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The Docket Vol. 48 No. 6

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The Docket, 48(6)

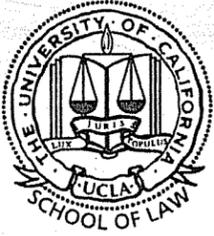
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The Docket

UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW



VOLUME 48, NUMBER 6

405 HILGARD AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90095

APRIL 2000

Moot Court Participants Praised by Judges

By Jill Kastner
Managing Editor

There were lots of smiles and a great deal of applause during the Roscoe Pound Reception and Awards Ceremony on March 16. As Amy Gaylord, 2L, went up to receive this year's Roscoe Pound Award, the Moot Court Executive Board could relax and pat themselves on the back for a job well done.

"Several attorneys that judged this year and that had judged in the past told me that this year's competitions were the best they had participated in ... the quality of advocacy, the effectiveness of brief writing and the social experience of eating and interacting with advocates was much improved," said Robert Jenkins, this year's Moot Court Executive Board President.

Each year, the Moot Court Executive Board organizes moot court competitions during the fall and spring semesters.

One third of the fall participants advance to the spring competition. Students represent one side or another of an issue in a series of appellate-style oral arguments. Then, Twelve advocates from the spring competition are selected to compete in what is called the Roscoe Pound competition, the finals where only the best of the best compete to prove their oral advocacy skills. From these twelve advocates, four are selected to compete in the final round of Roscoe Pound. The four finalists who competed in the final round this year were Enrico Alis, Amy Gaylord, Melissa Reeves, and Shalon Zeferjahn.

The competition was well-attended. The courtroom was filled, and there were students watching on closed-circuit TV in both the lounge and in room 1347.

This year's judges for the final round, including UCLA's own Cruz Reynoso, all seemed very impressed at



The Honorable Gary L. Taylor listens intently with former Justice Cruz Reynoso and the Honorable Joan Dempsey Klein at Roscoe Pound

the level of advocacy displayed by the students. Witnesses say all four advocates were very impressive, but the panel of judges selected Amy Gaylord as the recipient of the Roscoe Pound Award for

the year 2000.

In addition to the Roscoe Pound Competition itself, other awards were presented at the reception following the

See MOOT, page 14

Skyrocketing First Year Associate Salaries Mean More Billable Hours

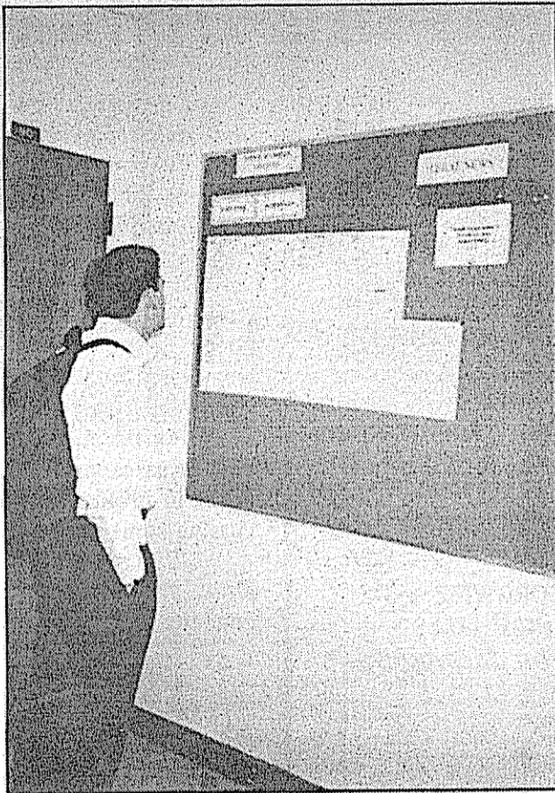
By Anne Jollay, 2L
Editor-in-Chief

When the Silicon Valley firm Gunderson, Dettmer, Stough, Villeneuve, Franklin & Hachigian raised its starting salary for first-year associates in December to \$125,000 with a guaranteed bonus of \$20,000, it set off a wave of salary increases across both coasts. The salary hike first spread to nearby San Francisco firms, then rapidly spread to New York. By early February, Skadden, Arps, Slat, Meagher & Flom had offered \$140,000 to its first year associates. Many of the New York firms also coupled these increases with bonuses tied to the firms' profits. The salary hike has now also spread to top firms in Chicago, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C. This represents the first time since 1968 that a 50% increase in associate compensation has hit the legal market. It also marks the first time that such a dramatic increase originated in non-New York law firms.

The skyrocketing salaries stem from a combination of factors, including extraordinary market growth in the Silicon Valley and the growing loss of attorneys to in-house counsel positions in corporations. The salaries were a natural reaction to the resulting supply and demand imbalances. However, the impact on both the legal market and the individual firms may be quite dramatic.

Firms who choose to embrace the higher compensation for first-years will no doubt reap the benefits of attracting top talent from law schools. However, this pay increase comes at a cost to both the firm and the incoming associates. Fewer first-year associates will be hired, which will make it increasingly difficult to land a job at elite firms. Fewer associates also means more work for those associates. Most of the law firms concede that they must pay for at least part of the salary increase by increasing billable hours. While some firms have simply raised their minimum billable requirements, others have packaged the higher salaries in the form of bonuses, predicated on the number of hours billed. Higher billable hours mean less time for associates to do valuable pro bono work, a cause for a lot of concern among public interest groups.

An increase in first-year salaries also means higher salaries for more senior associates. An eighth-year associate may earn as much as \$235,000 as base salary alone. Thus, junior partners at all but the wealthiest firms may not earn as much as these senior associates. All of this money comes out of firm profits — out of the pockets of the partners. Because first-year associates know very little about practicing law, they are usu-



Several Los Angeles firms participating in the OCIP program are matching Silicon Valley salary increases

ally viewed by partners as not being worth the cost, yet the partners have no choice but to accept it or lose the top law students. Some consulting firms believe that partners are resentful of the salary hike and will treat associates even more poorly than before.

The costs to the firm will also have to be passed on to the clients. And the elite clients will not only likely have to raise salaries for their in-house counsel, but will also have to shoulder the increased cost of outside counsel. As a result, elite corporations will likely bring more of work in-house. To justify the higher costs to clients, associates will also be held to higher performance standards. Some partners at elite firms believe that they will have to move toward a corporate model of associate performance evaluation. The focus will change from just the number of hours billed to include quality of the work as well.

See SALARIES, page 13

UCLAW Stands Firm in U.S. News & World Report Rankings

Early this month, the U.S. News & World Report sent out its rankings for Graduate Schools for 2001. UCLAW held onto its 16th place overall ranking from last year as well as its 9th place ranking (tying with Michigan) in Clinical Training. Our "employed at graduation" percentage rose from 67% to 80%, but is still among the lowest in the top 25. The 9-month employment figure is even higher, at 98% ON the admissions side of things, our acceptance rate stayed relatively constant at 19.6%

USC climbed from its 18th place ranking to 17th place, edging out Vanderbilt, while University of Minnesota dropped from a tie at 18 to the 19th position this year. The only other movement in the top 25 rankings was among the top ten schools. Yale held onto the number one spot of course, but Stanford knocked down Harvard to take over the number 2 spot. Michigan moved from 8th place to 7th place, switching places with University of Virginia. Duke dropped to 10th place, tying with Cornell from its number 8 spot last year. Berkeley moved from the 10th spot to tie with Virginia at number 8.

The Top Ten

1. Yale
2. Stanford
3. Harvard
4. NYU
5. Columbia
6. University of Chicago
7. Michigan
8. University of Virginia / Berkeley
10. Cornell / Duke

Administration Takes Initiative

Several years ago, a foundation established a fund to allow students to work at government agencies over their summers. Unfortunately, this program expired due to lack of funding. It simply wasn't possible to provide enough of the grants to go around.

Until this coming summer, that remained the case. If you wanted to work for a government agency, you were probably going to have to foot the bill entirely on your own (either by going further into debt or by turning to family for support). That is, unless you were able to garner an internship with one of the few agencies that offer work study funds on their own. For those whose economic status simply didn't allow for volunteer work, this effectively prevented them from pursuing government employment and cut off what could be a valuable experience and possible career path (agencies generally prefer to hire former-interns). But Dean Cheadle took the initiative to solve this conundrum.

Government interns are eligible for work study funds, which provides up to \$4000 in funding for the entire summer. If a particular agency contributes 40% of the cost, the federal government will contribute the remaining funds. However, most agencies simply don't have the money to handle their portion. But Dean Cheadle and Dean Varat brokered a deal whereby the same foundation that had originally tried to fund the entire program itself now only has to provide the agency's share of the money. Due to their efforts, many more students will be able to work for a wider variety of governmental agencies without a severe financial burden.

This is an excellent example of the administration acting for the benefit of its students, and we should laud them for a job well done.

FACULTY MEMBERS RESPOND TO DEAN VARAT'S COMMENTS ON DIVERSITY

TO: Dean Jonathan Varat, Associate Dean Robert Goldstein, Advisory Committee

FROM: Richard Abel, Gary Blasi, Devon Carbado, Kimberle Crenshaw, Laura Gomez, Mitu Gulati, Cheryl Harris, Jerry Kang, Christine Littleton, Cruz Reynoso, Clyde Spillenger

We appreciate the acknowledgment of the need for full and ongoing attention to the crisis produced by the current admissions policy under which Blacks, Latino/as and some Asian populations are admitted in such low numbers as to amount virtual exclusion. Those of us who have been studying and discussing this issue for many months now fully recognize that the dual constraints of Title VI mandating non-discrimination and the bar on the use of any racial preference in admissions under Proposition 209 render the situation complex. We are also aware that the current policy directives to maintain an academic profile for the overall class that does not diverge substantially downward from classes in prior years make the task hard. While we do not purport to have easy answers for difficult questions, we believe that there several issues of concern that your memo does not fully address or answer. In the spirit of keeping this important dialogue moving forward, we offer the following observations and questions.

We believe that a discussion of the problem that begins with a focus on the limitations of the applicant pool may operate to obscure the fact that the key issue that is affecting the outcome here is admission rates. We do not disagree with your assertion that the number of students

in the class is a function of who applies, who is admitted and who accepts. But it is also the case, and particularly so with respect to traditionally underrepresented minorities, that the numbers of applicants, admissions and acceptances are intimately interrelated. Concretely, this means that the sharp downward spiral in admissions, both in the overall numbers and in the admit rates in the past three years, as compared with prior years, has had a negative impact on both applications and acceptances. The stigmatic effect of Proposition 209 is not easily quantifiable in absolute terms, particularly since no study of the issue has yet been undertaken, but that does not negate the fact that Proposition 209 casts a negative light on UCLA in the eyes of many potential applicants. Alumnae from these groups are clearly disillusioned and disinclined to promote the school to others and the few students that are here can hardly be blamed for being less than enthusiastic in presenting UCLA as a healthy, supportive learning environment. These factors, as well as the actual disappearance of Black,

Latino/a and underrepresented Asian students from the school, also affect acceptance rates. Among those few underrepresented students who are admitted to the law school under the largely numbers driven system, it is less likely that UCLA will be competitive with the more prestigious schools to which many of these students have also been admitted. So the current admissions policy, in conjunction with Proposition 209, deflates the number of applications, constricts the number of admissions and admits more of those candidates who are less likely to come.

