes in.

Mr. Wolfe thinks its about time to we listen to a man like Bradley who advocates using the Federal Government to address "pressing political and social problems. We shouldn't leave our collective short comings to private corporations or to the states, we should all come together as a nation and turn our attention to problems of poverty and the disparity between our Nation's economic growth and the declining standards of living many are experiencing."

Mr. Hank urges a coming together of a different nature. To Mr. Hank, the continuing tendency to "federalize every social problem" is contrary to our political foundations. To this end he urges that "it is time for Americans to evaluate the current delineation of Federal and State responsibilities and whether this squares with the Constitution or just plain common sense."

Mr. Schlossberg isn't the only one who wants to be proud to be part of this nation. To there respective ends, organizations like the Federalist Society and the National Lawyers Guild and numerous others, submit their platforms and issues for your consideration. Many of these organizations have a presence in our own school.

The debate framed by Mr. Hank and Mr. Wolfe is both sufficiently intriguing and challenging. This very debate, to some extent, has compelled each of us all to devote our studies, our funds and ultimately our careers to law.

We may not be lawyers yet, but this shouldn't preclude us from utilizing this scholastic environment and the unique resources it provides to address issues that we, sooner or later, must face.

The Nota Bene stands ready as your forum.

You are invited to attend

ORAL ARGUMENTS FOR THE 2000 GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS MOOT COURT COMPETITION!

Review the problem at

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1ST Round: Saturday, March 25, 9:00 a.m., 10:45 a.m.,
1:00 p.m., 2:45 p.m., GW Law School

Semi-finals: Saturday, April 1, 9:00 a.m., 10:45 a.m.,
1:00 p.m., 2:45 p.m., GW Law School

Final Round: Tuesday, April 11, 6:00 p.m.
Howard T. Markey National Courts Building
717 Madison Place, Washington, D.C.

This year's competition sponsored by:

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SBA ELECTIONS SPECIAL

For President:

Joanne Vella



My name is Joanne Vella, and I am running for the office of SBA President. I'm currently a 2L Representative, and I was last year's 1L Representative for Section 13. Having been active in the SBA

for the past year and a half, I have a solid understanding of the organization's structure and the "way things work." My experience in the SBA, and my dedication to serving the students' interests, make me an excellent choice for the SBA's next President.

My first impression of the Law School was very favorable. I can still remember much of Preview Day, April 1998. The energetic and collegial atmosphere of GW really caught my attention. The administration, faculty, and students all spoke both candidly and highly of the Law School. I found GW to be quite different from all of the other law schools to which I applied. When students at other schools spoke can-

didly to me, they often did not have many favorable things to say. I share this with you to emphasize that from Day One, I knew GW was not a typical law school. My continued belief in the spirit of GW leads me to run for SBA President.

If elected SBA President, I plan to accomplish the following: more active recruitment of small and medium-sized firms and government agencies, in addition to the established Fall Interviewing Program; greater recycling efforts in the Law School; greater emphasis on student/alumni relations, and more.

I look forward to serving you, and hope for your vote on February 23, 2000.

Jason Twinings*



*profile not available

For 2L Representative:

Emily Hargrove



My name is Emily Hargrove. I am a 1L day student in Section 14 and I am running for SBA 2L Day representative. I am currently the Section 14 representative and a member of the SBA committee for Minority Affairs. I have enjoyed working with my section and the SBA and would like the opportunity to continue my involvement next year as a 2L.

As section representative it is my job to keep my fellow classmates informed of what is going on in the SBA and in the law school in general. I think it is important for students to have a way of voicing their opinions. It is my job to listen to the students comments and concerns, to take their questions to those who have the answers, and make sure their concerns are addressed. I have worked hard to do all these things for my section this year and would continue to do so as a 2L representative.

My experience as a first year representative has equipped me with the knowledge of how the SBA works and the skills to represent the concerns of the second

Phil Tahtakran

My name is Phil Tahtakran and I am seeking the opportunity to represent you next year in the SBA.

The SBA has made a serious impact on my first year law school experience. The

kegs on the quad, the Halloween Party, and Bar Reviews every Thursday night are just some of the activities that have made this first year so much fun. As your representative, I promise to maintain this great record of social opportunities.

However, I think there are some areas that can be improved upon. The turnout at some of these events can definitely be improved. I think I can accomplish this by not only planning events, but by hyping them up more.

I believe that the SBA has the power to accomplish even more at this university by specifically addressing your concerns and suggestions. It should be mandatory for section representatives to hold weekly office hours in the soft lounge. This is the first step in making sure that our demands are finally heard.

The computer facilities in our library are unacceptable. I just don't see why we are expected to walk over to the undergraduate library in order to print at no cost, or wait two hours to print something out on dot matrix printers.

I will demand that our tuition money is kept here and utilized effectively. We give this university a lot of money, and if we are unified, we can make things happen.

Julie Hordt

profile not available

For Vice President (day):

Robyn Herman

So, you want to know why I am running for Vice-President of the SBA? Good question. It's not because I am crazy, or even masochistic. (Well, maybe a little bit crazy). I am having a great time in law school, I love GW, and I want to help other students enjoy GW as much as I do.



We pay a lot of money and work really hard to be here, I think we should enjoy ourselves while we're here. I have seen

the SBA go through many changes during my two terms as a representative, sponsoring more events, and working more closely with the faculty and administration to represent student interests. But, there is always room for improvement. I want to keep the momentum going, and build on the progress that we have made so far.

I have worked hard in the SBA for the last year and half and I want to continue to work hard to make GW Law a great place to be. Vote for me for vice-president, and let's keep the momentum going.

