

UCLA

The Docket

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UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW

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THE DOCKET

APRIL 1998

STUDENTS GIVE UCLAW ABOVE AVERAGE RATING

Poll shows that 2Ls are the most pleased with the UCLAW experience

By Armen Martin
Editor-in-Chief

Every year, *U.S. News & World Report* publishes its rankings of the top law schools in the nation. And every year, thousands of law students eagerly scan the list to see where their school places. In this year's rankings, UCLAW held its position at No. 17, placing the school solidly within the "first tier." Conspicuously absent from the rating criteria used by *U.S. News*, however, is any index of current students' satisfaction with their law school experience. In an attempt to better ascertain UCLAW students' level of happiness with our school, *The Docket* recently distributed an anonymous poll that asked



The main foyer of the library sits empty as last minute modifications are made

students to rate their impressions of various aspects of UCLAW.

The first question asked the respondents to rate their overall experience at UCLAW on a scale from 1 ("very poor")

to 7 ("excellent"), with a score of 4 representing "average." Overall, the respondents gave UCLAW a mean score of 5.0, significantly above average. There was some deviation across class

year, with 1Ls rating their overall experience slightly more negatively (mean score of 4.7) and 2Ls slightly more positively (mean score of 5.3), but all three classes gave UCLAW significantly above-average marks.

On the next six questions, respondents were asked to evaluate more specific facets of their law school experience, again using a 7-point scale. The second question asked the pollees to rate the overall quality of the education that they received at UCLAW. The respondents as a whole gave UCLAW a high mark in this category, with a mean score of 5.4. As was the case with the overall ranking, however, the first-year students were somewhat less satisfied (mean score of 5.1) and 2Ls significantly more so (mean score of 5.9).

The next question probed respon-

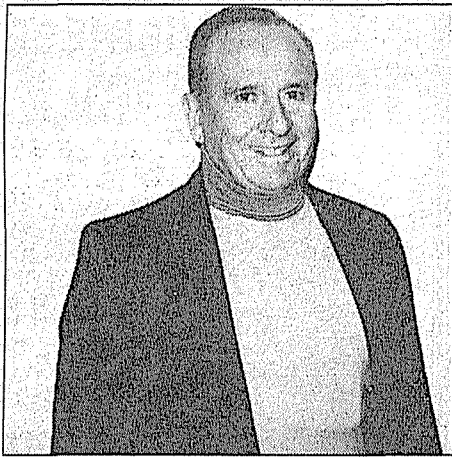
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The Strange Tale of J. Alex Cota

By David Simonton
Editor-in-Chief

As the jangling of the office phone pierced the silence of our office, my co-editor and I quickly exchanged an hopeful glance. *The Docket's* financial situation had reached rock bottom, and this very well might be our long-awaited return call from an interested advertiser. For several minutes I sat in anxious expectation, hoping to hear my associate say something suggesting that a full-page ad was in the works. Instead, I watched a puzzled expression slowly creep across his face. "Actually, I haven't read anything about a loyalty oath at UCLA," he finally interjected, obviously growing weary of the mostly one-way conversation.

"I know what he's talking about," I muttered, motioning for the phone. The day before, *The Daily Bruin* had run a feature story on how during the McCarthy era the University of California required its faculty to sign an oath



Alex Cota has been fighting for readmittance to UCLAW for 46 years

pledging allegiance to the US Constitution. "Let me speak with him," I said. My co-editor thankfully handed the receiver over to me, and I introduced myself to the mysterious caller.

"My name is J. Alex Cota," he replied. "I was a first-year law student at UCLA in 1952, when Dale Coffman was Dean of the Law School." Mr. Cota then jumped into a lengthy condemnation of McCarthyism and loyalty oaths, the passion of his tone indicating that this topic

held a good deal of personal relevance to him. "It was a scary time then," he somberly remembered.

As Cota continued, my journalistic curiosity could not help but be piqued. Why the fervent denunciation of McCarthyism? Why was he calling *The Docket*, and why now? And perhaps most importantly, what role did UCLAW and Dean Coffman play in all of this? As is the case with most curious questions, however, the answers that I initially received served only to heighten my curiosity.

Cota explained that Coffman, the first dean of UCLAW, was the professor for his first-year Torts class. One day, the National Lawyers Guild, a politically liberal association of attorneys, distributed leaflets to the student body promoting a national tour. That same day, according to Cota, Coffman encouraged his students to not associate themselves with the Guild, as doing so might ham-

See **COTA**, page 6

Black Letter

California butts into the right to smoke in bars

By Mark Lamb
News Editor

It's often said that "as California goes, so goes the nation," and indeed the Golden State has been first in countless policy initiatives (golden and otherwise) that subsequently have spread across America. This January might have provided the latest example, as California became the first state in the nation to ban smoking in all bars. Though the ban took many by surprise (including one UCLAW 3L who was unceremoniously booted from Maloney's after lighting up), it has been in the works for many years.

In 1994, the Legislature passed and Governor Wilson signed Assembly Bill (AB) 13, the most comprehensive anti-smoking law passed outside an Islamic state. Codified as Section 6404.5 of the

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WHAT'S INSIDE



Billy's World

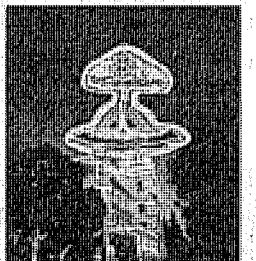
Billy doesn't fear the Reaper!!!

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THE MOCKIT
Annual April
Fool's Insert

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SBA Election Candidate Statements

SBA President

Adam Smith

If there is one thing that students should expect from the SBA, it is to make law school more livable. This year has proven that law school politics are an unnecessary diversion. We have heard allegations of presidential interns, personal agendas, private fax machines and business cards for the SBA President. Unfortunately, we have seen too few worthwhile social events and too much fragmentation of our own community.

If elected, I will work hard to remove politics from the Student Bar Association and try to re-instill a sense of unity in the law school. Accordingly, I have developed the following four plank platform to reinvigorate the law school.

First, I promise to deliver free beer—lots and lots of free beer. The current president has deprioritized free beer. He refused to organize any courtyard socials during the first month of school and thereby deprived first year students of



the opportunity to meet fellow first, second and third year students in a friendly, social environment. Moreover, the first social was organized and administered by non-SBA students and under-funded by the president himself. If elected, I will not similarly abdicate myself of the most important duty of the SBA President. I will bring you free beer starting on day 1. Help me put the "bar" back in the Student Bar Association.

Second, I promise to keep the SBA book exchange and use its income productively. I commend Peter Nguyen on his creativity and diligence in starting the first ever SBA book exchange. Not only does the book exchange allow students to sell their books back at fair prices, but it also creates a significant source of revenue for the SBA. Unfortunately, this year we students have not reaped the benefit of this income. If elected, I promise to maintain the book exchange and use its revenues to deliver you free beer.

Third, it is reported that the current president used SBA money to purchase a fax machine so that he could communicate with the UC Regents. If elected, I promise to put this fax machine to its highest and best use. Specifically, I will either (1) put the fax machine in the distribution room so that all students may have access to it or (2) pawn it and use the money to buy you free beer.

Fourth, to increase student-faculty interaction, I will sponsor a "steak fry" on the beach. This function will be replete with free beer and other libations.

2L President

David Friedman

Class of 2G: I feel that the SBA has gotten away from what it is supposed to be. I do not think that the SBA is intended to or should be an open forum for the wide promotion of inflammatory political topics. It should remain grounded in the Law School, and refrain from proselytizing.

That it is called the *Student Bar Association* implies that it is for the students, which I think includes supporting and promoting:

- Varied student groups, including interest- and cultural-based ones
- Academic and career services
- Social events

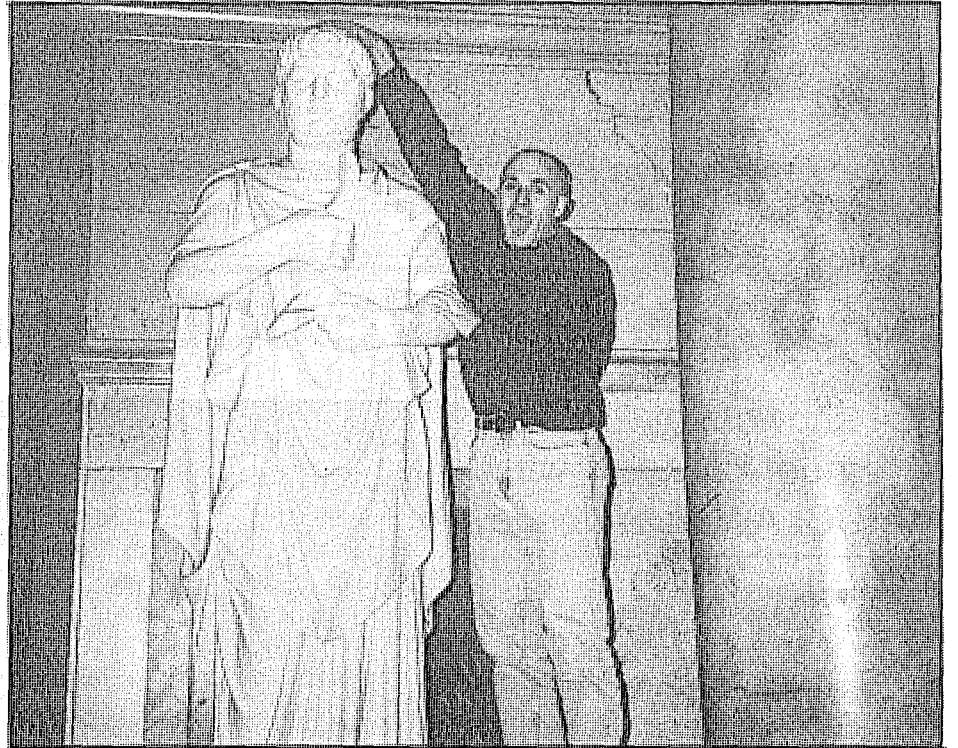
The SBA should be there to put on social events to relax the often overheated atmosphere at a prestigious law school full of driven students. I will devote myself to the return of Kegs in the Courtyard (as close to weekly as we can get without the competition of bar review companies to pay for it), and the avid promotion of Bar Review Thursday nights as a place where everyone can relax and get to know one another. After the Sunday-Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday cram session, we could all use a break each week.

Whatever you want your second year to look like, please vote!

Ed. Note- These statements represent the views of the candidates and do not necessarily represent the views of The Docket. We did not solicit the statements of any specific candidates (with the exception of current SBA President Peter Nguyen) and we printed, without editing, every candidate statement we received.



Picture of the Month



Tom Dono, 3L, celebrates with Nero after winning control of Caesar's Palace during a gambling binge.

THE DOCKET

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Summer 1997 Bar Exam Pass Rate (First-Time Takers)

UCLA
Pass Rate:
(237 of 300 Passed)

79%

UCLA Students
Supplementing With PMBR:
(122 of 135 Passed)

90%

UCLA Students
NOT Taking PMBR:
(115 of 165 Passed)

69%

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Billy's World

By Guillermo Frias

Death

Our culture is obsessed with death. Daily we are bombarded with murder, dismemberment, disease, accidents, capital punishment and general mayhem. The gruesome images emanate from news programs, books, television shows, music, movies, the Internet and any other available medium. However, despite this daily bout with death, we are utterly unprepared to deal with the real event. We are so removed from death that we deny this natural process a place in our lives. It is ironic that in a culture so fascinated by death, few of us have ever seen or handled a dead body outside of one of the institutions designed to deal with the end of life.

Death occurs at several levels. Somatic death is the death of the organism as a whole; it usually precedes the death of the individual organs, cells, and parts of cells. Somatic death is marked by cessation of heartbeat, respiration, movement, reflexes and brain activity.