Given these realities it is refreshing to note that, as in your earlier conversation, you recognize that it is time to re-think the policy as a whole. We do not presume that the formation of another Task Force will lead to a recommendation embracing a radical departure from the current system, nor do we presume to know what the faculty as a whole would do with any particular recommendation. But we believe that the fact that the crisis is here and is deepening warrants a wholesale re-examination of the policy. Faculty consensus cannot be discerned or produced in advance of articulating and discussing some policy options.

With regard to the specific proposals we also note the following issues and concerns.

A. The LSAT floor

We are concerned and disappointed that the LSAT floor has been maintained, despite earlier indications that you had not previously approved the decision. We reiterate that our reading of the current policy does not clearly authorize it. The faculty guidelines as quoted in your memo direct that the policy should be guided by several goals, including maximizing the diversity of the entering class. While acknowledging that this goal is in tension with minimizing any reduction in the student body PI, the imposition of an LSAT floor with full knowledge of its negative impact on underrepresented minorities is inconsistent with a goal of maximum diversity.

Beyond the procedural questions raised by this action, we do not believe that an adequate empirical justification has been offered to support it. The memo reflects that the decision to return the LSAT floor to 153 was based on simulations run off the CI list. (p.5). The memo

reports that the results indicate that there would be approximately 61 likely enrollees (presumably distinct from admits) off the list and that very few would be Black or Latino/a no matter where the LSAT floor is set. In your view this is further buttressed by the fact that there are no Blacks on the CI list with LSATs of 152, 151 or 150.

The concerns here are threefold. At Tuesday's orientation session the admissions staff and one of the admissions co-chairs indicated that the current CI list is likely incorrect. They are undertaking immediate steps to determine what has gone wrong, but they were clear that some fundamental error has been made in the calculations as the list has generated people who clearly have no evidence of socioeconomic disadvantage. It is difficult then to have confidence in the proffered justification for maintaining the floor at 153—that reducing the presumptive LSAT floor in the lists does not change the racial composition of the CI group. Of equal concern is the fact that we are told nothing about the effect on Latinos/as and underrepresented Asians.

Secondly, since the CI list is produced by an algorithm into which a LSAT floor is built (and under which SES boost is capped), it is difficult to know what is meant by the statement that there are no Black applicants on the CI list with LSATs of 152, 151 or 150. We seriously doubt that this means that there are no Black applicants with such LSATs in the entire pool. We might deduce that this means that they are not picked up in the CI list for any number of reasons, but we have not been provided with any explanations in the memo. Moreover, if by definition the CI is a combination of PI, SES, and a presumptive LSAT floor, it would stand to reason that applicants with LSATs beneath the floor would not be on the list. It is of course possible that we have not correctly interpreted your meaning, but without the underlying data on which the decision has been reached, opportunities for misunderstanding are rife. This also underscores another point: the current policy frustrates the goal of transparency.

Finally, the continuing imposition of an LSAT floor fixed at a single number continues to reproduce a use of the LSAT that is not countenanced either by LSAC or sound statistical interpretation. Leaving aside for now the mounting evidence that LSAT scores of underrepresented minorities may consistently understate their true intellectual capacities, for reasons Claude Steele explained in person to the faculty not long ago, the fact is that even LSAC recommends that the test-retest error rate of LSAT be taken into account, and that scores be "banded" appropriately when used in admissions decisions.

B. Discretionary admits

Your memo indicates that you want to move the process towards greater utilization of the faculty's authorization to enroll up to 20% of the class on discretionary judgments. The memo does not address one crucial question: What are the guidelines for exercising discretion? Faculty and staff engaged in exercising discretion have reported difficulty in making distinctions among files. Some have further stated that they believe that in each case where the discretionary candidate is an underrepresented minority, they must ask whether the person would be admitted if she were white. This is ample evidence of the current deployment of an

See LETTERS, page 13



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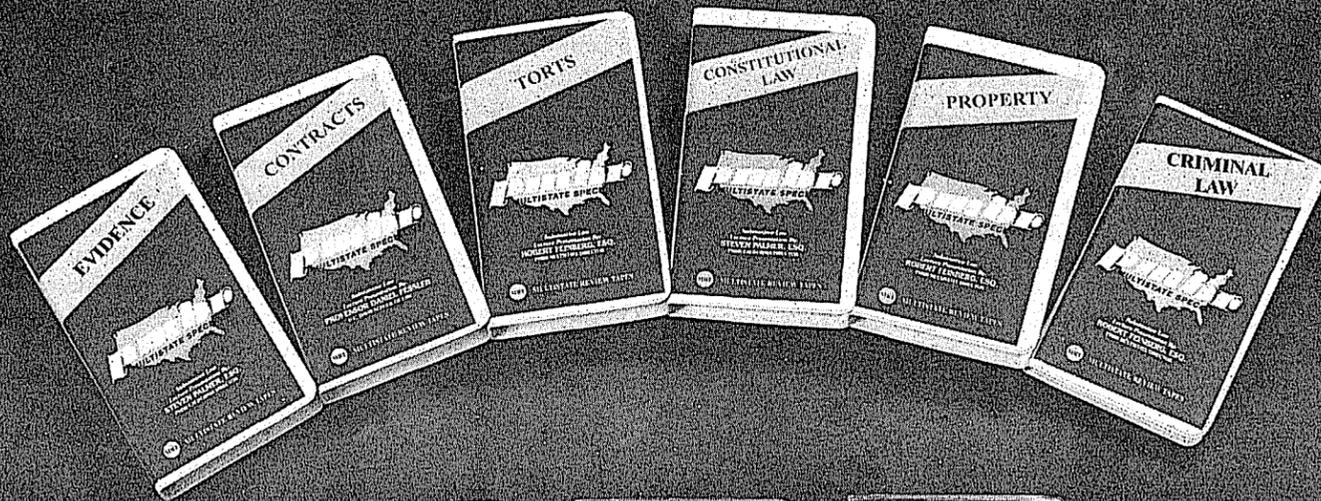
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What Ethics? Looking Forward to Professional Responsibility

By Sam Fortenbaugh, 2L
Editor

Know why I'm coming back next year? I get to take Professional Responsibility. I've been saving it like one would a fine French brandy with a Cuban cigar as the dénouement to a spectacular meal. The



only question I have is: how is it possible, after what I've learned in the last two years, that UCLA Law School could teach me to behave even more ethically? Impossible, you say? I

would have thought so too, because there are lots of psychic gifts of ethics I've received from this school.

For starters, I've learned never to answer a question incorrectly. That's because UCLA Law School has eradicated the words "yes" or "no" from my vocabulary. Now the first words out of my mouth are usually "In my opinion it seems that

the court might hold if they were to view the facts in light of those particular public policy criteria..." Occasionally, this creates confusion for the server at Starbucks when I'm asked to decide between a grande or a venti, but to me, I'm always perfectly clear.

I have to thank the faculty for unshackling me of this brutish and vulgar trend. To think I ever thought of being direct. When I get married, I will replace the customary "I do," with "if it would please the court."

The bottom line is: I've learned a new language. I never knew what demurrer, 12(b)(6) or *ex ante* meant until I got here. Now, I can use this knowledge to help people. What could be more ethical than that?

It's good to know people need me; that they'll depend on me and keep depending on me because they'll never really understand what I'm doing for them. How can they? With the way I've been taught to express legal concepts, no one but a lawyer can make any sense of it. By default, it must be ethical to use my newfound skills to help people.

Jesus said, "Give a man a fish and he'll eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and

he'll eat for a lifetime." That's why Jesus had to be a carpenter. He'd never make it as a lawyer. It wouldn't be ethical to teach people to use a confusing new language—lawyers must do that part for their clients...or there wouldn't be any clients. UCLA has made sure I won't make that mistake. It's one fish per customer and no rods and reels.

I can't wait for the chance to help people. Our professors have taken great pains to give us countless examples of how lawyers come to the rescue of people who make mistakes. How many cases have we read where Mr. X "was stupid to sign that contract?" Where Ms. Y "would not have had to settle for that remedy if she had a good lawyer?" Or where "those people obviously had a lawyer who didn't go to UCLA?"

In some ways, I feel luckier than Jesus. He actually had to go drum up believers. I know that the throngs of incompetent people out there who end up needing a lawyer will be beating a path to our doors. We are the modern clerics. Like medieval monks, we are needed by the masses to interpret those mysterious words. And whether you call them billable hours or tithes, we will get our rewards for blessing the people and helping

them navigate through the maze of human suffering we have created. That's what I call "supply-side morality."

So, I'm excited to come back next year and take Professional Responsibility. It will be the final touch to my legal education; an experience that allows me to solidify all the disparate knowledge I've acquired here. It will allow me to dissect ethical conundrums like a butcher working on a side of beef. I'll be able to hack at the joint, trim the fat, and slice the tender muscle morsels from human frailty. And just think how enjoyable it will be grilling up the human condition on the Weber of Success.

My only fear is that Professional Responsibility will make me too powerful. Once I understand the inner-workings of the legal ethos, will I try to rise above the system? Will I cross over to the dark side? Will I be the Darth Vader of jurisprudence? A con man? A snake oil salesman selling Dr. Fabergast's powerful legal elixir?

Nah. That's silly. If I were really intent on making the public my play toy, I would have gotten a head start and taken Professional Responsibility this year.

Top Twenty Things I Learned My First Two Years at Law School

Top Ten Things I Learned as a 1L*

Anne Jollay, 2L
Editor-in-Chief

10) Karmic forces are inactive in law school

The pretentious ass sitting next to you will get a 4.0, and the darling girl who loves all of mankind will drop out.

9) Grades mean nothing and everything

They mean nothing in that they do not reflect intelligence or hard work. However, they *do* reflect your entire self-esteem for the first two weeks of second semester (or until whenever you get a grip, come back down to earth, and get some perspective).

8) TV is the root of all evil

It must be stopped. Somehow it convinces you that watching *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* is far more important than doing crim reading.

7) Alcohol makes law school a beautiful place

Hate law school and don't know why you came? Go have a beer. Many. Often.

6) If you are single when you enter, you will probably be single when you leave

I don't really think an explanation is necessary here. Just exercise a lot (for the only way to possibly avoid this, see #3).

5) Don't Brief Cases

Yeah, so you might make an ass of yourself in class once or twice. But I'd gladly trade a little friendly humiliation for a little *Buffy* (If it wasn't clear before, I'm obviously single—otherwise, I'd have better things to do with the free time).

4) Just "Pass," Damn it!

News flash—nobody cares whether you did the reading or even whether you are a sniveling moron. They have their own problems.

3) Go out with non-law school friends

It is an important part of the healing process that must occur at the end of every week. These friends should preferably be ones that knew you before you became a law student—they knew you were at least fun once, so they'll stick with you in hopes that you will one day return to your old glorious self.

2) Don't ask Ben King for an interview about his appearance on *Love Connection* for a Docket article you have to write

He'll put you off for a few weeks, and then you'll be stuck without an article a few hours before the deadline. But it's OK, Ben. I inherently respect any person who dodges an article about their appearance on *Love Connection*. Hell, I would.

1) Exams don't actually physically kill you—just emotionally and spiritually

It could have been worse. Congrats to all my fellow 1Ls. You willingly put yourself through what should be one of Dante's Circles of Hell and lived to tell the tale.

*- Reprinted from the February 1999 issue.

Top Ten Things I Learned as a 2L

Anne Jollay, 2L
Editor-in-Chief

10) Much to my dismay, porn isn't ALWAYS a good thing

This shocked me. Apparently, it shocked others as well.

9) A charming personality is severely undervalued by OCIP firms

The bastards.

