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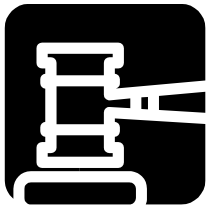
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Crawford wins tight race for president

Almonte moving forward, already thinking about Class Director reelection

By Brian Langenfeld, '05

Ryan Crawford, '06 was elected as the next Student Bar Association president on April 13th. Crawford served for one year as a 2L Class Director and is involved with a number of SBA student groups including the Prosecutors Club, College Republicans and the Buffalo Public Interest Law Journal to name a few.

On April 12th and 13th, the Student Bar Association held its annual Executive Board Elections for president, vice president, treasurer and parliamentarian. Class Director elections are held each fall.

Crawford defeated popular first year student **Jason Joaquin Almonte** in one of the closest elections in recent SBA history. Almonte has since made clear that he intends to remain involved with the Student Bar Association next year as a 2L Class Director and was satisfied with his hard fought campaign.



Ryan Crawford, '06
SBA President-elect

In recent years, SBA elections drew minimal participation and voter turnout was low, however the 2005 election defied

past precedents and was filled with excitement as a candidates from both first year and second year classes vied for the top spot being vacated this summer by current president **Mike Mann, '06**.

The vice presidential race was equally as hot as the presidential race with 2L **John Gerken** defeating 1L **Jacia Smith**. Both Gerken and Smith served as Class Directors during the school year.

In this year's election, only the office of president and vice president was contested, 1L **Trisha Kirsch** ran unopposed for treasurer and 2L **Devon Runyan** ran unopposed for parliamentarian.

The contested election brought over 370 law students to the polls, casting their votes on the future leadership of the student body. Last year's election only saw a contested race for president, with numerous write-in campaigns for down ballot positions.

SBA president Mike Mann was very excited to see such a contested election and wished the new executive board well. "I want to congratulate all of the newly elected officers [President Ryan Crawford, Vice President John Gerken, Treasurer Trisha Kirsch, and Parliamentarian Devon Runyan]...each have proven themselves at UB Law to be effective and outstanding leaders," said Mann.

Mann also hopes that Almonte and Smith continue to be involved with the SBA and the law school. "Joaquin [Almonte] and Jacia [Smith] are bright stars in this law school, I am confident that this will not be the last we hear of them, I think they will have a lot of support if they run again next spring."

The newly elected officers will assume responsibility of the Student Bar Association after final exams, but have already begun to plan next year's SBA budget with the outgoing officers and Class Directors.



A Class Act: Barrister's Ball 2005

Law School "prom" was April's hottest ticket

By Mike Nisengard, '07

Shock and awe" came to UB Law School on April 11th when word spread that the Barristers' Ball was sold out. Many law students assumed there was no imminent need to purchase tickets, and reassured themselves with recent history – nobody could remember the last time the Barrister's Ball had sold out.

But on April 11th at 3:00 P.M. it was announced via email that the Law School "prom" had

sold out. Barrister's Balls of years past never had attendance of more than 230 guests. But this year, last day ticket sales exceeded 150 and pushed the party to its capacity of 350 guests, requiring event coordinators to replenish their ticket stock twice in the final day of sales.

Students still waiting to purchase tickets were understandably upset to hear that they could not attend this year's Ball. Many 3Ls, saddened to miss the pinnacle of the law school social calendar in their final year, encouraged and cried to event coordinators about increasing the set capacity at the Statler Towers – even suggesting the move the venue a week before the Ball.

With the skill and tact of well-salted legal professionals, event coordinators quickly worked a deal, which allowed an additional 50 tickets to be sold to students and their guests. These tickets sold out quickly, and fortunately almost everyone wanting to attend was able.

It was not hard to imagine how 400 law students and an open bar invites good times. All dressed up and standing in the grandeur and opulence of Ellsworth Statler's former flagship hotel, guests were wel-

comed with cocktails and appetizers. The chicken quesadillas and grilled shrimp were popular favorites.

A very satisfying dinner and awards presentation followed, where the Student Bar Association for the first time recognized outstanding students and student organizations. After the cheesecake was served, law students quickly got up to "get on down," crowding the dance floor swinging and swaying to the funky rhythms and soul bopping beats of some of today's hottest dance hits. People had their "freak on" and their "schwerves" in high gear, and the party rocked past midnight, figuratively tearing the roof off and burning the house down (perhaps a poor choice of words given the last month at UB).

Needless to say, great times were had by all, and **Lauren Tamparo '05**, chair of the SBA's Barrister's Ball Com-

mittee, showed that she knows how to throw a sensational soiree and turn unexpected lemons into lemonade. Rectifying the potential exclusion of 3Ls, students significantly enhanced the celebration. Student Bar Association Treasurer **Melissa Cavagnaro** and SBA President **Mike Mann** also deserve credit for their efforts.

Some may wonder, why tickets sold so fast? Even organizers attribute the hot tickets to a lower ticket price. This year, the SBA wanted to make the Barristers' Ball affordable for all students and worked with a generous grant from the Dean's office and Bar-Bri to heavily subsidize the pricey \$55 per-person cost, charging only \$20 per ticket. In the future, the SBA hopes to keep the event a low cost and will hopefully consider a larger venue for next year's ball.



2004-05 SBA Executive Board distributing awards

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THE OPINION

May 2005

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The Opinion does not endorse any of the articles and opinions stated within its pages.

Mitchell Lecture focuses on Corporations in Court

By Caroline Brancatella, '07

The University at Buffalo Law School hosted its annual Mitchell Lecture on April 18th in the Francis M. Letro Courtroom. Entitled "Are Corporations and Other Artificial Persons Taking Over the Legal System," the talk featured an impressive line up of presenters to address the title question.

Keynote speaker **Marc Galanter**, Bosshard Professor of Law and South Asian Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and former UB Law faculty member kicked off the event discussing corporation access to the courts.

Commentators included **Meir Dan-Cohen**, the Milo Reese Robbins Professor in Legal Ethics at the University of California at Berkeley School of Law; **Gerald Berk**, Associate Professor and Department Head of the Department of Political Science at the University of Oregon; and UB Law's own Prof. **David Westbrook**.

According to UB Prof. **James Wooten**, Chair of the 2005 Mitchell Lecture Committee, the keynote speaker is chosen by the Mitchell Lecture Committee based on suggestions from the UB faculty at large and commentators are chosen based on discussions with the keynote speaker.

Originally scheduled in Room 106, the annual event was moved to the courtroom due to damages from the recent fire in the law school, with additional seating

and a live video feed in Room 104. Moderated by UB Prof. **Rebecca French**, a question and answer period, dominated by UB law faculty, followed the presentations.

The dominant topic of the day was the matter of Artificial Person's (AP's) role in the legal landscape as so many of the parties now involved in law-related disputes are not named individuals, but amorphous entities such as corporations, government organizations, and not-for-profit groups, including universities. The widespread belief that AP's have the upper hand in both in and out of court legal transactions was addressed by each presenter.



Prof. Marc Galanter

"Discussion of AP's is relevant to students and professors because we are participants in a legal system that aspires to the 'rule of law,'" said Wooten.