Celia Smoot

Most people know me as being jovial, personable, concerned, generous, and forthright. My vision for the SBA is Cohesion, Enjoyment, Laughter, Information, and Alliances. My involvement in SBA stems from my commitment to student voices in administrative decisions. That is why I

For 3L Representative:

Andrea Agathoklis



activities of the SBA.

As a 1L, I served as a member of the Program Board Committee, and this past year I served as Program Board Director. In this capacity, I oversaw and implemented many of the law school's social activities, including Barrister's Buzz, Bar Reviews, the Golf Outing, the Halloween Party, the End of Semester Party, the Atlantic City trip, and finally the upcoming Barrister's Ball.

It is my hope that if elected, I can be involved in planning many of the Commencement-related activities and events to ensure our final year of law school is one to remember. More importantly, however, I hope to serve as an advocate of the needs and priorities of the 3L-Day class to the SBA at large. To accomplish that end, I will diligently and faithfully attend all SBA meetings and functions, and will do my best to relay any important information to the 3L class, specifically by creating a 3L-Day list serve.

In sum, I believe I have the necessary experience and commitment to effec-

choose to become involved with Student/Faculty committees, particularly the curriculum committee. As students we all have a right to know vital information about administrative decisions or changes that may affect our school environment.

The SBA should address the needs and concerns of all students and do their best to entertain the ideas of our diverse student body. But with our differences we have other things in common besides just attending law school together. There are some core issues that the whole student body is affected by and are concerned about. We all should realize that this is suppose to be some of the best times of our life. The SBA should have a role in helping to create some wonderful memories.

As an undergraduate, I assumed numerous leadership positions. Specifically in the area of student government, I served as a Representative for the College of Arts and Sciences as well as Chair of the Clubs and Organizations committee. Here at GW, I became actively involved in BLSA as Social Chair and 1L Liaison.

Most of all, I am a person who cares deeply about quality of life, that includes making the most of the time that we have and making personal connections with the people around us.

tively represent the 3L Day class and I thank you for your support.

Brooke Horiuchi

Hi, I'm Brooke Horiuchi and I am running for 3L Day representative. I want to be your representative for three reasons.

First, for the past year and a half, I have been involved actively with the SBA as an appointed member of a student-faculty committee and as a co-director of First Year Programs. I would like to continue my involvement with SBA as your elected representative.

Second, I plan to continue and improve on the events planned for 3Ls (but open to the entire law school population). SBA received very positive feedback from these well-attended events. The 3L reps would plan these events in conjunction with the Commencement chair. I would like to plan for a visit to the Kennedy Center and to some of the local sporting teams.

Third, I plan to be an active voice for 3L concerns to the SBA board. If you have issues or ideas that you would like to see implemented, please drop me a note or an e-mail (horiuchi@gwu.edu). I hope I have your vote on Wednesday, February 23rd.



Write-In:

James Pizzirusso for SBA Vice President

FEATURES

Where Does My Tuition Go?

BY ANDREW AINSWORTH
Staff Writer

Like many people, I began the new year on a philosophical note. I don't mean that I pondered the sound of one hand clapping or the purpose of life—my questions were more practical. I thought about how much weight I wanted to lose, whether to buy a gym membership that I'll never use—you know, the usual new year's resolution stuff. But one day as I made out a check to GW in the amount of \$12,550 a strange sensation came over me, and I visualized myself throwing my tuition into a giant black hole. It was at that moment that I asked myself the question that has consumed me ever since: Where does my tuition go?

A few obvious answers came to mind: salary for professors, utility bills, and of course the brand new chalkboard by the elevator. But these expenses accounted for only a fraction of my tuition. You see, if there are 1,600 students at the law school each paying \$25,100 in annual tuition, then we law students pay a total of \$40,160,000 for tuition each year. That's right, over forty MILLION dollars. When I realized this, the little inconveniences at school that I had previously tolerated began to really annoy me.

Take the bathrooms, for example. I'm eternally grateful for the running water that our school so benevolently provides, but for \$25,100 a year is it too much to ask that it come out of the faucet warm? Apparently those hot water knobs on the bathroom faucets are just a big tease. And as if the glacier runoff coming out of the faucets isn't bad enough, the administration has seen to it that each bathroom is fully equipped with a pair of defective soap dispensers. If you're one of the first fifty students of the week to use a bathroom, you may even be lucky enough to find a paper towel, or even a coveted toilet seat cover!

While we're at it, why not discuss the classrooms? I am sick and tired of sitting on these crooked, back-breaking chairs that are tilted sideways at a 45 degree angle. Does the law school have a racket going with the local chiropractors? And why do the basement, first, and second floor classrooms feel like a meat locker? Apparently, someone in the administration thinks that room temperature means 28 degrees Fahrenheit. I swear I could see my breath the other night in my Environmental Law class. Of course in the summer the school's climate control policy is reversed, and classroom conditions are made to resemble the Sahara desert as closely as possible. When that happens, don't bother trying to get a breeze going in your classroom, because when the classrooms were built someone in the administration apparently thought it was a bad idea to install windows

that could actually open. Heaven forbid we allow any fresh air to invade our dark, musty environment.

I must say, however, that without question the Biggest Waste of Student Tuition Award goes to the law school library. I'm not referring to the perpetually broken staplers that are for some unknown reason located where there are no printers or copiers around. Nor am I referring to the downstairs copiers that date back to the Jurassic period. (Can anybody tell me if those copiers serve any purpose other than providing full-time jobs for repairmen?) What I'm talking about is the library door monitors.