8) *Buffy* just keeps getting better and better

As your capacity to understand complex legal issues grows, your enjoyment of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* increases as well (The episode with the slow-mo bitch-slap fight between Zander and the Valley-Girl vampire was just *brilliant!*)

7) Other than bar review, I'm afraid I still don't know what the SBA does

No, the Barrister's Ball had a separate committee. And I refuse to acknowledge the existence of the book exchange because I always hear about it after the deadline.

6) You must budget 20 minutes in order to use one of the three working computers in the student lounge

I have no idea why I don't just always go to the computer lab to check email at this point - it would certainly be faster. At least we have nice furniture to look at now.

5) You forget absolutely EVERYTHING you learned your first year of law school

Supplemental jurisdiction? Fee Simple Defeasible? Thank God for Bar-Bri is all I have to say. Makes me wonder what

the point of taking Bar classes is if you're just going to have to relearn it anyway.

4) Downing a bottle of wine the night before Moot Court competition is exercising extremely poor judgment

A painful memory but a valuable lesson (one that I should have learned about five years ago, but it has been scientifically proven that maturity mysteriously wanes in law school, so give me a break).

3) I learned from Aranella that I am an idiot

In fact, I learned from Aranella that you, too, are an idiot. However, I also learned from Aranella that idiocy is relative in light of the fact that he has yet to master the on-call system that he himself devised.

2) "Billy Boy", after leading a very hard life, has moved back to Miami after receiving Professor Michael Graham's student evaluations

I think those who took Evidence last semester are all rejoicing.

1) I finally learned who the hell Josh Sandler is

He was just so full of "sage advice" and helpful reminders about deadlines that I at least wanted to know what he looked like. But where is he now? I wish his "little elves" would get back to work...

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Why Law School?: A Docket Point/Counterpoint

as told to John Targowski, 1L
Editor

Law School is an Empowering Experience That I Will Apply to Further My Goals of Serving Underprivileged Communities and Working Toward a Better, More Progressive Future For Our Children

by Polly Public-Interest

I went to law school so I could be an advocate for those helpless individuals who otherwise wouldn't be able to fend for themselves in this overly litigious day and age. I want to positively impact the lives of those who, without selfless public interest crusaders like myself, would surely go without food, shelter, or access to adequate medicines and public schools.



Ever since Wellesley, where I double-majored in Women's Studies and Sociology, I KNEW law school would be the ticket to a fruitful and rewarding public interest career. I fantasize about serving those exposed to the worst of the human condition, people who truly would benefit from all of the opportunities in terms of education, position, and prominence that I have been BLESSED with. Not to sound too Kennedyesque, but I sincerely believe that to those who much is given, much is in turn expected. It is in this spirit that I commit myself to transforming this vile capitalist society into one that is both fair in resource allocation and wealth redistribution as well as just in terms of apportioning civil

rights across all sectors of society, regardless of caste or creed.

I found solace this past semester as I began volunteering with homeless youth and runaways. These kids from all over the country somehow find themselves on Hollywood Blvd. faced with empty wallets and bellies, broken or dysfunctional families, drug addiction, and often grave and yet easily remedied legal dilemmas. There exists one incident that is forever burned into my memory: I came to the rescue of a group of kids, all aspiring "movie-stars" fresh off of a Greyhound from Kalamasomewhere, Michigan. Not only were they badly malnourished, but they were being extorted by underground pornographers who fraudulently coaxed them into appearing in their degrading filth. Some of these kids were even being forced to perform incestuous acts with their own siblings! Is there no limit to the evil ambitions of those misogynistic skin-peddlers who pollute our lives with their "art"? Luckily, by using the tools learned in law school, I helped these kids get themselves back on their feet, get a meal in their bellies, get in touch with their families, and ultimately, get on the road to meeting the challenges of 21st century America. There is NO better gratitude than the "thank yous" I get from kids who previously had no hope and little expectations from someone wanting nothing in return for helping them.

I ask you, the law school community, to aid me in this endeavor by constantly keeping in mind that while you have a choice in career paths to take, not all of these trails leads to such a rosy, feel-good and do-good future where you can wear cool sandals, be free with your grooming, and incessantly complain about everyone else who is not even close to being as committed as you are to forgoing economic gain for social righ-

teousness. I hope you join me. Long live the revolution!

Law School is a Powerful Ego Trip That I Will Apply to Further My Self-Interested Goals of Serving the Entertainment Community and Working Toward a Copious, More Decadent Future For My Immediate Pleasure

by J. Howard Golightly

I wanted to go to law school so I could fulfill my every wish that money can buy. Cash rules everything around me, and I make no excuses for my goals of an affluent self-interested lifestyle: a fleet of high-priced German cars, a house in Monaco that would match my villa overlooking the Sunset Strip, a healthy indulgence in anorexic, silicon-implanted aspiring actresses, and an eventual and yet surprisingly avoidable co-dependency on expensive prescription painkillers and anti-depressants. There is nothing more fulfilling than fueling my every whim with sick, overindulgent behavior that obviously compensates for the inherent personality defects that hide under my perennially tanned skin.

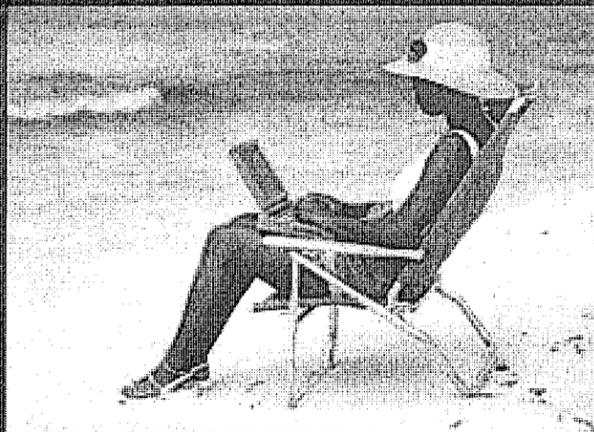
Ever since getting my finance and marketing degrees from UCLA, I was POSITIVE that law school was the next step in my carefully choreographed scheme to horde as much money and power as humanly possible. Coming from a long line of alpha-male breadwinners fueled by the need to "eat what we kill" so to speak, I knew that I would continue my family's commitment to greed and unbridled egotism. Indeed, I



live by the words of Gordon Gekko from *Wall Street*: "Greed, for lack of a better word, is good. Greed is right. Greed works." I would go farther: Greed captures the essence of the Adam Smith mentality that built this great country of ours at the pithy expense of those beneath us professional elites. Greed allows us our cars, our jets, our girls, and the ability, no, THE RIGHT, to justify subordinating people in economic slavery and keeping them in line with our habitually capricious and some would say, *cold-hearted*, decision-making.

Let me give you an example: I'm currently extorting with a production company that is developing an insightful and innovative series of "Adult" films focusing on a group angst-ridden teenagers feeling the pressures of modern Westside existence. Unfortunately, production was running way over budget and no room was left to pay talent anywhere close to industry-standard wages. I was nominated to find a remedy to this hopeless quagmire. Driving home along Hollywood Blvd., I spotted an eclectic group of young, cute, and impressively lean individuals, who although poorly dressed, could fit the bill for the series' cast. Seeing an opportunity, I talked my way into signing them aboard as talent for a mere fraction of what it costs to hire real actors. Foolishly believing that they didn't have to be over eighteen to appear unclothed in front of a camera, let alone legally sign a "modeling" contract, these poor souls were unprepared for the sophisticated bargaining tactics gleaned from my law school education. As a reward for my brilliance, I was compensated with a fat, sweaty wad of unmarked twenty dollar bills in a plain manila envelope from a man whose face I have

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

In the Spirit of *High Fidelity*... The Top Five Albums of the 1990's

By Rob Baker, 3L
Editor

In some parallel universe, I've given the finger to law school and followed my true bliss into the admittedly juvenile field of music journalism. True, Frank Zappa once described it as "people who can't write interviewing people who can't talk for people who can't read," but what the hell—it's gotta be better than scratching through all these briefs and bluebooks, right?

So I'd like to thank *The Docket* for granting me one of my little fantasies before I descend into bar exam hell: a chance to review the best pop albums of the last decade. Maybe it would have fit better in our November issue, published at the same time hundreds of other blowhard critics released their own "best of year/decade/century/millennium/eon" lists, but at least I have a chance to distinguish myself now that the Y2K hype has died down. Besides, it fits kinda nicely with the big screen release of *High Fidelity*, the story of a somewhat self-centered music geek named Rob who makes "Top Five" lists all the time (uncanny, ay?). Anyway, here they are: the five best albums of the 1990's. Give 'em a spin and see for yourself!

#1: Portishead—*Dummy* (London Records, 1994)

Emerging in 1994 from England's much-hyped Bristol scene, Portishead's *Dummy* was the first masterpiece of the new "trip hop" style, a smoky fusion of American hip hop, Jamaican dub, and British psychedelia. Building on what he had learned from trip hop pioneers Massive Attack, Portishead DJ Geoff Barrow took the budding genre to a new level by adding a bizarre and unlikely twist to the mix. Drum beats and bass lines were slowed and distorted to keep a sinister rhythm. Samples were scavenged from cheesy sci-fi, horror, and spy flicks from the 1960's. Old moogs and theremins quivered and hiccuped atop Adrian Utley's subdued guitar licks, while horns and strings added more cinematic ambience. Finally, chanteuse Beth Gibbons summoned the voice of a fallen angel to wail torch songs over it all.

The result was an eerie piece of postmodern vampire jazz, the kind of music one would expect to hear echoing through the halls of a deserted sanitarium at 3 AM. It also provided a perfect soundtrack to the no-man's-land of mid-90's life. Gibbons' songs of alienation and heartache expanded on a theme started by the "grunge" movement four years before, and Barrow's gift for composing beautiful arrangements out of kitschy scraps of pop culture complimented the



growing "cut-and-paste" sensibility of Generation X. Dozens of second-rate outfits (Sneaker Pimps, Hoverphonic, Mono) have tried to imitate the mood and style of *Dummy*, but few have come close to its intelligence or passion. Having lifted its raw material from the past, its mechanics from the future, and its poetry from ageless human experience, the album is sure to withstand the test of time.

#2: My Bloody Valentine—*Loveless* (Sire, 1991)

The most common reaction from innocent bystanders when they first hear this album is, "I think your stereo is broken," or "Is that disc warped?" I used to enjoy the grimaces on their faces too much to explain that compact discs don't "warp" the way vinyl does. Besides, after a few moments I knew the music would carry them into a trance in which words and explanations didn't matter anymore (either that, or they'd just storm out of the room holding their ears).

Such are the varied responses to *Loveless*, eleven heavenly pop songs crafted from a maelstrom of white noise. From the orchestral chaos of "Only Shallow" to the spacey groove of "Soon," *Loveless* takes the mind to a world in which voices murmur incomprehensible lullabies, chords bend and bleed together, and mutated notes seem to float endlessly in the air. In fact, this lush soundscape was mainly the result of frontman Kevin Shields' experiments with guitar and amp (sans effects pedals)—an achievement that instantly won him the respect of his contemporaries, and a place in *Rolling Stone's* recent pantheon of all-time "Guitar Gods." Sadly, his debilitating perfectionism and reclusion make a follow-up less and less likely with each passing year. *Loveless* may remain the

only known portal to that glorious world of sound.