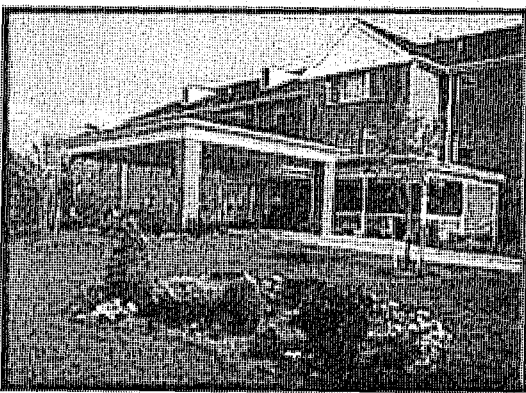
A retirement home in 1903.

In our modern world, death is the failure of science and individual liberty; we cannot cure it nor choose not to die. The inability to cope with death appears to be greatest in the United States.

America is the perpetually young nation, full of vigor and strength. Its vitality is renewed by never-ending waves of immigrants. Its manifest destiny and can-do attitude set only the horizon as its limits.

Our faith in our unlimited potential and individual liberty infects the way we think about death. The medical profession fights death to the bitter end, and some scientists are now beginning to speak of the possibility of treating death as a disease. Doctors employ their vast arsenal of machines to keep patients alive past the point of futility. Many doctors view the deaths of their patients as personal failures.

To watch ER is to see doctors speak of death as a game. If they had only practiced a bit more; if only they had been good enough; if only the shot clock had not run out; if only they would have had better rebounding; if only they had been better coached; if only the referee had not blown the call; if they would only have gotten the second foot in-bounds; if only any of these things would have occurred they would have pulled the game out and death would have gone home empty handed.



A 1990's version of where Americans go to die: retirement homes

For the medical profession, a "good death" is one in which everything medically possible was attempted, including hooking up a patient to machines that prolong life artificially beyond recovery, and the person died in the hospital.

The hospital, the police, the doctor, the old age homes, the morgue, and the funeral parlor are all institutions with paid professionals who guard the thin lifeline between the dead and the living. We have created these institutions in part to deal with the logistics of death in our modern urban world, but they are also a safety net for our individualism. Age and illness debilitate our liberty and self-sufficiency. Americans dread getting old. It is almost a personal embarrassment. Wrinkle cream, plastic surgery, diet books, etc., are all efforts to stem the inevitable tide of age.

Moreover, the ideal American family is not conceived to care for the old. The ideal is for a person to save and invest enough to be able to afford to retire without having to burden the grown children and their families.

Traditionally, the elderly have held an honored and respected position in the family and typically spent their last years living with their children and grandchildren. Now, more than two-thirds of all deaths take place in hospitals and geriatric institutions. To many of us, the idea of a family member dying at home is repugnant. As a result, the old tend to die surrounded by strangers who are paid professionals involved in the management of death.

Other cultures do not share America's estranged relationship to death. Part of the reason is cultural; some peoples have stronger communal and family ties.

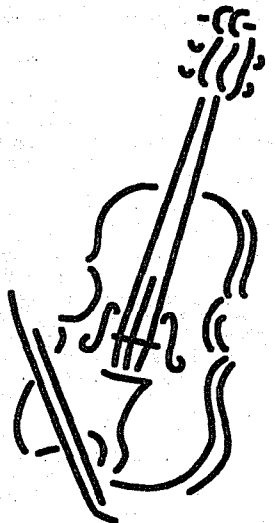
UCLAW BENEFIT CONCERT

By Darren Flagg

3L

You've done it before; we all have. You're watching your favorite late night show and during a commercial you decide to surf the channels. A purely innocent act, no culpable mens rea. While flicking passed the Weather channel, Shopping Network, Lifetime, Fox Sport News, TBN, etc. you happen by the "Classical Arts Network Channel." Ah, the horror!!! There, before your eyes, you see a group of musicians sawing their instruments while some (typically) ancient dude is waving his arms in front of them. What is that all about? Or, better yet, what is with those three tenors? You know the guys who get on stage singing loud and high about...well, how are you supposed to know; it definitely is not in English. What is all the excitement about anyway?

Well, stop wondering and come experience something different. On Thursday, April 9, 1998 a few of your law school classmates will perform a benefit concert in Room 1357. Benefiting the Public Interest Law Foundation, this mostly classical concert, which should last approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes, will showcase some of the extraordinary musical talents of people you see walking the halls everyday. In addition, the law school will be honored with the performance of special guest artists such as Grammy-nominated clarinetist David Howard, member of the Los Angeles Philharmonic — himself a former UCLAW student, and Gabriella Widman, a lyric-spinto soprano who has studied at the celebrated Das Mozarteum in Salzburg, the Manhattan School of Music and the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia. This will not be your ordinary concert. In order to introduce you to the music, an M.C. will briefly talk about each piece and composer, even explaining what you should be listening for. This should be helpful for those who don't know the slightest thing about classical music.



The program for the benefit concert is packed full of some of music's biggest

See **CONCERT**, page 14

ANSWER SHEET

for the \$25,000 KeyCite "The Key to Good Law" Scholarship Contest

Westlaw® is currently sponsoring a competition that asks law students to write an essay on making KeyCite even better (and if you've worked with KeyCite, you know there's a lot of room for improvement). To help your chances of winning, you'll find several "key deficiencies" below. Meanwhile, here's another winning suggestion for you:

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Profile: You were born in Illinois, received your B.A. and J.D. from the University of Illinois, and began your teaching career at the U. of Illinois Law School. What led you to decide to come out to Los Angeles to teach at UCLA?

Warren: Well, I was offered a job as professor at UCLA, and I came out here and I liked it so much that, to the surprise of all my friends and relatives in Illinois, I decided to stay. UCLA was a young law school and had an excellent dean in Richard Maxwell, a magnetic personality who attracted people to him and the school. The school was only 10 years old then and it had a great future, and I just loved Los Angeles, as many Midwesterners do, for obvious reasons!

Profile: What specifically did you find Los Angeles to offer that Illinois did not?

Warren: Well, I am interested in commercial law, and Los Angeles is a great commercial center. Urbana-Champaign was a great place to live and teach, but it was not a commercial center. You had to go to Chicago to talk to people about developments in business. Los Angeles seemed to have everything to offer

in that respect: a very advanced commercial bar, cutting-edge issues such as intellectual property, all these things were going on in Los Angeles. So, I thought the opportunity to teach commercial law would be better here. And quite frankly, I was attracted by the whole surrounding area, the beautiful campus, great faculty members, and terrific students. It was a hard choice to make at the time because it was a young law school, and I had a lot of family ties to Illinois.

Profile: Did you meet your wife in Illinois or after you moved to California?

Warren: Actually, I was living in California when I met her, but at the time she was at the University of Chicago. I met her at the University of Chicago when I was out for a meeting. We've been married a long time.

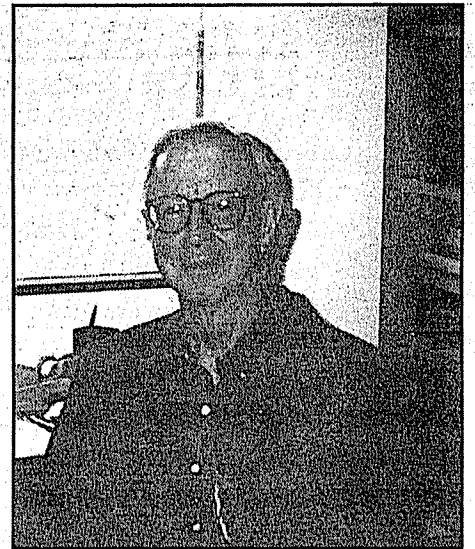
Profile: Any children?

Warren: We have two kids: a son, who practices medicine in Sacramento and is married to another doctor; and a daughter who works in Los Angeles as a manager of a retail store. My son has

two kids, daughters aged 13 and 9. My daughter is not married, so that's the extent of my family.

Profile: You left UCLA in 1972 to teach at Stanford Law School and then returned in 1975 to take the deanship. What would you say were the main reasons behind your decisions to leave and then to return?

Warren: They were both very difficult decisions to make. I had been here for 12 years, and I thought it would be nice to try living in Northern California. Stanford gave me an endowed professorship at the law school, which was flattering, and they had a very good faculty there. So, my wife and I, after several weeks of wrestling with our consciences, decided to go up there, and I enjoyed it. As a matter of fact, I was quite sure that I would stay there for the rest of my life. But, then I got a call one day from [then-UCLA Chancellor] Charles Young, who said that he'd like me to lead the law school. My wife and I wrestled with that for about a month and a half (*laughs*). We had a nice house up there and so forth, but we came back and I've never regretted that for a



Professor Bill Warren, "Dockie" Award winner

minute.

Profile: How would you describe your experience as Dean of UCLA?

Warren: I really enjoyed being Dean; in retrospect, it was something that I just couldn't pass up. It was an honor, and I was challenged. It was a wonderful opportunity, and I guess my feeling is that if someone is going to be an academic all their life, at some point in their career, they should try being an administrator. But I had had enough after 7 years, and I enjoyed very much going back into teaching.

Profile: Dean Prager has credited you with outlining an agenda for improving the law school while you were Dean, an agenda which she has described as a "blueprint" for her deanship. What ex-

See **PROFILE**, page 13

L.A. Confidential Sets You Up in Style

By Bud Porter

3L

A talented cast of characters and plenty of colorful locations set in 1950s Los Angeles elevate the film version of James Ellroy's 1990 book *L.A. Confidential* to the status of one of the best movies of 1997.

On a sun-drenched day in October, I drove down Sunset Boulevard through Hollywood and out to Los Feliz. Just east of Vermont lies the Vista Theater, a one-screen gem that has been showing movies since 1927. Inside the wide, high-ceilinged room, the movie had just started and I found a seat thanks to the golden glow of ten Egyptian heads gazing down from the art deco walls. In such a historic theater, so close to where I live, and where *L.A. Confidential* takes place, I was up for something great. Two-and-a-half hours later, I was not disappointed.

Directed by Curtis Hanson (*Bad Influence*, *The Hand That Rocks the Cradle*), the film tells the story of three L.A. cops whose different approaches to fighting crime nevertheless places them in the same things-aren't-adding-up boat on a puzzling murder case.

Guy Pearce plays Ed Exley, a young officer who gets the cold shoulder when he refuses to sweep the mistakes of his fellow officers under the rug. One of

The third protagonist is an opportunistic cop named Jack Vincennes (Kevin Spacey), who consults on the set of a *Dragnet*-like TV show and sells tips



Danny De Vito and Kevin Spacey hatch a dastardly plan

them is Bud White (Russell Crowe from *Romper Stomper*), a man on the edge who uses his muscle the way Mel Gibson used his gun in *Lethal Weapon*—all the time. Within the department, though, Bud's physical behavior is not only tolerated but nurtured by the captain (James Cromwell).

on the side to a tabloid journalist (a perfectly-cast Danny De Vito). Spacey, who has been so effective in roles *opposite* police officers (*Seven*, *The Usual Suspects*), has a great time here with another smug character and some very funny lines. Rounding out the excellent cast is steamy Kim Basinger as a woman

trapped in mysterious circumstances whose movie-star looks seem to be the only card she's showing. Basinger won the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress for her performance.

The choice of casting relative unknowns Crowe and Pearce (both are Australians) as the two central characters was remarkably effective, especially when the tension between Bud and Exley starts to simmer as the two get more deeply involved in the murder and corruption around them. Add in a moody soundtrack, vintage costumes, and some local landmarks, and the result is a suspenseful portrayal of the seamy side of 1950s Los Angeles in a complicated but highly pleasing *film noir*.