"One key ideal of the rule of law is that participants in the courts should meet on relatively equal terms. That is, a lawsuit should be fair in the sense that neither party has too much of an advantage over the other. Professor Galanter's speech raised the point that empirical research suggests that the increasing legal resources and sophistication of AP's is making the courts less of a "level playing field" when AP's litigate against individuals. It seems to me that as lawyers and lawyers-to-be, we need to think about the implications of the increasing preva-

lence of AP's in the legal process," he continued.

Westbrook, who was the last commentator to speak, also thought the topic of AP's was an especially relevant discussion, "Social life, and so the life of the law, is largely comprised of interactions with and among artificial persons, including not only the large for profit corporations on which Marc Galanter focused, but also entities such as UB Law School. But it is difficult to think about such institutions ... recent intellectual developments -- notably doctrinaire law and economics -- have tended to exacerbate this tendency. So I think the discussion of AP's was both important and timely, and I think the Mitchell Committee did a great job picking the topic."

Addressing the specific topic on which he spoke -- whether the courts' role in regulating the power of AP's is good or bad -- Westbrook said, "Post Enron, I and lots of other folks are inclined to look more favorably on the regulative capacities of courts. But if history is any guide, this is something of a matter of fashion. My real point was that our anxiety about AP's turned on a notion of artificiality, or inauthenticity. As highly formal, structured environments, courts are not particularly good at addressing that sense of uneasiness. Kafka, after all, is obsessed with courts."

The first James McCormick Mitchell Lecture was presented in 1951 and named for an 1897 graduate of the Law School. Supreme Court Justice **Robert H. Jackson**, a native of nearby Jamestown, NY, gave the first address.

Distinguished Alumni attend Students of Color Dinner

By Jason Joaquin Almonte, '07

The 16th Annual Students of Color Dinner officially kicked off UB "Dinner month" on Friday, April 8th. Held at the Amherst Marriott Hotel just down the street on Millersport Highway, the event organizers called the event a great success, drawing over 130 students and distinguished alumni from across the country.

The Students of Color dinner is unique from the other dinners because it also serves as a commemorative event that recognizes and brings together students of all races under the theme: "Lift as we Climb."

This year's honorees included Trailblazer Awardee New York State Assemblywoman **Crystal Peoples** from Buffalo; Jacob D. Hyman Professor of the Year Awardee Professor **Barbara Sherk, '02**; Distinguished Alumni Awardee **The Honorable Julio Fuentes, '75** and Distinguished Alumni Awardee **Lourdes Ventura, '98**.

One of the more special components of the SOC dinner is the presentation of the "Lift As We Climb" scholarships to outstanding high school students who demonstrate leadership. This year's scholarship recipients were seniors **Daphne L. Inman, Ieshaah A. Murphy**, and **Shawnté Wilson**, all classmates at City Honors High School in Buffalo.

This year's dinner was presided over by students from the Asian American Law Students Association (AALSA), the Latin American Law Student Association (LALSA), and the Black Law Student Association (BLSA). AALSA President **Charles Choe '06** introduced the event's keynote speaker, UB Law alum **Mason Ashe '89**.

Mr. Ashe gave a very entertaining speech, leaving law students with an uncanny interest in sports and entertain-

ment law, a practice area where he has excelled in representing athletes like Pro Bowl Quarterback **Daunte Culpepper**, NBA star **Stromile Swift** and Pittsburgh Steelers star **Levon Kirkland**. Mr. Ashe also discussed how he was inspired to enter the sports and entertainment business by his cousin, tennis legend **Arthur Ashe**.

Sherk, '02. The award was coupled with a special gift from some of her students who surprised her with a beautiful bouquet of her favorite white roses.

Newly elected LALSA treasurer **Victor Gonzalez, '07** introduced one of our most distinguished alumnus, **Judge Julio Fuentes, '75**. Judge Fuentes is the highest-ranking judge in UB history, sitting in Newark, New Jersey on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Judge Fuentes was born in Humacao, Puerto Rico in 1946, migrating to New York City at age nine. New Jersey Governor Frank Kean appointed Judge Fuentes to his first judgeship on New Jersey's Superior Court,



Jason Almonte, '07, Judge Fuentes, '75, Cindy Navarro, '07

Award recipients also contributed words of wisdom and friendly advice. BLSA president **Monique Emdin, '07** introduced trailblazer State Assemblywoman **Crystal Peoples**, a non-alumnus of the Law School. Assemblywoman Peoples recounted the great satisfaction she has always received from giving back to her community and told some of her "trailblazer" war stories from her time in Buffalo to Albany. Assemblywoman Peoples is a native of Erie County and assemblywoman for the 141st District.

Allen Blount, '05, former BLSA president, introduced Jacob D. Hyman Professor of the year, Advanced Legal Research & Writing Professor **Barbara**

where he served in all of the major divisions. In March 1999, President Clinton nominated Fuentes to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and he was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in March 2000.

Fuentes reminded students to always be prepared, as they never know where the tides of life will lead them. He recounted the story of his nervous wait after learning he was considered for a U.S. District Court appointment and how he learned by telephone from former Senator Robert Torricelli (D-NJ) that he was actually being considered for the court of appeals. Judge Fuentes delivered the 2001 commencement address at the Law School.

Newly elected LALSA president

Carolina Felix, '07, introduced **Lourdes Ventura, '94**. Ms. Ventura reminded students of their own moral obligation to "turn around" and give back to their own communities; inspiring attendees to "lift as they climb" in their own lives. She recounted the circular way life has led her, recounting how 2L, and distinguished award presenter, Monique Emdin was a resident assistant (RA) when she was hall director at UB as an undergraduate student. Ms. Ventura is *quisqueyana*, from the Dominican Republic, and an Assistant Attorney General with the New York State Attorney General's Office.

Before the night wrapped up in dancing, **Gail Hallerdin, '90** presided over a candle lighting ceremony by reading "The Bridge Builder" by Will Allen Dromgoole. Students of Color dinner committee Co-Chair **Candace McCarley, '06**, assisted Hallerdin. Ms. Hallerdin is currently Assistant Commissioner of New York State's Office of Children and Family Services.

During the candle ceremony, UB Law distinguished alumni lit taper candles that had been set at their dinner places from a pillar candle burning in the center of the dance floor. They extended that flame, first lighting the candles of third year students. The flame was then shared with second years, then first years, and so on until every candle was lit. It was an inspiring metaphor for the dinner's "lift as we climb" theme, and a moving display of student and alumni solidarity.

All in all the Students of Color Dinner was a great success, and a nice kick-off to the events that followed later that month. Students of all races attended; even SBA President **Mike Mann, '06** hit the dance floor!

special thanks was given continually to Students of Color Dinner Committee Co-Chair **Yadira Ramos, '05**, whose work and dedication made the event a great success for the past two years. Next year's organizers hopes that all of the graduating seniors return for the 17th Annual Students of Color Dinner as alumni.

Schlegel!-isms

Another Abridged List of Words of Wisdom

By Mike Nisengard, '07

The following list of "Schlegel!isms" – actual Schegel! neural firings taken directly from the classroom - is for amusement purposes only and is not to be used under any purposes to increase your stress during exam time or take away from your enjoyment of life's important pleasures such as sunshine, good food, good wine, laughter and love.

There are very few people who should be allowed to run naked through the city streets even if there are no laws against public grotesqueness.

The court's holding could be reduced to "Bullsh*t! Reversed."