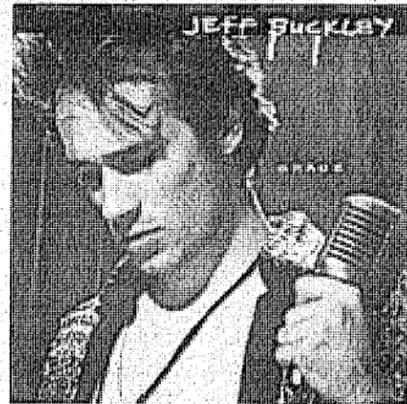
#3: Jeff Buckley—*Grace* (Columbia, 1994)

The conventional wisdom is that sons and daughters of great musicians are very rarely great musicians themselves (Jakob Dylan, Sean Lennon, Wilson Phillips...need I say more?). Jeff Buckley shattered that notion to bits in his all too short-lived career, arguably surpassing the work of his father, folk singer Tim

Buckley. The younger Buckley exhibited astonishing range, both with a voice that spanned four octaves and a repertoire that included everything from the standards of Edith Piaf to the speed punk of Bad Brains.

The aptly-titled *Grace* is an eclectic mix of folk and rock songs seamlessly threaded together by the sound of Jeff's ethereal voice and guitar. His delicate approach to the album's three cover tunes virtually transforms them: "Hallelujah," for example, is sung with a deep sensuality unexplored in Leonard Cohen's original. Other songs establish Jeff as a gifted lyricist in his own right. "My kingdom for a kiss upon her shoulder," he cries on "Lover, You Should've Come Over," a ballad for those who can't "keep good love from going wrong."

Sadly, *Grace* remains the only full-length album completed and released to Jeff's satisfaction. In 1997, he drowned while wading in the Mississippi River, on the eve of rehearsals for a promising follow-up. Though much of his unrefined work has been released posthumously, *Grace* must now stand as both the debut and departure of an exceptionally talented artist.



#4: Nirvana—*Nevermind* (DGC, 1991)

This one needs almost no introduction, as practically every critic in the world has waxed poetic about it at some time or another. After reading some reviews, you'd swear that bandleader Kurt Cobain was Jesus and *Nevermind* was God's gift to music. But why? What is it about this album that is still sending shock waves through the pop music landscape?

The answer is that in some ways, Cobain was our savior. At the end of the 80's, TV and radio were plagued by doz-

ens of inane, disposable "hair bands" like Motley Crue and Guns N' Roses, who blasted us with power chords, Neanderthal machismo, and moronic rock cliches. While the more cerebral and experimental music of the Pixies and Sonic Youth simmered in the underground, it was not enough to capture mainstream America's attention. Then, in late 1991, *Nevermind* dropped onto the scene like a neutron bomb.

With the song craft of the early Beatles and the sardonic aggression of the Sex Pistols, Nirvana gave pop culture its badly needed fix of irony and evil wit. Cobain's lyrics explored such unsavory

subjects as alienation ("Smells Like Teen Spirit") and aimless bourgeois life ("Breed"), while blasting baby boomers ("Territorial Pissings") and even some of his own fans ("In Bloom"). And by find-

ing a sonic crossroads between punk and metal, producer Butch Vig helped Nirvana turn the heads of many headbangers, opening them to other bands, other music, other messages besides "sex, drugs, and rock n' roll."

Nevermind ushered in a new renaissance in pop music, clearing the path for several other underground acts to gain popularity. But the party came to a tragic end with Cobain's suicide in 1994. Rock wandered around in an "alternative" limbo for a while before spawning monsters like Marilyn Manson and Limp Bizkit—the same decadent cave-men that Nirvana had sought to destroy in the first place. Oh well, whatever...never mind.

#5: The Pharcyde—*Bizarre Ride II the Pharcyde* (Delicious Vinyl, 1992)

There is no question that some of the most innovative and important advances in pop music over the last 20 years have come from America's thriving hip hop subculture. Unfortunately, today's most high profile hip hop acts—Puff Daddy, Snoop Dogg, etc.—don't really do much to push the genre itself in new directions. With the exception of heavyweights like Lauryn Hill, it's usually the scrappy little independent rap crews that break new ground, offering audiences more than just tiresome braggadocio and gangsta posturing. One such crew, The Pharcyde, did this astoundingly well on their 1992 debut.

The first thing one notices a few cuts into *Bizarre Ride II the Pharcyde* is how easily these guys can laugh at themselves. While your typical MC will envision himself driving a shiny new car with hot-and-cold running women and fistfuls of money, The Pharcyde tell hilarious tales of getting dissed ("Passin' Me By"), dumped ("Otha Fish"), debilitatingly stoned ("Pass the Pipe") and pulled over in an old jalopy ("Offica"). These are ordinary guys celebrating human foibles, and doing so with amazing style and technique. Their voices noodle and fly over jazzy rhythms like John Coltrane's saxophone, even when they're just snapping ya mama.

Victims of hip hop's "here today, gone today" turnover rate, The Pharcyde haven't regained much exposure beyond the Los Angeles area. But along with other skilled, witty acts like Aceyalone and Jurassic 5, they still have the potential to send the main playaz running and put Southern California back on the rap map for good.



Now Playing on a Laptop Near You

Alexis Garcia, 1L

Once confined to the realm of obscure festivals and student projects, the short film is emerging as the main ticket for the growing medium of internet entertainment.

If you have trouble sitting through those 75 minute classes without breaks, if you constantly rack up late fees on video rentals because you need more time, if you thought *Magnolia* should have been a mini-series, or if you just think this sentence is way too long, then you should pay what little attention you have to this article. Why fork out ten bucks for *The Green Mile* and a snack when you can crank out the Toshiba, a bag of Jiffy Pop, and watch 180 flicks for free in the same amount of time? The quality's not up to par yet and the glow of the computer screen sitting on your kitchen table does not quite match the experience of moviegoing, but it's definitely not just for cybergeeks anymore. Hollywood executives are fleeing their comfortable, corner suites to head internet film distribution companies and studios are dedicating offices to joining the virtual expansion. So before the field gets overcrowded, allow me to introduce you to some of the more prominent sites providing short films.

MediaTrip.com and Entertaindom.com

Thanks to backing from major studios and talent, these relatively new companies gained immediate recognition for online programming which complements films with weekly shows, contests, reviews and other fare. MediaTrip takes pride in focusing on quality over quantity, and this is evident not only in their mission statement but the content available. The site exploded onto the scene in October by acquiring *George Lucas in Love*, which went on to shatter the world record for most viewed short film within its first few weeks. The film exemplifies what I like to call "fusion spoof," in which two totally unrelated movies are crossed to create an absurd, creative and surprisingly blended dish that would make Wolfgang Puck proud. In this case, the Star Wars director replaces the Bard in a story paralleling "Shakespeare in Love" but taking place during Lucas' last year at USC film school. Plagued with writer's block as he tries to pound out his senior project in time for graduation, Lucas eventually finds inspiration in his surroundings and a mysterious muse sporting a familiar cinnamon buns hairstyle. While the film stretches sometimes to evoke Star Wars symbolism (his professor talks like Yoda for no apparent reason), most of it works brilliantly (Lucas' sinister next door neighbor wears all black and sports an asthma inhaler). By making Lucas a geek and belittling the concept of the force (his roommate babbles about it while smoking a bowl), the film successfully mocks the entire pop culture phenomenon associated with Star Wars. As part of its success, the film earned the director a development deal at DreamWorks and a stellar review in *Entertainment Weekly*. Among the other films featured at MediaTrip are *Louisville* (an 18 minute drama starring Andre Braugher of *Homicide* fame), *Los Gringos* (a Samurai-Western trailer featuring the Pat Morita's voice and some amazing animation), and my personal favorite *Swing Blade*. Another prime example of fusion spoof, this latter piece imagines a trailer for a film by the creators of *Swing*

ers and *Sling Blade*, replacing Jon Favreau's pathetic Mikey with Billy Bob Thornton's imbecilic killer. If you have seen both films, you'll laugh throughout the entire three and half minutes.

Time Warner's Entertaindom serves up a similar assortment of original programming but in more of a funhouse setting. Click on the short films tab and you will be instructed to pick between the AtomFilm Channel and the Film Festival Channel to see what films are showing. At the time of this review, only *Joyride* and *Scream 33 1/3* were showing on the respective channels. The former is a computer-animated short about two snails who hitch a ride on the back of a tortoise, while the latter envisions a geriatric installment of the horror franchise. These provide some laughs but the action suffers from choppy quality. However, one headline promises more films are coming soon while another link invites the viewer to become the next Spielberg by submitting material, so Entertaindom is obviously working on improving the selection. For now the site's strength lies in weekly originals like *The God and Devil Show* an animated talk show in which the title hosts interview a personality before giving the viewer the chance to choose the person's eternal fate. An easily navigable site map lays out the tremendous assortment of other features, games, chat rooms, and shopping links. If you want an enlightening and entertaining experience, do not miss the *Looney Tunes Teach the Internet*, where Bugs and company provide a crash course suitable for all ages.

Ifilm.com and AtomFilms.com

These older companies just recently opened Los Angeles offices and continue to grow thanks to recent investments by such companies as Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen's Vulcan Ventures (\$35 million for Ifilm). Launched in the first few months of 1999, the sites focus on discovering

new talent by distributing an abundance of experimental, creative, mostly low budget pieces. The result is an extensive and diverse catalog which challenges the user to seek out the gems.

Ifilm.com claims to accept any film except for pornography and home movies, and the dominance of lowbrow humor, inferior quality, and drug themes seem to confirm this. In choosing among the features, you can opt for *The Rise and Fall of Coco the Junkie Pimp*, a crude puppet flick by "sick and twisted" animators Spike and Mike, or *A la Cart*, the story of a victimized shopping cart's revenge on an abusive grocery store clerk. I gravitated toward another fusion spoof, *Pies Wide Shut*, which promises a "food orgy scene that the FDA, USDA, and MPAA don't want you to see." At 13 minutes, *Pies Wide Shut* really only lasts as long as it took Tom Cruise to drink a beer in Kubrick's pic, but I still could not reach the climax because the video kept freezing and the actors were drowned out by the loud soundtrack.

While AtomFilms likewise encourages submissions, they accept less than 10% of submitted shorts while claiming to be the Internet's largest destination for quality short entertainment. In contrast to Ifilm, Atom's recent daily picks included *Bloody Mary*, a Dutch film described as "cowboy noir" and *Neto's Run*, a drama about the personal struggles an illegal immigrant from the Dominican Republic faces in New York. These films reveal Atom's courage and dedication to expanding Internet entertainment beyond crude humor and into the realm of artistry. Among festival winners and Academy award nominees you can also find *My Mother Dreams the Satan's Disciples in New York*, which earned this year's Oscar for short film.

