2011

Vol. 61, No. 6, February 24, 2011

University of Michigan Law School

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Advice for Mr. Wolverine 2011

Beauty and the Bite
By Chaka Laguere

Mr. Wolverine!!!!!!! "faint"...Ladies (and some gentlemen), I don’t know about you, but I am still trying to catch my breath after Mr. Wolverine! It was a night of ass-shaking, tight pink briefs, dry-humping...and lots of drool. In between all of that salivating, I was able to overhear some reactions from the audience—composed of cougars and judges (who probably fit into the former category). Some were good, and some were NOT so good. And, while I thought to myself, “Don’t be so harsh, this is supposed to be just folly,” I had to remind myself: “This is business; this is about beauty!” And it was clear from the top 5 (well, most of the top 5), that the judges were thinking the same thing.

Now, I don’t need to say it, but I looooove beauty pageants—obvi! And “manny” pageants are THE best. So, this time, I’ve chosen to do something a liiiittle bit different...that is, give advice to future Mr. Wolverines, so you won’t suffer the pitfalls of some of this year’s contestants (though, I loved them all...really, I did!) But seriously, this IS a pageant...and while we’ve never been in the business of judging, here at the RG, we think it’s time. And who better to judge a beauty pageant than a former beauty queen herself. Scorecard, please!

Talent
This year, there was an array of talent in the show: singers, dancers, comedians, and plain ol’ clowns.

Everyone was funny (well, almost everyone). Some could dance. And only a few could sing. But everyone apparently tried to do all three—which brings me to my first piece of advice...Fellas, you will always win with funny. Don’t try to seriously do things that you just aren’t good at.

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Mister Wolverine
I dream of you every night
Won’t you please be mine?
by Juliana MacPherson

You could be the most unattractive, awkward-moving person on the
By Kevitt Adler

Thar’s nae thar thar.
—Pirate Gertrude Stein

I was watching Pirates of the Caribbean a few weeks ago. That movie is old, you know? Like eons old. I asked my sister to estimate the age of that movie, and she was like, “Pretty damn old.” It doesn’t seem that old to me. I remember seeing it with my girlfriend at the time, who was more or less obsessed with Orlando Bloom. He was in that, right?

That and Lord of the Rings. Damn you, Peter Jackson! Taking a perfectly obtuse, illegitimately popular series and turning it into a fairly decent movie trilogy. Although, frankly, that’s nothing compared to taking a ride at Disney World and making it into an increasingly inaccurately named trilogy that, by all accounts, rakes in cash like nothing compared to taking a cruise! (Note to self: “pleasure cruiser” has a lot of potential.)

Pirates are serious business though. Even as we speak/communicate by written medium, they’re out there, prowling the high seas, making land-lubbers walk the metaphorical plank. (Sealubbers, too, for all I know.)

Pirates serious business though. Just today (Friday), some of these crazy dudes seized a yacht. Isn’t that a lot of trouble to go to just for some rich guy’s pleasure cruiser? (Note to self: “pleasure cruiser” has a lot of potential.)

Not being a pirate, I can’t answer that. What I can answer, however, is the question someone actually asked me: “Do Somali pirates talk like pirates?” Fortunately, Yahoo! Answers was a click away. An intrepid interrogator had even beaten me to the punch and asked a second, equally interesting question to boot: “Do they wear parrots on their shoulders?”

The answer to both is a resounding “Yes!” By definition, Somali pirates, just like the pirates of old, equip their ships with the Jolly Roger, consort with feathery companions, and yes, say things like “Arr!” and “Ahoy!”

But this is 2011. Pirates aren’t coming in off Lake Michigan to raid Ann Arbor. And without the more or less continuous pirate interaction that pervaded the 15th through 18th centuries, we’ve lost our touch as a society with that age-old skill, talking with pirates.

Picture this: you’ve made it big with a New York firm. You save up the loot, buy a yacht plus traveling companion (you’re wedded to a firm, remember), and set off for that trip around the world you’ve always wanted.

So there you are, drifting off the coast of the heart of darkness, and you see ol’ Roger peering at you from the horizon, looking his smiling best. Do you:

(a) Abscond
(b) Initiate strife
(c) Parley

If you choose (a) or (b), you are dead. What were you thinking?? You’re on a pleasure cruiser! These are PIRATES!

If you choose (c), however, you find yourself on the pirate deck, hogtied to the mast. The captain approaches.

