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Halloween Special - Maize, Blue, Orange, Black: Michigan’s Top Five Urban Legends

By Connie Chang

For us 1Ls, the magic and mystique that surrounded law school only a month ago have all but disappeared. Ann Arbor can be a pretty dreary place when you’re terrified of your Contracts professor, your pumpkin of a memo is due at midnight, and you’ve only just realized that the ‘v.’ in case names stands for ‘v.’

Partly, in an effort to revive the old spirit and partly because I aspire to someday be unemployed, I cast aside all law-related work this week to research the supernatural side of Ann Arbor and the University. It turns out we’re living in one spooky place. Not only is Ann Arbor a stone’s throw from the murder capital of the universe, there are also enough urban legends lurking in the shadows to warrant a Wolverine reboot of Are You Afraid of the Dark.

The classic Michigan myths are timeless—puma statues that roar when Michigan beats OSU in football, or free tuition for those lucky enough to get hit by a bus. There are also more recent rumors that Harry Potter was almost filmed in our Law Quad, or, as an Ann Arbor News website reported last spring, that a chupacabra was sighted near campus. Yes, el chupacabra. The Mexican goat-sucker.

As these and the following five urban legends suggest, cold calls aren’t the only things to fear when attending law school in the Deuce.

5. The Denton Road Bridge
There are a couple different stories floating around about the Denton Road Bridge in Ypsilanti, each more crap-my-pants freaky than the next. Some people say that a mother tossed her baby off the bridge years ago, and if you go to Denton Road at night, you can hear a baby softly crying. Others maintain that high-schoolers crashed under the bridge while driving Fast & Furious-style.

For more photos of this year’s Kickball Tournament, see page 12.

Charlie Quigg
Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

The previous issue of the Res Gestae included several photos of the Aikens Commons construction site, taken from inside the site during an unauthorized visit. You might not think much of this – after all, the photo captions were written with a light touch and there is natural curiosity within our community about the progress behind the wall. But the incident underscores serious concerns about trespassing and its consequences of which you need to be aware.

Our general contractor, Walbridge Aldinger, has possession of the building in the areas under construction. That means they control it, grant access to it and hold the liability on the site. The construction areas are not public, and unauthorized entry is trespassing against the contractor. The contractor takes the position that they will prosecute to the full extent of the law anyone who engages in trespassing or vandalizing any of their sites. In other words, enforcement is not within the control of the Law School itself, and may result in criminal prosecution. Because construction zones are potentially dangerous areas, everyone involved with this project is focused on the safety of construction workers which can be jeopardized by unauthorized entry.

Please be aware of the safety and legal ramifications, and help us keep the Law School’s construction areas safe for our entire community and those who work on the sites each day.

David Baum
Assistant Deans for Student Affairs

Michele Frasier Wing (’98)
Director, Finance and Planning

The RG duly notes that our editorial judgment could have been better in regards to anonymously submitted photos, and we should have probably added a disclaimer. Here it is: “As an organization, the Res Gestae certainly does not advocate illegal behavior. We only ridicule it.” Other Letters to the Editor? We welcome them at rg@umich.

The Ex-Pat Perspective

Everybody Gets the Adult Soccer League They Deserve

By Patrick Barry

In my final college soccer game, I jogged onto the field to the sound of my name, my number and my hometown. Compare the next game I played in where I jogged onto the field to the sound of “Dude, you’re still wearing jeans.”

This difference has nothing to do with the discrepancy in the acoustics at Stagg Field, the site of my next college game, and those at the Ann Arbor WideWorld Sports Center, the site of my next game. It has everything to do with the scheduling practices at these two venues. Whereas Stagg Field, home to the University of Chicago Women’s and Men’s Soccer teams, only schedules licensed NCAA games, Ann Arbor WideWorld Sports Center schedules youth soccer tournaments, coaching clinics, birthday parties, and of particular interest to me and my jeans, adult recreational soccer leagues, the Astroturf Hades for former college players.

Now, I do not claim original authorship of the “law school changes things” observation – also known in the still-carry-around-their-college-
Hutchins: The Mother of All Makeovers

By Tomek Koszylko

Recently, I spoke with Michele Frasier Wing, Director of Finance and Planning at the Law School, regarding the construction project that is engulfing the law school. If you are like me, you probably pass the weekdays in a state of alternating exhaustion/caffeination, oblivious to much of what goes on around you. Personally, I don't know anything at all about the construction project, except that it's really big, so I thought I would take the opportunity to pick Michele's brain and get the details.

TK: As a preliminary question, what does your job as Director of Finance and Planning entail? It sounds rather all-encompassing, like "Chair of Money and Everything."

MFW: I like that..."Chair of Money and Everything," it sounds better than "Boss of the Applesauce." Essentially, I oversee budget and finance, human resources, IT/AV, building operations and construction, with the help of an enormously talented group of directors. Construction takes up probably 50% of my time these days – you wouldn't believe the level of detail that is required to undertake a project this massive.

TK: I can imagine; you're talking to someone who thought remodeling a bathroom was needlessly complicated. Regarding the construction project: who is funding it? How much does it cost? How long has it been in the works? Has the Law School been wanting and/or planning a new building for a long time?