Until recently, entering the library required showing your student ID card to a door monitor whose sole duty was to check ID's. Although the job of these door monitors couldn't get any easier and still technically be considered a job, at least one of them found his or her work too difficult. As you will recall, there was a string of thefts in the library last semester. After the thief was apprehended, I spoke with one of the students whose laptop had been stolen. He told me that the thief had been entering the library with a stolen student ID. He couldn't figure out how the thief had been able to use the student's ID because one of them was Caucasian-American and the other was African-American. Wouldn't the door monitors have noticed this discrepancy if they were paying attention?

In an apparent reaction to the incompetence of the door guards, the library recently installed locked turnstiles that unlock when a student runs his or her ID card through a scanner. When the turnstiles were installed, I expected the door monitors to get 86'd just like Debbie Gibson, Swatch watches, and pegged pants. But my expectation that the door monitors would be terminated now that they were totally obsolete was based on an assumption that was utterly false: that when the law school spends our hard earned (or borrowed) money, it seeks to do so efficiently. You have to appreciate the logic of the situation: While school administrators tell us they don't have any money to provide us with Internet access, they pay people to sit at the library door and read the National Enquirer.

Even if the door monitors make only minimum wage, which I seriously doubt, it costs the school \$10,920 a year to employ a door monitor for eight hours a day, five days a week. As our tuition and enrollment continue to increase, can the administration justify such wasteful spending when it doesn't even provide us with the basics like paper towels, sturdy chairs, and adequate heating? It's time we law students stop tolerating our pathetic facilities and start demanding an honest return for the tens of millions of dollars we dump each year into the black hole otherwise known as GW law.

Let's Play

Twenty Questions

1. Why does the foil always stick to the pretzels you buy from the cart lady?
2. Should claustrophobic people be allowed in the library?
3. How many people actually get a job through the CDO?
4. Has anyone ever seen Dean Young?
5. Do you ever get the urge to write "I will not chew gum in class" all over the chalk board by the elevator?
6. Is Au Bon Pain really the law school cafeteria?
7. Can the people who put flyers in our mailboxes ever go "postal"?
8. How many of you sleep in the soft lounge?
9. Why is it faster to take the stairs than the elevator?
10. Who is willing to represent me if I get quashed, I mean crushed, by the elevator doors?
11. Why do people try to study in the hard lounge at noon?
12. Why isn't there a microwave in the soft lounge?
13. Shouldn't we get a number to wait for the computers in the 2nd floor computer lab?
14. Now that the gates in the library work, what will the "show me your ID people" do?
15. Should going to school here actually cost \$40,000 a year?
16. Is GW still using the same salt from two weeks ago to pad the stairs coming into the law school?
17. Did someone at GW forget to pay the heating bills?
18. Who knows the difference among Lerner, Burns, and Stockton Halls?
19. When leaving the classrooms, why do people only use one side of the double doors?
20. Just what is "hard news" anyway?

ALUMNI INTERVIEW: Life After GW Law

BY ANGELIA WADE
Staff Writer

Law school. We all hope to get out of here some day and get a job. When there are cases that must be read and motions that must be filed, it looks as though the end is nowhere in sight. Well you and I know that 3 years or less from now, esquire will be added to the end of your name. Suddenly, the textbook comes to life, or in theory that is supposed to happen. I caught up with a GW alumnus, Marshall Knight, from the class of 1999, and asked him to shed some light on both life at GW and after.

Brief Background:

Name: Marshall Knight

Year of Graduation: 1999

Undergraduate University: Morehouse College, Atlanta Georgia, Class of 1996

Age: 25

Angelia: What are currently doing?

Marshall: I am an attorney at Nextel

Communications, in the Business Development Department.

Angelia: What did you take from George Washington that has been most useful to you in your current position?

Marshall: The clinical experiences I had have been the most helpful. I was a participant in the Consumer Mediation Clinic and the DC Law Students in Court. I have found that what I learned in class was rarely beneficial, per se, in the real world. The clinics gave the real world experience.

Angelia: Where do you see attorneys today and in the future?

Marshall: I see attorneys in their current roles of still being movers and shakers. Attorneys are vital, but that very need for them causes a lot of angst in societies. Therefore, it is imperative that we present ourselves in a favorable light and that we remain fair and honest in all of our dealings. The economy is good and the outlook for employment seems to be very good as well. It's important to remember that practically any career path can be followed when you have JD behind your name.

Angelia: Do you have any professional contact with other GW alumni and have you found that contact to be useful?

Marshall: Yes, I have contacts with other grads of the school, but I have not taken advantage of them. I believe that if I need too, those contacts will be very useful.

Angelia: How helpful did you find the CDO?

Marshall: The Career Development Office was very helpful. The office itself (where the postings are located) was organized, current, and the resources were good. I found Marianna [Blackburn] to be a nice person. Most of the staff that was there when I first came to GW are gone. They were not very personable and could have used a course in people skills. I didn't feel they were too responsive to minority students, particularly the African American students.

Angelia: What were some of your activities at GW Law?

Marshall: Aside from the clinics, I was secretary of the Black Law Students Association and once served as treasurer

for the Entertainment and Sports Law Association.

Angelia: What advice do you have for current students?

Marshall: I would tell students that grades are important and they definitely make life easier in respect to getting a job. However, networking may very well be just as important. I also give them equal weight.

Angelia: Any reflections?

Marshall: I went through law school with a statement that Jack Friedenthal made to my class when we entered in 1996. He said that "A" students make judges, "B" students make professors, and "C" students make money!

If you have any questions you would like to ask Marshall about Nextel or life as a member of corporate counsel, you can email him at Marshall.Knight@Nextel.com.

Also, if you know of a graduate of the law school or have questions that you would like to have posed to some of the alumni, please email them to Angelia Wade at awade@law.gwu.edu.

FEATURES

It's the HEAT Stupid: Why We Suffer the Cold...

BY TASHIBA JONES
Staff Writer

BRRRR...IT'S COLD!