As you have surely figured out by now, I don't give a sh*t if the rules of contract law are good, bad or stupid.

There are possibilities; there are no certainties.

There are two kinds of law – hurt and money. And even when someone gets hurt they want money.

"Shepardize" – my favorite word in all of law school.

The coat hangers will always be multiplying when the lights go off.

You have to remember that law school is exceedingly dangerous stuff. It should come with the disclaimer: "We will f*** with your mind."

A warranty speaks: "Argawkkk! Argawkkk!"

A reasonable reckon is all a good lawyer can give a client – I reckon we can win this case or I reckon we won't.

Humans are less often guilty of bad faith than stupidity.

I'll skip over civil procedure for now because it's the butt of all jokes and I have to stop joking about it because I teach it next year. Yack.

There is nothing wrong with working towards the vision of the world you see, but don't be surprised if you find it an uphill battle and never say Schlegel! told you it would be easy.

Wisdom comes with age; sometimes age comes alone.

Bureaucracy is its own reward.

Don't confuse the id and law school. The two are unrelated. Law school is death – the id is life. If you let law get confused with your life, you will be worse for it.

I do love my students!



Professor John Schlegel

Battle moves to new DOJ post

By Caroline Brancatella, '07

U.S. Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales announced on April 16th that University at Buffalo Law School graduate and Western New York U.S.

Attorney **Michael A. Battle** will become the new liaison between Gonzales and federal prosecutors in 94 districts all over the nation.

U.S. Attorney for the region since 2002, Battle was the first African American to hold the post which he will leave in June to begin his new duties in Washington, D.C. Considered a favorite of the Bush administration for some time, especially due to his successful prosecution of the alleged terrorist recruiting cell known as the "Lackawanna Six," speculation that Battle would move up had been commonplace.

Appointed by former Attorney General John Ashcroft, Battle has been a member of the Attorney General's Advisory Committee of U.S. Attorneys since January 2004, serving on the subcommittees on civil rights, sentencing guidelines and white collar fraud. His new position does not require Senate approval.

"The work of his office on the Lackawanna Six case was entirely satisfactory to the Bush administration," said UB law professor Albert Lee addressing why Battle became a frontrunner for the national position.

"He achieved the desired outcome -- stiff sentences on pleas, without revealing much of the government's case and sources. The government did not want a trial and there certainly were triable issues. He took a lot of heat from liberal

audiences and well maintained his cool. The publicity was on the whole favorable ... He then, on the Attorney General's orders, joined a nationwide program defending the Patriot Act. He got good coverage for those events, including popular shows such as Geraldo Rivera," Albert continued.

Some feel that Battle will not be away from Western New York for long, but return as a federal judge with an appointment some time before the Bush administration ends.

A former football player and 1977 graduate of Ithaca College, Battle earned his Juris Doctorate from UB in 1981. A native of New York City, Battle returned there after law school graduation and worked in legal aid before returning to the Buffalo area, where he has almost two decades of premiere legal positions and connections

During his time at UB law school Battle had made a number of local contacts, including former U.S. Attorney for the area Sal Martoche, who hired Battle upon his return to Western New York. In 1992 a federal public defender's office was established in Buffalo and Battle left to run it, but changed positions again in 1994 when Dennis Vacco was elected New York's attorney general and Battle became his assistant in the Buffalo area. From there he served for nearly six years as an Erie County Family Court Judge and then moved onto his most recent post as the Western New York U.S. Attorney.

It is unclear who Battle successor as Western New York U.S. Attorney will be, but it is expected to be a highly coveted post among area attorneys.



Michael Battle '81

Court of Appeals Return to Buffalo

By Caroline Brancatella, '07

Zachary Taylor was President of the United States and the Civil War was still a decade away when the New York State Court of Appeals last held a working session in Buffalo in 1849. The highest court in the state ameliorated that absence April 14th when the 6 Appeals Court judges and Chief Justice Judith S. Kaye visited the ceremonial court room at 92 Franklin St. to hear oral arguments.

The "Buffalo Session," came at the invitation of the University at Buffalo Law School Alumni Association, who hosted a dinner at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Downtown Buffalo following court proceedings. Current UB law students were invited and encouraged to attend the live sessions, which were also made available in the law school via a live video feed for the university community to observe.

Issues of local interest were included in the arguments presented to the Court. The panel reversed a decision by the state's lower courts giving City of Buffalo Police Commissioner Rocco J. Diina the right to choose those who he

promotes to detective from among the top three scorers of the civil service test for the position as opposed to automatically promoting the top scorer. Additionally, challenges to local zoning laws and trespass charges were addressed.

Third year law student **Tara Midlik** was honored at the Alumni dinner when **Chief Judge Kaye** presented her with the Justice M. Dolores Denman Award.

The honor commemorates the Honorable M. Dolores Denman, a member of the class of 1965, who was the first woman to be named

presiding justice of the New York State Supreme Court Appellate Division. Justice Denman was a single parent while in law school, and yet managed to graduate as class valedictorian. This scholarship/award is presented by the WNY Chapter of the Women's Bar Association to a graduating senior who is a custodial parent, with preference given to single parents, and the award is intended to offset the costs of daycare and other child rearing expenses during the bar study period.



Chief Judge Judith Kaye

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Commencement Speaker Set

District Judge & former Iran Contra Prosecutor to address Class of 2005

By Caroline Brancatella, '07

University at Buffalo Law School's 2005 Commencement Ceremony on May 21 at 1 p.m. in the UB Center for the Arts will feature an inaugural award to honor **Ryan J. Mullins**, a member of the Class of 2005 who died suddenly in September of 2003.

"This award will be given annually to the graduating senior demonstrating the greatest commitment to and proficiency in criminal law and criminal trial practice skills. To honor his memory, his classmates, friends and members of the Law School community established this award," said Vice Dean for Student Affairs **Melinda Saran**.

Judge Paul L. Friedman, a 1968 graduate of the law school and United States District Court Judge for the District of Columbia will offer the 2005 Commencement Address.

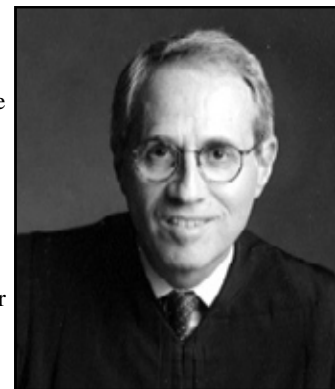
A graduate of Cornell University, following law school, Friedman clerked the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. He

has served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia and as an Assistant to the Solicitor General of the United States from 1974 to 1976. While working in private practice or nearly twenty years Friedman also served as Associate Independent Counsel for the Iran-Contra Investigation.

Saran pointed out that graduates of the Class of 1955, celebrating the 50th anniversary of their Commencement will join this year's graduates for the ceremony and that the Hot Strings Cargo Band will play before the procession and for the recessional. Members include Professor **James**

Atleson, Professor **David Engel** and second year law students **Kristen Houseknecht**, **Jessica Kielb** and **Nick Robinson**.

Each graduating student will receive six tickets to the ceremony. First and second year students interested in attending are encouraged to volunteer as ushers to hand out programs and assist the law school staff during the ceremony. If interested please contact Dean Saran at saran@buffalo.edu.



Judge Paul Friedman '68

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Here's one for Johnnie...