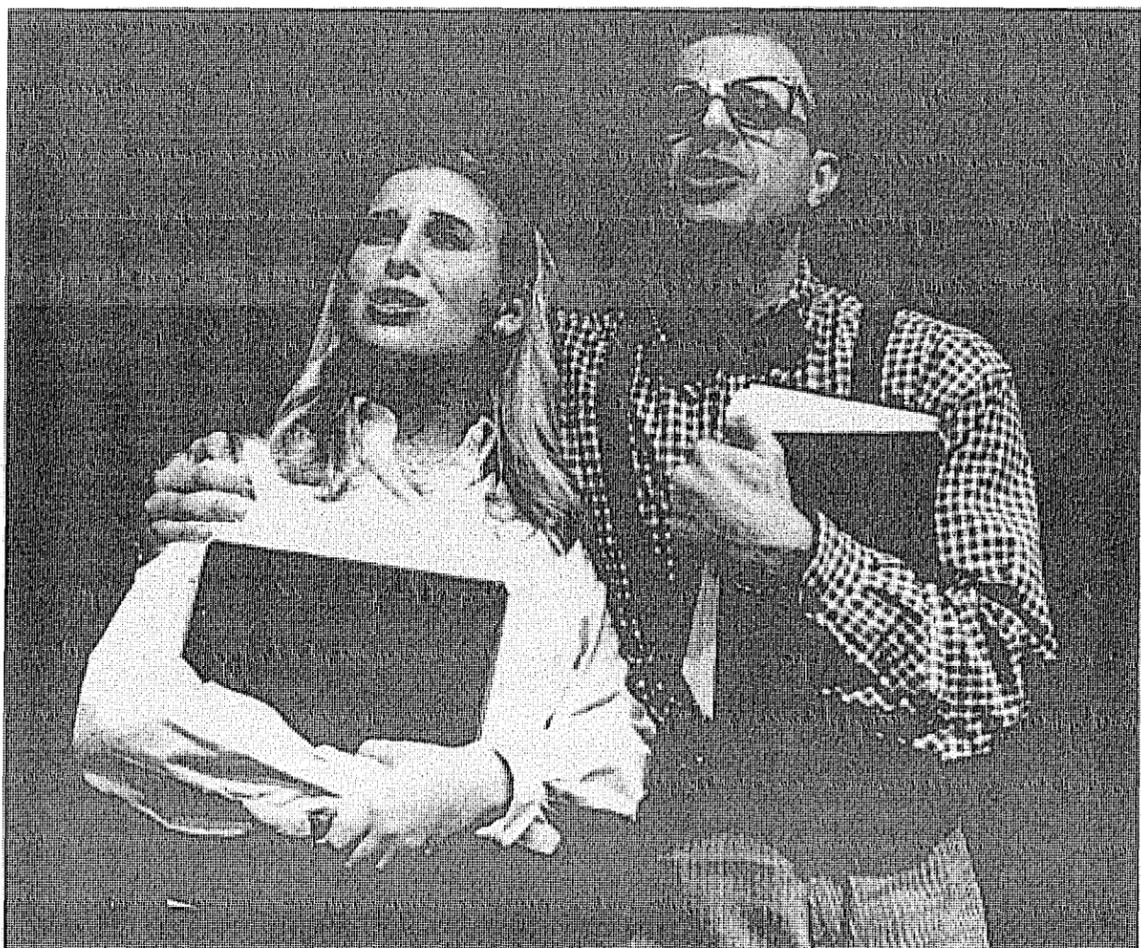
While Ifilm also provides lists of most popular and watched films to guide viewers, AtomFilms currently gives us

ers a greater incentive to review and recommend through its current MogulMakers sweepstakes. For supplying short, coherent reviews users earn points for contest which gives the ultimate winner the chance to executive produce her own film. This results in an increase of publicity and reviews while cutting down on viewers who just comment on whether a film sucks or is cool. The site's highest rated films are actually German and Swedish, indicating that some viewers might share the AtomFilm's vision of quality.

Yet despite this, the most viewed film on the site reinforces the idea that this new medium is better suited for light fare. *Saving Ryan's Privates* features some fine performances (not all by persons), clever jokes, and is worth watching just to hear the characters coin the phrase "post-traumatic castration syndrome." While obviously focusing on crude, often offensive humor, *Saving Ryan's Privates* succeeds because it keeps its one joke fresh, breathing new life into it just when you think you couldn't squeeze another innuendo out of the idea. In the spoofs category you can also find a quartet of films mocking last summer's scariest twigs, including *The Making of the Blair Witch Project: The Blair Witch Project Project*.

Coming soon, intertainment.com and POP.com join the action. The latter, created by DreamWorks and Ron Howard's Imagine Entertainment, is a heavily anticipated company which focuses on producing "pops," one to six minute segments skewed towards comedy. Until then, there are plenty of shorts out there to keep you entertained a few minutes at a time. So if you want the best of both worlds just grab a date, snuggle by the purr of the modem, and feed your little attention spans away all night long (or at least through a few hundred flicks).

Law Students Perform



Karen Agam and Marc Angelucci perform in this year's Law School Musical. Next year's show, "Care or Sell" is already looking for actors, dancers, and singers. Contact Prof. Ken Graham for details.

Holm Sets the Right Tone For 1L Travails

By Toby Bordelon, 1L

For some reason, most of the people in Professor Tom Holm's Lawyering Skills section actually like going to class. Is it because that the subject matter is so completely interesting? Um, no. Holm himself admits that the subject isn't all that inherently exciting.

Because the class attempts to teach a thought process, rather than some concrete area of the law, there isn't really anything to grab on to, he says. For that reason, Lawyering Skills can be difficult and frustrating at times. Professor Holm attempts to make it as easy as possible by finding ways to articulate the thought process. And articulate he does, much to the joy of his students.

Between stories of a former classmate code-named "Stalin" and random quoting of song lyrics, Holm manages to impart practical skills and advice that he hopes will be useful to students in their careers. As a result, Lawyering Skills with Holm turns out to be uplifting, a bright spot of laughter and fun in what would otherwise be a very long day.

Professor Holm went to law school at the University of Minnesota, after graduating from Carleton College. (As he says, "Minnesota is a great place to be from- as in away from.") After law school, he clerked with the 9th Circuit, then went to work with Morrison and Forrester here in L.A. While he enjoyed his time at the firm, he admits that it was less than satisfying. Holm is the type of person who needs to care about the people he works with. He says that while he did care about doing the best job he could, it was difficult to care about, say . . . a bank. Admit it. Don't we all have just a little bit of difficulty caring for a bank? He wasn't getting the emotional nourishment he needed, so he started looking for another line of work.

While he has no long-term future plans, Holm sees himself remaining at UCLA for some time to come. He has even recently purchased a house, which causes him some trouble. He is currently embroiled in a war with the local ants. He suspects that the previous owner was rather lax in pest control, and that the ants

got used to being in the house. "I'm in the process of training them to be outside ants," he says. He does like spiders, however. Why? "Because they eat ants."

As the director of the Lawyering Skills program and UCLA, Professor Holm has found his niche. In his fourth year here, he has found a place where his love of working with people is fulfilled. That he cares deeply for all his students is evident. He is more than willing to talk to them about anything. Whether it be class, the law in general, a personal problem, or just a desire to shoot the breeze, he is more than happy to accommodate.

Students have many good things to say about his teaching style. "He's a really great prof," says Mary Huynh, who particularly liked the day he quoted Vanilla Ice ("Ice, Ice, Baby").

Molly Calvanese has always admired his ethical ideals, noting that "he seems very concerned about teaching us to do the right thing by our classmates, our clients, and ourselves." "Professor Holm has offered timely, sincere, and reassuring advice on matters that bridge the academic and personal worlds," says Sylvia Rivera. "He is clearly concerned with students' success in life as well as in the classroom." She will even concede that his caring approach more than makes up for his inexplicable desire to keep his classroom temperature below zero. (Maybe it's the Minnesota native coming through.) To be fair, Professor Holm has occasionally been willing to suffer through what he considers to be sweltering heat, sweating through his lectures, just so we could all go through the occasional class without having to break out the sweatshirts and jackets. Self-sacrifice is another mark of a good teacher.

Holm brings a unique style to his teaching, one that often has his students in spasms of laughter (much to the irritation of the classes next door.) He says you have to "be yourself" to be an effective teacher, and claims actually to be the person he is in class, though he does admit to toning it down a bit while teaching. (If this is true, one can't help but be a bit frightened at the prospect of a Holm that isn't toned down.)

When asked about how he approaches teaching, Holm says he doesn't worry about establishing authority, because he just assumes that in a law school setting the authority of the teacher will exist from the outset. Rather he focuses on establishing a connection with his students, something he does very well, always taking a different role as needed.

His students also seem to fall into different roles, automatically relating to him in the way most natural for them, anywhere from mentee to thorn in his side.

It's this connection that leads to the many hilarious quips and quotes that students look forward to each day. He claims that he doesn't prepare anything humorous, except perhaps the occasional example. Rather, the humor just comes out as a result of him simply being himself and responding to students, or even just throwing out something that occurs to him in the middle of a lecture. He says he would "suck as a standup," and thinks he doesn't tell jokes very well. Be that as it may, he's still funny in class.

Holm believes you can have fun while being serious. And true to his belief, that's what happens in class. As fun and entertaining as it is, he somehow manages to teach what may be the most useful lessons learned in law school. We all have no doubt that we will remember his words and advice in practice, just when we need them most.

Holm believes that law schools at their core should be service oriented. Their purpose is to teach and turn out good lawyers, he says. When asked how he thinks they can improve, he responded by saying that law schools across the country could do a better job teaching practical application. Talking about how the law should be is all well and good, but at the end of the day a lawyer needs to know how to apply the law as it actually is.

He also sees a problem with the fact that students tend to get jaded. He is at a loss as to the exact cause of this phenomenon, but admits that professors must share some of the responsibility for it. "We're obviously doing something" to contribute to it, he says, but he isn't sure



Professor Tom Holm

what, nor does he know exactly how to solve it. He thinks professors need to work on keeping students engaged in the learning process. Ideally, he says, "third year should still be exciting."

He thinks cutthroat competition among students is unnecessary and should not be encouraged. While some competition is healthy, it should be personal, competition with yourself to do your best, letting others push you to your best performance and encouraging others to do their best. Undercutting others, making fun of others, is wrong, he says, and as his story of "Stalin" shows, it will come back to haunt you.

He also notes that lawyers in general could use some improvement, pointing to a lack of communication skills in the profession. Lawyers are too busy in his opinion, and this busyness can lead to shortchanging the client. We need to work on really listening to what others are saying, he says, both clients and other attorneys. Compassion is also needed, he points out, compassion for both the people you're working for and with. While there is room for improvement, he does believe that overall, the law is still a noble profession, full of good people.

Holm's primary goal in life is to make

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Scholarship Allows UCLAW Student to Follow Her Dreams

by Jill Kastner
Managing Editor

Recently, Natalie Bridgeman, a 1L, was selected out of hundreds of graduate and law students throughout the entire UC system to be one of the recipients of the 2000 IGCC Graduate Summer Internship in International Affairs. This scholarship award of \$3000 plus a \$500 travel stipend will allow Bridgeman to work for the World Bank in Washington D.C. this summer. Bridgeman, who wrote her thesis on "Environmental Reform at the World Bank: The IDA Opportunity and Congress" while attending Cornell University, said she was very excited about receiving this award, which was funded jointly by the IGCC and the UC Office of the President in order to assist UC graduate students with practical international affairs experience.

Actively involved in international affairs since she was 8 years old, Bridgeman always looked beyond the local issues of

her home in Santa Cruz to the broader, global issues affecting people throughout the world. Since 1985, Bridgeman has worked to promote environmental and human rights issues through her involvement in such Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) as Peace Child Foundation, which aims to promote peace, social justice, and environmental stewardship through month-long performing arts tours, visiting both the Ukraine and South Africa.

Bridgeman has also worked in Chile as part of Chile Sustentable, researching and writing articles on civil society participation in the Free Trade Area of the Americas, as well as for the Center for International Environmental Law in Washington, DC, the Cornell University Public Service Center in Ithaca, New York, and the Nautilus Institute for Security and Sustainable Development in Berkeley, California.

With this extensive background, Bridgeman is excited about working for the World Bank's Inspection Panel this sum-

mer, where she will hear and investigate claims of individuals in developing countries who allege human rights violations and/or environmental degradation caused by World Bank programs and projects.