You try to fight it, but your effort is in vain. You make an effort not to think about it, but it is useless. Eventually, realizing that the situation is hopeless, you succumb to the overwhelming circumstances confronting you. You are freezing. You are in the law school.

Last month we experienced some of the coldest days of the winter season, with temperatures barely reaching the low 20's. Surprisingly, some of the bitterest spots were not outside, but inside the law school.

Students have attempted, in vain, to brave the low temps in the law school by wearing their winter outer garments during class and filling up on warm beverages, such as coffee and hot chocolate. These attempts have only resulted in students being over-preoccupied during lectures and overdosed on caffeine. Moreover, most students feel that they should not have to resort to these measures just to stay warm.

So exactly why are the classrooms so unpleasantly cold? As I have asked my fellow classmates and myself this question a million times over the past few weeks, I have never been quite satisfied with the answers. Again and again, I hear myself mumbling

beneath my breath about how much I pay for tuition and if GWU cannot provide anything else, it should at least provide us with heat. So, I have taken it upon myself to seek the answer to this most pressing inquiry.

My search led me first and foremost to the man who has control over the temps in the law school – Dean Thomas Morrison, Assistant Dean for Alumni and Administrative Affairs. When asked the million-dollar question, Dean Morrison admitted that his aim is to keep the law school at a “comfortable” temperature somewhere between the upper 60s and low 70s. He maintains that the majority of the time, this goal is reached, but occasionally problems do arise.

Problem 1: Rapid change in the weather. “When one day is hot and the next day is cold, it is difficult to change the system over so quickly because it is not designed for rapid change,” Dean Morrison explained. “Normally, it takes the system one to two days to accommodate.” Thus, Mother Nature’s unexpected changes in the weather have a little something to do with the temps in the law school. Yet, this does not fully explain why it is cold when the temperatures have been relatively consistent – which leads us to the next dilemma.

Problem 2: The windows in Stockton. Admittedly, Dean

Morrison says that the windows in Stockton are not the best insulated, and as such, an occasional gust of cold air may breeze in the classrooms. Yet, he also suggests that students opening the windows for fresh air aid in throwing the system off balance. Still, this did not seem to account for the cold classrooms in Lerner and Burns, during those weeks with steady weather.

Problem 3: Student tampering. Dean Morrison purports that the system is not designed to be changed on a daily basis and when students rip the covers off of the thermostats, they do more harm than good by causing the thermostat to malfunction.

This sentiment is echoed by service worker Ernest Hayes, who contends that student tampering is the number one reason for the brutal temperatures in the law school. “The thermostat covers are nailed to prevent students from changing the temperatures,” Mr. Hayes explains, “but they come into a classroom and if it is too cold or too hot, they rip the cover off and change the temperature.” As a result of students’ misfeasance, the rooms are either abnormally hot

or cold until someone fixes the broken thermostats, which takes time.

As it turns out, my initial suspicion and worst fear had been alleviated by finding out that there

was no truth to the rumors that the rooms are deliberately cold to keep the students awake. Seemingly, the source of my anger had been misdirected and instead of blaming the law school for the icy temperatures of the rooms, I should have been blaming the real culprits – my fel-

low law students.

Quite often, the importance of a comfortable classroom setting is overlooked and underestimated in favor of more conventional ideas of what is influential for a productive learning atmosphere. Once you take notes during a lecture with your gloves on, however, or are high on a caffeine buzz because you are trying to stay warm, you realize how crucial the temperature of a classroom is.

When students opt for self-help and change the temperatures on the thermostats themselves, not only are they disregarding others who will later use that room, but

also they are fostering an uncomfortable learning environment in which others will have to function.

Still, given these repercussions, some students will continue to take matters in to their own hands and accommodate themselves by changing the thermostat.

A first year student, who wishes to remain nameless, says that he will continue to accommodate himself by changing the thermostats in the rooms. “If I come into a room and it is too hot, my sinuses will start to drain,” he explained. “Seventy degrees is too hot for a classroom, even in the winter time.”

What can you do to stay warm in class? Dean Morrison contends that the answer for warmth is not found in large coats (an idea that is consistent with the size of our lockers), but instead is in “being prepared.” He suggests that students keep an extra sweatshirt in their locker or wear insulated vests to class.

In addition, he also cautions students to be mindful where they sit in class since obviously those who have a seat near a window or directly under an air vent may feel an occasional breeze.

The lessons to be learned are: dress appropriately in heavy layers with a light coat, if you must drink something at all, let it be tea, and the next time that you see someone tampering with the thermostat, bring them to me.



Morrison, the well tempered Dean.

The George Washington Law School Student Bar Association presents

Barrister's Ball

Saturday, February 19, 2000
nine o'clock p.m. to one o'clock a.m.

at

The Mayflower Hotel

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~Open Bar from 9:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.~
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~D.J. & Dancing~

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Questions? Please see Andrea Agathoklis, 2L Day or Nathan Williams, 3L Day.

FEATURES

Somebody Out There Doesn't Like Me

Unless you have been under a rock the past two weeks, a certain professor, who shall remain nameless, has suggested that my column should be replaced by more "hard news" about the Law School. Well, I'm here to tell you, the Law School community, that the Balcony will remain open until the Law School community tells me that I should board it up. So, I need some feedback from everybody—students, professors, administrators... even the CDO. I want to know if my column should be replaced by a bi-weekly rundown of the SBA minutes, or a continuing series on the new Law School building, which may be built by the time my kids are applying to GW. Please drop me an email at "mgeller@law.gwu.edu," or leave me a note in my mailbox (2L—Day), and tell me if you want the Balcony to remain open. Now, on to the movie reviews.