L.A. Confidential shows just how bad recent attempts at this genre have been which have passed off graphic violence and nudity for the brooding atmosphere and sexual tension of the classics. Lee Tamahori, the director of one of these failures (*Mulholland Falls*), and by the way the guy who called the shots on one of last year's dogs-you-should-have-

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COTA

From page 1

string their future careers. What especially disturbed Cota, however, was the language with which Dean Coffman expressed his opinion, language reminiscent of the "guilt by association" jargon of McCarthyism: "Birds of a feather flock together."

As a first-year student, Cota was almost too scared to voice an objection to his professor's statement. "My knees were shaking," he remembered. "But I had to say something." Cota rose to his feet and asked Coffman if he was afraid of Joe McCarthy. In response, Coffman allegedly described McCarthy as "the greatest American alive today," and challenged Cota to name one person wrongfully accused by the Senator from Connecticut. Still nervous, but not daunted, Cota offered the name of Dean Acheson, then the Secretary of State.

Dean Coffman was apparently not appreciative of Cota's response. According to Cota, Coffman said something like "Given time, he'll get him too," and when Cota attempted to quote newspaper reports to further defend Acheson, Coffman sarcastically inquired into what newspapers Cota had been reading. "It was because of this political disagreement," explained Cota, "that Dean Coffman sabotaged my Torts final and then refused me readmittance into the law school."

At this point, I wasn't sure that I believed what I had just heard. Could it really be that the dean of UCLAW purposefully gave a student a poor grade because of his politics? Could it really be that a UCLAW student was, in effect, "blacklisted" from the school? "I might just have a *real* piece of investigative journalism on my hands," I thought as I implored Cota to continue.

The rest of his story did not disappoint. When Cota attended UCLAW, he explained, the school had not yet switched to an anonymous grading system. "In fact," he added, "it was because of my case that they stopped having students sign their names to their exams."

Cota's cumulative first-year grade point average was 62.7, a mere 0.3 points below the minimum required GPA of 63.0. Along with his final grades, Cota received a letter from Dean Coffman dated July 31, 1952 stating that, due to his substandard grades, he would not be allowed to continue at UCLAW.

Soon after receiving his final grades, Cota visited Coffman in order to review the scoring of his Torts exam. According to Cota, however, Dean Coffman refused to go over his final, insisting that it had been graded fairly. Disappointed, Cota returned home, only to find that a second letter from Coffman had arrived. This letter, also dated July 31, stated that Cota would be allowed to take classes in a six-week summer session to try to raise his GPA above 63.0.

There was only one problem: the

summer session was scheduled to begin in two days. Although he was able to enroll, Cota discovered that all of the books for his classes had been sold out. Unable to do the reading for the critical first week, Cota felt that he had no choice but to drop out of summer school. "Dean Coffman *intentionally* sent me two separate letters, both dated July 31, so as to confuse me," he suggested. "The first said that I would not be allowed to continue; the second said that I could, as long as I went to summer school. But



Senator Joe McCarthy: Does the shadow of his witch-hunts still haunt UCLAW?

Coffman sent out my grades a week late, so I wasn't able to attend summer school."

This last allegation gave me a little pause. Although it seemed somewhat odd that Coffman's office would send Cota two separate letters, both dated on the same day, it seemed even odder to attribute this apparent snafu to some invidious conspiracy against Mr. Cota. But then again, if it truly were the case that Coffman sabotaged Cota's final grade because of his political views, then it wouldn't be that much of a stretch for Cota to ascribe the use of two letters to a more sinister motive.

Cota did not allow Coffman's original refusal to review his exam to end the matter. First, he filed an unsuccessful petition for readmission to UCLAW in October of 1952. When that failed, Cota turned to the courts, filing a Petition for Writ of Mandamus against Dale Coffman in his capacity as Dean of UCLAW. The court eventually dismissed Cota's suit, declaring it to be a "University matter." (Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 619,033). Even worse, prior to the hearing on Cota's petition but after receiving notice of the suit, Dean Coffman burned Cota's Torts final, the one piece of evidence which might have definitively proven his allegations.

Cota nonetheless continued to seek readmission through administrative channels, petitioning each new Dean of UCLAW to be allowed to resume his studies. Since the initial review in 1952, the administration has conducted two separate investigations into Cota's allegations. The first of these, headed by Dean Richard Maxwell in the early 1960's, concluded that there was insufficient evidence to support the accusations. The second, commissioned in

1975, found that there was no reason to reverse the prior committee's decision, as there was no new evidence to bolster Cota's claims of injustice. To Cota, however, these findings missed the point: the only reason that insufficient evidence exists, he maintains, is that Dean Coffman willfully destroyed his final.

In what might be the most bizarre chapter of this prolonged saga, however, Cota did obtain one shot at getting Dean Coffman under oath. Soon after the court dismissed his mandamus petition, Cota

was listening to a radio broadcast by John Lechner, a local right-wing radio personality, in which Lechner called for the impeachment of Governor Earl Warren. When Cota phoned in to protest, Lechner stated on the air that he was a friend of Dean Coffman, that he had read Cota's final exam, and that Cota deserved his grade thereon. Cota seized upon this opportunity, bringing suit against Lechner and Coffman for invasion of privacy, to wit, allowing someone outside of UCLAW to read a student's examination

(L.A. County Superior Court Case No. 791,653).

Cota received a default judgment against Lechner, but found his true victory in forcing Coffman to testify at deposition about the events surrounding the grading and destruction of his Torts exam. Cota also took the depositions of several of his fellow students who were present in class for the debate over Senator McCarthy. According to Cota, the transcripts of these depositions contained several inconsistencies which would vindicate his allegations. I asked Cota to bring these transcripts with him to an interview, and he happily agreed. Before hanging up, though, he advised

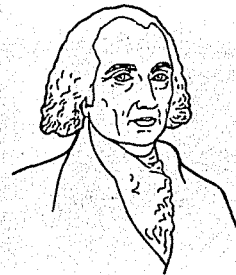
me to look up an old editorial from the October, 1980 issue of *The Docket* that called for his reinstatement.

Excited over the prospect of uncovering a UCLAW scandal, I promptly went to the library to request the back issue. Therein I found the editorial, as well as an article entitled "'And Justice for All.' Except Alex Cota" that repeated the allegations which Cota had leveled against Dean Coffman. The article also described one aspect of Cota's character about which he had talked only sparingly: his commitment to community service, and to children in particular. For years, Cota worked as a counselor for the L.A. County Probation Department in the Juvenile Division, and even since leaving the job in 1971, he has consistently lobbied for improvements in the conditions of juvenile detainees.

One thing the article did not appear to contain, however, was any objective investigation into Cota's allegations. Determined to be more thorough than my predecessors, I conducted several interviews with members of the faculty and administration, including two who served on committees that reviewed Cota's requests for readmittance.

Unfortunately, my investigation proved to be fairly fruitless. None of the current faculty or administration were at UCLAW during Coffman's deanship, much less in 1952. Thus, although I did find one administration official willing to comment on Dean Coffman's personal character, it could not have been based on personal knowledge. Nevertheless, her evaluation was in tune with what I had heard from Cota: that Coffman was a McCarthyist and an authoritarian, and that the reason why UCLAW now has a "weak" deanship is that the faculty had chafed under Coffman's reign.

See **COTA**, page 12



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&

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Oscars 1998 Review

By Jill Watry
Entertainment Editor

At the 70th Annual Academy Awards, *Titanic* tied the record for the most honored film in Academy history, winning 11 Oscars including Best Picture and Best Director.

"I'm King of the World," said *Titanic* Director James Cameron after receiving the award the Best Picture. Although Cameron is well known for many of his other action films including *Aliens*, *Terminator*, *T2*, and *True Lies*, he received his first nomination for an Academy Award with *Titanic*. During his first night at the Oscars, Cameron received 3 Academy Awards for Best Director, Film Editing and Best Picture.

Titanic, with its controversial \$200 million budget, tied with the motion picture *Ben Hur* which received 11 Academy Awards in 1959. Since its release, *Titanic*



Best Director James Cameron

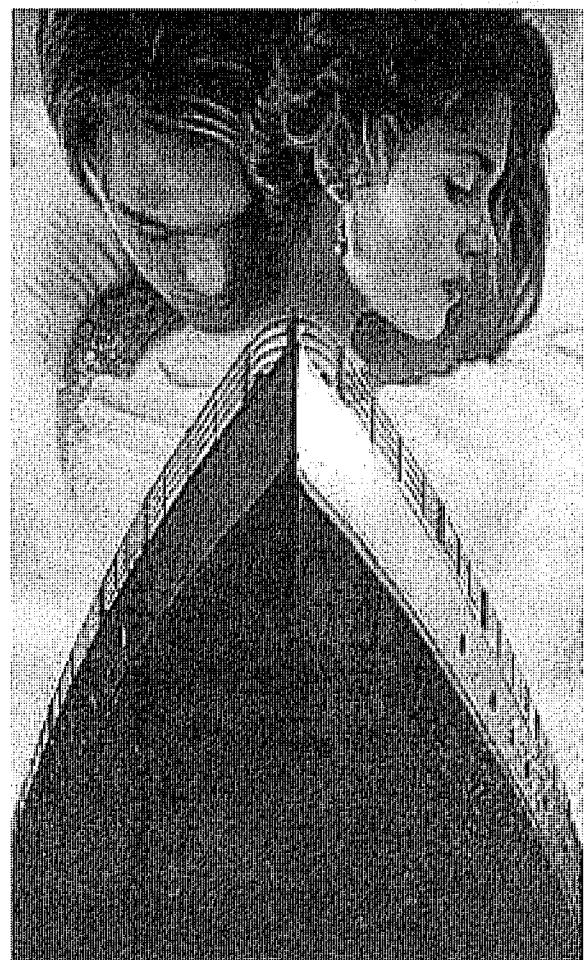
has surpassed even *Star Wars* as the highest-grossing film ever. *Titanic's* other awards included Cinematography, Art Direction, Costume Design, Original Dramatic Score, Original Song, Sound, Sound-Effects Editing and Visual Effects.

Things were also *As Good As It Gets* for the Best Actor and Best Actress awards. Jack Nicholson and *Mad About You's* Helen Hunt received the awards for Best Actor and Best Actress for their roles in the hit comedy *As Good As It Gets*.

Good Will Hunting also had a good night, taking home two Academy Awards. The young writers Ben Affleck, 25, and Matt Damon, 27, became very excited as they received the Oscar for Best Original Screenplay for their story about a blue-collar boy struggling to deal with his genius. The two literally jumped on the stage and shouted thank you's to their friends, colleagues and supporters. Robin Williams also received an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor for his role in *Good Will Hunting*.

The Academy also passed over the four British nominees and presented the award for Best Supporting Actress to Kim Basinger for her glamorous role in *L.A. Confidential*.

As always, the awards program was filled with music, dancing and laughter. In fact, Director Stanley Donen did his own song and tap dance as he accepted his Lifetime Achievement Award. Donen worked with such greats as Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire and directed many films including *Singin' in the Rain*. Donen received a standing ovation after accepting the award.



Best Picture winner Titanic

Best Picture
Titanic

Best Director
James Cameron
Titanic

Best Actor
Jack Nicholson
As Good As It Gets

Best Actress
Helen Hunt
As Good As It Gets

Best Supporting Actress
Kim Basinger
L.A. Confidential

Best Supporting Actor
Robin Williams,
Good Will Hunting

Best Original Screenplay
Ben Affleck & Matt Damon
Good Will Hunting



Editorial



This past Thursday before Spring Break marked only the second time this year that the SBA has organized a keg social in the Courtyard. That there have been only two kegs to date should come as no surprise. The SBA President has argued in the past that kegs intimidate minority and female students. The absurdity of this comment is self-evident. What is not self-evident is why the SBA has found funds for a fax machine and Presidential letterhead while neglecting the organization of socials on campus. While most student organizations have suffered from the decrease in competition among the bar companies since the demise of West, the SBA receives funds from both the school and the Graduate Student Association. These funds should be used to help finance student organizations as well as to fund social activities on campus.