MFW: It is a $102 million project funded through a partnership between the University and the Law School with the majority of the funding coming from private donors. You may have seen the announcement last year of our $10 million gift from 1954 Alumnus Robert B. Aikens, after whom the Commons is named. And just so you know, we'd be delighted to have your name on something, Tomek, hint, hint...

TK: [Hearty guffaw] I'll have to pay off my $10 million in student loans first, then maybe we can talk – I'll keep you updated on that. How were the architects/contractors chosen for the project? I imagine it would have to be some kind of committee, but I haven't the faintest idea who would be charged with that responsibility. And what were the credentials of the companies that were picked?

MFW: I'm sure you can imagine how many people want a say in who designs the new law school building. You wouldn't believe how much people on the campus care about getting this building right, with the law quad being one of, if not the most iconic set of buildings on the campus. The project started before I arrived, but my understanding is that there was a committee that included the Dean, faculty, students and staff from the law school, people from the campus architecture department, etc. A bunch of presentations in which the architects did their dog and pony shows to say how right they were for the job...meetings, meetings, meetings...then emerging from the fray, was Hartman & Cox out of Washington, D.C., working with local architects Integrated Design Solutions. Hartman & Cox has a lot of experience with "Collegiate Gothic" structures like ours and IDS has a lot of campus experience. The general contractor, Walbridge Aldinger, was chosen through a bidding process. Walbridge has a long list of buildings they've done on campus, including the new North Quad. Then the regents approved everything from the architects to the budget to the design.

TK: When exactly did construction start? Was the rewiring of Hutchins and the renovating of the Reading Room part of the same project?

MFW: Construction started in June of 2009 with digging the hole for the Aikens Commons. Technically, the Reading Room renovation was not part of the same project, but we like to think of them all as part of the whole upgrade of the building. The relighting project was made possible...
Michigan Urban Legends: Exposed

4. The West Hall Arch
This classic Michigan legend is chick-flick-arific. Whoever you kiss under the West Hall Arch at midnight is the person you will one day marry. How sweet. But actually really horrifying. Allow me to illustrate: a few Christmases ago, I concocted an elaborate plan to trap a reluctant and unfortunate crush, involving no less than 8 accomplices, 2 gallons of spiked eggnog, and 7 strategically hung sprigs of mistletoe. Imagine what someone like me could do with the West Hall Arch—which is conveniently located right next to the South U bar scene. Though on the plus side, if you’re trying to save a failing relationship, the West Hall Arch could be your golden ticket.

3. Michigan Snow Days
Despite the fact that the University of Michigan is located in Michigan, where the winters are colder than Jack Frost’s junk, the University has not had a snow day in more than 30 years. Legend attributes this to an absurdly litigious student of our very own law school. The mother of all gunners, this lawyer-in-training supposedly sued for a day’s worth of tuition the last time the University had a snow day. In 1978. Thereby ruining the best part of winter for all Michigan students ever after.

2. The Huron High School Theater
In the late ’70s, a high school senior named Mary was working on catwalks of the school theater when she lost her balance, fell headfirst onto the stage, and died. It was a tradition at Huron High that the seniors in the drama club would spray paint their names on the wall of the prop room after their final play. A month after Mary fell, her name was found on the wall as well, except it was written 17 feet high and upside down. Ever since then, students and teachers working in the theater have caught fleeting but regular glimpses of a girl in a light pink dress wandering the catwalks above the stage. Jinkies.

1. The Diag Block M
This is probably the most popular and most feared urban legend on campus. Everyone from the youngest undergrad freshman to the 15th year PhD student knows that stepping on the Block M means failing your first Michigan Bluebook exam. I’ll bet that any 1L would rather drive through the Denton Road Bridge twice and spend the night with Mary at Huron High before slipping a single toe on it’s convenient location right next to the South U bar scene. Though on the plus side, if you’re trying to save a failing relationship, the West Hall Arch could be your golden ticket.

ID-card circles as the “law school sucks” observation – but it was here at WideWorld that I recognized with nostalgic reluctance that I am no longer a soccer player and certainly no longer a collegiate soccer player. Now, I am just another somebody, anybody, nobody who plays soccer.

It was not like this in college. In college, work, in the form of classes and homework, was something I did before and after practice. It was always something I squeezed in when I wasn’t playing soccer. Going to law school has brought on a paradigm shift. Now soccer is something I do after going to class or finishing my reading. It is something I do when I am not working.

Every college graduate has to make some adjustments, but less leisure time may be one of the smallest. (Aside: Gallup polls still show that two of the biggest adjustments are “having fewer occasions where it is appropriate to be in your pajamas at 2:25 pm on a Tuesday” and “the unkind reactions of waiters, convenience store clerks, and laundromats when you try to pay with your meal points.”) In addition to these, collegiate athletes who want to continue to play sports after college have an additional adjustment to make, which was encapsulated perfectly on a t-shirt I saw recently: “The older I get, the better I was.” But it isn’t just about skill. For 20 of my 24 years of life, soccer functioned as my social director, my college advisor, my fashion coordinator, and my trainer, dictating who I became friends with, where I went to school, which label dominated my wardrobe, and how I worked out. If not my entire life, the sport had been, at the very least, the stockholder with a 51% veto power share; now it is something I do when school, laundry, groceries and adult life allows it. I play when I can, which is sometimes better than playing when I absolutely have to, but it is nowhere near like playing when I want to, which is everyday and, sometimes, all day.