“Avast ye sons of biscuit eaters!” he exclaims. “Hand o’er ye doubloons afor I fetch the cat o’ nine tails!”

Normally you’d be dumbfounded.
Michigan Breweries! Buy Local:
Good for the Environment, Delicious for You

By Melissa Narus

You may have noticed that Ann Arbor has a fair number of "brewpubs," which are really just restaurants with small brewing operations. Honestly, most of these establishments produce fairly mediocre beer and are simply trying to profit from the current microbrewing trend. However, the state of Michigan as a whole has many excellent breweries. I know law school tends to suck people into a microcosmic universe between Main St. and Washtenaw, but Michigan is a big state with a lot to see, a lot to do, and a lot drink. I realize many of the out-of-state students might still be in shock that there are actually real people living in Michigan, but, once you recover, you'll discover that there are also real things happening here too.

There are several good reasons to visit the brewery itself, even if you can buy the beer in a store. Most importantly, nearly all breweries have beer available in-house that isn't sold in stores. These are often some of their more interesting and unique brews, which is reason enough to make the trek. In addition, visiting the brewery provides an opportunity to buy merchandise (I've started a nice pint glass collection) and see the actual brewing operation. Also, when the novelty of hitting on undergrads at Rick's finally (hopefully) wears off, you're going to need to fill that free time somehow.

I'm going to start with Bell's Brewery in Kalamazoo, MI. As readers of my previous articles may have noticed, I'm a pretty big Bell's fan. Some of my favorites, such as the Hopslam and the Two-Hearted are brewed by Bell's. However, Bell's is also the biggest and most well-known Michigan Brewery. This has both good and bad qualities. Many people argue that Bell's is becoming too popular and too commercialized and that this is detracting from the quality of their beer. Personally, I think Bell's is still head and shoulders above most of its competition and that those whiny hipsters should just suck it up and accept that it's possible for them to enjoy something that other people like too.

When visiting Bell's, you aren't actually visiting the brewery itself. Instead, the actual brewing operation is too large and industrial at this point—as they've clearly graduated from microbrewery to craft brewer (i.e., they've gotten bigger). Instead, they operate a pub in downtown Kalamazoo which is about a 2-hour drive west of Ann Arbor. Their pub has a gift shop and serves many Bell's beers which aren't available anywhere else. They also have live music on the weekends and a beer garden that can be enjoyed during the warmer months. I spent New Year's Eve at Bell's this year and had an absolutely fabulous time. The brewery is within 2-3 blocks of the Sheraton in downtown Kalamazoo, so I was able to listen to some good music (UV Hippo was playing), drink some phenomenal beer, and then walk my slightly-inebriated self back to the hotel.

After your visit to Bell's, you may as well drive the mere 45-minute drive to Grand Rapids MI and stop at Founder's Brewery. Grand Rapids itself is a city worth visiting. As the second largest city in Michigan, Grand Rapids has a fair amount of stuff to do and see. For those seeking a change from the Ann Arbor nightlife scene, Grand Rapids has several bars, restaurants, and clubs which are worth checking out. There's also some interesting architecture in Grand Rapids, and it looks like a real city (i.e., there are skyscrapers that aren't UTowers).

Following the style of Grand Rapids, Founder's interior is spacious, architecturally stylish, and quite welcoming. There are huge windows along the walls looking out into the sunshine and into the brewing operations. The exposed rafters and wooden support beams give the entire place a boathouse/lodge feel.

If the cool-sounding building isn't alluring enough, don't fret. Founder's also has some excellent beer. In fact, ratebeer.com ranked Founder's as the fourth best brewery in the world. Nearly all of their beers are phenomenal. One of my personal favorites is the Devil Dancer, a triple IPA with an abv of 12% and 112 IBUs that is just delicious.

If you're looking for something a little closer to home, Original Gravity in Milan, Michigan is quite good. The place has a great, casual tavern-feel with lots of rough-hewn wood, dartboards, and a shelf of board games. Almost all of the beers are great, and the owner is nearly always there and willing to talk about beers and the brewery, or just show you around. On your way out, definitely pick up a growler. You'll pay $5 for the growler but only $8-10 to fill it with beer. And you can keep bringing it back for refills at $8-10 a pop which is a pretty good deal for a half-gallon of delicious beer. The best part, however, is that Milan is only about a 15 minute drive from Ann Arbor which makes it a convenient place to grab a beer and a bite on a random afternoon.