In a poll conducted by *The Docket* to measure student attitudes towards UCLAW, students gave UCLAW's quality of life (including social life) the lowest score of any of the categories. This should come as a shock to students because UCLAW prides itself on being a more humane law school, without the competitive edge of Harvard. It appears that this is one area toward which both the SBA and the administration should concentrate more of their efforts.

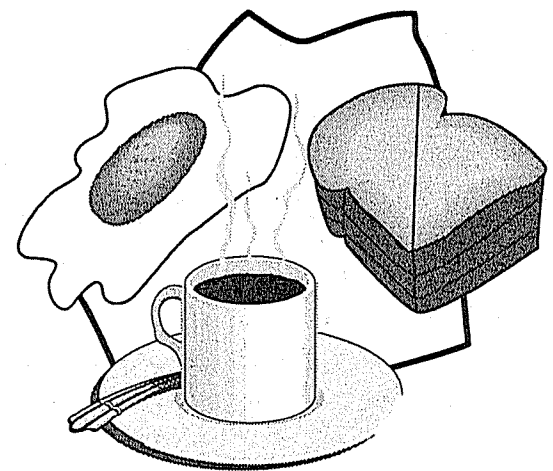
Instead of spending time passing symbolic resolutions condemning Governor Wilson and the Board of Regents, perhaps the SBA should devote itself to improving the quality of life at UCLAW. This should be, after all, the true mission of student government. If one were to ask your average UCLAW student which they was more important, a social in the Courtyard or the resolution condemning the current admissions policy, the answer would be clear.

Back to the keg before Spring Break. The fact that this second keg was organized on the eve of the SBA elections seems very interesting. The social was announced to all students via a mass-mailing sent out by the SBA President himself. While this may be nothing more than a coincidence, it was not only suspicious journalists that took notice of the timing. Perhaps even the politicians at the SBA realize their true roles on campus. After all, every good politician knows pork wins reelection. Apparently, SBA members believe that beer can win theirs.

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Student Quotes About UCLA

The following quotes are taken from the anonymous polls distributed to students. Comments were solicited in addition to the ratings reflected in the graphs on the right.

"Law school is a lot more fun and intellectually stimulating than I expected. Also, students are very friendly. Law school horror stories simply aren't true at UCLA." — 1L

"I don't believe that just because an individual is a brilliant person they can actually teach. I believe UCLA should examine who they choose to teach first-year students more closely." — 1L

"The library situation is absurd! My hometown community college has nicer library facilities than this 'top 20' law school. There are not enough places to eat on rainy days and not enough rooms for group study." — 1L

"Firstly, career services is very bad in its administration (my resume was submitted to the wrong employer!). Secondly, the new library needs to open." — 1L

"I've been pleasantly surprised by UCLA, although I sometimes wonder if my international law emphasis is 'in tune' with the law school's agenda." — 1L

"Employers look for good grades at a school with a good name, whether or not that is indicative of knowing a lot about the law or being prepared for a job. So, seeing that UCLA has a good name, at least in Southern California, I can't complain too much. That's why I came here." — 1L

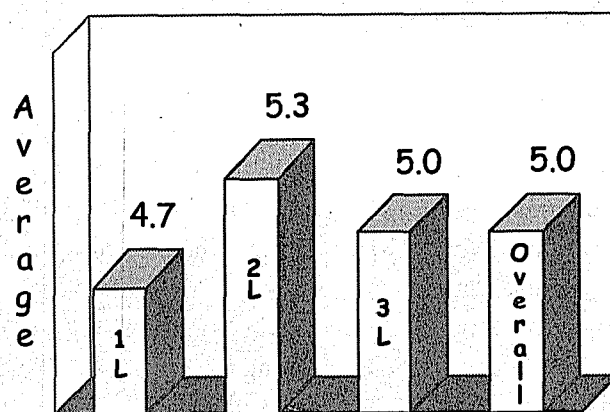
"Please take my rankings with a grain of salt. I should make it clear that I very well may have come to law school for the wrong reason. I sought to learn about the law, not how to be a lawyer. While the two are clearly not mutually exclusive, I feel that I am being taught the black letter law to the exclusion of the social, economic, religious (the list can go on) theories that both inform and drive law-making and legal interpretation. I can only assume that other schools represent the underlying theories that drive the practice. I would like to think that we are, or at least can be, more." — 1L

"Financial aid and records office personnel do a great job." — 2L

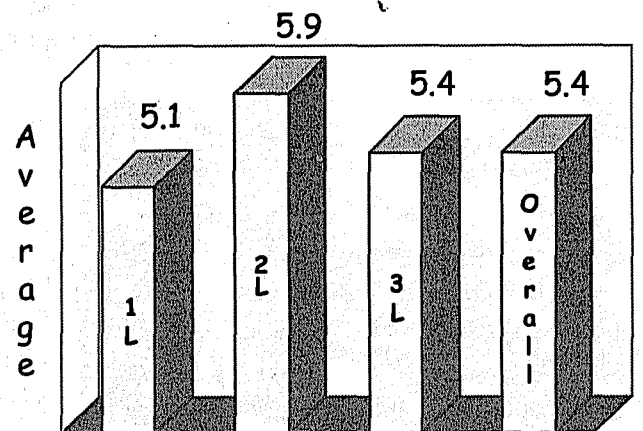
See QUOTES on right column

THE DOC

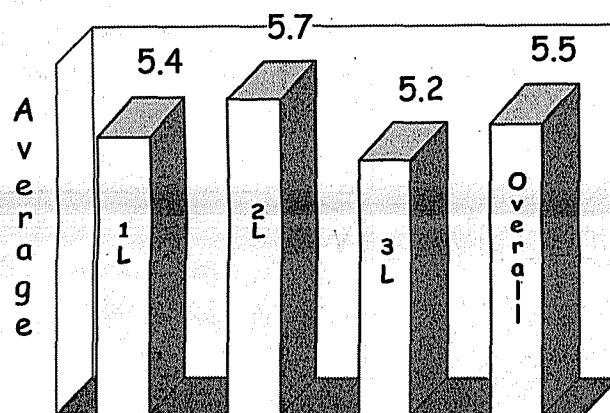
On a scale of 1 (very poor) through 7 (excellent), how would you rate your *overall experience* at UCLA Law School?



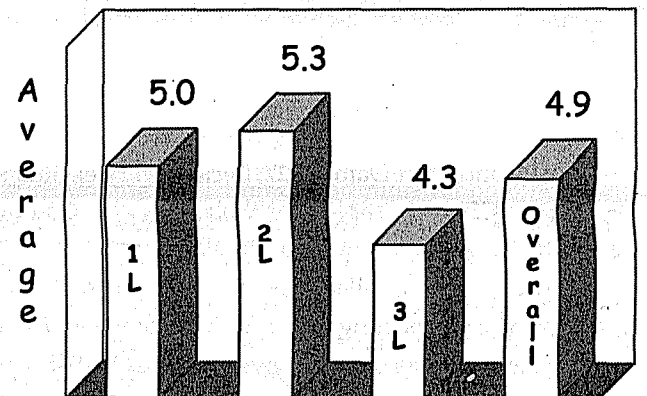
On a scale of 1 (very poor) through 7 (excellent), how would the *overall quality of the education* you have received at UCLA?



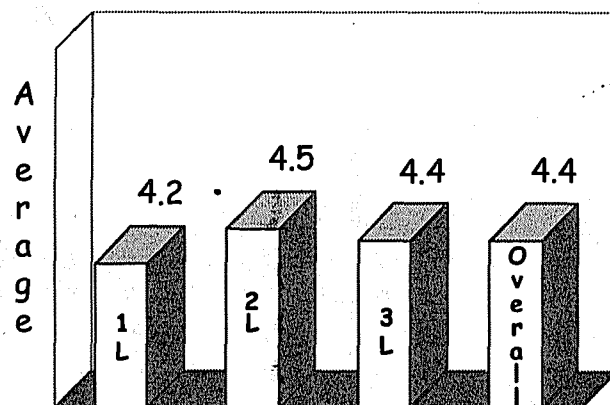
On a scale of 1 (very poor) through 7 (excellent), how would you rate the *quality of the faculty* at UCLA?



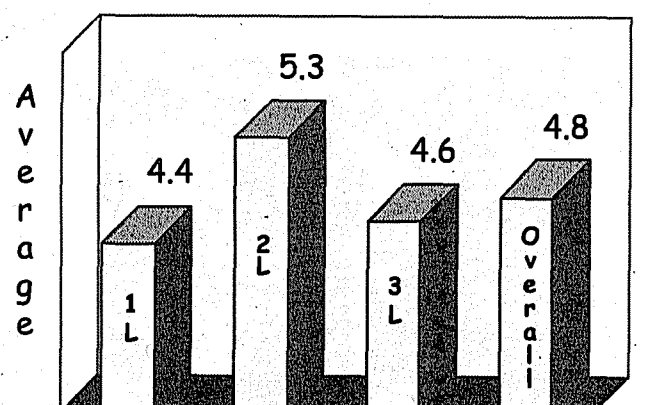
On a scale of 1 (very poor) through 7 (excellent), how would the rate the *administration* (dean of students, financial aid, etc.) at UCLA?



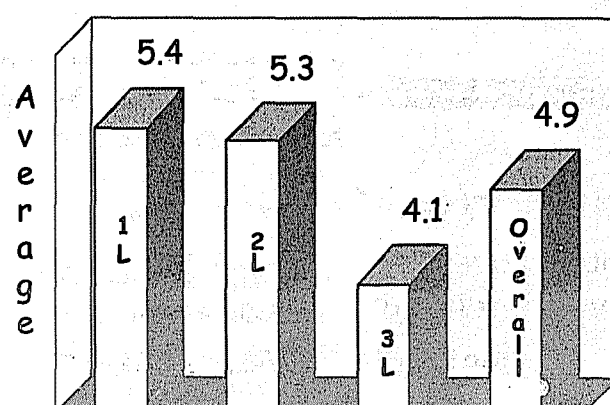
On a scale of 1 (very poor) through 7 (excellent), how would you rate the *quality of life* (social, cultural, etc.) for UCLA students?



On a scale of 1 (very poorly) through 7 (very well), how well do you believe UCLA prepared you for the *legal job* you want/have?