By Rick Johnson, '07

When I heard Johnnie Cochran canceled his trial appearance at the University at Buffalo Law School Letro Court due to illness I was disappointed. Yet, I had no idea how seriously ill he actually was. Johnnie Cochran died last month after suffering from an inoperable brain tumor, at the age of 67.

Johnnie L. Cochran Jr. was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, on October 2, 1937, the great grandson of a slave, and working class family. According to a CNN News report, Johnnie was called a loving, warm human being who cared about everybody according to his Pastor William Epps. Johnnie's career was one marked with celebrity cases and clientele.

Cochran's most famous case is of course the O.J. Simpson case. Here he and a "dream" team of attorneys helped acquit O.J. Simpson in his murder trial. His memorable phrase, "if the glove don't fit you must acquit," helped to lead to this victory.

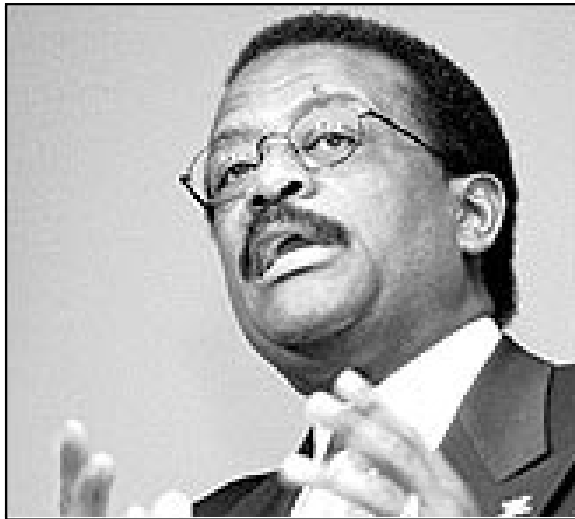
Yet, this case was quite controversial in that racial issues were dealt with and may have given the public a distorted image of Cochran. As Michael Eric Dyson, stated in a speech at the University at Buffalo, "Johnnie Cochran once helped out an out-of-towner by giving him directions and he said he couldn't believe how nice a fellow was to him. Afterwards, someone told him that the man was Johnnie Cochran. He said I don't like Johnnie Cochran but I liked that fellow."

This is probably accurate because it can be hard to be a civil rights lawyer in America and the public may get a distorted image of anyone who defends people where controversial issues such as discrimination are often involved.

However, Johnnie defended a diverse group of people from Michael Jackson to Sean "Puffy" Combs to Reginald Denny. Reginald Denny was the white truck

driver beaten by a black mob at the height of the Los Angeles riots in 1992. Cochran argued that the city's police failed to protect the neighborhood where Denny was assaulted.

The *Seinfeld* television show even created a spoof about Johnnie, with their own character named



Famed civil rights attorney Johnnie Cochran passed away March 30th after a long struggle with an inoperable brain tumor. Cochran was 67,

Jackie Childs. In one episode his opposing counsel asked a woman to put on a bra which doesn't fit, likening the moment to O.J. Simpson's infamous glove moment. Childs loses the case, calling it a "public humiliation," blaming co-star Kramer for the poor legal tactic. While

some might be offended by such parody, Cochran said that it was a lot of fun and he thought it helped soothe some of the angry feelings from the Simpson case.

Yet, for any aspiring attorney especially one of color, Cochran was surely a great icon. As W.E.B. DuBois once wrote, "this is the story of a human heart - the tale of a black boy who many long years ago began to struggle with life so that he might know the world and know himself. I bow before this man as one bows to the prophets of the world. Some seer he seemed, that came not from Crimson Past or the gray To-come but from the pulsing Now that mocking world that seemed to me at one time so light and dark, so splendid and sordid. Four score years ago had he wandered in the same world as mine, within the Veil."

Although I wander in that same Veil of color as he, I think it is also germane to point out that the world has also lost a great soldier in the war for human rights for all mankind. As Johnnie often said, "an injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." It only makes sense to celebrate this life, so here's one for Johnnie.

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The Victims: Spilt Milk in the Classroom

By Justin Whittaker, '06

Most of us at UB Law chose to enter the legal profession in search of an understanding of how the "law" works in modern society, and to develop an intellectual understanding of concepts like human nature, political discourse, and legal theory. Unfortunately, according to a national group called the Students for Academic Freedom (SAF), "the atmosphere that prevails on most college campuses today does not foster intellectual diversity or the disinterested pursuit of knowledge. Liberal Arts faculties at most universities are politically and philosophically one-sided, while partisan propagandizing often intrudes into classroom discourse. It is appropriate for faculty to want open-minded students in their classes, not disciples. Faculty bias is reflected in the curriculum of courses available, in the manner in which they are taught, in readings assigned for classroom study, and in discussions only open to one side of a debate."

www.studentsforacademicfreedom.org.

We are being sinisterly and systemically propagandized.

This concept is not a new one. William F. Buckley wrote in his 1951 groundbreaking work, *God and Man*

at Yale: *The Superstitions of "Academic Freedom,"* that the solution to correct the "rampant socialism" on the university's campus was to fire the offending professors who could then "seek employment at a college that was interested in propagating socialism." Perhaps 1950s era McCarthyism accounts for the book's relative success as a tool of silencing professors who dared espouse critical analysis of U.S. policy, and as a safeguard against the creeping moral threat of international communism. Perhaps. In the 1950s there was perhaps at least a real ideological threat to traditional notions of "American values," and the communist movement was in fact quite pervasive on campuses throughout the United States. Perhaps.

The proposition proffered by "academic reformists"

today, however, is more of a product of the collective fear of some - of sinister intellectualism, which may manifest itself as "anti-religion" or worse: bad for national security (if there actually is a discernible distinction between them). The actual fear sprouts from the notion that unchecked power could be lost if ideas counter to radical agendas are publicly espoused by professors, intellectuals, and students. Students, evidently, believe everything they are told by anyone in a position of authority. It is my position that students who do not possess the capacity to discriminate among ideas, have no place in an academic setting of any eminence.

Continued on page 11

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editors:

Despite my soft spot for Mr. Whittaker, I am starting to wonder how the Law School's paper has become the forum for the liberal drivel that tries to rebut the *Conservative Corner*.

If the liberals wish to have ink and paper maybe they should take the time and resources to start their own paper instead of continually using the general resource of *The Opinion*. Just a thought - or is resourceful reserved for the Right?