Before there were always sectionals or conferences rivalries or NCAA tournament bids to add purpose to your playing. There was always something to build towards, not the least of which was your monumental “final game,” as a high schooler or as a collegiate athlete. But now, without a final game, former college players are like ships without a destination, drifting along, teased by the occasional port of tie-dyed tournament champion t-shirts but never set on any meaningful course. There are advantages, though, to this compass-less existence. There is a certain purity and tranquility in being lost at sea, without any merchant to report to, any real coach or director to please. In some ways, it’s as if you returned to your backyard where your reason for playing was simple: it’s fun. Even in your jeans.

Email Patrick with your soccer questions and comments at rg@umich.edu.
Culture Show Preview

Submitted by APALSA

As part of the continuing effort to explore diversity among our student body, almost 100 students came together in fall of 2009 to present the first annual MLaw cultural show, “In Living Culture.” Spearheaded by a coalition of several student organizations (ready for the acronyms? ACS, APALSA, BLSA, JLSA, LLSA, MELSA, NALSA, and SALSAS), “In Living Culture” aimed to celebrate the variety of perspectives and multitude of talents that many law students have (but rarely have the opportunity to show off.) Over half of the MLaw student body came out to support not only this groundbreaking event, but also the students who performed in song, dance and poetry acts that reflected their diverse backgrounds. As a result, this broad coalition of organizations was able to successfully raise over $1,000 to support the Ronald McDonald House in Ann Arbor through ticket proceeds.

MLaw’s second annual cultural show, “Where in the World . . .”, for which you may have already seen flyers, will take place on Wednesday, November 3rd, 2010. Tickets for the upcoming show will go on sale this week and next in front of HH 100. Don’t miss your chance to witness a classical poetry reading by Professor Sherman Clark, a Bollywood-style dance romance, a good old-fashioned drag show, and much, much more. This year, all ticket proceeds will benefit SafeHouse Center, a non-profit that provides legal and other services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in Washtenaw County. It’s definitely going to be good fun for a great cause.

In preparation for the thrills ahead, take a peek at snapshots from last year’s “In Living Culture,” photographed by Charlie Quigg and Matt Weiser (’10).

“A good compost pile should get hot enough to poach an egg, but not so hot it would cook a lobster.”

Coming to a student org lunch event near you: Compostable Cups, Plates and Silverware.

The Environmental Law Society is rolling out a plan to compost most of the items used for student org lunch events.

All Students: At lunch events in the future where compostable tableware is used, please put your food waste and compostable items in the receptacle provided by ELS – we’ll take care of the composting! [And remember that using your reusable cup/water bottle is even better than a compostable cup.]

Student Org Leaders: Tell Cottage Inn not to give you those million-year-to-breakdown plastic cups! Pick up free compostable cups, plates, spoons and forks outside the ELS office (LR 114 - next to the LSSS and RG offices), while they last! The free items are generously sponsored by the DC-based environmental law firm Beveridge & Diamond. Once the free cups run out, compostable tableware will be available from ELS for less than what you’ll pay at Meijer or Kroger for plastic.

Questions: If you have questions about the composting project, or want to get involved, please email Sam at spvanv@umich.edu.
Kicking It Old School

Drinking Club?
Those Were The Days

By Tomek Koszylko

This photo comes to us care of the Volume 30., No. 17 (1982). What was happening in the world in 1982? Ronald Reagan was serving his second year as President of the United States, one year after being shot by John Hinckley, and one year before calling the U.S.S.R. an evil empire. Poland was under martial law after labor strikes protesting socialist rule led to widespread civil unrest. Cats opened on Broadway. Seven people in Chicago were killed after using Tylenol that had been laced with cyanide by an unknown serial killer. MRI machines were invented that year. So were compact discs. Prince William was born to Lady Diana. And unemployment reached 10%, the highest level since 1940 (that one sounds familiar, eh?). Oh, and the law school had a drinking club.

Drinking club? What a good idea. I propose we bring that one back. Then again, I think this sort of thing might be why the Law School and the Michigan Student Assembly flatly ban using school funds to pay for booze. But come on, storming the library in a drunken stupor? I’m in. Wait, I may or may not already do that on a regular basis. But I’m not dancing on tabletops, like those crazy kids in the background of the photo below.

I suppose in those dark days of cold war, unemployment, and no Netflix, drinking clubs were just what the doctor ordered. What’s our excuse?

Other relevant world news: in 1982, Tomek had started first grade and was just learning to speak English. Comments? Email us at rg@umich.edu.

Study Break

The Barristers—the law school’s drinking club—stormed the library last Friday and put on a show for their spring initiation. Photo by Sanford Lewis

MYTHS, from page 4

the M. If you’ve already stepped on it, there is a supposed remedy. Between the clock tower’s first and twelfth stroke of midnight, you must quickly strip and sprint from the Hatcher Library to the steps of Rackham Auditorium. Unfortunately, the clock tower no longer sounds at midnight—allegedly due to too many students streaking through the Quad.