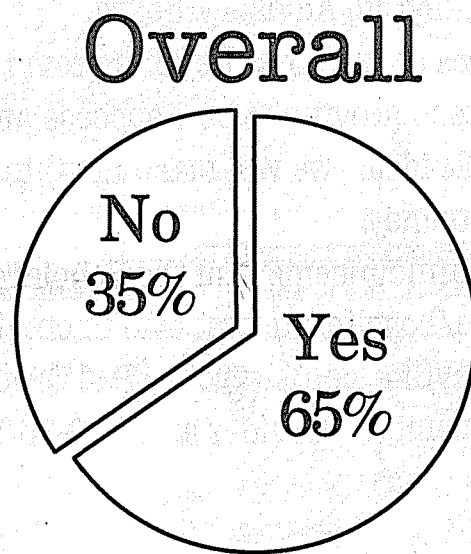
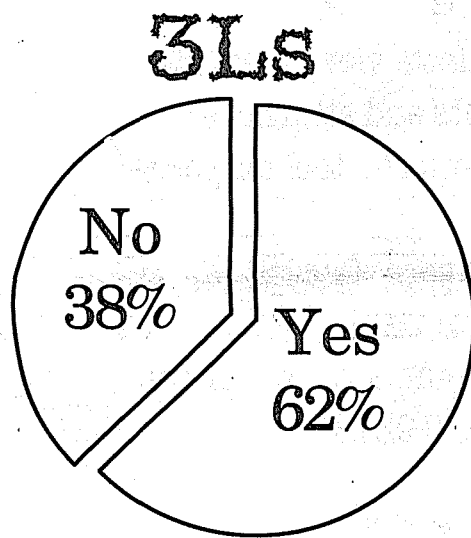
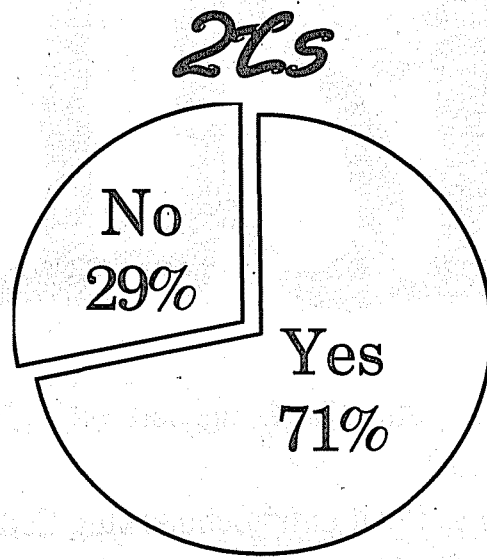
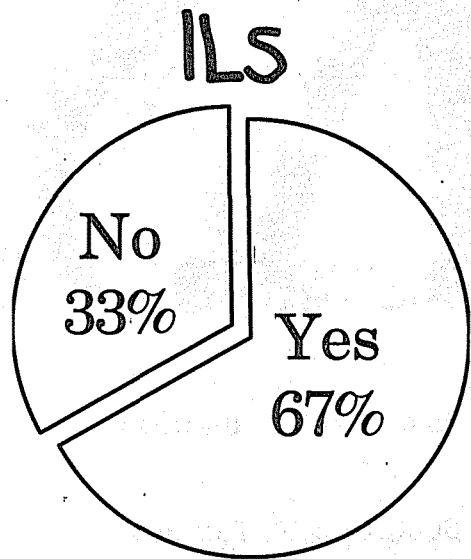


On a scale of 1 (very poorly) through 7 (very well), how well do you believe UCLA prepared you to *find a job* after graduation?

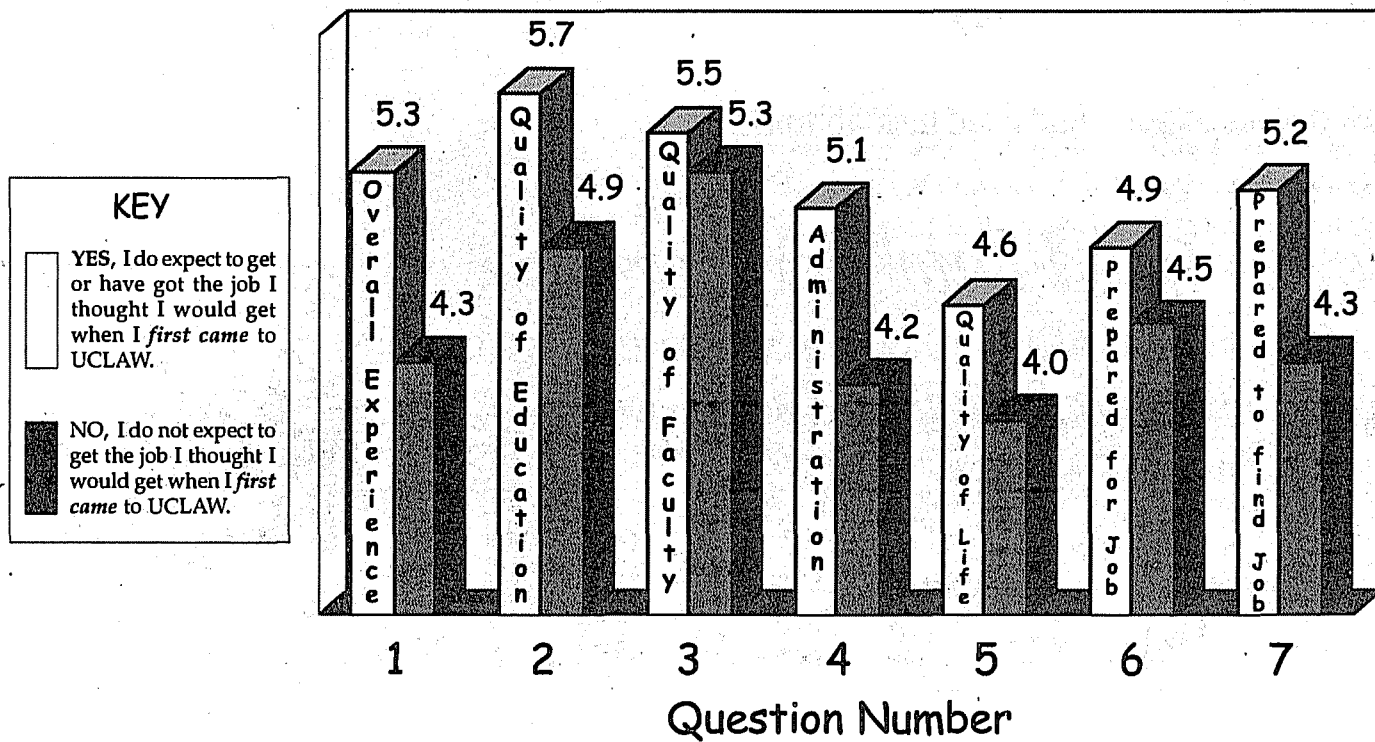


KEY POLL

Do you have OR do you think you will have the job you wanted when you *first* came to UCLA?



The answers pollees gave to Question 8 above were cross-referenced with the answers they gave for Questions 1 to 7. The averages for each question appear below



Poll Methodology

The Docket randomly selected 50 students and left a poll form in their mailboxes. Each poll form had a number printed in one corner so The Docket could assure there was a response from each student polled. Students who did not return their results initially were contacted again, and a 96% response rate was achieved. Students were assured that at no time would their response be cross-referenced to their name. In order to ensure confidentiality, the corner of each poll was removed after checking off the number corresponding to the student who returned the form.

QUOTES

From left column

"UCLAW's curriculum, administrative, and school structure betrays its institutional role as a feeder for the ethnically ambivalent, capitalist functionary tasks of major corporate law firms. Practically the entire incentive/reward system (in terms of the 'academic' 'bell-curve' grading system, social environment, etc.) is biased toward giving accolades to the politically/socially ambivalent (or even conservative liberalism) attitudes that so benefit the current practice of corporate law/criminal justice system. UCLAW owes students and the practice of law more effort in terms of equity and ethics." — 3L

"Overall, I think UCLAW is a great school. However, I think there is a great need for more students of color. The quality of life could be greatly improved by diversifying the student body." — 2L

"My response to [the question on how well UCLAW prepared me for my job] was above average because I took a clinical course (Enviro Clinic) and am a Lawyering Skills TA, two things that are very practice-oriented. My response to [the question on how well UCLAW prepared me to find a job] is simply 'average,' despite the fact that I have a [summer] job, because I feel that it was my prior legal experience as a paralegal that really helped me." — 2L

"The faculty is great and helpful to students, except for a condescending few. Students in general are cooperative and work together; but then again, there are those who don't. I think this school (compared to other top 20 schools) offers a very pleasant learning environment." — 2L

"I am very happy with my UCLAW experience — mostly great professors, friendly student environment." — 3L

"Although the subject of law is very interesting and crucially relevant to many activities in life, law school itself is a sham. The material is not tested objectively, the amount of material covered is too small compared to the hours spent on it, and the quality of discussion is much lower than in academic grad school. I am leaving this three-year exercise with disgust for the sham. If I could do it all over, I'd have saved the \$60k and taken the bar under the 'no law school' option." — 3L

"The teachers at UCLAW are the greatest. They truly care about their students. They take a very nurturing and caring

See QUOTES on page 14

A sincere Thanks.

Thanks to all of you who submitted suggestions on how to make the new KeyCite™ citation research service even better.

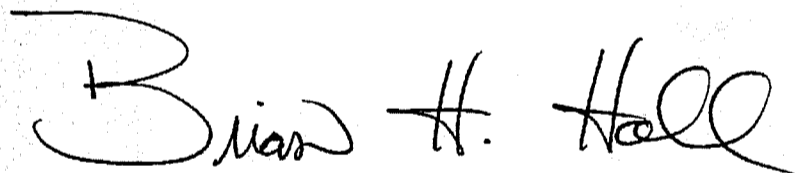
The KeyCite "The Key to Good Law" Scholarship Contest was a huge success and winners will be chosen soon by the KeyCite Advisory Board.

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Brian H. Hall
President and Chief Executive Officer, West Group

P.S. Once again, a sincere thanks to you. And good luck on finals!

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BLACK LETTER

From page 1

Labor Code, the legislation prohibits smoking in most enclosed workplaces, though several exemptions exist. For example, hotel lobbies, banquet halls, and 65% of hotel rooms are exempted from the ban.

Bars, game rooms and taverns were also initially exempted from the ban. Bars were supposed to be smoke-free by January 1, 1997, unless a Cal-OSHA or a federal EPA standard for employee exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) was adopted before that time. If such a regulation was adopted, bars were to be given two years to comply with the new standard, during which time smoking would be permitted. In the summer of 1996, the legislature passed and the governor signed AB 3037 which extended the deadline one year until January of 1998. (In the interest of full disclosure: I supported the passage of AB 3037, smoke cigars, and enjoy going to bars).

In the summer of 1997, bar owners and tobacco companies renewed their efforts to further extend the exemption. But the political climate had become even more unfriendly for tobacco, and the legislators who watched Bob Dole squirm because of his ties to the tobacco industry had no stomach for another extension. Just last week, state Senator Diane Watson (D-Los Angeles) effectively killed an attempt to extend the exemption for bars until the year 2000, which means that the ban on smoking in bars will remain in place at least through the end of the year.

Three months into the ban, both sides in the war over smoking in bars are now rushing to claim vindication for their pre-ban arguments. Ban opponents have been quick to point out the unpopularity of the law with the patrons, and some claim a real decline in business. Proponents of the ban counter that after three months, not a single bar can be said to have gone under due to the ban. Both sides are right, and yet both are also wrong.

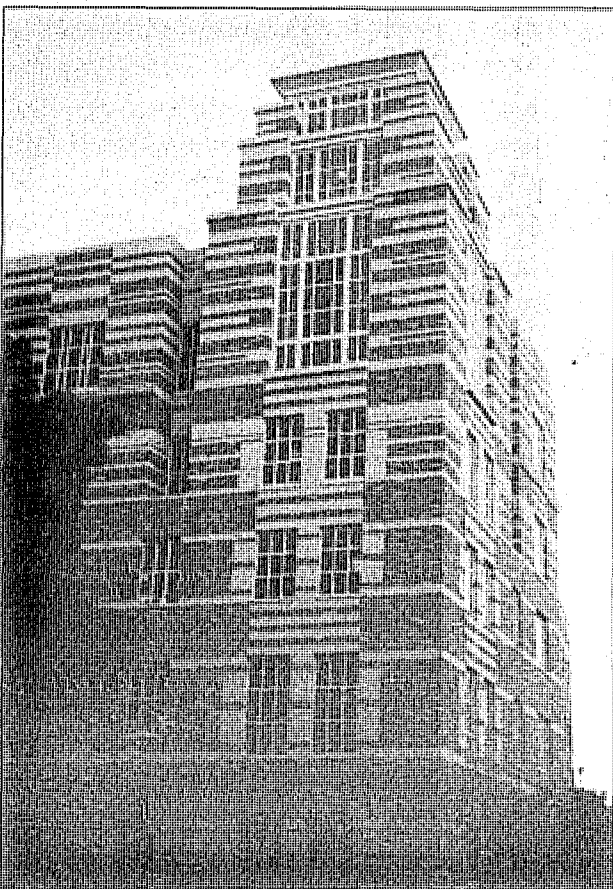
The ban is very unpopular with people who like to smoke while they drink, and these individuals make up a sizable portion of the business of the average bar. However, the ban appears to be quite popular with employees of bars who them-

UCLAW

From page 1

students' attitudes regarding the quality of the law school faculty. Altogether, the faculty received a mean rating of 5.5, the highest overall score for any of the six categories included on the questionnaire. The only appreciable difference according to class year was found among the 3Ls, who gave the faculty a somewhat less flattering — yet still significantly above average — rating of 5.2.