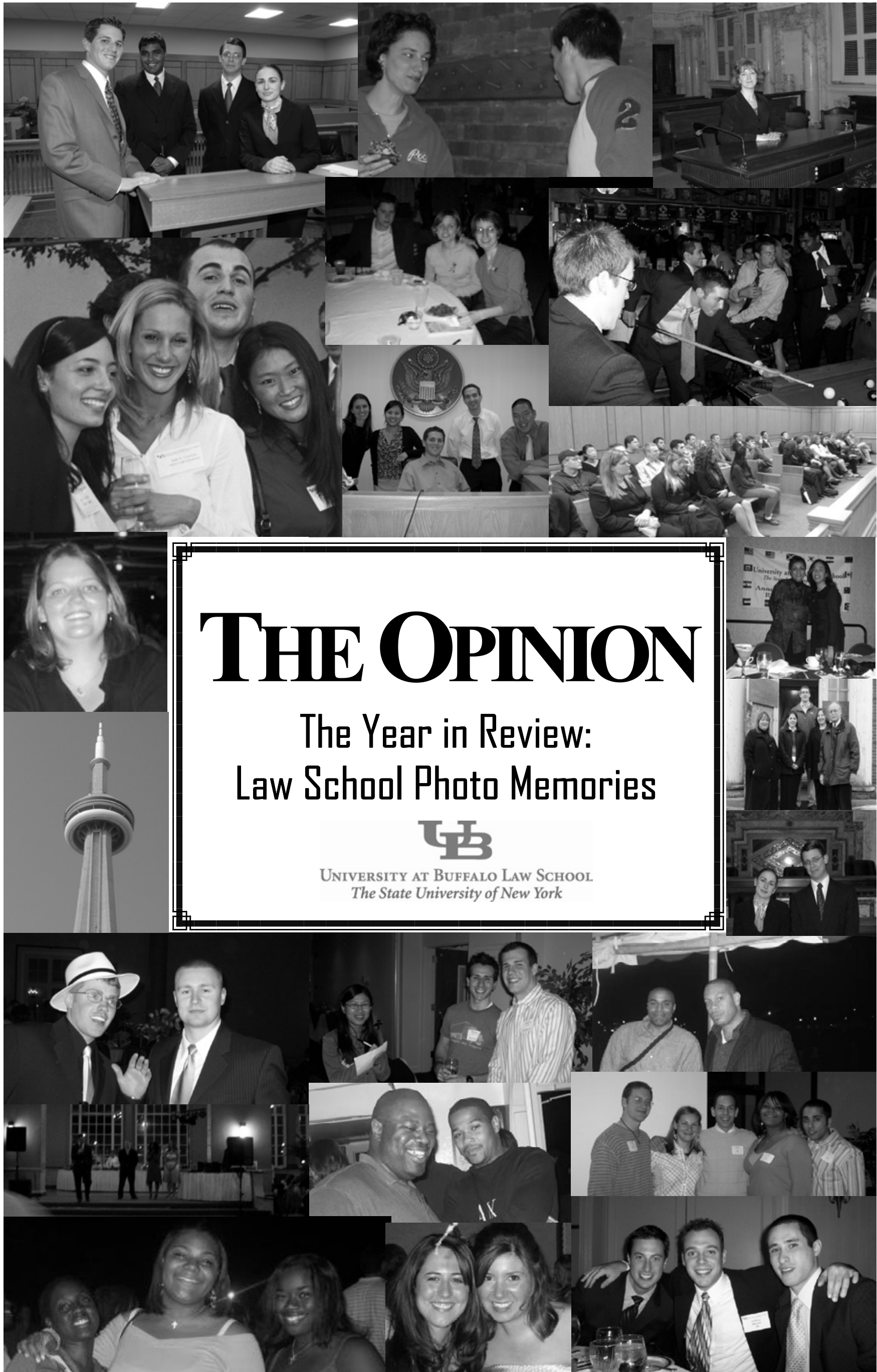
Devon Runyan
Class of 2006
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**The Opinion and the
Student Bar Association**

would like to extend a special thank you to



for their continued support of student life at UB Law School





The Opinion

SBA Class Directors
2004-2005





Student Bar Association's 1L Escape a huge success

Organizers hope to make "escape" an annual event at the Law School

By Jason Joaquin Almonte, '07

On Friday, March 25th, the University at Buffalo Law School's class of 2007 convened at the Center for Tomorrow for the Student Bar Association's first ever "1L Escape." The event, sparked by 1L Class Director **Adam Bushey, '07**, and coordinated by the 1L Class Director collective, was designed to bring the entire Class of 2007 together across sections, for a unique opportunity to meet and get to know each other. Despite being planned for Good Friday, and taking place the same week as the school closings caused by the Law School fire, the event experienced a great turnout, bringing together almost 100 1L students from all three sections.

The event was supported by the Student Bar Association, and under the guidance of the SBA executive board, had a program that included a live DJ, sumo wrestling, food, drinks—and to top it all off, games and prizes. The live DJ was fellow 1L Donald Young who kept the music going all night long. Sumo wrestling was a big hit, with the entire 1L class gathering to see their peers don "sumo caps" and go to it right in the CFT. Students enjoyed the gastronomic change of pace, and many a face smiled to see something other than pizza for dinner. The menu included crab cakes, meatballs, chicken fingers, even a warm artichoke dip for more eclectic palettes. It was all gone by the end of the night; not even a piece of cheese was spared. Prizes included fifteen \$50 Bar/Bri scholarships to be randomly selected at the end of the night.

The games quickly became the focus of the night as first years frantically searched the room for peers to assist them in completing their "1L Bingo

cards." With questions like: "have you ever been to Iowa?" or "do you speak another language?," almost every student

attending completed their bingo cards and came running to the prize desk to ensure their entry for Bar/Bri scholarships.



Above: Members of the Class of 2007 had the opportunity to sumo wrestle during the first annual "1L escape," students from each section attended. Below: 1L SBA Class Directors and escape organizers from L to R: Adam Bushey, Arianna Gleckel, Joaquin Almonte, Jacia Smith and Sri Sekar.



The second game was a play on "Find Your Partner." Students arriving at the event were greeted by their 1L Class Directors who gave them name tags and a "codename" with instructions to find their partner in crime. Pairs included "Pinky and the Brain," "Prince Charming and Cinderella," "Shrek and Princess Fiona." One very excited student given the codename "Fred," even waltzed into the room yelling out "Wilma!" This game was also a success with inter-sectional partners skipping to the prize desk to steal a second entry for Bar/Bri scholarships.

In addition to the mingling, student organizations took advantage of the event to explain their missions to first year students. Organizations represented included the Armed Forces Law Students Association, the Black Law Students Association, the International Law Students Association, the Jewish Law Students Association, the Latin American Law Students Association, OutLaw, and the Student Bar Association. Representatives maintained a table with literature for the 1Ls to review.

Fifteen Bar/Bri scholarships were given out at the end of the night. Recipients included: **Alicia Sim, Andrew Yen, Anshu Pasricha, Brian Kloss, Carolina Felix, Denetra Williams, Gregory Stein, HeeJung Kook, Jennifer Howland, Jennifer Hyatt, Karen Riedesel, Meghan Mazzacone, Mindi Byrd, Paul Colinet, and Yuxing Ye.**

SBA organizers called the event a great success, and hoped it paved the way for similar events with the Class of 2008, perhaps during next year's orientation week.

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New Parking Policy for Resident Freshman

Policy to free approximately 450 spaces

BUFFALO, N.Y. -- UB Parking and Transportation Services has announced that beginning with the fall 2005 semester, all resident freshmen will be required to leave their vehicles in their residence hall lot or in a Park and Ride lot from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.



The policy was developed to improve peak-time parking access in prime lots for students, faculty, staff and visitors who park on UB's campuses each year. Resident freshmen will make use of UB's many bus and shuttle offerings to get around both campuses.

"After review of Chance Management Advisors' recommendations and a year of campus-wide consultation, in-

cluding needs assessments, interviews and presentations with administration, student, faculty and staff groups, this was the best-received alternative to reduce congestion in prime lots during peak times," said Maria Wallace, interim director of Parking and Transportation Services. "Parking is a complex issue at UB, as it is at many of our peer institutions. We expect this new policy to free approximately 450 spaces around the Spine. This is more parking than is available in two of our Jacobs lots."