This isn't to say that Bridgeman's only interests are in the international sphere. She's also an excellent singer who has been part of a touring a capela trio since she was 14 years old. The group has an avid following of fans in the Santa Cruz area and will be coming out with their 2nd CD in the near future (CD not yet available in stores, but Bridgeman says she can sell you one if you're interested).

If this isn't enough excitement for one person, Bridgeman is also very active on campus. In addition to her studies and activities as a 1L and a member of the Public Interest Law Program, Bridgeman has been an active member of the Journal of International Law and Foreign Affairs (JILFA), and was elected to the position of Chief Articles Editor for JILFA for the 2000-2001 school

year.

Additionally, Bridgeman is working with other students to develop a Workers Rights Clinic at UCLA. Although plans for this program are in the very beginning stages, Bridgeman, as well as the many other dedicated students with whom she is working, hopes to get this new clinic up and running in the next year or so. "We want to create more of a full service clinic where students would try to go through the entire process with the client . . . to help low-wage workers in the area with wage claims, overtime disputes and other claims they may have."

Bridgeman says she is very happy with her decision to come to UCLAW. "We have a really supportive community here," she says, "I'm lucky to be [in such] a tight section with such great people."

...And Even More Reformations

By David Holtzman, 3L

Last year I began a column about changing some things around the law school. Nothing major; just a few suggestions to make UCLAW a better place. As it turns out, last year's column prompted a chorus of complaints about those "knee killer" electric outlets under some desks. Many are now gone, although a few plumb tort possibilities still exist. So, in the spirit of spurring one or two more practical changes, here are the latest Reformations.

Vacation Mondays

For some reason, almost all second- and third-year students have Friday off. It's a nice gift, but it's far too easy to waste. I mean, you work really hard all week reading, outlining, maybe reviewing a bar or two, and then *wham!* You get Friday off. Who among us can get anything done on a free Friday?

To make matters worse, the free Friday is followed by Saturday and Sunday — prime "made for fun" days. It's hard to do work or a lofty self-directed project on the weekend.

So why not have Mondays off instead? By Monday, you're ready to focus on preparing for the week ahead. And if you want to spend the time doing something fun — I mean, "networking," — with a free Monday, you can take advantage of the weekly Internet airfare specials. The cheapest Internet airfare deals usually require the traveler to leave after 7 P.M. on Friday and return on a Monday or Tuesday. Having Fridays off gets you very little.

Doors Are for Opening

There is a double doorway in the main hallway at the bottom of the stairs leading to the student lockers, and one door is always closed. Everybody

squeezes through the open door. It's a minor annoyance, and a bit of a collision risk.

Why not keep both doors open? One door props open on its own, but the other doesn't. Sometimes, a problem-solver will wedge an old *Docket* or something underneath to keep the door open, but the wedge always seems to disappear by the next morning. Here's hoping someone can tinker with the prop-mechanism to get both doors working.

URSA Algorithm

Real-time enrollment counts are beautiful. When you're strategizing your class enrollment selections, there is no better information to have than how many empty spaces remain in the classes you're after. Not only can you avoid wasting your "first pass" on a course with plenty of room to spare, but

you can find out which courses are popular without having to read course evaluations or ask around.

Unfortunately, there are a few classes that conflict with URSA's real-time enrollment count feature. To URSA, classes numbered 199, 596, 597, 598 and 599 are "Individual Studies Classes," and URSA finds no need to tally the enrollment in an individual study class.

But for most courses with these numbers at UCLAW, size does matter, so it sure would be nice if the law school administration would avoid using numbers that turn off the counter for classes with limited enrollments.

To share your thoughts or other crazy ideas with David, e-mail him at holtzman@2000.law.ucla.edu or sdave@well.com.

Cleaning Up Our Act: Janitors for Justice

SBA Environmental Coalition

Marc Angelucci

Kevin Behrent

"No no! Don't use my name or my picture . . . last time I said something, someone threw dog [poop] in the restroom." That's what one custodian said when asked to comment about the messes we UCLAW students leave them to clean up.

But others weren't so reserved.

"Oh they act childish . . . for them to be grown people and messing up these classrooms," said Endor Fletcher, who was outside the computer lab with Bilal the guard. Bilal agreed, and added a critique that makes apparent a problem with inadequate potty training on the part of some UCLAW students: "tell them to please flush the toilets when they go to the bathroom and take the paper off the seats. Some of them take big stacks they don't need and put it on the toilet. Others wipe their behind and drop it all over the floor."

When asked to comment on our sloth and their work, other employees were simply happy to be noticed. "I was wondering when they'd make me famous," said Demetrius Batiste, a UCLA custodian for 13 years now. "Finally someone acknowledges my great work." Great work indeed. But sadly unappreciated by most of us students, who so often forget that there are people cleaning up after us on a daily basis. Every night, that is. From 5:30pm to 2am, with a lunch break from 9:30 to 10:15.

March 6th was Victor Ruvalcaba's first day on the job. "I'm happy to be part of the UCLA team," he said, perhaps too new to feel the others' frustration.

"I don't want to make enemies," said Carlos Flores in his usual sweet tone, "but I do appreciate when they pick up their trash and put it in the bins."

And then there's everyone's favorite person, Curly Thompson . . . the upbeat, cheerful custodian who pol-



Pictured, L-R: (back row) Victor Ruvalcaba, Rosa Contreras, Curly Thompson, Elle Haro, Anna Valle. (kneeling) Carlos Flores.

ishes every nook and cranny of the library after-hours. She was alone at 1:30 a.m. between bookshelves in one of the library's abandoned mine shafts. "Tell them to please keep the library clean. Oh the library is bad! (Laughs) They're not supposed to eat in the library, but they do. And they drop gum, food, stuff all over. And the classrooms too. It's really bad." However, she and others did like the placement of new recycling bins in the classrooms. "That helps us," said Manual Valencia.

But we can do so much more, and with so little effort. For instance, when leaving a computer, desk, couch, etc., check to see what you're leaving behind. Practice placing things in the right

bins so others don't have to sort them. Remove and recycle flyers after your event. And cardboard will be recycled if you leave it outside the records office at the end of the day.

According to the Environmental Coalition, a large portion of UCLA's trash gets incinerated in low-income areas of Commerce. And whether or not we like to talk about it, the way we mistreat the custodians through leaving gratuitous messes behind for them to clean up is part of a larger problem of environmental racism and classism. Each of us contributes.

Sure, they're paid for doing their labor. However, there's already plenty for the custodial staff to do without

having to compensate for our willful laziness. If that argument doesn't win you over, consider this: having respect for the dignity and worth and working conditions of those whose labor is construed to be "under" us may in fact be a formula for future success. So since the UCLAW custodians are willing to share their experiences with us now, why not learn from them while we're here? This problem certainly won't expire at graduation. It will follow us wherever we go. As the new custodian, Ruvalcaba, said, "This shouldn't just be here . . . you should put this in the L.A. Times!"

We agree. But some things even the SBA can't do.

UCLAW Statistics Reveal that Asians Are Not "Honorary Whites"

by Betty Chan
on behalf of APILSA

It has been almost six years since the affirmative action debate was re-ignited on UC campuses and throughout California by the Board of Regent's passage of SP1 and SP2 and the subsequent enactment of Proposition 209. Asian Pacific Islanders (APIs) have struggled collectively with other concerned communities to stymie the rollback on civil rights. Armed with the message, "We will not be used," members of the API community have thwarted both conservative and liberal attempts to portray APIs as the model minority, so-called "honorary whites," that no longer need affirmative action.

We have disputed the myth that racism no longer exists in our society because APIs, as a minority group, have succeeded. Too many of us know that in our inner cities - in the Chinatowns, Koreatowns, Manilatowns, and Little Saigons across the state - there is little in the way of affluence or upward mobility. This understanding took concrete form in voting booths where 73% of Republican Asian Americans and 79% percent of Democratic Asian Americans voted against 209. (Asian Pacific American Legal Center Exit Poll Statistics, 1996) Despite overwhelming support in the API community for affirmative action, many from the outside still wonder why APIs care so deeply about the issue in the first place. We have supposedly achieved social and economic parity with whites, the argument goes, so why should we concern ourselves with policies of this sort. Effectively, we are either left out of the current debate or used to undermine the necessity of bringing back affirmative action.

Where do APIs Belong within American Racial Politics?

APIs have received insufficient attention in American racial politics because the debate is framed within the Black-White Paradigm. This cultural schematic ignores

the voices of those who are neither white nor black and denies them a full voice in order to perpetuate the prevailing race hierarchy. Rather than see America for what it truly is, a nation of many, many ethnic identities, the Black-White paradigm limits racial categorization to either white or black. Distinct groups of peoples which do not fit squarely within the borders of the duality, such as Latinos and APIs, are left marginalized because existing notions of race in this country simply have no room for them.

For example, within the affirmative action controversy, APIs have been ceded the dubious social status of "honorary whites" because we are told that, unlike blacks, we do not need affirmative action. Despite rampant discrimination against APIs, we are made to believe that we would be just as successful as whites were it not for the "preferential treatment" given to other minorities. Thus, one minority group is pitted against the other and the majority perception prevails. Moreover, the Black-White Paradigm denies APIs an opportunity for complete self-definition because we are perceived and treated as a monolithic group when, in reality, incredible diversity exists within the API community. Since UCLAW API enrollment numbers are not as low as those of Blacks, Latinos and Native Americans, it is thought that we have not been harmed by Prop. 209. Because we don't fit into traditional notions of race, there is widespread belief that we are not discriminated against and if we are, it's not as severe as what other minority groups face.

The reality is that APIs were underrepresented in undergraduate college admissions in the pre-209 era and we still remain so. And despite some gains within the undergraduate academic admissions context, we are still not where we should be in terms of academic staffing, graduate school admissions and faculty hiring within the UC system. APIs, in general, encounter a "glass ceiling" in the employment world. A Republican sponsored report found that,

"APIs who are twice as educated as whites, are still much less likely to become senior managers. APIs earn less than whites even after controlling statistics for accents, educational level, age and citizenship status." Regarding UCLAW, APILSA Board member, Christy Kwon says, "Asian Americans can be visible yet marginal because our visibility has not translated into any form of real power within the institution. Part of the difficulty about talking about Asian Americans and marginality is that we are very diverse, we aren't simply more like whites or more like blacks. We aren't just victims or just beneficiaries of affirmative action. We do not have real political power in this country or on this campus. We don't have many Asian American professors. We don't have many people in top administrative positions. And we don't see them as partners in law firms."

UCLAW API admissions statistics paint a vivid picture of the continuing need for affirmative action at UCLAW. The admit rate for Pacific Islanders both pre- and post-209 is appalling. In 1995 and 1999, no Pacific Islanders were admitted. While in the years 1996-1998, only one Pacific Islander per year was admitted. This puts Pacific Islander admit rates at an average of 5.8%, the lowest rate for any ethnic or racial group at UCLAW. From 1995-1999, no Pacific Islanders actually enrolled at UCLAW.

With the exception of 1997, a year in which every racial group was admitted at a higher rate, the raw admit numbers for APIs have steadily decreased from 180 APIs in 1995 to 157 in 1999. However, the actual admit percentage has remained steady at approximately 17.8% of the total applicant pool. Because the total admit percentages for Blacks, Latino and Native Americans have all dropped precipitously in the past five years, and the corresponding admit percentage for APIs has remained steady, the only student group to benefit numerically in the post-209 era has been white students. APIs admit numbers have not gone up as

many have believed. And APIs have not numerically benefited from the end of affirmative action as many have inferred. Moreover, there has been a significant decline in the number of applicants and corresponding admit rates for both Japanese Americans and Filipino Americans. Since the passage of 209, the percentage of "Other Asians" admitted has declined as well. This category includes Cambodian, Lao, Hmong, Thai, Burmese, Indonesian, etc.