The pollees were then asked to rate the law school administration, including the offices of the Dean of Students, Financial Aid, and Career Services. Although the mean score for all respondents was well above average at 4.9, the third-year students' lukewarm rating of 4.3 would suggest that many 3Ls are somewhat less than completely pleased with the administration. The perpetually under-construction library contributed significantly to the rating in this area. This discontent was definitely not shared by second-year students, however, as they gave the administration significantly higher marks (mean score of 5.3).



Many students point to the unfinished library as a source of displeasure with UCLAW

The respondents' lowest overall ranking was reserved for the quality of life at UCLAW (including, for example, the social atmosphere and cultural events on campus). For all the pollees, the mean score was an unimpressive (albeit still above average) 4.4, with the lowest scores handed out — perhaps predictably — by the first-year students (mean score of 4.2).

The next question asked students to rate how well they felt UCLAW prepared them for work in the legal profession. Overall, the respondents seemed confident that their UCLAW education would serve them well in the "real world" (mean



A graphic representation of the California flag found on the website of Fight Ordinances & Restrictions to Control & Eliminate Smoking (FORCES) a "pro-choice on smoking" California PAC

selves do not smoke. As for the economic consequences of the ban, both sides are being very disingenuous; both know that no one can really tell because compliance with the law is so poor.

This is the dirty secret of the ban on smoking in bars: it is not being enforced. Anti-smoking advocates are loathe to admit this because it means the law is so unpopular as to not be enforced, and because they realize that a more aggressive enforcement policy is likely to engender even more political resistance in this critical first year. Bar owners and their supporters also don't want to be too smug about their refusal to enforce the law because it will invite scrutiny on their establishments. The truth of the matter is the statute puts the burden on local law enforce-

See **BLACK LETTER**, page 13

score of 4.8), with the second-year students being the most so (mean score of 5.3). The first-year students, by comparison, were considerably less optimistic (mean rating of 4.4), a result which might be attributable to their relative unfamiliarity with what it is like to work as a lawyer.

In a similar vein, respondents were also asked to rate how well they believe UCLAW has prepared them to find gainful employment after graduation. For all students, the mean response was a very solid 4.9. On a unsettling note, however, the mean score for third-year students — those who presumably have the best perspective on how well their UCLA law degree will help them in the job market — was significantly lower (4.1).

For the final question, the poll inquired of respondents whether they either have or think they *will* have the legal job they wanted when they first enrolled at UCLA. The overall numbers show that a sizeable majority (65.2%) either do have or believe that they will have such a job. Somewhat surprisingly, given their recent initiation to the often frustrating experience of the fall job search, the highest percentage of "yes" responses (71.4%) came from the second-year students, while the lowest percentage (62.5%) came from the third-year students.

In large part, the relative optimism of the second-year students might owe its existence to the booming legal economy in which they currently find themselves. To further investigate how students' future job prospects might have affected their ratings of UCLAW, *The Docket* broke down the statistics according to whether the respondent answered "yes" or "no" the final question.

As perhaps is to be expected, those students who do not believe they will have the legal job that they want/have gave lower ratings for every single aspect of UCLAW. The most dramatic difference was found in the ratings of the overall UCLAW experience (mean scores of 5.3 versus 4.3), with a tie for the second largest discrepancy occurring in the ratings of the administration (mean scores of 5.1 versus 4.2) and the degree to which UCLAW prepares students to find a job after graduation (mean scores of 5.2 versus 4.3). By comparison, the respondents' evaluation of the faculty remained fairly constant regardless of the individual pollees' attitudes regarding their career prospects (mean scores of 5.5 versus 5.3).

So, what can we take from the results of the latest *Docket* poll? On the positive side, it seems clear that the majority of students are at least fairly satisfied with most facets of UCLAW, considering that none of the questions produced a mean score that was below average. On the other side, however, it seems equally clear that some aspects of the UCLAW experience — most notably the law school administration — consistently generate somewhat less than enthusiastic reactions from the student body. And finally, the cross-analysis of the poll statistics suggest that a student's attitude regarding UCLAW may in large part hinge on whether that student has or believes he will have a job that meets with his expectations.

Dark City Fails to Answer the Darkest Questions

By Jill Watry
Entertainment Editor

Dark City is a dark (what else?), sci-fi thriller about experiments which alter the memories of human guinea pigs that keeps the viewer interested but, left me a little empty.

The movie focuses on the story of John Murdoch played by Rufus Sewell,



One of the mysterious Strangers

who wakes up without his memories and then works to find his true identity. Along the way, he learns that aliens called the Strangers are performing experiments on the humans in this dark

city where morning never comes. The Strangers can stop time and alter people's perceptions through a power called Tuning. With this power, the Strangers switch people's memories. So, one night a man will be poor and afraid of losing his job. The next day, he lives in a mansion with servants and considers laying off the lazy, poor workers who cost him money.

Murdoch, through an evolutionary anomaly, develops the ability to Tune and thus becomes the only hope to stop these experiments and free the people. Dr. Schreiber, played by Kiefer Sutherland, helps the Strangers perform the experiments but betrays them by helping Murdoch learn how to defeat the Strangers.

The plot behind the movie was not overly predictable and did have several unique and interesting twists and turns. However, the movie did not really bring the audience into the story-line. There was nothing emotional or powerful to help the audience relate to the main characters. Murdoch, the "hero" of the story, never became sympathetic or worthy of cheering on, even in the final battle scene. Also, the Strangers, for the most part, did not invoke either fear or spite from the audience.

The most interesting character by far was a Stranger named Mr. Hand, played by Richard O'Brien. O'Brien was the writer of the *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, and the only actor Alex Proyas, the director, ever considered for the part. Proyas did an excellent job portraying a Stranger becoming more human and was the only character in the movie to really inspire fear and hatred in the audience.

Dark City did raise the very interesting and intellectual question of whether people are simply the product of their memories and experiences or whether there is something innately unique about the individual. For example, will a man given the memories of a serial killer become a killer, or will his individual uniqueness prevent him from killing? This question alone kept me fascinated throughout the movie and wondering how the question would finally be resolved.

Unfortunately, the movie did not maintain its focus on this very interesting issue. Instead, it took side steps into

a love story which never worked because of the lack of chemistry between the characters and an action scene that could never get the audience's heart really pumping. All throughout the movie I kept expecting that they were about to bring out something more — that there



Rufus Sewell and his captors

would be another plot twist that would tie everything together and attempt to answer the key questions about humanity. Unfortunately, this never happened.

All in all, *Dark City* is a decent film for those who like intellectual science fiction. However, it did not live up to its previews. I do not regret paying full price to see it, but I definitely would not spend full ticket price to see it again.

COTA

From page 6

Although I remained excited about the story, I was still a law student. As a result, the Cota story took a back burner to the more pressing demands of my studies, and I failed to follow up on my promised interview with Mr. Cota for several weeks. Unsurprisingly, however, Cota was far too persistent to let the matter drop. Within a week, *The Docket* received a bulging letter with no name on the return address. Inside, I found multiple scraps of photocopied documents, evidently sent by Cota. Several of these photocopies were of various correspondences between Mr. Cota and University officials. Other clippings were from newspaper articles praising Cota's many acts of community service.

Other newspaper stories, however, I found to be genuinely disturbing: "Hanna Enters Plea of Guilty"; "Judge sentences former SM lawyer to year in jail"; "Lawyer to be tried on theft, forgery charges." As I read the notations that Cota had scribbled in the margins, I came to realize why Cota had sent these articles to me — these people were all UCLAW graduates who had been accused of ethical and criminal violations. Reading through these clippings, I began to see another side to Alex Cota: the bitter, determined cynicism of a man who genuinely feels that he has been screwed by the system. If his story were true, then I could not blame him. But if I could not ascertain its truth, I was now not too sure

that I wanted to express that opinion in print.

Nevertheless, I called Mr. Cota to schedule our long-awaited interview. He arrived slightly early, carrying with him a burgeoning manila folder. "I really appreciate your taking the time to hear my story," he said. "The administration never listens, but the students always can see the injustice." We exchanged pleasantries, then promptly began reviewing the voluminous records of his battles with Dean Coffman and UCLAW.

As was to be expected, his familiarity with his prized deposition transcripts was impressive. Every inconsistency in Coffman's testimony, no matter how minor, was noted and catalogued. At one point, for example, Dean Coffman testified that he did not have the authority to reinstate a student, but Cota noted that the UCLAW Bulletin from 1952 clearly implied the opposite. At another point, Coffman testified that, pursuant to standard procedure, he burned Cota's Torts exam six months after the test. In his certified Answer to Cota's mandamus petition, however, Coffman had stated that he regularly waited one year before destroying students' exams. Moreover, Coffman swore that he eventually agreed to and did review Cota's exam with him, a contention that Cota maintains is false.

As Cota painstakingly went through his records with me, however, a single question kept haunting me: what score did Dean Coffman give Cota on that examination? After a while, I could wait

no longer, and began to flip through Coffman's certified Answer on my own. Finally, I found a passage dealing with Cota's grade on the Torts final. Desperately expecting to find some clear-cut proof of Cota's amazing allegations, I began reading from the worn pages: "Respondent further admits that Petitioner received a score of..."

Sixty-three? I felt my stomach sink as I read the excerpt once again. Wasn't 63 the minimum score that would have allowed Cota to *continue* his studies at UCLAW? If his cumulative GPA was 62.7, didn't that mean that at least one other professor — someone *other* than Coffman — gave him a *lower* grade on a final exam? From Coffman's Answer, I learned that Cota had received a score of 59 from Professor Perkins in Criminal Law, and a score of 57 from Professor Verrall in Real Property.

I promptly interrupted Cota to inquire about his other grades. "Oh," he explained, apparently somewhat bothered by the distraction from matters that he considered more relevant, "Perkins and Verrall were Coffman's henchmen." Then, almost without missing a beat, he quickly returned to his expansive list of inconsistencies.

So, it had all boiled down to that: a massive McCarthyist conspiracy against Mr. Cota. I guess the great thing about conspiracy theories is that they are tautological; once you accept the thesis, any lack of evidence (or the existence of any contrary evidence) only helps *prove* the

conspiracy. But while that type of proof might suffice for an Oliver Stone screenplay, it isn't the stuff of good investigative journalism. As our interview drew to a close, with Mr. Cota thanking me again for helping to publicize the near half-century of "injustice" that UCLAW has perpetrated against him, I could not help but feel a little guilty — not only because I knew that my article would probably not be what he had in mind, but also because I fallen into the same trap as my predecessors at *The Docket*. I had let the thrill of the story, as well as the despicableness of McCarthyism, overwhelm my objectivity.

We will never know whether Dean Coffman sabotaged Alex Cota's Torts exam; any evidence of that has long been swept from the fireplace of a man who died many years ago. And we will never know whether in burning that exam, Coffman intended to destroy the evidence of some personal vendetta against Cota. We do know, however, that Alex Cota is a good man, a man who served his country in World War II, a man who helps run the nonprofit Eastside-Westside Concerned Citizens Committee, and a man who sincerely wants a law degree so that he may better help those in need. We also know that Joe McCarthy and his adherents unfairly treated many American citizens because of their supposedly "un-American" political views. Based on what we *know*, however, we cannot say that J. Alex Cota was one of them.