Resident freshmen will be issued a distinctive magenta-colored hangtag at summer orientations. The hangtags also will be available from the Parking and Transportation Services offices beginning in August. The new policy will be enforced strictly. — *UB Newswire*

Robert Conklin Honored at Annual Law Review Dinner

Robert B. Conklin, '68 was honored for his distinguished service to the University at Buffalo Law School and the Western New York community by law students affiliated with the Buffalo Law Review at the law review's 16th annual dinner on April 21st at The Buffalo Club.

Over 130 guests enjoyed a beautiful reception with current and past members of the Law Review, alumni, deans, professors and community leaders. The largest presence by far was that of Hodgson Russ, with associates and partners, both young and old coming out to show support for their retiring leader.

In addition, each year at the Law Review's annual dinner, the work of four students is selected for publication in the upcoming volume. The honorees at this year's dinner included 2L's **Angel Overgaard, Jon Bevilacqua, Andy Guglielimi and Sachin Kohli.**

This year's honoree, Robert Conklin, is president of the law firm Hodgson Russ LLP, where he focuses his practice in both business and employment litigation. He has a bachelor's degree from

Canisius College and earned his Juris Doctorate from UB Law in 1968, graduating cum laude. He was a senior member of the Buffalo Law Review in 1967-68. Conklin is a member of the UB Law



Robert Conklin, '68

School's Dean's Advisory Council, a group that assists the dean and faculty in the development of policies and plans for the law school. As a member of the council, he introduced the mentoring program for first-year law students who are paired with members of Buffalo's legal community.

"Mentors offer advice and assistance to law students as they embark on their legal careers," said Nils Olsen, dean of the law school "Without Bob Conklin's support, this program would not have been launched."

Conklin often lectures for the New York State Bar Association Continuing Education Program and for the Conference of Casualty Insurance Companies. He also has served as vice chair of the Eighth Judicial District Attorney Grievance Committee. Conklin also is a director of the Shea's Performing Arts Center.

Summer Special to The Opinion

Summer in Buffalo: A quick guide for non-Bufferalians

Soon, the meteorological crimes of the past few months will be all but forgiven. It only takes a few lukewarm days and the locals declare détente in their very literal cold war with Mother Nature and enjoy the glories of the sun.

After a year or more in Buffalo you should know that it's "pop," not soda, Labatt Blue is what's on tap, and the local government is about as good at handling money as the Bills are at winning Super Bowls. But students may not recognize that Western New York is rewarded for its winters of discontent with a temperate, sunny and downright pleasant summer. Eager to crawl out of hibernation, the area celebrates the season in classic Buffalo style -- with inexpensive events that include plenty of food and an omnipresent supply of alcohol.

For those of who are staying in the Queen City for the summer, here are a few suggestions on how to spend your non-billable hours -- which may be redundant for some. Make the most of the sunshine because even in June, January is only six months away.

FESTIVALS/SUMMERFARE

Thursday in the Square
May 26 - Sept. 1, Thursdays @ 5pm
Lafayette Square
<http://www.buffaloplace.com/>
For nearly 20 years Buffalo Place has produced this summer concert series and everyone who is anyone will be there each week. It includes great bands and plenty of beer tents so wander down after work and get an early start on the weekend.

Allentown Arts Festival/Music As Art
Delaware & Allen, June 11-12
<http://www.allentownartfestival.com/>
The streets shut down but the bars stay open to make way for hundreds of art and jewelry vendors from all over the country. The weekend also includes the "Music As Art" festival, run by Robbie Takacs of the Goo Goo Dolls, where local bands strut their stuff. And it's a pretty good bet the Goos will eventually take the stage.

Taste of Buffalo
July 9-10,
Delaware Ave.
<http://www.tasteofbuffalo.com>

It's no secret that eating is a regional pastime -- Taste of Buffalo provides an opportunity to do so with variety and organization. Come with an empty stomach and an open mind.

Italian Festival
July 14 - 17
Hertel Avenue, N. Buffalo
www.sorrentocheese.com/festivals/index.cfm
Craving a cannoli? In need of an array of cheesy and saucy goodness? Prepare yourself for an extra large portion of eggplant parmesan and enjoy the culinary talents of Italia.

SPORTS

Gus Macker 3-on-3 Basketball Tourney
June 25-26
Niagara Square
<http://www.macker.com/>
More than 100 basketball courts and 4,000 players will swarm Niagara Square for this weekend long 3-on-3 tourney. Participate as a spectator or a player as teams of all levels compete. Make sure to check out the top flight courts which showcase some of the best basketball you'll see before next March.

Buffalo Bisons Baseball
April 7--Sept. 5
Downtown, Dunn Tire Park
<http://www.bisons.com/>
Once upon a time Buffalo wanted a Major League Baseball team, but Colorado and Florida apparently wanted one more. Left with a downtown ball field the city discovered that Triple "A" baseball and a team that feeds the Cleveland Indians is just the right fit for B-lo -- Dunn Tire Park offers an inexpensive baseball experience for all.

Toronto Blue Jays Baseball
Skydome
<http://toronto.bluejays.mlb.com>
Still miss the Yankees? Our neighbors to the north conveniently have an American League East team that often plays the Yanks less than two hours away. Seats are as little as \$6 and border crossing is usually easy with proper documentation. The Boston Red Sox also frequently play

in Toronto -- for those who are into that kind of thing.

THE ARTS

Shakespeare in the Park -
Tues.--Sun., June 23 - Aug. 21
Rose Garden, Delaware Park <http://shakespeareindelawarepark.org>
Second in size only to New York's summer series, Buffalo's Shakespeare in the Park celebrates 30 years this season. Run by UB's own Saul Bellow this year the company is producing the old stand-byes of "Hamlet" and "Romeo & Juliet." Pack a picnic and look for what are likely to be new interpretations of classics.

Buffalo News Free Summer Jazz Series
Sunday nights, July -Aug.
www.buffalonews.com/services/community/programs/#jazz
Good music and good scenery each Sunday night held on the steps behind the Albright Knox Art Gallery -- a perfect way to wind down before the work week.

SUMMER FUN

The Lake -- all day, every day
An old planning committee thought that Amherst was the best place for UB, consequently you may not know that there's a Great Lake right next to the city. The Hamptons it ain't, but there are a series of beaches along Lake Erie's shores including Woodlawn, Wendt, and Bennett parks. Sand, swimming and general beach activities included.

The Erie County Fair
Aug. 10-21
Hamburg Fairgrounds
<http://www.americas-fair.com/>
Cotton candy, water balloon games and livestock -- county fairs are a portrait of Americana. If you've never been to a pig race or demolition derby this is your chance.

HISTORICAL

Wilcox Mansion/ Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site
641 Delaware Ave.
<http://www.nps.gov/thri/>
Called back from a hunting trip in the Adirondacks, Teddy Roosevelt was sworn in as president wearing a borrowed suit at the mansion on Delaware and North. The house now serves as a museum and library dedicated to T.R. and the Victorian era in Amer-

ica. Summer events include the annual Teddy Bear Picnic, lectures and tours.