Where Do We Go From Here?

UCLAW's admission statistics aptly demonstrate the continued need for affirmative action on behalf of Asian Americans, Blacks, Latinos and Indigenous Peoples. Opponents of affirmative action wrongly suppose that the absence of affirmative action is coincident with the absence of institutionalized racial preferences. The numbers speak for themselves. Despite the fact that UCLAW is the only public law school in Southern California, nearly every non-white racial group is grossly underrepresented in the UCLAW student body, faculty and staff.

The absence of affirmative action means the continuation of unchecked, pro-White institutionalized racism and the resegregation of education. It is the responsibility of everyone, be they API or non-API, to understand how racism effects APIs. It is not enough to accept some elusive "commitment to diversity" in college admissions. Diversity fails to proactively address the racist sentiment that keeps many API ethnic groups underrepresented in education. Replacing race with socio-economic class simply ignores the very real force that race continues to play in American society. There can be no adequate proxy for race. These are conservative times. We must remember the past and continue our fight against racism. Now is the time to bring back affirmative action while moving forward to a time when we can look beyond affirmative action and its token remedialism.

UCLA Law School Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity

	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994
Hispanic/Latino % of CA population=25.8% % of LA County population= 37.8%	6.2%/13.1% applied=436 accepted=57 enrolled=17	5.8%/12.1% applied=364 accepted=44 enrolled=13	10.2%/17.3% applied=404 accepted=70 enrolled=35	14.7%/20.8% applied=520 accepted=108 enrolled=45	10.7%/16% applied=545 accepted=87 enrolled=29	17.0%/17.3% applied=653 accepted=113 enrolled=57
African American % of CA population=7.0% % of LA County population= 10.5%	1.0%/7.7% applied=233 accepted=18 enrolled=2	2.9%/8.2% applied=208 accepted=17 enrolled=7	2.6%/6.8% applied=293 accepted=20 enrolled=9	6.2%/26.1% applied=399 accepted=104 enrolled=19	7.4%/21.2% applied=380 accepted=82 enrolled=20	13.7%/25.8% applied=458 accepted=117 enrolled=46
Asian American % of CA population=9.1% % of LA County population= 10.2%	22.8%/18% applied=867 accepted=156 enrolled=66	17.7%/17.2% applied=973 accepted=167 enrolled=49	21.5%/24.2% applied=827 accepted=200 enrolled=82	15.6%/18.2% applied=1,020 accepted=186 enrolled=48	22.8%/17% applied=1,059 accepted=180 enrolled=62	20.9%/17.5% applied=1,060 accepted=186 enrolled=70
Native American % of CA population=.8% % of LA County population=.6%	0.3%/13.2% applied=38 accepted=5 enrolled=1	1.1%/15.6% applied=45 accepted=7 enrolled=3	0.0%/10.8% applied=37 accepted=4 enrolled=0	1.6%/16.7% applied=60 accepted=10 enrolled=5	1.1%/14.5% applied=69 accepted=10 enrolled=3	1.5%/18.7% applied=75 accepted=14 enrolled=5

* Law School statistics based on public relations information made available by UCLA Law School

** In 1997, the most number of students were admitted to the law school

*** The number enrolled in 1996, 1995, and 1994 includes readmitted students

**** Number of Students Enrolled/Number of Students Accepted

***** Population information based on 1990 Census

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UNIVERSITY CREDIT UNION

What I Did (and Did Not Do) During My 1L Summer

By Lisa Lenker, 2L
Editor

Part One: What I Did NOT Do Last Summer.

I know that this strains credulity, but the following is absolutely true. During final examination madness in May, I was approached by some of the shadiest people I have ever met, and was offered the most Felliniesque summer job imaginable: to ghost write and adapt into a screenplay treatment the memoir of a mercenary killer, who, through some sort of witness protection plan, lives in the Central Valley under what I assume is an assumed name: "Lucky." While I was overwhelmed by exam preparation, I was deeply impressed by the bizarre opportunity that the Fates had dumped on my doorstep. So I made an appointment to meet the project's producer: "Fritz."

Fritz, a tall and toad-like man with a voice so monotone that it seems to be computer-generated is—at least he *says* he is—a plastic surgeon to the stars, specializing in breast augmentation. (Fritz does *not* look like the kind of person you imagine would do this line of work.) Some vague "they" wanted me to detail Lucky's adventures in Africa and Asia, including highlights from something Fritz cryptically referred to as Lucky's "nautical" career. Fritz's ultimate goal is to adapt Lucky's memoir into a series of screenplays that will have the look and feel of a documentary sort of *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

Fritz said that he would pay for my writing services only if I agreed to become a salaried employee of his newly-formed corporation, which combines in an ingenious and terrifying manner overseas investments in precious minerals, domestic health care reform, and the film industry. Fritz's other stipulation was that before the end of the summer I would agree to travel—in the corporate jet—to some undisclosed region of Africa, where I would then be transferred into his personal helicopter, which would

take me to an even more secret destination. All this activity was necessary, they felt, for me, to observe and thus write convincingly about a particular deadly snake with which Lucky had once had an encounter. While I was intrigued by the narrative thrust of all this, I also did not want to become involved in anything that might dis-bar me before I have even had occasion to take the bar. I also felt that speaking with Fritz was effectively fraternizing with a madman; even worse was the possibility that Fritz and Lucky weren't insane or channeling Oliver Stone on acid.

My essentially cautious nature directed me away from Fritz and Lucky and toward jobs that were, if less colorful, more useful for my longer-term career objectives.

Part Two: What I DID Do Last Summer.

For starters, I had two unpaid externships in totally different legal spheres: one was in an appellate judge's chambers, the other was working in the office of legal and business affairs for a movie studio. Each job was exceedingly interesting, but doing both—as well as paid work on the side to support myself—was excessive, even for someone like me who embraces excess in all forms (except for the aforementioned mercenary killer memoir project). Like many people who end up going to law school, I am generally one to pull out all the stops and to imagine that I must maximize whatever opportunities are set before me.

Believing I could juggle two externships and in my "free" time perform enough paid work to make ends meet was truly stupid: for an externship to really provide you with a good learning experience (and for you to have requisite energy and focus to do great things so that you end up getting a fantastic letter of recommendation at the end of the summer), you need to have some decompression time. Just because you are not getting paid does not mean the work is not stressful, time consuming, and headache inducing. And work-induced stress

from your unpaid externship can become compounded by very real financial concerns.

At any rate, I ended up getting a paid position with flexible hours as a research assistant at UCLA School of Medicine. In the mornings, I would phone potential study subjects who had been selected at random from the population of the greater Los Angeles region. I had approximately five seconds to try to convince them that I was *not* selling aluminum siding or offering them "free" vacations to look at condos in Florida. The next hurdle was to persuade them that, in the interest of enhancing medical science, they should spend an hour or more on the phone with me, answering an uncomfortably-long questionnaire, sprinkled with questions like "do you suffer from vaginitis or impotence?" and "have you had any amputations?" After the first few days, I stewed and fretted, feeling that I couldn't survive a summer of doing this job. It was much too awful a thing to do: phoning people and invading the sanctity of their homes, asking detailed and personal questions, and, worst of all, unwittingly causing people pain by saying a cheery "hello!" then asking for someone who, it had turned out, was dead.

I also did data entry, conducted internet "death" searches (check out www.ancestry.com), and oversaw mass mailings that complied with the rigors of the human subjects committee. I ended up displaying an unexpected talent for the phone interviews (which sort of makes me sick), but remained dismally slow (albeit reliably accurate) with data entry. While I was grateful to make money and have an incredibly flexible work schedule, my paid work did not advance meaningfully my professional life.

However, the unpaid legal work that I did more than compensated in this register. Two days of the week I would leave the world of qualitative medical research and work the late mornings into the night in the appellate judge's chambers, pulling up materials from Westlaw and Lexis, studying slip opinions, and writing up memoranda. The work was

taxing—for me at least—in that the mere prospect of making a mistake of any sort kept me in a constant state of agitation and dread; I developed newfound respect for the appellate caselaw that we are force-fed as 1-Ls. On alternating days of the week, I went from the School of Medicine to the movie studio, where I learned about loan-out contracts, chains-of-title, and—in a total coup—I had the opportunity to screen the studio's unreleased motion pictures. While it was hard work, it was also rewarding—even fun.

On the weekends, my summer consisted of freelance editing and writing, and helping out with the clinical end of a research study at the medical center. I went nowhere on vacation, and didn't really do anything fun, which—I must emphasize—*completely* sucked. However, while I was impoverished and otherwise bled dry by How I Spent My Summer Vacation, my résumé does look good as a direct result of this masochism.

Part Three: What 1-Ls Might Learn from This.

Don't become a stressball by taking on too much this summer in the interest of enhancing your résumé for recruiting season next year. We go to a well-respected law school, and even if your grades are not marvelous, and your work experience is limited, you will get a job (whether through Fall OCIP, personal contacts, Spring OCIP and job postings, or whatever) by the end of your 2-L year.

If you are interested in working at UCLA School of Medicine, send me an e-mail and attach your resume; I'll forward it to my contacts there.

If you don't have a summer internship lined up yet, keep checking at the OCS over the coming weeks. The studios tend to post internship openings close to the time that they want the internship to actually begin. You might find your dream situation during finals week if you continue opening your e-mail from OCS and stopping in the office to check out the new listings.

HOLM

From page 9

his little corner of the world just a little bit better. UCLAW and its students are his corner right now, and he is succeeding admirably. Without a doubt, UCLAW is better with Holm than it would be without. He definitely has a positive influence on his students, one that will be felt for years to come. Through his students, he may well succeed in changing the legal world for the better, and any change for good, no matter how small, is certainly worthwhile.

One day, I am sure, we, his students, will be in a tense situation in our

work. Something will go wrong, as it so often does in life and those around us will be concerned. But we will not be. The lessons Holm has taught us will come to the forefront of our minds, and we will stand tall, stand proud, even though we're shriveling inside. And despite the setback, we will win. Because thanks to the Teachings of Holm, we will be that good.

WISDOM FROM HOLM

1. "Guns solve problems"

2. "We may be beating a dead horse, but at least we're beating it in a different place."

3. "If you don't know the answer, guess with confidence"

4. "It is better to bite the head off of a dove and drink its blood than to combine your conclusion and rule together in the same sentence."

5. "The Blue Book is an anal retentive dream"

6. "Westlaw and Lexis are like drug pushers in junior high school."

7. "Hate the pun, love the punner."

8. "Don't ever, ever, ever give your client a peck on the cheek, even if you are feeling French!"

9. "Whenever possible, quote song lyrics to make your point."

10. "Look good, Act Good, It's All Good!"

11. "If you learn to write well you can make enough money to live in an upper class neighborhood and ignore the world's problems."

12. "Make someone's life easier and they will like you."

13. "It's okay to feel weak if you don't act weak."

14. "Bernard Witkin is a good, glorious, and just man."

15. Holm on baldness: "There but for the grace of God go I."

Quotes compiled by Paul Foust, 1L and Toby Bordelon, 1L

TARGOWSKI

From page 6

never seen. I couldn't be MORE PLEASED!!