In addition to the three breweries listed above, there's also Short's, New Holland, Kuhnhenn, Arcadia, Dragonmead, and many more, so get exploring!

Tell the Beer Gal what you think, Email us at rg@umich.edu!
planet, but if you make it funny, we will laugh and we will love you.

This brings me to the dance number... Seeing learned, macho men prance around to Taylor Swift and Justin Bieber made my entire semester. It was great to see the contestants let loose and be funny. (But, what wasn’t so funny... was how loose some of their boxers were—but we will get to that matter later.) Back on topic, the contestants really showed their funny personalities on stage—batting their eyelashes, tootin’ their booties, and grinding on one another. A+! We love a man who doesn’t take himself too seriously. By the way, best ass shake... goes to... Justin Gillett—we could watch it all day! (And no, I am not @joshhazan.)

Wanna know what we could watch for an entire lifetime? Future judges, professors, and “partners,” pumping out push-ups and grinding on the stage floor—teaching us how to “ride it, my pony.” Every woman, man (don’t deny it), and judge was ready to saddle up! ...As the song goes, “I’m just a bachelor, looking for a partner. Someone who knows how to ride, without even falling off.” Enough said.

Some more highlights...
John Rhoades. Everyone loves a white boy with a little thuggish swag...who can play cutesie when “Teenage Dream” comes on...and get his groove on in a pair of tight disco pants. Sexy! (Future contestants, take note...must have tight disco pants.)

Michael Adler’s remarkable rendition of the “old spice” dude. Um, can you say delicious and ridiculously funny! We were already in love with him, but now we’re stalkers. (Sorry, fellas, there’s no replicating this... it was tooooo goooood!) And may I take a second to rant...ADLER DESERVED TO BE IN THE TOP 5! (Okay, all done now.)

Ilya. What more do we have to say? Besides the fact that we love to stare at his bod like all day—especially in a tight vest and pink boxer briefs (I mean, who wouldn’t?)—we love a man who has moves like Justin Timberlake.

And, I couldn’t end the highlights without a few shout-outs to those contestants who stood out in the group dance number...Ryan Mott, Matt Boucher, and Terrill Wilkins—ask these guys to show you some moves!

Now, to the bad...
Seriously, don’t tell jokes that aren’t funny! (But we all know this... this is kindergarten 101, and it doesn’t change when you get to law school.) Everyone’s professor impersonation was great—had me like ROTFLMAO—so if you need some tips on how to be funny, ask any contestant for a private performance (and we’re not talking about the type of performance that usually involves a pink boa.)

Also, guys...please practice! No one likes to see a big dude, dancing off the beat—it’s just painful. Everyone knows law students have a propensity to be a little off-beat, but you need to take some dance lessons or watch a few dance videos before you get on that stage. Please, I’m begging you, please!

Oh, and one more thing, if you can’t sing...DON’T. This is Mr. Wolverine! If you find yourself singing off-tune, just act like you’re not trying and make it funny! It’s when you actually, like seriously, try to sing that we all want to smash our ears in with bricks (as if you’re singing isn’t doing that already....ouch!)

Beauty and Physique
Okay, this is the part I was dying to get to. Usually, I am not at a loss for words... but right now, I am – for good and bad reasons. I mean, some dudes looked yummy – like a Belgian waffle, with strawberries and whipped cream. And some...just looked like the whipped cream.

Not to be mean, but in a “manny” pageant, you should actually have a hot bod. For the law student, who has lost all sense of what this is, let me try to explain...a washboard stomach (preferably an 8-pack, but we will settle with 6), toned arms and legs, and a nice ass! It’s not easy to look like this, but neither is Property Law, yet we all get through it. Suck it up – workout and diet. You only...
Like these photos?
There are even more full-color pictures of Mr. Wolverine online at www.theresgestae.com.

All Photos by Charlie Quigg
have to do it once your entire time here – consider it pro bono work; after all, you are providing a service for the women at the law school. (And, since we’re all probably going corporate anyway, this is the least you can do.)

But seriously, getting on stage with flabs of flesh flapping and swinging everywhere is criminally negligent homicide, and trust me, we will prosecute you to the fullest extent of the law.