Eye Of The Beholder

Did you ever go to the dentist to get a filling? You sit down in the chair, and all you hear is crappy soft rock music in the background. Then the dentist comes in, and takes out the Novocain needle, and says, "This isn't going to hurt a bit," but you know it's going to hurt, and when you get stuck, it hurts like hell. The worst part is when the Novocain doesn't take, and the dentist has to stick you again.

Finally, when you can't feel your face,

you hear the piercing sound of the drill, and you know that, at that moment, you are having one of the worst days of your life. I did not think any non-dental activity could top that feeling of utter dread that you get while you are in the dentist's chair.

Well, hold on to your Bar-Bri mugs, because I took part in such a mind-numbing painful activity—I sat through the cinematic torture that is *Eye of the Beholder*.

There is not one redeeming quality to this film, and I use the term "film" loosely. A better description for the movie would be "steaming pile of dog feces." *Waterworld* was awful, but it was filmed almost entirely on water, and that took some genuine effort. Any film with Jean-Claude Van Damme is bound to be bad, but the fight scenes are usually entertaining. *Showgirls* had some gratuitous nudity for the frat-boy crowd. But *Eye of the Beholder* is devoid of anything even remotely worthwhile.

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Let's see if I have the plot right.

Ewan McGregor plays an investigator for the British Consulate in D.C. He is observing his subject when he spots Ashley Judd. Well, McGregor drops everything and decides to follow Judd all over

the country, and watch her

through all of his high-tech secret-agent gizmos.

During this

time,

McGregor

secretly ob-

serves Judd

as she kills

random men,

but McGregor

does nothing. Oh,

McGregor has

imaginary conversations

with his daughter, who was taken from him.

That's it—that is the entire movie.

Watch as McGregor follows Judd to Chicago, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, New York, Boston, Utah, Alaska, and a couple of other places I blocked out of my memory. See Judd in different wigs and dark sunglasses. Be amazed by the stellar acting abilities of ... K.D. Lang, as McGregor's assistant?? McGregor is downright creepy as a technovoyeur. He doesn't do anything other than watch Judd, until the very end of the movie, when he almost kills her.

Judd, who may be one of the most beautiful women in show business today, is covered up for most of the film. Nobody wants to see Judd in fifty different wigs and countless numbers of dark eyewear. And nobody wants to see K.D. Lang on screen, period. The final scene, a car crash, looks like it was cut-and-pasted by a four-year old who somehow got access to the post-production crew. I walked out of the Union Station AMC theatre wanting to throw myself on the train tracks. It was that bad.

Eye of the Beholder should never have been produced. It will be a giant black spot on the careers of McGregor and Judd, whose careers, until now, seemed to be on meteoric rises. In the future, if you have an unwanted houseguest, and you want to get rid of him or her, just rent *Eye of the Beholder*, and your problems will be solved. Hey, I guess *Eye of the Beholder* does have a redeeming quality—people repellant.

Grade: F

Scream 3

Matt didn't want to go see *Scream 3* so I, Heather Fish, volunteered to write a few words about the movie. For the record, I hate scary movies. As a matter of fact before I saw the original *Scream* three years ago, the scariest movie I had seen was *Gremlins*. Now I have seen a total of three *Scream* movies. Unless it's not really a trilogy and there is a *Scream 4*, I am done with the horror genre.

I highly recommend *Scream 3* to anyone who saw the first two and liked them. Sequels are usually highly anticipated and poorly done, but *Scream 2* was up to par with the original. Until the very end, I couldn't figure out who the killers were. Thinking that there was no one left who would want to torment or kill our beloved heroine, Neve Campbell, I was skeptical about the ability of the last segment of the trilogy to scare or challenge me. I was wrong.

Without giving anything away, there's a film studio making "Stab 3." Surprise, surprise, people associated with the movie start turning up murdered. This time the killer(s) are leaving pictures of Neve's dead mother with the dearly departed. Neve is in hiding/seclusion from the rest of the world, until the masked lunatic(s) find her and call her at home. She shows up in Hollywood to help the police and teams up with her old pals, Courtney Cox Arquette and David Arquette, to put an end to the killings. The rest you'll have to see on the big screen.

Wes Craven again managed to throw enough suspicion on lots of characters to keep you guessing about who would live, who would die, and who was doing the killing. The only thing you know for sure is that Courtney Cox Arquette has a really bad hair stylist. That alone might be enough to make you scream.

Grade: A

Ask Brenda & Kelly

Dear Brenda and Kelly: I'm blazed about going to The Barrister's Ball — especially since I'm currently in a great relationship. The problem is that, while I want to take this person, I'm not sure if GW can handle a gay couple at the ball. I'm not ashamed of my partner but I don't want to deal with obnoxious comments nor do I want to make a scene. Do you think this is such a good idea?

B: Even though I'd like to think that people in the law school are mature enough not to get excited over a gay couple at the "prom," I can imagine that you'll turn a few heads, receive a few snickers, and hear an obnoxious comment or two. Why do I have such little faith in my cohorts? Well, whenever I've gone to a GW social event like bar review or Barrister's Buzz, I've always felt like I'm at one big frat party and as I remember them, fraternities don't exactly promote alternative lifestyles. Not only have I never seen a same-sex couple at one of these things, I've only recently noticed more people of color in attendance. So you'd basically be entering uncharted waters here. That's not to say that you shouldn't do it but think about how much you're willing to put up with versus how important it is for you to go with this person. In the end, it may just be worth it to shake this school up a little.