Email Connie your comments and/or for more ghostbusting opportunities at rg@umich.edu.

Overheard in Hutchins:

3L #1: “But don’t we as future lawyers have an obligation to be ethical?”

3L #2: “Bwa-hahahaha!”

UNLEASH YOUR INNER GOSSIP GIRL

SEE MORE ON OUR WEBSITE:
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WWW.THERESGESTAE.COM/OVERHEARD

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EMAIL Us!
OVERHEARD@THERESGESTAE.COM
Construction: Expanding the Hallowed Halls

HUTCHINS, from page 3

by a separate gift from Charlie and Anne Munger. You really have to look at the before and after pictures on the construction multimedia website (notice my shameless plug) to appreciate how much of a difference lighting can make.

TK: So the major elements of this project are: the glass-domed structure in the courtyard that is going to be the Aikens Commons, the removal of the hideous aluminum siding from the side of the Legal Research tower, the replacement of the bridge connecting Legal Research and Hutchins, and ... what am I missing? Ha, of course: the humongous new building across Monroe Street. Did I miss anything else?

MFW: Well, for me, since the most important thing in life at 8:30 am is coffee, I would add the new café in what once was 150 Hutchins Hall. It’s going to be beautiful. And there will be more restrooms – some at the back of the café and some downstairs, just off the lower level of the Commons.

TK: What? Bathrooms on the ground level? That’s the best thing I’ve heard so far. I can say this much: the construction has been fast. I came back to Ann Arbor at the end of the summer and I was shocked at how fast the building across the street went up. Have things been progressing on schedule?

MFW: We like to say we are “on time and on budget”...the magic, if ephemeral goals of any construction project. It has been one upside to being in a recession – not a lot of building going on these days, so we’re able to get great work done within our budget.

TK: When was the new bridge between Hutchins and Legal Research installed? Was it an aesthetic move, or was the old bridge coming to the end of its useful life? And when was that old bridge built in the first place?

MFW: After prolonged consideration, the faculty came to a consensus that corrugated tin actually did NOT look that great, after all. Do you remember that hideous thing? It just didn’t fit in with the new aesthetic and would have been an ugly sight looking up from the Commons. We just had to get rid of all the aluminum siding. The new bridge went in entirely over the summer – we opened at the beginning of July.

TK: Well, the new bridge is ridiculously beautiful. Before, that part of the hallway felt – and looked – like a mental hospital corridor. (Guess it also depended on who was running through the hall at any given moment). Now I want to put patio furniture and hammocks up there.

MFW: Please Tomek, tell me more about your familiarity with the mental hospital aesthetic.

TK: Um, I’ve seen it on TV shows. [nervously twitches.] Another thing I’d like to know: what is the purpose of the little piece of free-standing wall with the window in it that was erected on sidewalk outside of the library, across the street from Dominick’s?

MFW: That is the stone mock-up. There is an art and a science to installing all that granite and it is rare to find masons who have experience doing it. So we have a mock-up to demonstrate how the exterior of the building is to be constructed. On the existing building there is just brick and stone between the inside and out. On the new building we’ll actually have insulation, waterproofing, etc. It weighs about eight bazillion pounds and at the end of the project it will be deconstructed and the stone will be reused. Our new granite actually comes from the same quarry as was used for the rest of the quad – Plymouth Quarries in Weymouth, Massachusetts.

TK: OK, a more subjective question: what is your favorite part of the whole project?

MFW: Wow – that is a tough question. But I have to say that every time I walk out onto the deck of the Aikens Commons (with full safety gear, with our contractors, of course!), the view up takes my breath away. You see the beautiful windows of the reading room, the gorgeous new and old carvings on the building and the amazing new bridge. I am sure I will waste a lot of time when it is done, sitting there with a cup of coffee, looking skyward!

TK: Projects this big are bound to have things go oddly, I’m guessing. What’s the weirdest thing to have come out of this construction work?

MFW: Well, since you’ve asked so nicely – This summer we got a phone call from our contractor that someone located in the stacks was emptying their coffee dregs out of their window. That may have been all well and good for the sixty some-odd years that people have occupied the stacks, but at that particular moment, there happened to be several stone masons on scaffolding just below who were unable to appreciate the value of this tradition. Suffice it to say, that no one wants pissed off masons on this project. The dean subsequently sent out a message asking all who do or will in the future occupy the stacks building to please, “refrain from tossing coffee, or anything heavier than a lofty idea or the occasional invective, out the Stacks windows.” And just so you know, I refuse to
The Beer Gal

The Pursuit of Hoppiness

By Melissa Narus

'Sup all, I'm the new beer guy—well, gal, because you don’t need a Y chromosome to enjoy a good brew. I’ve dabbled a bit with brewing but am mostly an enthusiastic beer drinker. I’ll mostly review beers, breweries, and bars I enjoy, but I’d also be happy to answer any questions about brewing.

First and foremost, if you’ve never attended one of Arbor Brewing Company’s (ABC) monthly beer tastings, go. Twenty-five bucks will get you all the beer you can drink (several dozen different selections from various breweries centered around a monthly theme) and all the food you can eat (from a beer-appropriate buffet featuring perogies, wings, and soft pretzels). And no, ABC is not sponsoring me—it’s just that good. So you should all get your butts over to the next one.