BLACK LETTER

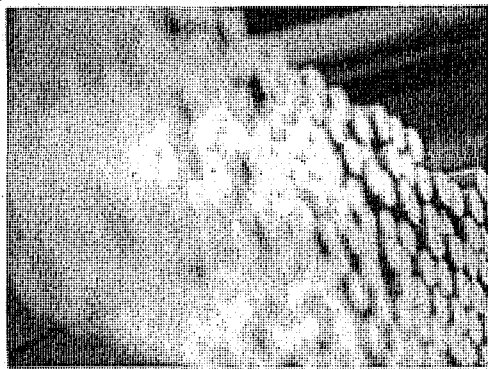
From page 11

ment and public health authorities to enforce the law, and right now few of them are willing to force the issue.

This is not to imply that no one is enforcing the law. Indeed, a trip into Westwood would have one convinced that compliance was excellent. The aforementioned bouncer at Maloney's seems to take special delight in catching violators and exiling them. But establishments such as Maloney's and Madison's are the exception, college bars with a community scrutinizing their compliance with all laws large and small, and with a wait staff that is largely supportive of the ban. Establishments that are likely to be reported have better compliance, but the reality is that most bar patrons are not all that health conscious and tend to dislike snitches.

Two years ago I found myself in the city of San Luis Obispo looking into the effectiveness of that city's total ban on smoking. In San Luis Obispo, one can only smoke in one's home or in one's car (with the windows rolled up). Many proponents of smoke-free bars were pointing to this beautiful city as evidence that smoking bans would not hurt the economy. I was very impressed with my travels through the city and stopped in a number of smoke-free bars where people extolled the virtues of a total ban.

I then went to the one place in the entire city where one can smoke legally, a tobacco shop across the street from the district office of state Senator Jack O'Connell.



Cigarettes roll off the assembly line

I asked the owners how the ban worked; they decried the demise of a bowling alley and then told me of a speak-easy of sorts: a bar in town where the ban was not enforced. I jumped in my car and followed their directions to what can only be described as a really sketchy bar. I walked in the door, and was immediately hit with the smell of stale cigarette smoke and a burning in my eyes.

PROFILE

From page 5

actly did that agenda include?

Warren: Well, first of all, Susan Prager has always been very generous person in giving me credit. I guess what she's talking about specifically is that I began the push for a greatly expanded law building. I think it was obvious to anybody in the 1970's that we really needed a much bigger building. The old law building here had one big classroom for the first year, a middle-sized classroom for the second year, and a smaller classroom for the third year. Just three classrooms! And we certainly needed a bigger library. We did not have enough space for our students to study; we did not have enough space for our books. So during my tenure as Dean I began to talk to the administration about plans for new buildings. Of course, there were mountains of bureaucracy, but finally, by the end of my tenure, we had a commitment from Chancellor Young.

Profile: How would you describe Dean Prager's efforts in furthering your program to expand the law school facilities?

Warren: Susan Prager was an Associate Dean at the end of my tenure, and she really took over that program. And during her deanship, she has done an absolutely brilliant job in getting those new buildings built. I think it's just astonishing that she got that new clinical

building built in the late '80's, when the law profession — the source of private funds — was in a depression, and when the State of California was broke. And then her efforts in building the new library was astonishing. She had to raise a huge amount of money, \$14 million or so, through private funds, and get state support. That was probably one of the most remarkable achievements that I have ever seen an administrator accomplish.

Profile: You've worked on many legislative projects, including the revised Uniform Commercial Code. What about that project did you find to be the most rewarding?

Warren: Well, let me give you a little background on that. In 1985, Robert Jordan (who was my collaborator for over 30 years) and I were invited to participate in a general redraft of the UCC. We were invited to redraft Articles 3 and 4, and to draft a new Article 4A for wire transfers. We worked on that from 1985 to 1990. Article 4A was adopted all over the country, and revised Articles 3 and 4 have now been adopted in all but four states, I think. I guess what I'm most proud of is the chance to get to put an Article on a very important statute such as the UCC. It was a learning experience; much of it was very enjoyable work. I suppose I'd have to say it was the most important thing that I've ever been involved with.

"What do you think of the effect of the ban on smoking in bars?" I asked the grizzled barmaid as she puffed away.

"F**k you," she explained.

I managed to convince her that I was not from the Health Department and in fact was in solidarity with the bar's defiance. The waitress explained that since she smoked, and most of the customers did, police felt enforcement was futile. She gestured to three hulking patrons and said, "The boys don't hurt either." I nodded in respectful agreement and made my way to the door.

The bar in San Luis Obispo acted as a safety valve for the hard-drinking and smoking citizens of that fair city. The anti-smoking advocates were able to present potempkin compliance because that little bar was willing to be a beacon of sin in a sea of correct living.

That bar has been on my mind a good deal in these first three months of the ban. It would be tempting to say the ban has been a failure because of the widespread lack of compliance, but perhaps that misses the point. If California becomes a large-scale version of the experience in San Luis Obispo, then more workplaces in the state will be smoke-free and fewer waitresses will have to breathe in second-hand smoke. But there will also be outposts of defiance, those places where the law doesn't dare reach, and there will likely be places like the bowling alley that will experience economic hardship. On balance, it is unclear what the long term effect of the smoking ban will be. Opponents seem content to defy it, though not too openly, while supporters trumpet its success, knowing it is somewhat hollow. Such is the state of lawmaking and enforcement in California in 1998; the question remains whether the rest of the nation will follow the lead of this imperfect experiment.

Profile: In large part, *The Docket* owes its current existence to your efforts as Dean to revive it. Why did you think that bringing back the student newspaper was important for the law school?

Warren: Well, during the late '60's and early '70's there was a great deal of unrest at law schools because of Vietnam, and traditions like school newspapers and yearbooks sort of died out. Those were times of great travail. When I came back in 1975, though, that problem had sort of been resolved; people were back to studying in the old-fashioned way. I think all of us around here felt it was time to renew those ties with the students, so I revived *The Docket*. Our yearbook had also ended, so we revived that. And I remember we put in the mailboxes because it was so hard for students to talk with each other. We tried to improve the quality of life around here, and we've always tried to be decent to our students.

Profile: Any thoughts on receiving the "Dockie" Award for Professor of the Year?

Warren: I was both astonished and pleased, and I thank you. I was not aware that there even was such an award!

Profile: How do you like to spend your spare time? Do you have any hobbies or interests?



A sign advertises California's smoking ban outside a Los Angeles bar

Warren: I suppose my two principal hobbies are, number one, I really like to listen to music, and then I also like to read. I stopped reading when I went through law school, because all I read were lawbooks! Now, for many years, I have read in the evenings. I like to read almost anything: fiction, history, biographies. As far as music goes, I like classical music; my wife and I like to go to the L.A. Opera and the L.A. Philharmonic. I don't get to hear very much popular music, but I like some of it. I enjoyed recently having one of my former students who's still in school, Jacques Neptune, renew my interest in Billie Holliday. I used to be a great Billie Holliday fan; I forgot how wonderful her music is.

Profile: If for some reason you found yourself on Death Row, not that we are insuating that it would ever happen, what would you request as your last meal?

Warren: (laughing) For heaven's sake! I've never even thought about that! (pause) My wife is a great cook, and for the last year or so she has been making a swordfish dish that is some of the best stuff I've ever tasted. So I'd have swordfish as prepared by my spouse, a few vegetables, and bottle of California Chardonnay. I think that would be my last meal. I do confess, though — you've asked me a question that I've never been asked before in my life!

CONCERT

From page 4

names, from Mozart to Beethoven to Puccini and even Jerome Kern. For classical music amateurs, you will be introduced to a number of musical styles with different vocal and instrumental combinations. For example, the program includes solo pieces for instrumentalists (cello and clarinet) as well as for vocalists (art songs). In addition, there will be vocal duets and instrumental chamber pieces. One of the highlights of the concert promises to be the operatic duet from an opera by Giacomo



Ludwig Von Beethoven

QUOTES

From page 9

attitude towards helping and teaching students. They have no interest in intimidating students or making them feel stupid. A school is only as good as its teachers, and the teachers at UCLAW are unsurpassed. I love UCLAW. I expected law school to be miserable. To the contrary, it has been a good experience. I know that no other school would be so accommodating and caring about their students." — 3L

"Many of my professors, even those who are experts in their respective fields, were, nevertheless, pretty poor teachers who seemed uninterested in whether they made the class interesting or were effective teachers at all. Much of the teaching was worse than I expected." — 3L

"I have enjoyed attending UCLAW. I have learned a great deal and have 'grown up' considerably since school first started. However, I have had to research jobs on my own and learn practical aspects of the legal profession by myself. My judicial externship provided practical learning that every law student should experience but that UCLAW unfortunately doesn't emphasize. I will be working at a job that I am very happy with, but I am a little fearful that UCLAW hasn't fully prepared me for what I will encounter." — 3L

"My answer to [the question about the

Puccini called "TOSA." The opera reads like a story straight from the daily newspaper, with the caption reading — FAMOUS SINGER STABS GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIAL FOR LOVE. The scene that will be performed on April 9 is the first scene between Floria Tosca and her boyfriend Mario Cavaradossi — a painter and political activist. The scene begins with Tosca suspecting infidelity and Mario pleading his innocence. Later, the couple argue about whether Mario's work is more important than their spending time together. Finally, Mario assures Tosca that she is the only one he loves and that he will alter his work habits to please her. Does this sound familiar to anyone? Your basic *Ally McBeal* (I am sorry, but that dancing baby thing just doesn't do anything for me), *Friends*, *ER* or the *Practice* subplot. They, unfortunately, lack Puccini's AWESOME music. The scene will be sung in Italian, but don't worry; a detailed translation will be provided.

Check your boxes for flyers with more information about the benefit concert. Please come. I promise that you'll learn why art can be truly inspiring and more comforting to the soul than reading another tax statute, briefing a case or taking a final.

quality of the faculty] basically indicated that I have had more good than bad professors at UCLAW, not that all of my teachers were just above average. I know from experience or from others that Graham, Bauman, Sklansky, Stark, French, Munger and others have been remarkable. In all fairness, my [below average ranking of the administration] mainly targets the Dean of Students office, not the day-to-day administrators." — 3L

"I can honestly say that, had I attended almost any other law school, I would have probably dropped out by the end of my first year — if not sooner. I think that UCLAW does a good job of making law school, an inherently miserable experience, as bearable as is humanly possible." — 3L

"Career services personnel does an adequate job with fall and spring OCIP. But beyond that, I'm not sure how they justify their existence. Granted, they do have the small firm reception. But what can they do for a student who 'strikes out' at both OCIP and the firm receptions? Point him or her towards the 26, burgeoning binders filled with alphabetized NALP forms? Wouldn't it make more sense to organize the NALP forms by salary, practice area, location, or some more meaningful statistic? Or even better, put the information on a database so that students could more easily find a firm that might actually have a place for them?" — 3L

UCLAW Women's Volleyball Team Takes School Championship

By David Friedman
Sports Editor

This past fall, a group of UCLAW women formed an intramural volleyball team in search of a championship. Called "GO WEST", the team wore the infamous bar review shirts as their uniform. They played in the "A" division, the most competitive of the intramural leagues.

The team members included Melissa Dadodag, Judy Iriye, Tracy Lu, Karna Nisewaner, and Tanya Ridino. The team reached the championship game after a long season, and faced a team of hungry undergrads.

The best-of-three championship match started poorly. Iriye, one of the team's key players, went down in the first game with an ankle injury. The team lost the first game, and was in a hole. Refusing to be denied, GO WEST used the loss of Iriye to fire themselves up for their last two games. "We were not going to let them take this away from us," recalled Nisewaner. The team responded, and swept the final two games to take the championship match, 2-1.

The team is looking for members for a coed volleyball team for the spring season. So, guys, if you've got what it takes, join the team and bring another IM Championship to the Law School!