I challenge you, my classmates and brethren, to question the altruism that may have brought you here and convinced you of serving lesser goals. Why help those who don't have to basic faculty to get themselves out of the predicaments maliciously created by others to earn a pretty penny off of their naivete and misfortune? Do yourself a favor: when you are choosing from among the many options law school presents, imagine yourself counting massive amounts of currency while you and the latest It-Girl from the WB bask poolside while bingeing on some really potent Bolivian Marching Powder. I am exceedingly confident that you will choose wisely.

LETTERS

From page 2

erroneous standard in exercising discretion. Nothing in the memo and nothing in the orientation session addresses this issue. Perhaps you have addressed this with the staff and faculty most directly engaged with the process but that of course would not be known to the rest of the faculty. It is important that the standard be clarified so that it is clear that race and ethnicity need not and should not be ignored in making admissions decisions.

Our suggestions specifically sought to offer ways to improve and simplify the exercise of discretion to the greatest extent possible. To that end we suggested that this year's admissions

cycle experiment with a sample pool blinding selectors to LSAT within LSAT bands to see whether evaluations of those files would differ significantly from LSAT ranking. By doing so we would hope to compel the selectors to find other distinctions in the files. This could greatly enhance our knowledge about how discretion is exercised within particular constraints and would be immensely useful in figuring out where to go from here. In reviewing your memo we are uncertain what your response is to this suggestion.

We offered that we were and are willing to volunteer to read files to see if different readers aided in illuminating the factors that might guide discretion. Your memo affirms your assess-

See LETTERS, page 14

SALARIES

From page 1

The market implications may also be severe. Most mid-size firms will be unable to match the salary hikes started by the elite firms, and as a result they will likely lose their best talent. Economic pressure may cause many small and mid-size firms to merge in order to survive. Others just may not survive. This would create a market consisting of only large national firms and very small boutique firms.

Editors Note: For more information on law firm salaries, visit www.greedyassociates.com for a listing of firms who have joined in the pay increase.

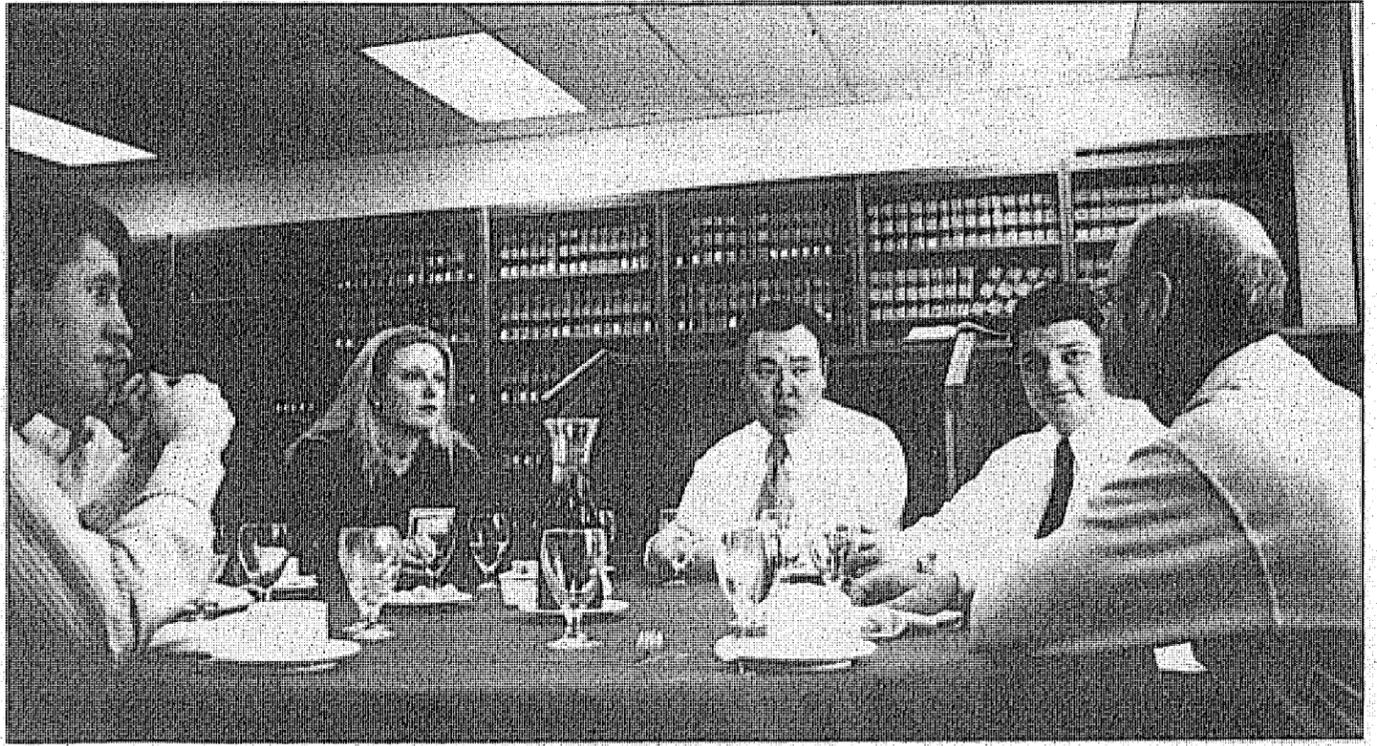
MOOT

From page 1

competition. Patrick O'Shaughnessy and John Pomeroy received the Top Moot Court Team Award for receiving the highest cumulative point total from the combined Fall and Spring Competitions.

The twelve advocates with the highest combined scores of oral advocacy and brief writing from the Fall and Spring competitions were named Distinguished Advocates, and the top six of those advocates earned spots on the National and State Teams for oral advocacy. The three advocates with the highest brief scores earned spots as the brief writers for the National and State teams. Those students who earned spots on next year's National Team were Enrico Alis, Susanne Blossom, Erin Walsh, and Shalon Zeferjahn for oral advocacy, and Patrick O'Shaughnessy and Joanna Wolfe for brief writing. The spots on the State Team were earned by Rasha Gerges and Melissa Reeves for advocacy, and by Chanda Weber for brief writing. Karen Agam, Amy Gaylord, Anne Jollay, Jolene Konnersman, Patrick O'Shaughnessy and John Pomeroy were the remaining Distinguished Advocates. All in all, it was a day to honor the achievements of those who worked so hard all year round to get the most out of their Moot Court experience.

Looking over the entire year, Jenkins had to admit that this year's advocates were "definitely better than our year as a whole",



Students and professors discuss the upcoming Roscoe Pound Competition at a lunch for semi-finalists held in the Faculty Library.

referring to last year's participants. In particular, Jenkins says the "briefs were better." The improvement in the quality of the briefs is likely a reflection of the Board's decision earlier this year to both extend the amount of time students had to complete the briefs, and to have a "question and answer" forum during the brief writing period.

Many 1Ls who watched parts of the Moot Court competitions this year or heard about different advocates experiences may be thinking about whether they want to put in the time and effort to do Moot Court for next year.

"I think almost everyone should participate in at least the first semester," said

Gene Williams, a member of the Moot Court Executive Board as well as a member of this year's State Team. "The [moot court] program gives you valuable experience that you cannot get elsewhere in the law school. I know that I have learned a great deal from my moot court experience," said Williams who was an advocate in Roscoe Pound last year.

"I highly recommend doing Moot Court even if you don't think you want to be a litigator some day," said Jenkins. "It doesn't have to be about the competition, rather let it be about the experience. It's a blast and everybody needs a good "war story" to tell about the judge that raked them over the coals—till you give the perfect answer to the difficult question. Additionally, it's a rare opportunity to meet and be critiqued by people that do what we they will be doing some day—practicing lawyers."

Williams agrees: "Even getting clobbered by the Circuit Court judges in the Roscoe Pound competition has taught me a lot. I will always remember my experiences in moot court."

Another bonus seen by at least one student this year, is receiving a job interview after impressing one of the moot court judges. There are rumors of several students being asked to job interviews by judges after their round, and at least one case has been confirmed.



Amy Gaylord accepts her award from Moot Court Executive Board member Jamie Chou for winning the Roscoe Pound Competition while finalists Enrico Alis, Melissa Reeves, and Shalon Zeferjahn look on. The awards were donated by Kirkland & Ellis.

LETTERS

From page 13

ment that this is one of the goals of such a venture. However, we do not see why the exercise of meaningful and informed discretion requires the reading of the entire discretionary pool within the next week. In order to make fair assessments it is clear reviewers would need to read some set of files that represents the range of the pool, but that is a far cry from imposing the condition set forth in the memo. Indeed, this condition virtually ensures that no meaningful comparison or distinctions can be made and that the very goal of the exercise will be undermined. None of the many admissions systems we have investigated imposes such a requirement as a condition of faculty input. Those of us who attended Tuesday's orientation session

with the staff asked for guidance on this point and were given to understand that while they encouraged reading the files that represented the group immediately below the PI cutoff, they did not believe that reading several hundred files was necessary in order to make an informed contribution. We respectfully then must disagree with the judgment that this is what is required, if that was the intent of your memo.

C. Reporting

We are convinced that the virtual exclusion of Black, Latino/a and underrepresented students from the law school under the current admissions policy is the single most important issue facing the institution. We believe, as you indicate in your memo, that a key to helping us find a way forward is information. We trust that this commit-

ment will ensure that reports will be made to the faculty on a regular and timely basis so that this issue can be given the time and attention that it is due. To that end, we would like to know your thinking regarding the timing of the next admissions report and the appointment of the Task Force.

We remain hopeful that this important dialogue will proceed.

SOME SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS HAVE NO MANNERS

Dear Editor:

I am writing to express my disappointment to the opinions expressed in the article "Free Scholarship": Does it exist for UCLA Students." As I read the article, my jaw dropped: first in amazement, and then anger, as student after student quoted in the article expressed their abhorrence with the school's policy regarding thank

you notes for scholarship awards. As a student who applied for one of these scholarships and did not receive one, I could not help but feel personally insulted as scholarship winners criticized the policy, even to the point of calling the requirement "extortion." I think the policy is fine, considering the source of the scholarship money: private donors. Instead of whining about having to complete a common courtesy, winners should feel grateful and fortunate that they were chosen to receive the gifts of free money. I do not think it is too much for those persons who were so generous to donate their money for scholarships that they should be able to receive a thank you from the winner of their gift. Winners should write the thank yous, be grateful of their award, and quit complaining. If you think the policy is extortion, then return your scholarship and give it to someone else who would be more appreciative.

Jennifer Tobkin
IL

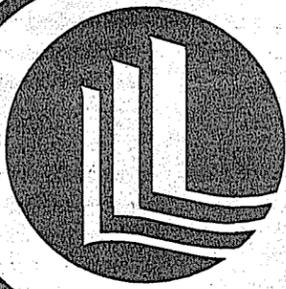
CHEAP BOOKS

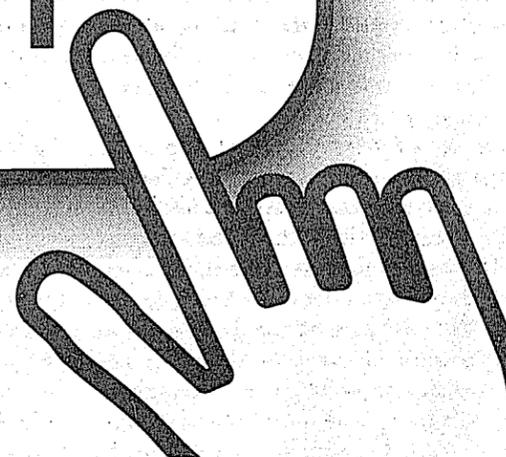
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