On that note, the recent ABC beer tasting’s Michigan theme presented me with the opportunity to try (and retry) many amazing, and some not so amazing, local beers.

Best beer:
Bell’s Oracle, hands down. This wasn’t my first experience with the Oracle but there was no way I was going to pass up the opportunity to try it again. I actually tried it for about 15 minutes straight, for research purposes, of course.

The Oracle is a Double India Pale Ale (DIPA) which means it’s an IPA that contains a lot more malt and up to 2x the hops of a regular IPA. As a result, DIPA’s often contain 7%+ abv and 70+ IBUs. (If you don’t know what abv and IBU stand for, google it.) Often, DIPA’s taste less bitter than regular IPA’s because the malt adds almost a caramel-y sweetness that masks the bitter hop-character.

The Oracle is no exception. With 10.4% abv and 105 IBUs it’s actually towards the far end of doubles and flavor-wise is leaning in the direction of a triple/barley-wine.

I find the Oracle very drinkable, but it’s not a beer to take lightly. The color, light amber, is a bit deceiving given the beer’s complexity and high abv. The aroma and foretaste is an odd but delicious combination of citrus, honey, and pine. The aftertaste has a definite hop-presence but it’s not overpowering. I wouldn’t recommend this beer for the beach or for chugging at a frat party, but it’s perfect for relaxing during these cool fall days.

Worst Beer:
The North Peak Archangel Summer Wheat really doesn’t have much to offer. The Archangel is over-carbonated and under-flavored. It tastes like soda-water with cherry syrup, so basically like a subpar Shirley Temple.

Beer that tastes the least like beer:
The Mt. Pleasant Coal Stoker Ale tastes like syrupy blackberry juice. If you like beer, I wouldn’t recommend it, not because it’s completely terrible but because there are literally hundreds of beers which I would suggest trying before it. However, if you’ve ever non-ironically bought Smirnoff Ice, this beer might be perfect for you.

Other beers of note:
The Arcadia Cocoa Loco is very good for a chocolate beer, which I find is actually hard to do well. There’s a decent amount of coffee taste, but, as the name would suggest, the chocolate taste is the most prominent. I wouldn’t say this is one of my top

See BEER GAL, page 11

SUDOKU
Answers on page 13
How (Not) To Build a Fire

By Kevitt Adler

Evening had set cold and gray—really, really cold and gray—when the man turned aside from Main Street in favor of a path through the back alleys. He shivered as he paused for breath. Checking his watch, he noticed the long hand had passed the short hand again. Mental note: learn to read a watch.

At the man’s side strode his loyal companion, the noble St. Bernard. Muscular, sleek, and with a high tolerance for intoxicating beverages, the St. Bernard was well adapted to his urban environment. Generations of the dog’s forefathers had braved those wilds. Deep in his genetic memory the dog knew this, and knew the only way to survive was to pair up with a stronger species, one that had spent eons evolving its thought processes, refining its understanding of physics, of religion, of—

“Opposable thumbs.”

What?

“Ever tried to strike a match without opposable thumbs?”

Well no, I—

“It’s impossible. Believe me.”

Ok sure. The dog needed the man for opposable thumbs. And to buy matches I guess.

“He was lost.”

Look, all I know is—

“That guy couldn’t walk a straight line to save his driver’s license, much less his life. He was following me.”

Ok, ok. It was late. He was lost. The man’s princely companion led the way, cleverly skirting drug deals, declining politely but firmly the advances of ladies of the evening. Passing through an old glue plant, the man sat down, a pensive expression on his face. The dog whined, prodding him on, but an idea had set itself in the man’s head, an idea that would not lightly be lifted.

“What?”

“Ever tried to strike a match without opposable thumbs?”

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“Gon’ build me a fire. Ayup.”

See LAW & LIT, page 15
name names, no matter how well I am compensated.

TK: I’ll get another set of reporters on that story. By gum, we must know who the dreg-tosser is. Thanks, Michele, for all the enlightening info.

* * *

You may have noticed, oh readers, that during this interview I was totally clueless about the slightest details of the construction project. But what sort of reporter would I be if I didn’t do some pre-interview factfinding? Much of what Michele and I spoke about can be found online at the Law School’s official construction website. I suspect that a whole lot of you are like me: busy, distracted, and not at all interested in spending “quality time” on the law school’s website in your downtime, when aforesaid quality time is much better spent at Ashley’s or Charley’s. So here are a few relevant links you can navigate to directly. If you don’t feel like typing all this nonsense in, you can find hyperlinks to all these pages on the online version of this article.

* * *

Main Page for the Building Project: http://www.law.umich.edu/buildingproject/Pages/home.aspx

Videos and Slideshows: http://www.law.umich.edu/buildingproject/Pages/multimedia.aspx

(Read out the 3-D animation of the new building. Trippy!)

FAQs: http://www.law.umich.edu/buildingproject/Pages/faq.aspx

Do you have an infrequently-asked question that was not answered by this dialogue? Email Tomek at rg@umich.edu, or alternatively, appeal directly to the source of all construction wisdom by sending Michele Frasier Wing at mfrasier@umich.edu.
Getting in Touch with the Establishment

By Kevitt Adler

“Mm, yeah, he was right about my blood boiling.”