CONFIDENTIAL

From page 5

avoided (*The Edge*), said in the September issue of *Venice* magazine, "I had recently become a fan of James Ellroy...but it seems like Americans really don't dig that kind of genre anymore." And then Ellroy's *L.A. Confidential* comes along in a totally absorbing movie experience, calling to mind some of the great detective films of the past (*The Big Sleep*, *Vertigo*, *Chinatown*). The proof is in the writing award for Best Adapted Screenplay, which *L.A. Confidential* claimed for its second Oscar.

On a final note, the police stationhouse brawl and the scrambling to cover up the mess set the stage for later—and much worse—transgressions in criminal procedure. Of course, *L.A. Confidential* takes place before the Supreme Court established the exclusionary rule in *Mapp v. Ohio* (1961) and made explicit the exclusion of confessions obtained against the will of the accused in *Jackson v. Denno* (1964). So for cops, the end often justified the means. And the film's flawed heroes—the self-promoting Exley and the violent Bud—are not always likable cops even though they



Best Supporting Actress winner Kim Basinger

are surrounded by evil characters. However, this cinematic view of the moral depravity of the entire social order simply defines the *noir* genre, of which *L.A. Confidential* is a stylish and complex example.

Nominated for nine Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Cinematography, and Art Direction, *L.A. Confidential* is still showing in local theaters before its release on video.

BILLY

From page 4

The other part is economic. Some nations simply do not have the economic condition to match our life expectancy. In some countries, death is an everyday communal experience that often times occurs at home and within a family setting. Moreover, the family or close communal friends perform the death services and handling of the body.

Our estrangement from death makes it difficult for us to relate to the notions of welcoming death or wanting to die at home in the presence of friends and family. Our approach to death is still characterized by the famous work of Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, who in the 1960s conducted extensive interviews with dying people. She suggested that there are five emotional stages to dying. They are denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. Her study was individualist and scientific.

In the United States we are all expected to not go gently into that good night, even if those who are burning and raving at the closing of the day are paid professionals.

Sports Law 101: Spree Free by David Friedman

In a case watched around the country and the world, John Feerick, the Dean of Fordham University Law School, recently rendered in a decision in the arbitration case of NBA star Latrell Sprewell, who attacked his coach P.J. Carlesimo during practice in December. The Golden State Warriors had initially terminated the remainder of Sprewell's contract, worth \$23.7 million, and the NBA had suspended him for an entire calendar year. The NBA Player's Union took Sprewell's case to arbitration, contending that the penalties levied by the Golden State Warriors and the NBA went beyond the scope of their disciplinary power. Feerick's decision essentially "split the baby" by giving each side some of what it had sought. This much of the story you could have learned from

ESPN. The legal reasoning behind the decision, however, was never explained or even understood by the sports reporters assigned to cover the arbitration hearing.

In a 106-page decision, Feerick determined that Sprewell's return to the practice court 15 to 20 minutes after trying to choke Carlesimo "was

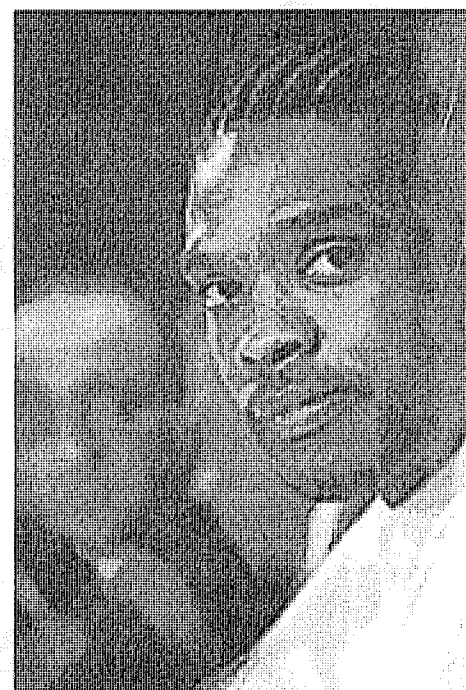
grievous in nature, [but] was not the result of premeditation and deliberation...the anger...that erupted in the first incident fed on itself during the period he spent alone in the locker room between incidents, continuing the fury of the first and connecting the two incidents and making them actually one." The NBA and the Warriors had based their punishments on Sprewell's second attack, calling it premeditated.

Feerick stated that the joint penalties levied against Sprewell by both the NBA and the team were unprecedented and excessive. He reinstated Sprewell's contract and reduced the NBA suspension, allowing Sprewell to be reinstated on July 1, 1998 rather than December 3. Still, at 68 games, the penalty remains the longest for a nondrug-related of-

fense. Feerick also decided that Sprewell should lose the \$6.4 million he was owed for the rest of this season. The Warriors, however, must pay Sprewell for the final two years of his contract, worth \$17.3 million, unless they trade him.

Warriors owner Chris Cohan said the team was "more than a little disappointed. We were shocked at the decision." On Feerick's ruling, he said that "[if Sprewell's actions were] not premeditated, I don't know what is." NBA Commissioner David Stern thought that Feerick's ruling that the second attack was not premeditated, but rather connected to the first attack, was "incomprehensible." Had Stern or Cohan read and remembered *Maher v. People* from Criminal Law, as we all do, he might change his mind. The court in *Maher* found that anger can be rekindled without any further acts by another party.

In an interview on March 8, Sprewell had some things to say about the decision. "He [Feerick] is the only guy that got to see all the information," Sprewell explained. "I think he gave a very fair ruling." In response to critics that say that he got away with something, he reminds us, "I have lost my Converse deal,



Latrell Sprewell ponders his fate during his arbitration hearing

I have lost \$6.5 million and I don't get to play this year. I have lost 68 games. And not to mention my image. People think that I am the worst person in the world right now...I wasn't really choking P.J. I mean I had my hands around his neck, but it wasn't like I was squeezing the air out of the guy. And you know he only had two scratches on his neck."

If only the Golden State Warriors and the NBA could get this guy before a jury...

Soccer and Politics -- Caution: Do Not Mix

By Guillermo Frias
Features Editor

Some charge the over 90,000 Mexicans who showed up to the L.A. Coliseum to support Mexico in the last U.S.-Mexico soccer game with not being American patriots and with lacking respect. Mexico defeated the U.S. 1-0.

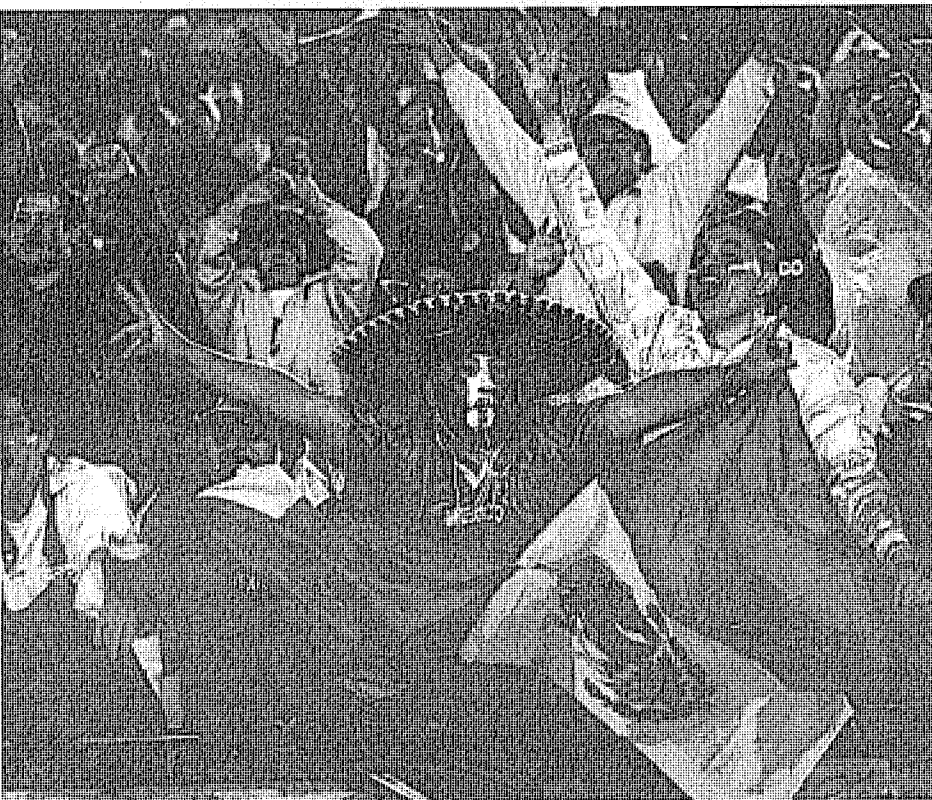
I do not agree with the proposition that Mexicans, who care deeply about the game and their roots, should cheer for a mediocre U.S. team that is not even supported by Americans simply because we live here.

The U.S. treats soccer like an alien game. Even after its historic victory over Brazil, Americans failed to show up to the Mexico game to congratulate their national team.

Moreover, soccer in the U.S. has been a middle class game characterized by soccer moms, mini-vans and the college game, while soccer around the world is a working class sport. Until the U.S. changes its attitude toward soccer, diversifies its recruitment and fields a better team, those of us who love the game will continue to root for a team that reflects our passions.

Americans should not be so quick to damn the violent behavior of some Mexican fans at the Coliseum. Violence is nothing new in American sports. Detroit, 1990: 8 killed and 127 injured after the Pistons won the NBA championship. Los Angeles, 1990: Shane Garinger kicked a Steeler fan into a coma at a Raider game. Philadelphia, 1990: Eagles fans threw snowballs at

visiting players and coaches, hitting many in the face as they stood on the sideline. Las Vegas, 1996: 14 spectators and 8 policemen received minor injuries resulting from the Riddick Bowe - Andrew Golota debacle. Los Angeles,



Mexican soccer fans celebrate Mexico's 1-0 win over the U.S.

1995: Dodger game forfeited as a result of fans tossing countless baseballs onto the field. Denver, 1998: Bronco fans poured into the streets of Denver and set fires to celebrate their team's victory in the Super Bowl. Nagano, 1998: the U.S. hockey Dream Team was a national disgrace. Many more examples are available.

The best solution to unruly behavior is adequate security. If the organizers had placed security over the locker-

room entrance, or if the teams would have entered and exited together, the players would not have been pelted by debris.

As to the lack of patriotism and respect charge, a soccer game is not a place

section. Unfortunately, it was drowned-out by the many other letters from disgusted patriots who did not bother to attend the game.

Furthermore, even if the Mexican fans disrespected the national anthem, do they not have the right as Americans to protest? Do we not have freedom of speech? Some immigrants may have valid grievances. They do the jobs nobody wants and have to deal with Props. 187 and 209.

In Mexico it is a crime to deface the flag. It would be a shame if the U.S. government started acting like the Mexican government. The problem with those who want the flag to be sacrosanct is that they are willing to trample over liberty in order to protect a symbol of that liberty.

In the end, too much is being made of a game. Mexicans went to see soccer and not to make a political statement. The few who threw things were like other unruly drunken American fans. It should also be noted that most of the objects thrown in the stands landed on Mexicans.

Finally, if Americans followed soccer, they would remember that in the last U.S.-Mexico game, held in Mexico City, the Mexicans booed their own team, which was not playing well, and cheered the hated Americans. Were they traitors to their country or just disgruntled soccer fans? I hope to see greater support for the American team at the next Mexico-U.S. game to be held in L.A. I particularly hope to see those "American patriots" there.

to exhibit one's devotion to the U.S. Mexicans currently serving in the Persian Gulf and elsewhere provide a better example of loyalty. In regards to the drowning out of the national anthem, the PA system was so bad and the crowd so loud that I could not tell which anthem was playing or what team was being introduced. A letter by one of the few non-Mexican Americans present at the game, saying the same thing, appeared in the *L.A. Times* sports editorial

Three Things People Say About BAR/BRI

I Passed! I Passed! I Passed!



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