And one last thing, do NOT...(and I repeat) DO NOT get onto that stage with boxers that do not fit! OMG! It is just NOT cute. We’re not saying that you have to go enhancing yourself with a sock (though some did, and we didn’t mind), but loosey goosey is never cutesie! This is law school... we all learned the Model Penal Code (okay, I might lose my job for that)...

saggy boxers (oh, and ones that look like they’ve been in the LC washer way too many times) are a violation of the MPC... just saying.

Tough Love
Now, you may be thinking “geesh! Why so harsh?!?” But this is tough love. Overall, the show was amazing! And, for someone who chooses to go out once a semester (*cough* prude), I am glad that I chose to go to this. The guys are super talented, super funny, and super cute! It made me think for a second, “Coming to Michigan was a great choice! Who cares about the guys at Harvard?” (Then I came back to reality...) Just kidding! If you plan to enter Mr. Wolverine, you have your work cut out for you, because these guys take it seriously and are coming to win. And every single contestant deserves a crown because each individual has something spectacular to offer. You just have to make sure you have a lot of those “somethings” to beat the other guys – charm, humor, talent, sex appeal, and a hot bod (sorry, you can’t get away from this one).

Congrats to John Rhoades who had a lot of “somethings!”

And congrats and thanks to all of the contestants who gave us a pretty damn good show!

We cannot wait until next year’s show! So, guys, take note and start your preparation now... because the RG will be in the audience with the Scorecard!

Chew on that.

Email Chaka with your thoughts on Mr. Wolverine at rg@umich.edu
Poetry Contest Winners!

A few weeks ago, we decided it might be fun to hold a little poetry contest—to give a voice and a creative outlet to those closeted Poets, Donneans, Angelous, and Silversteins of Hutchins. As most students spend their nights reading criminally dry stuff about the Federal Rules of something or another, we thought we’d get five or six humdrum submissions at most. How could anyone possibly be poetically inspired by law school, we thought. Well.

I think poet William Blake put it best when he wrote, “A fool sees not the same tree that a wise man sees.”

Y’all OVERWHELMED us with submissions! Almost (a) hundred of them! And they were GOOD. More than good, many of them deserve to be in print.

So we printed a select few winners and honorable mentions of the contest, with more brilliant submissions posted online. Thank you for your poems—all of them. They beautified our lives while we were receiving them, and we miss them now that they’re not arriving in our inbox anymore. Feel free to send us any more poems you may pen—with all this epic Homeric talent around, we might need to start printing poetry more regularly.

Share your poems, limericks, and haikus with us at rg@umich.edu!

First Place: Josh Garcia’s Epic Poem ‘Oh Law School’

Oh Law School, where once were shells of aimless souls yearning for a toke of drugged blunts, you have placed future men and women of letters, heretofore and henceforth you have earned more than words – song at least and glory at most – we sing in unison to Calliope: entreat us, great Muse, with wonders of lyric and line. (We offer an Emmanuels as well. Check your penda.)

AN ODE TO UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LAW SCHOOL
by The Bard of Section O

Living quarry of rock, archways and hallowed spandrels,
take note of the summertime
drifters who long appreciate your hallowed walk.
See them with their
cocker spaniels, filing out of a windowless van
in the Safeway parking lot,
dragging their invisible scent of patchouli like the trail
of a line of ants,
busking down the block, singing of your rock, sipping Four Loko
on your greens,
while chasing yellow Frisbees and talking squirrel talk.

They are not so different from us.
When winter falls, they vanish indoors to read their books.
Our tomes
await us as well, written longhand by Frier and Krier, translated into
bricks of wizened
peroration, expensive as shit and as timeless as boy bands. Oh Law School, the things you have seen, the Lawyer’s Club makeout sessions, professor-student liaisons, malign and benign, a student coming in a wide-eyed virgin, leaving with the sin-stain of Rick’s scarred in his memory
until the judge of eternity asks for swift repentance of his sins, you have seen White’s ancient wrist scrawling corrections to his book in the margins, cackling while a lifetime of racist jokes roll through his mind, tilting and careening, we envision it not unlike the seams of a ball pit bursting at McDonald’s, the childhood McDonald’s

ODE continued on Next Page
of our dreams.

Oh how we know
the liability of that pit. Much like the tortious slide that brings the Jaws of Life
and lawyers of strife,
devilish parasites riding the wings of angels, how we yearn to learn to run,
to chase those angrily-lit
ambulances and fire trucks. A fireman does not know, but we know
the liability of that pit.