Don Herzog’s blood doesn’t boil very often. I’m not saying it freezes in his veins; Don gets pretty passionate about the First Amendment. Just ask Adam.

“Say I walk into a first grade classroom, teacher’s giving a math lesson, I say ‘Ok kids, show’s over, let’s talk about Afghanistan.’ Protected?”

“Public school?”

“Public school.”

“Protected.”

“Government says get out of here, we’re trying to run a school.”

“Protected.”

It’s cute, like one of those old couples bickering about whatever old couples bicker about...but through it all Don keeps his cool, all laid back, getting his Socrates on. Today it’s different. The Fed. Soc’y’s got him up against this slick lawyer type from D.C., one Ken Klukowski, minimum bet $10, odds two to one against the home team, three to one if the guy shows up in a power tie. Those things work man.

“Should plaintiffs have standing to challenge legislative prayer?” That was the question of the hour. The other question of the hour, “Will there be any Potbelly’s left when I show up?” was answered in the affirmative right before the debate started. Kudos to the Federalists for that. 218 was standing room only, and the last guy in line (me) got to eat his fill. You can’t say that for every lunch talk.

The debate opens with the argument for the negative. (“Shouldn’t they have started with the argument for?” Well, my anonymous friend, I have no idea.

Ask someone who did debate in high school.) Mr. Klukowski seems to have his ducks in a row.

“Korematsu. Palsgraf. Slaughterhouse cases.”[1]

[1] He didn’t actually cite any of these cases.

My head spins.


[2] Or these.

I feel woozy. I glance suspiciously at the remains of my Potbelly’s. Mr. Klukowski sure knows his case law. And yet...am I in the right place? It doesn’t help that my knowledge of the establishment clause comes solely from popular media outlets and Primus’s Con Law.

Let’s go to our man on the quad. “His point was that taxpayer standing is shaky business to begin with, plus the tests laid out in the case law are vague. And the Court doesn’t always follow them anyway.”

Ok, I think I get it. If I went up before the Court tomorrow aiming to take down legislative prayers, no one knows how the case would come down. There’s at least a fair chance I’d lose. Is that all there is to it?

Well...no. As Mr. Klukowski finishes up, you can see the Professor’s long fingers twitching. Back in 100 he’d be doing pirouettes off the podium, or at least recrossing his legs while perched on the front row. (No one sits in the front row in Don’s class. Safety reasons.) That little table has him shackled like a boxer with one hand tied behind his back.

The mic passes.

“So first I wanna point out the ques-
tion was should, not do.” Bingo. Turns out we’re here to hear something else entirely. That’s right Don, show him who we are.

He doesn’t talk long, but he talks hard. Yes the precedent’s crazy. Standing’s weird. But: rights and remedies. Dignitary harms. Analogy to civil rights.

“That’s it,” he says.

Now here’s where things get interesting. Mr. Klukowski comes back dismissing the idea of dignitary harms. This gon’ boil ya blood Don, but we don’ care ‘bout ya feelings.

Can’t give every schmuck with hurt feelings standing. Tax cuts bothering you? Sue. Road work making you mad? Sue. Architecture of city hall in such poor taste you can hardly walk by without a dose of Valium? Sue.

Them’s the big guns Don. Whatcha got?

Blood boiling, Don responds. Straw man. Dignitary harm not feelings; rather, community standing. Recognizable harm.

Clapclapclapclapclapclapclapclapclapclap.

Back to our man on the quad. “So, who won the debate?”

“Uh...”

“Did the blue jean besporting David slay the slickly suited Goliath?”

“Hold up, do people even ‘win’ debates any more?”

Damned if I know. I thought Don held his own. He was out of his element in a bad way, but he didn’t let that stop him. You did good, Don. You did good.

Email Kevitt your comments or questions at rg@umich.edu.
Kickball 2010
The 2nd Annual Kickball Tournament sponsored by BLSA and LLSA

All Photos by Charlie Quigg
Restatement (2d) of Legal Separations

By Zach Dembo

Apparently long-distance relationships (LDR) are so hot right now among the hip kids, especially the ones this intrepid correspondent tends to hit on. (Who knew so many people were in long distance relationships with Steven Segal and Jason Statham?) For those unfamiliar with this burgeoning pox on the law school social scene in the age of Skype, Gchat, and Orkut, I offer a brief guide to the various kinds of LDRs.

The Hannibal Lecter: I can see you, Clarice. I have access to your Facebook and review all your e-mails to let you know I care. I know you once made eye contact with a member of the opposite sex, and now will be irrationally angry at you over the phone, thus reminding you why you are so deeply in love with me. Also, if you don't pick up my phone call within one ring, I will logically conclude you are in the midst of an orgy and be passive-aggressive for weeks on end. I'm always watching. F-f-f-f-F-f.