Erie County Historical Society
Open Tues. - Sat.; 25 Nottingham Court
<http://www.bechs.org/>
Along with Albright Knox, the Historical Society is one of the only buildings to survive from the Pan-Am Exposition of 1901 and contains a stunning Japanese garden. The museum houses countless artifacts and exhibits about the region's history, including the revolver that killed President McKinley. Actually, an infection killed McKinley, but those are causation issues to debate among yourselves.

Erie Basin Marina Naval Park
Tours by reservation, foot of Main & Pearl St. www.buffalonavalpark.org/
Who says there's nothing to do on the waterfront? WWII ships the U.S.S. Little Rock, U.S.S. Sullivan and submarine the U.S.S. Croaker are permanently docked in Lake Erie for your educational enjoyment. The U.S.S. Sullivan, named for five brothers who died at war, forever changing military policy, is most interesting and supposedly haunted.

Forest Lawn Cemetery
1411 Delaware Avenue, Sunday Tours
<http://www.forest-lawn.com>
It's not creepy, it's historical. Tours, given in air conditioned "coaches" narrate the stories and beautiful architecture of the cemetery. Individuals who take their final rest there include Millard Fillmore, the 13th President of the United States, Seneca Chieftan Red Jacket, and numerous supporting characters in American history.

Darwin Martin House
Tours by reserve., 125 Jewett Parkway
<http://www.darwinmartinhouse.org/>
Designed at the height of the Prairie House Era, Darwin and Isabelle Martin gave carte blanche to Frank Lloyd Wright and his unique architectural genius in designing their home. Ignored for decades, the house continues to undergo renovations to restore it to its original glory. Your undergrad art history professor will be proud of you for going.

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UB at Sunrise Downtown Speaker Series to Begins with Presentation by Former UB President William

BUFFALO, N.Y. -- The University at Buffalo Alumni Association's UB at Sunrise Downtown Speaker Series kicked off its spring season with a presentation by William R. Greiner, Law School professor, chair of the Greater Buffalo Commission and former UB president. Greiner discussed "The Regional City of Buffalo...the Merging of Buffalo and Erie County Governments" on April 29 in the Hyatt Regency, 2 Fountain Plaza.

The spring series will consist of three programs presented by members of the UB community who will address topics of human interest and current concern. Each program will begin at 7:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast and networking. Presentations will start at 8 a.m. and conclude promptly at 9 a.m. after a question-and-answer session.

The 11-member Greater Buffalo Commission, consisting of top government, education, religious and community leaders, was co-founded by Erie County

Executive Joel A. Giambra and Buffalo Mayor Anthony M. Masiello. The commission made its recommendations for a merger earlier this year, but the process has been put on hold as a result of the county's fiscal problems.

UB alumnus and Buffalo Bills' offensive line coach Jim McNally, Ed.M. '68, B.S. '66, will speak on May 19, and Woodrow "Woody" Maggard, associate vice provost of the UB Office of Science, Technology Transfer and Economic Outreach (STOR) will speak on June 15.

To register for the series, or for individual presentations, go to the "UB Connect" tab on the UB Alumni Association Web site at <http://www.alumni.buffalo.edu>, or call the UB Office of Alumni Relations at 829-2608 or 1-800-284-5382. The cost per program is \$12 per person. — UB *NewsWire*.

Student Bar Association 2004-2005 Award Recipients

3L LEADER OF THE YEAR
Jessica Ortiz, Yadira Ramos, Lauren Tamparo

2L LEADER OF THE YEAR
Charles Choe, Ryan Crawford

1L LEADER OF THE YEAR
Jason Joaquin Almonte

STUDENT GROUP OF THE YEAR
Buffalo Moot Court Board

NEW STUDENT GROUP OF THE YEAR
International Law Students Association

FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR
Black Law Students Association: Lotus Bar Night

COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENT OF THE YEAR
Domestic Violence Task Force: Cell Phone Drive

Continued: "The Victims: Spilt Milk In the Classroom"

Continued from page 4

Yet, according to SAF, its goal is "to secure greater representation for under-represented ideas and to promote intellectual fairness and inclusion in all aspects of the curriculum, including the faculty hiring process, the spectrum of courses available, reading materials assigned, and in the decorum of the classroom and the campus public square." In other words, tyranny of a minority of individual students over university curricula and reading lists - a regulatory remedy for the protection of bad ideas, as illustrated by the market place OF ideas. It is illogical and disingenuous to suggest that the regulation of ideas is necessary or desirable among adults who have unfettered access to every ideology to which they may wish to subscribe - All of them. They are all available for consumption in the "political theory" section of Barnes and Noble and Amazon.com. As such, the suggestion that minority view points are prohibited from being expressed on campus, is well, an untenable position. The glory of institutions of higher learning is that virtually any viewpoint on the open market may be consumed by willing adherents, not that minority viewpoints should be subsidized by universities or programs within. Shouldn't an argument stand on its own without SAF's measure of viewpoint subsidization? Doesn't this form of market tampering support the right of the individual to NOT be subjected to beliefs she finds objectionable without equal time being given to opinion consistent with, for example, fundamentalist Christianity, or fundamentalist Islam?

This is not about the right of academics, professors, and students to espouse positions in an open forum. Russell Jacoby, professor in residence of cultural history at UCLA, aptly calls this proposition the "New PC."

In May of this year, columnist David Horowitz argued before the Ohio state Senate that his "Students' Bill of Rights,"

known in that state as Senate Bill 24, should be adopted as law because "all higher education institutions in this country embrace principles of academic freedom that were first laid down in 1915 in the famous *General Report* of the American Association of University Professors.

The *Report* admonishes faculty to avoid 'taking unfair advantage of the student's immaturity by indoctrinating him with the teacher's own opinions before the student has had an opportunity to fairly examine other opinions upon the matters in question, and before he has sufficient knowledge and ripeness of judgment to be entitled to form any definitive opinion of his own.'" Certainly, Horowitz has a point here - sort of. On the one hand, positions on public policy from all view points must be considered valuable and worthy of consideration; they should not be confined to "free speech zones." But what about bad ideas not worthy of consideration, like alchemy, or physics, or whatever else an individual finds objectionable? Horowitz argues that "all too frequently, professors behave as political advocates in the classroom, express opinions in a partisan manner on controversial issues irrelevant to the academic subject, and even grade students in a manner designed to enforce their conformity to professorial prejudices." *Id.* Ok, but what defines "political advocacy" in the class room? What issues are "controversial?" Is the illegality of torture controversial? If so, according to Horowitz, equal time must be given to those who advocate its practice as a tool of law enforcement. Must a professor assign reading to that effect? Is advocating racial equality "political advocacy?" If it is, then logically professors must direct students to white supremacists web sites as a source of scholarly insight. Horowitz, like the SAF, is effectively advocating that a judicial remedy be created to protect the conservative viewpoint in our universities. However, this remedy effectively bullies professors into introducing potentially intellectually dishonest material into course curricula. Effectively, equal time

must be given to all contrary views, no matter how suspect, irresponsible, or reprehensible.

That sounds like a pretty curricula to me.