K: Good news! Since the conservative posse at this school is always whining about how liberal everyone is at GW, you should have no problems. Slap on a pink triangle and party the night away. What? Oh, Brenda is reminding me that the conservative posse is full of shit. Most GW law students match the rest of DC — boringly moderate. They're not into confrontational politics. But that can cut both ways. While I'm sure no one will congratulate you on your bravery, I also doubt that anyone will kick your ass either. You're more likely to encounter stares and a lot of whispers. I think you *should* go because you don't want to get into the habit of hiding who you really are. Small steps like taking your honey to Barnister's will eventually make homophobes just plain get over it. (I mean, really, is there anyone left who still gets a kick out of hearing a straight guy go on and on about how gross homosexuality is? Boring! Like, could you just wake me up when you're done talking because I've heard this shtick already and it hasn't changed much since the ninth grade. Thanks!) One caveat, however. Bravery most often is its own reward. I've spoken up for some tough issues and, at the time, I think I was kind of expecting a TV movie of the week-esque ending where ev-

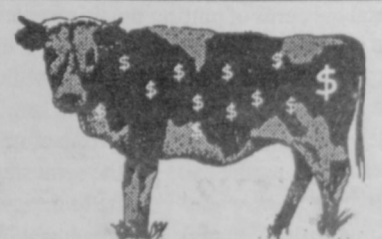
eryone applauds me and tells me how great I am. In the real world, you get nothing and like it. You just have to suck it up. Just make sure you're ready for that and then tell yourself, to hell with them, and have a great time.

Dear Brenda and Kelly: How can I describe how I feel after receiving my first-year grades? I think disappointed, humiliated and suicidal should cover it. I thought I studied as hard as everyone else and I came out of those finals thinking I did all right. I don't know how I could have been so wrong about how I did and how much I knew. I'm beginning to wonder if going to law school was really my calling. Should I give up or consider this a fluke?

B: Neither. Consider it a wake-up call of sorts. Okay, you heard all that crap in orientation where the speakers told you that if you got into GW, it means that you obviously did something right in college and that therefore, those same study strategies will work here. WRONG! I went to a top 20 university and did pretty well by waiting until finals to crack open my books. Did that work for me here first year? Let's just say that I'm not exactly on Law Review. You have to study much harder here and be much more disciplined. And of course, it's not how much but how efficiently. Talk to your professors NOW. Look at your past exams and get feedback, not only on your answers but how you might improve your study strategy. Talk to people who did well and see how they studied. And make your own outlines if you haven't been doing that and review, review, review! Don't waste time feeling sorry for yourself because you have a lot to do.

K: I just don't even want to answer this question because I'm still not really sure what does or does not work for me. Besides, your reward for making a journal is to spend your free time photocopying, bluebooking, reading articles that are way over your head and, best of all, writing a big fat paper on the legal practices of gorillas or something that probably won't get published anyway. But I would be a bad advice columnist if I didn't give you something. DO look at your exams. It will at least tell you what you're doing wrong and what you're doing right. DO spend some time trying to find the connection between certain study habits and your good answers. Ditch the study habits that did not produce for you. DON'T give up. DO date a professor and/or someone in the records office. Just kidding about the last one.

Write to Brenda & Kelly with your concerns, anxieties, drug problems, anything you like—if you're really lucky, these two hipsters may even respond!



WRITE for
NOTA BENE

CLINICS

From the Immigration Clinic... 3L Abrash Merges Clinic Experience and Post-Graduate Employment

BY HEATHER J. FISH
Features Editor

Third year Ingrid Abrash will be on her way to New York after graduation to work as an INS Trial Attorney, part of the prestigious DOJ Honors Program.

Unlike most law students who change their minds between first year and graduation about the kind of work they want to pursue, Ingrid knew before she came to law school that she wanted to do human rights work.

Ingrid spent her first summer in England participating in the Oxford International Human Rights Law Program. Upon her return, she was more excited than ever about the idea of doing human rights work. It was during Professor Benitez's immigration law class that Ingrid realized human rights work was available in the immigration context.

Last summer, Ingrid worked for DOJ's Asylum & Refugee Division and its Exams Division. Currently, Ingrid is participating in her second semester of the Immigration Law Clinic run by Professor Benitez.

According to Ingrid, "The clinic was the natural extension of what I had learned in class and at DOJ. I wanted to put it all into practice."

The two cases Ingrid is working on in clinic are very different. One of her clients is mentally impaired with a criminal record. INS is trying to remove him from the country based on a guilty plea. Ingrid is trying to have her client made a citizen and his conviction overturned.

Ingrid's second case involves a non-citizen married to a citizen. Due to INS bureaucracy, Ingrid's client has been waiting over a year for her visa to be approved. "These are run of the mill cases in immigration law, but they have shown me how stressful it is for immigrants like my clients to wait and wait, not knowing what is going to happen to them, not knowing what their fate is going to be."

After working on the immigrants' side of the aisle, Ingrid will be working for the government, the same bureaucracy that is trying to remove one of her current clients and holding up the visa process for the other one.

Ingrid admits that she is worried about the emotional strain of being an INS attorney because she is pro-immigrant. However, "if an immigrant has to run into immigration counsel, let it be me. Some attorneys are out for blood and take a hard line view, but that is not my position. I hope to adhere to the law in a dignified manner. It is emotional and upsetting to remove people, but you definitely run into cases where an immigrant should be removed, if that person committed murder for instance. The question is how to differentiate between each case. My hope is to be able to add integrity to the process."

During the application process and interview phase with DOJ, Ingrid made no secret about her position. When asked during an interview what she thought of the current immigration laws, she said the laws were "too restrictive and unfair." DOJ hired her anyway.

Though Ingrid also received an offer from the Executive Office of Immigration Review, she accepted the trial attorney position with INS. "To INS's credit, they are trying to create a group of trial attorneys who come from perspectives similar to my own."