The Stepford LDR: O. M. G. We are sooo in love. We've been together since the doctors immediately paired us, still wet with placenta, upon emerging from the womb. We are DEF going to get married. Yes, inexplicably we have chosen not to for the previous 25 years. Sure, we're apart, but YHWH has said we're meant to be, and there's no way ever that we could ever break up. EVER. No, despite this freakish intensity of emotion, we didn't undertake the simple task of moving to the same place... but our love is so deep that we once killed each other just to be reincarnated and fall in love again. What's that? What does "overcompensating" mean?

The Terminal Case: Nothing says "stable healthy relationship that will totally last a long time and not blow up before Halloween" like bringing your relationship insecurities with every law student you talk to. In the meantime, I'm dealing with the obstacles, like seeing each other about as often as the Chilean miners saw daylight (and it being about as pleasant). Another obstacle is that hot Mick Mambley... but no, I'm totally loyal to this person I will be dating for the next however long until I assemble a list of grievances long enough to justify breaking up with this person.

The Placeholder: Sure, my boyfriend/girlfriend/partner/first dude is great. I mean, I guess we don't talk ever, or see each other, or think about each other, and really the only reason we have a relationship is my insistence that we do. To an outside observer, or really any sane person in my situation, I am completely single without any of the benefits. But hey, it's way easier than dealing with the messy situation of having to acknowledge the reality of my life - and it's a great excuse to rebuff the advances of Mack Membo.

The Honored in the Breach Relationship: Nothing proves a loving long distance relationship like both parties sleeping with as many people as possible. My faith in my relationship is so great, I can demonstrate it through unprotected sex with multiple partners... at the same time. But those, those don't “mean” anything. The two to three visits a year we schedule in between trysts are what really count.

The Invisible Third Wheel: Oh my gosh, Charette/Guinevere would think this was so hilarious right now. That thing that just happened? That reminds me of an utterly unrelated story about my significant other! Did I mention I'm dating someone who's not here, but comes up in this conversation more than the actual participants? AS INDICATED BY MY VERBAL CUES, MY RELATIONSHIP IS SIGNIFICANT TO ME DESPITE THE HUNDREDS OF MILES PERPETUALLY BETWEEN US!!!

The Umbilical Cord: Have you ever loved someone so much you had to Skype with them while defecating? Because I have. Friends? Living my actual life? I shun these things for play-by-play discussion of everything that happened to me in the five minutes since we last spoke. If I am unable to talk to this person for more than two hours, they contact the authorities and immediately start dredging the canals, so you know it's good.

The Perfect Long Distance Relationship: We broke up two weeks ago.

Email Zach with your LDR woes at rg@umich.edu.
Question on the Quad

What We Love and Hate About 1L Year

Ah, 1L year. We all fondly remember (or are currently experiencing) the joys of scurrying from class to class, sitting up until dawn reading such enduring classics as *Palsgraf* and *Summers v. Tice*, drinking enough coffee in one week to remove the rust from several cars, crying softly to yourself in the carrels of S-2. What would life look like if the 1L curriculum looked different?

On occasion, the Law School Curriculum Committee considers whether any changes should be made to the UMLS 1L curriculum to improve (really?) the student experience. They are currently meeting to determine just that, so we thought that for this issue, we would pose the question to the student body.

The first question we asked in our poll? "What required 1L course would you remove from the curriculum?" The numbers were not even close. Out of 97 respondents, 50 of you (57.5%) thought Property should go. Some of the reasons (we left out the really nasty ones, if you can believe it):

"Property has little relevance to any law most people practice, and it's all statutes at this point anyway. Traditions should go."

"So irrelevant and painful."

In second place was Constitutional Law, with 17% of the votes. Why should this course be ditched?

"Should definitely not be a first semester course. Easier to understand and benefit from with some background in the other subjects."

"Professor Cooper says the Constitution isn't that important anyway."

Crim law followed in a close third, with 13% of the votes. A few of your reasons why:

"Criminal law doesn't seem to be, in practice, an academic exercise."

"It's a very specific area of law that very few will use."

Our second question was: "Is there a 2L or 3L class you would add to the 1L required curriculum?"

Again, there was a clear winner, Jurisdiction, garnering 40% of the 65 responses. "Why Jurisdiction?" we asked. Your responses:

"Every other law school does it this way. Employers expect you to have jurisdiction under your belt after the first year."

"Civ pro would have made a lot more sense if I'd learned jurisdiction before/while I was learning it."

Evidence came in second, garnering 17% of the votes. "Why?" we asked. Your responses:

"It's about as close as a course can be to required without actually being required."

"What won't kill them will make them... stronger? Or something..."

And interestingly, two of you voted for Bloodfeuds. We applauded that. The reason? As one respondent put it, "It's Blood Feuds! What could be more applicable in the post-apocalyptic world we're rapidly approaching?"

Finally, our third question was whether Transnat should be included among the 1L required courses. Here, 65% of you said no, and 35% said yes. The 35% who said yes had this to say about their responses:

"People would actually care about it."

"Might as well get it over with ASAP."

"Let's make things as painful as we can for the generations that come after."

Why not?

"I did it and it sucked. Great class, but the commitment was too much given the other 1L courses."

"1Ls wouldn't be able to PIF! Sad..."

"Do you want people to drop out after only one year?"

Interestingly, 23% of the "no" responses also said that the Law School should get rid of the Transnat requirement entirely.
“So he wasn’t the brightest kibble in the bits. He had a sweet house though.”