Finally, in Spring 2003, California economist Daniel Klein published a large-scale survey of American academics, entitled *How Politically Diverse are the Social Sciences and Humanities*, by using academic association membership lists from six fields: Anthropology, Economics, History, Philosophy (political and legal), Political Science, and Sociology. The paper focused on one question: *To which political party have the candidates you've voted for in the past ten years mostly belonged?* Not exactly the scientific method. Klein states that "the question was answered by 96.4 percent of academic respondents. The results show that the faculty is heavily skewed towards voting Democratic. The most lopsided fields surveyed are Anthropology with a D to R ratio of 30.2 to 1, and Sociology with 28.0 to 1. The least lopsided is Economics with 3.0 to 1. After Economics, the least lopsided is Political Science with 6.7 to 1. The average of the six ratios by field is about 15 to 1. Thus, the social sciences and humanities are dominated by Democrats. There is little ideological diversity." I find this to be a very clunky intellectual leap, because as Professor Jacoby states, "a whopping 70 percent of the recipients did what any normal person would do when receiving an unsolicited fourteen page survey: they tossed it." David Jacoby, "The New PC: Crybaby Conservatives," *The Nation* (April 4, 2005).

Klein's study originated under the notion that academia should reflect the overall makeup of the population. However, Klein seeks to extend this notion to include affiliation in political parties, by somehow drawing the conclusion that universities are predisposed toward indoctrinating students with leftist ideology in the humanities, and social sciences (including law). It's just an odd proposition if one considers how many Democrats

voted for Ronald Reagan, and how many Republicans voted for Bill Clinton. Klein's study is perhaps the most widely cited "evidence" of the brainwashing of the American student. However, supporters of this notion rarely quarrel with the relative conservatism of economics, engineering, sports and business programs. Nor are they concerned about the current state of the makeup of the Pentagon, the Federal Judiciary, Congress, the Presidency, etc. - where public policy is made. Here, supporters are content to argue that the majority must have its rightful say, even if that "majority" is, in fact, not representative of the majority of Americans.

If social and political parity is indeed the end goal, Rick Santorum, Donald Rumsfeld, and Antonin Scalia should hand in their resignations, in favor of more centrist policy makers, as majority of Americans do not share their radical views. I'll give you five Spectors or McCains for every Frist or Santorum you have. I'll read Anne Coulter as an addendum to Sullivan and Gunther in a Con. Law class, if you give me a moderate federal bench. I further propose that the Pentagon, CIA, and Justice Department abandon their quasi-official practice of "rendering" terrorism suspects to states which commonly practice torture as a means of gathering intelligence - no matter how specious or faulty - because most Americans are in favor of the rule of law and standing by our international obligations. I propose that the major news outlets, which are owned by conservative multi-national corporations, relinquish their grip on popular media, and in the name of parity, I am more than willing to sit through a classes taught by religious zealots (of any faith) who espouse anti-gay, anti-immigrant, and anti-inclusiveness rhetoric.

As educated adults aren't we are perfectly capable of deciding for ourselves what policies we find acceptable, and those which we find objectionable? If you're not capable of convincing others of your position based on the merits of your points, then what are you doing in law school?



The Month in Review: Law School Dinners



The Opinion 2005

Book Review: *The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini

By Jason Joaquin Almonte, '07

International novels seem to be taking America and the world by storm, and the latest in this long line, *The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini has not been left behind. It has made it onto bestseller lists around the world, and its list of positive criticism is quickly becoming endless. It is a fast, moving read – drawing the reader into the world of pre-Communism Afghanistan and one family’s flight from Afghanistan to California.

Amir, the novel’s protagonist, is a vibrantly drawn character who, despite alienating the reader at times, jumps off the page and into the reader’s heart. Exposition of this character brings forth all of the conflict themes in the novel – universal themes that seem familiarly “American” despite arising in pre-Communism Afghanistan. These conflicts: young-old, father-son, master-servant, bravery-cowardice, are inescapable.

Amir is the son of a wealthy businessman. His father, Baba, is a true generalist: a shop-owner, an architect, a party planner. Baba is the classic

“macho-man,” in an affable, almost all-American sort of way. He is a “grown-up” athlete, a philanthropist with a dynamic sense of modern politics and a nonchalant disregard for Islam. Amir, on the other hand, is not athletically inclined whatsoever, and as a sensitive bookworm – is growing into someone his father doesn’t seem to like much. The thread between them is awkward and painful as it is never tender or gentle in the way Amir longs for. Their relationship, however painful to read, elicits sympathy from the reader and remains genuine throughout the novel. In a way, their relationship drives the story’s plot from start to finish.

Baba and Amir also have two servants, Ali (Baba’s own boyhood servant

and friend) and his son Hassan, expose the reader to the centuries old class division between upper-class Pashtuns, and the oppressed, Hazara. Hassan is Hazara, and Hosseini deftly explores this Pashtun-Hazara clash by following the two boys’ youth in Kabul. The divide between Amir and Hassan is wide, encompassing money, home, character, education, and ultimately what Amir envies most: family. Ali adores Hassan, and even Baba holds a special place in his heart for the boy.

The novel’s first plot climax brings all four of these characters together in Kabul’s annual kite competition before following Amir’s travels through America and Afghanistan. Kabul’s kite competition is another representation of the

significance of tradition in the novel, and in all the conflicts in the novel. Striving to please his father, and finally win his love, Amir enters the kite flying competition, actually remaining the last kite flying at the end of the day. Hassan is at Amir’s side the whole time – and what happens after is the first of many expressions of the novel’s profound, underlying theme sacrifice. To give it away would be to deprive the reader of the true jewels of this novel.

The Kite Runner is yet another novel in the niche of “global nomad” books around today. Akin to Yann Martel’s *The Life of Pi* and even Nadine Gordimer’s *The Pickup*, it follows its protagonist from youth to adulthood and across national boundaries, even through the hoops that shifting from tradition to modernism bring us all. Amir is a dramatic character, and having his transformation brought out for the reader is truly an enjoyable one. Hosseini’s freshman performance skillfully paints landscapes from Afghanistan to California without ever alienating the reader. *The Kite Runner* is a definite read.



The Student Bar Association congratulates the Class of 2005 and 3L Executive Board & Class Directors

Melissa Cavagnaro
Fatimat Balogun
Jessica Ortiz
Lauren Tamparo

Alamdar Shah

Brian Langenfeld
Allen Blount
John Rudy
Steve Trynosky

Decompression
2005



May 19th
9pm
Cost: Free!

The Docket



Who: **ABA Law Day**

When: May 1st

Scoop: Check out www.abanet.org to learn more or join the ABA Law Student Division

Who: **President’s Council Meeting**

When: May, 5th at 7:30pm

Scoop: Newly elected club presidents and treasurers get to be lectured by the SBA on the do’s and don’ts of running their club

Who: **Reading Period for Final Exams**

When: Saturday, May 7th and Sunday, May 8th

Scoop: Are they kidding us? Reading period is a weekend??? Gee thanks...in case having limited library use is not bad enough.

Who: **Final Exams**

When: May 9th-19th

Scoop: Bring it. This semester is almost over and I am ready for the summer!

Who: **Decompression**

When: Thursday, May 19th, free for law students

Scoop: Location is still in flux at the time of publication, rumors have it at Pearl Street or Ya Ya’s...Do not miss this event!

Who: **Law School Commencement**

When: May 21st at the Center for the Arts at 1pm

Scoop: Want tickets? Too bad. You can usher if you like, just speak with Dean Saran.