Ingrid's advice to anyone who has an interest in a specific area of law is to intern for DOJ one summer or during the academic year. "There is no better place to learn the law. It is an immersion program."

Her other advice is to participate in a legal clinic. "Grades and journal membership are important, but they are not going to do it all. Practical experience is a plus. Clinic is an experience people need to have because you can have the best legal arguments in the world, but judges already know the law. You need to know how to do the nitty gritty work. Cases stand and fall on facts. Clinic teaches you that."

Small Business Clinic Helps Washington Area Artists

BY NICOLE ELLISON AND
JOHN GAMBACCINI
Special to the Nota Bene

The GW Small Business Clinic (SBC), through its historic partnership with Washington Area Lawyers for the Arts (WALA), represents Washington Area artists and nonprofit arts organizations. As a result of the SBC's commitment, in 1998 WALA presented the clinic with an award for Outstanding Service to the Arts Community.

Each semester the SBC accepts a substantial number of WALA's pro bono cases. This semester, for example, students are representing a nonprofit theater company and a men's chorus as well as, a for-profit a cappella vocal group and a music production company.

Josh Auxier (3L), a student helping a vocal group set up a company to distribute its music, explains, "The group presents a lot of cutting edge legal issues for me to deal with, such as the requirements and legal concerns of putting music samples on the internet. I am really glad that I'm able to help them realize their dreams while also learning about a new area of the law."

Victor Chen (3L) said, "one of my first telephone intake calls for the semester was from an actor who asked me to review a contract with a Talent Agent which would solicit work for the actor in a film."

Professor Jones (who runs the SBC) and I reviewed the Talent Agent Contract

and suggested several changes to the actor. In addition, we identified numerous questions the actor should ask the Talent Agent to assist him in negotiating the contract. It was really exciting to apply my theoretical knowledge in an actual case."

Cherise Hewitt (3L) is drafting applications for DC tax exemption and charitable solicitation for a chorus located in Washington, DC.

Another student completed the state corporate and federal tax exemption work last semester. "During my first meeting with the group, I was invited to their next concert in the spring," says Cherise. "I think it is really great that I am helping a nonprofit organization that strives to enhance the arts. I feel that the group enriches the cultural environment in the DC Metropolitan area and shows that there is a rich artistic life outside of New York."

Students in the SBC may be assigned between 2- 4 cases each semester, depending on various factors such as the complexity of the cases. Often one of the cases in a student's docket involves an artist or arts organization.

Commenting on WALA's relationship with the SBC, Elena Paul, Esq., WALA's Executive Director, points out that although WALA has over 350 volunteer attorneys it can be difficult and time consuming to place pro bono cases.

"The WALA / GW Small Business Clinic collaboration is one of our longest standing and successful relationships with community partners. The SBC helps

WALA fulfill its mission of serving the arts community," says Ms Paul. In 1998, the SBC handled 30% of WALA's nonprofit arts cases.

For the past 14 years, Professor Jones has been a volunteer lawyer with WALA, and in 1993 she received the Outstanding Volunteer Attorney Award. She has served on the WALA Board of Directors since 1996 and she became a Vice-President in 1998.

Professor Jones observes, "As lawyers represent the arts community, we too are deeply enriched not only by pro bono service, but by enjoying the many art forms - music, dance, poetry, photography, visual arts, etc. - so the relationship is mutually beneficial. The WALA cases also present a fascinating range of legal issues from choice of entity to contract drafting, intellectual property, and internet law."

Given the SBC's commitment to community economic development and the important role of art and entertainment as part of the city's overall economic development plan, representing artists complements the SBC's other efforts to assist D.C. revitalization."



Professor Jones

Administrative Advocacy News

BY: PROFESSOR LYNN E. CUNNINGHAM

In preparing to file a new lawsuit, attorneys often face confusion, a bewildering array of statements by witnesses, documents suggesting different takes on a matter, theories for possible legal claims, and clients with demands about what relief they are seeking. It is the fog of legal battle. Novice or unskilled lawyers often just write papers and briefs that simply reflect back to the tribunal the fog surrounding them, rather than really figuring out how to win a case.

Law school presents students with an even more bewildering fog: new concepts to learn, strange legal doctrines, detailed cases and statutes to parse through, and new attitudes to try out as future lawyers.

Students in the Administrative Advocacy Clinic face double challenges. They have to learn a new area of the law in a clinic, while sorting out what the winning strategies might be for the cases assigned to them.

One student recently took on the claims of a well built, young man with a long history of IV drug use. He had medical symptoms filling endless medical charts, and yet he could maneuver his way around the city, and make his way to the clinic offices for interviews. Why should this man qualify for benefits as a disabled person? A hearing at the Social Security Administration's Office of Hearings and Appeals was looming, and the student had to prepare a brief arguing why her client should merit disability benefits. After hours of reviewing medical records she realized that the man was sufficiently blind that he met the standards for disability. Here was a strategy for arguing this claim that would likely "nail" this claim. The administrative law judge got her brief about two weeks before the hearing date and canceled the hearing: the strategy had worked, and the man was awarded his benefits because of his blindness. The student had learned what it meant to really put a live case together and make a claim stick.

RANKINGS FROM PAGE 5

ral law schools because they would rather be in the city even though its more expensive."

He also pointed out that many faculty and students have spouses and significant others who would also rather live in an urban area because the employment opportunities for them are greater there.

Instead of focusing on the US News Law School Rankings, Trangsud suggested that students check out The Wehrli Graduate School Rankings. This ranking takes the lawyers at the top 100 law firms in the country and looks at the schools from which they graduated. When adjusted for size, GW was named the 18th most represented law school amongst these firms, ahead of schools such as Stanford and Duke which are ranked higher in US News.