Which we won’t be seeing any time soon. Eh? EH?

“Nice foreshadowing. Real subtle.”

Thank you. Moving on. The man, intent on his task, didn’t think “Why am I building a fire?” or “Perhaps I should hurry home instead.” No, he knew what he wanted and he knew how to get it. Being a natural gatherer he looked around for the necessary materials. A few tree limbs had fallen in through long forgotten windows. The man piled them up. They would sustain the fire, but they were insufficient to get it started. He fingered his tweed coat. Tweed isn’t really that warm, he reasoned. The dog barked angrily, but his warning was ineffective.

“We can’t all be Lassie.”

What would you have said if you were?

“Arson’s a felony, man.”
Are you sure he had the mens rea for arson? Maybe reckless burning?

“How should I know, I’m just a dog.”

The St. Bernard is a noble beast, known for saving men from avalanches and giving excellent legal advice. Used in a sentence: “As your attorney, I advise you to accept the plea bargain. My fee is twenty pounds of Eukanuba.” —A St. Bernard.

“That’s the worst sample sentence I’ve ever heard. Could just as easily be a Dalmatian.”

Can we finish the story?

“Ruff.”

Right. The man removed his coat and set it on the pile. He called for his loyal companion. The dog had a furtive look, as if he knew something wasn’t right.

"As if?"

The dog knew better, but he couldn’t withstand his master’s call. Slowly he approached. The man took matches from the pouch that hung under the dog’s neck. “Good boy,” he mumbled. The dog shrank back, feeling guilty for causing his master’s untimely demise.

“He told me to! Old coot woulda frozen to death anyway.”
Better than burning.

“Bah. And now you ruined the ending.”
It was pretty obvious anyway. Building/man/reader’s passions inflamed. Dog gets away. Hero or villain?

“Or neither.”
No winners or losers in this harsh world?

“No jurisdiction.”
Clever. You know, I’m starting to like St. Bernards.

“Don’t sweat it. We never liked you.”

Email Kevitt your comments an/or questions at rg@umich.edu.

BEER GAL, from page 8

The Dark Horse Scotty Karate is a 9.75% abv Scottish Ale with a smooth and balanced yet surprisingly complex flavor. However, don’t drink this beer too cold. When I was first served, it was ice cold and had almost no flavor. After I held my glass a few minutes and allowed the beer to warm, it really opened up with a lot of delicious malty caramel flavor.

There were twenty-six beers at the tasting, and I would love to review them all, but that would take far too much space and far too much of my time (this law school thing is really cutting into my beer drinking time). So, you guys should go and try some beers for yourselves. The next ABC beer tasting is November 11th and the theme is Belgians. If that’s not your style, wander down to the nearest liquor store and buy something new to try. Coors Light is for undergrads; it’s time to grow up.

Email the Beer Gal at rg@umich.edu.

WANTED

Write a short story based on this image.

Writers, critics, photographers wanted! Story ideas? Let us know!

Contact us at rg@umich.edu.
CRITTER KINGDOM

Across
1. Bird equated with insanity
2. Butterfly’s cousin
3. Parrot’s little cousin
7. Pre-bird
9. Bovine fish
12. Lion’s zodiac sign
13. Sea run bass
18. Fly wannabe
19. Masked bandit
20. Honey keeper
21. Flying fox for one
23. Michigan’s state bird
26. Mouse’s larger cousin
27. Wrangle Island’s extinct dwarves
29. Cross-dressing lizard
31. American “buffalo”
33. Hawaii’s state bird
34. Northern cliff-dweller
36. Heston’s planet
39. Snake’s tongue
41. African speedster
43. Baltimore team
45. Wapiti (slang)
46. Sea-run trout
47. Raven’s smaller cousin
48. Singles bar for birds
49. Kangaroo’s home
52. Richest mink
55. Master avian fisher
58. ‘gator fish
59. Female deer
61. Mamma bear
62. Hawks larger cousin
63. Bee’s cousin
66. Effeminate beetle
67. Dumbo for one
68. Bighorn’s hair

Down
1. Baby bear
2. Cougar
3. Baby fox
5. Fishy nest
6. Plague carrier
8. Fly’s smaller cousin
10. Baby bighorn
11. Feline amphibian
14. Deer’s lust
15. Panther
16. Nature’s hoarder
17. The “go little” car of song
19. Crow’s larger cousin
22. Devil’s home
24. Peter for one
25. Cold blooded stocking keeper-upper
27. Somewhat cowlike arctic animal
28. Video display reptile
29. King salmon
30. Willy for one
31. Fruity slug
32. Australia’s wild dog
35. Feline with stripes
37. Female bighorn
38. Kind of wasp
40. Rattlesnake for short
41. Elephant’s attack
42. Spotted fever carrier
43. Gives a hoot
44. Slower than slow
46. Female bison
48. Bird equated with insanity
50. Aphid farmers
51. Alpine wild goat
53. Tunnel dweller
54. Bird nursery
55. Tunnel dweller
56. Lion’s feet
58. Water walking bird
60. Large antelope
64. Gorilla
65. Bear’s foot

Solution on p. 13