Oh, Law School! We can sing of our madcap happiness when
classes vanish for weeks,
we can reminisce on the champagne-quad that bursts at the end of it all,
but you have seen
and will see these stories. Our ode would be a paean, but not enough
can impress you,
so when we vanish ourselves from your quarry,
may you sing to us,
and remind us of the drifters, past versions of ourselves,
the massive snowbanks,
portents of our future debt, and the great vibratory buzz,
those massive constructory farts
beyond the Reading Room, mirrors of our fuzzéd minds, of our heavily
stirred hearts.

1 This ode was originally 200 pages long. These are the best verses we could come up with. Sorry, Res Gestae. Next year will be better.

Second Place:
Untitled by Kevan Ventura

1 Common Law is my shepherd, I shall not forget.
2 It leads me to contemplate history,
   But leaves everything to judges' whims,
3 The UCC preserves wealth.
   Guiding me to paths of trepidation
   for Westlaw's sake.
4 Though I toil thanklessly
   in the shadow of a mountain of loans,
   I will fear no debtors,
   for time is with me;
   LRAP and perpetual deferrals,
   they comfort me.
5 I lay out rejection letters before me
   in the presence of my peers.
Finally anointed by a firm
   to clean when the toilet overflows.
6 Surely happiness and prosperity will follow me
   all the days of my life,
   with Michigan on my resume;
   FOREVER.
Best Rhyming Poem:
‘Twas the Night Before Con Law’ by Aliza Cohen

Twas the night before Con Law, when all through the school
We were silently freaking, though we try to keep cool;
Getting stumped on detention, what the heck’s §5?!
Darned if I care, I just hope we survive;
I’ll just finish the night with Chemerinsky in bed,
In the hopes that the knowledge will seep into my head;
My room is in shambles, my hair is a mess,
It’s really a wonder I even got dressed.
I’d just finished my outline and set it just right,
When the silence was shattered on this snowy night.
Up from Sub-3 I flew like a flash,
Took off through the quad at quite the mad dash.
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,
When, what would my delirious mind then divine,
But Professor Franklin, yes! and those justices nine,
With Prof Simpson, his driver, with Post’s fox right there too,
those puss cats they scattered, they knew what to do!
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
Franklin whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;
“Now, Stevens! now, Douglas! now, Marshall and White!
On, Scalia! on Rehnquist! on, Holmes.....through the night!
From Washington Apples! To strict scrutiny!
And Gibbons v Ogden. Take that EBB!”
As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,
So up to the house-top my course notes they flew,
That silly blue supplement, and those casebooks too.
And though the incoming blizzard under starry skies
I resigned myself to filling my exam answers with lies.
Because tomorrow’s 3 of 3, and you know what the f#!%
“Have a good night you all, and to all a good luck!”

Best Haiku: A Double Feature by Eli Braun

hidden costs brim over
to outside others, voiceless.
externality

when states fail, feds say:
heed inside others, silenced.
internality
Honorable Mentions:
Danny Lewin, Liz Och, & Eric Felleman

Civil Procedure, by Liz Och

civil procedure:
i hate you i hate you i
hate you. i hate you.

Haiku Corner with Danny Lewin

Yick Wo v. Hopkins
Nine white justices
Bring justice to laundromats
That bleach all your whites

A Limerick for James Krier
by Eric Felleman

From the back of my Property Final:

There once was a man named James Krier
Who only just wanted a beer
But externalities glossed
Raised transaction costs
And now the beer’s cost is severe

Griswold v. Connecticut
Now couples can use
Birth control where they like it:
In the penumbra

Pierson v. Post
Well so what, Pierson?
Think I care about pursuit?
I don’t give a fox.

Marbury v. Madison
Came for mandamus.
All I got was this lousy
Judicial review.

Grutter v. Bollinger
Ruling in Grutter:
“This holding will self-destruct
In twenty-five years.”

SUDOKU

#075, Medium Difficulty. Solution on page 9

1 7 2 8 5 1
2 8 6 9
3 8 9 7 2
1 5 4 3
4 5 6 3
7 4 9
Fall Grade Curves:
2010 1Ls: The ‘L’ stands for ‘Legendary’

by Connie Chang

Well done, 1L class. We did it. We’ve fallen asleep in the library, gotten mad at undergrads in the Reading Room, had our first panic attacks, and felt the first cold sting of a fruitless job search. We’re officially law school students.

Take a moment to pat yourselves on the back. Bravo.