In Washington DC, GW was the 4th most represented law school amongst the Top 31 law firms, with other highly regarded law schools as NYU and Duke trailing behind. In other cities where GW did not have a home court advantage, it consistently placed in the Top 20 of represented law schools. In New York, GW placed in the Top 10.

These rankings show that large law firms, which are known for being competitive in the students they are able to recruit, regard GW students as quality candidates and, as Trangsud concluded, that "the school does an outstanding job of preparing its graduates for the workforce." Trangsud concluded that, US News or Wehrli, no law school should change its mission based upon any ranking.

LAW SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Jacob Burns Law Library News

Announcing LoisLawSchool.com

Have you heard of LoisLaw.com? The company describes itself as a "leader in high quality, low cost electronic legal research." It has placed its web and CD products in competition with services such as Lexis and Westlaw, although it is on a smaller scale and primarily is targeted to smaller law offices. LoisLaw.com's databases cover materials from the three branches of the 50 state and federal governments, including court opinions, statutes, and administrative codes.

LoisLaw.com now is extending their services to law school communities through a special product called LoisLawSchool.com, which now is available on a complimentary basis to the students and faculty of the George Washington University Law School.

Although the content available on LoisLawSchool.com is similar to the core offerings of Lexis and Westlaw, students are encouraged to continue to use their GW access to LoisLawSchool.com during their summer employment stints, and they will continue to have access for 6 months after graduation (after which they are eligible for reduced price access to the commercial product).

To access LoisLawSchool.com, go to the web site <http://www.loislawschool.com> and enter your username and password. First time users must register before choosing a username/password combination. The registration process does involve providing some background data such as name and address. To complete the registration you must identify our law school and provide our law school access code, which will be provided to law students via an announcement on the Law School e-mail system. Law faculty may obtain the law school access code from their library liaisons.

For more about LoisLaw.com and LoisLawSchool.com, visit the following web pages:

http://www.loislawschool.com/info_f_whybuy.htm

<http://www.loislawschool.com/cgi-bin/intro/intro.pl?type=lawProgram>

Got a Problem with a Law School Computer? Let Us Know!

If a computer, printer or an aSNAP port is not working properly and you do not see a sign indicating that it is out of order, then chances are that the Computer Services Department does not know about the problem. We need your help to identify the

occasional glitches so we can fix them as soon as possible!

Descriptive reports of computer-related problems are the most helpful to us. If you have the time, please note how you came to notice the problem (what you did, what the machine did in response, etc.). At least provide us with an obvious identifying number or feature of the machine that will help us to locate the culprit. For example, the computer lab computers have numbers on the upper right hand corner of the monitor. aSNAP ports also have numbers on the jacks.

To report a problem, contact Jeff DeGrasse at 994-7806 (x4-7806) or jdegrasse@burns.nlc.gwu.edu. If Jeff



isn't available, and the problem requires immediate attention, then contact Chris Reed at 994-1383 (x4-11383) or creed@burns.nlc.gwu.edu.

Free and Low-Cost Internet Service Providers

If you are looking to establish an account with a commercial Internet Service Provider (ISP) then you may be interested in the following suggestions. As these are merely suggestions and not endorsements or university-sponsored arrangements, it is entirely up to you to choose an ISP, contact them, and set up your account.

Although GWU staff will not provide technical assistance with the setup or maintenance of your Internet connection, the vast majority of ISPs provide their own excellent technical support.

Although no company provides truly free Internet access, several ISPs provide access at no direct cost to the user, asking

the user to view advertisements on their screen while using the service.

Some users may view the advertisements as an annoyance, but the price may be an incentive to choose this type of service. A partial list of ISPs that are "free" includes: dotNow! (<http://www.dotnow.com>), Altavista (<http://microav.com>), Freei (<http://www.freei.net>), Tritium (<http://www.tritium.net>) and NetZero (<http://www.netzero.com>).

For low-cost Internet access, you should investigate any of the hundreds of ISPs that serve the Washington area. Examples of these ISPs are Erols (www.erols.com), A+net (www.aplus.net), and Bell Atlantic (www.bellatlantic.net).

Links to more resources on free and low-cost ISPs are available at <http://www.gwu.edu/~virtual/isp/isplist.html>.

Library Research Sessions-Spring 2000

If you are interested in sharpening or extending your research skills, the Jacob Burns Law Library invites you to attend one or more of its Spring 2000 Library Research Sessions. Sessions will be taught by reference librarians, who will discuss and demonstrate a variety of print and electronic research sources.

Enrollment for each of these classes is limited. Please use the sign up sheets at the Reference Desk on the first floor of the Library or send an e-mail message to the instructor listed for the program(s) you wish to attend. If space limitations prevent you from attending a

particular session, the Library will try to schedule a repeat of the program at a later date.

Researching EPA Administrative Documents

Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Time: 1:30-2:30pm

Location: SL110

Instructor: Germaine Leahy, Head of Reference/Environmental Law Librarian
gleahy@burns.nlc.gwu.edu

Researching E-Commerce Law

Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Time: 2-3:30pm

Location: B428

Instructor: Leonard Klein, Intellectual Property Librarian
lklein@burn.nlc.gwu.edu

An Introduction to International Environmental Law Research

Date: Thursday, February 24, 2000

Time: 1-2pm

Location: SL110

Instructors: Germaine Leahy, Head of Reference/Environmental Law Librarian and Herb Somers, Foreign/International Law Librarian
hsomers@burns.nlc.gwu.edu

A Research Seminar for Summer Employment

Date: Friday, April 14, 2000

Time: Noon-1:30pm

Location: S301

Instructors: Chris Reed, Electronic Resources Librarian and Carol Grant, Government Contracts Librarian
cgrant@burns.nlc.gwu.edu

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