And I’m about to make things even sweeter. Are you ready for this?

We did 1L better than anyone else.

The target GPA for 1L classes is a 3.19, with a minimum curve of 3.13 and a highest possible maximum curve of 3.25. Our class? Our class had an average GPA of 3.30.

Let that sink in. 3.30.

How is this possible? I have no idea. It almost sounds like a bad Chuck Norris joke. When the Law School tried implementing a grade curve, the Class of 2013 turned around and roundhouse-
kicked the curve in the face.

Maybe we’re just smarter than other classes, though RG 2Ls, 3Ls, and 4Ls tell me that they doubt this.

Maybe it has something to do with what a certain professor noticed and broadcast last semester—that as a class, we’re “generally better looking.” Psychology studies have shown that, on the whole, no humans—not even the smartest of law professors—are immune to Apol­lonian charms. And have you seen the kids in our class? Jinkies.

Actually, JJ White was the only 1L professor last semester to stick strictly to the 3.19 GPA target. Which fully supports my theory that, like the 1L class, JJ White may not be completely human—more like a Chuck Norris hybrid crossed with some sort of aerial grizzly bear (Ballo from Talespin?).

Other explanations? I don’t know—maybe the professors wanted to give us an edge in our job search, maybe they genuinely liked us, maybe there was something in the water, or maybe it’s a sign of the 2012 apocalypse. Whatever the reason, I think it’s official that the ‘L’ in 1L stands for ‘legendary.’

For those who weren’t too happy with the grades they received, no worries! It only gets better from here. The average upper-class and seminar GPA means were 3.43 and 3.79, respectively.

Do you have any idea why the grade curve was so much higher for this year’s 1Ls? Let us know at rg@umich.edu!

GRADERS CURVES cont. on p. 14
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Key: No. Graded - The number of students in the class receiving grades A+ through B+
Mean Grade - Based on the No. Graded (rather than the Class Size)
Within Range - Based on the guidelines for Mean Grade: 3.13 minimum; 3.19 target; 3.25 maximum
Deviation from Grade Guidelines
<blank> : the number of students receiving that grade within the target range

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### Overheard in Hutchins:

2L to 1L: If you can't list who the gunners in your class are, then it's you.

Faculty member to prospective student: Just ignore all the construction noise in the back—it’ll all be finished by the time you come. Well, by the time you graduate.

Student, disheartened at Westlaw table: People don't make cupcakes for small-mouthed people.

Student A to Student B: . . . hundreds of tiny boners.

Student C: [overhearing] What are you talking about?!

Student A: Necto.

* * * * *

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Age of Innocence

By Lauren Rogal

Lawyers are all right, I guess – but it doesn’t appeal to me,” I said. “I mean they’re all right if they go around saving innocent guys’ lives all the time, and like that, but you don’t do that kind of stuff if you’re a lawyer. All you do is make a lot of dough and play golf and pay bridge and buy cars and drink Martinis and look like a hot-shot.

After so ruminating in The Catcher in the Rye, Holden Caulfield immediately proceeds to question the motives of any lawyers who might happen to “go around saving guys’ lives and all.” But if Holden were at Michigan Law in 2011, he would take heart (ok, maybe not, but a normal person would). Exonerations are all the rage, and many Michigan students are increasingly inspired by the work performed across the country by Innocence Projects and lionized by the media in The New Yorker (see: Willingham, Cameron Todd) and films like Conviction.

First, Michigan’s very own Innocence Clinic has been making a badass name for itself. Professors David Moran and Bridget McCormack and their students have or are currently working on 13 cases involving crimes ranging from failure to pay child support, to murder. Their work has gotten coverage in The New York Times Magazine, Detroit Free Press, Metro Times, Detroit News, and local newspapers in Battle Creek and Grand Rapids. In October, the Michigan Innocence Clinic’s efforts helped secure the exoneration of Julie Baumer, who was convicted of child abuse in the death of her nephew. Investigators determined that the child had died from “shaken-baby syndrome,” without exploring other possible causes.

The Innocence Clinic presented witnesses who established conclusively that the child had died from a stroke rather than abuse.

Also compelling is the impact of the Innocence Clinic on students. 2L Adam Thompson, who will work with the D.C. Public Defender this summer, has derived “a lot of inspiration” from his experience in the Innocence Clinic. Thompson has been surprised to discover “how little investigative work actually goes on at the trial level,” and periodically encounters cases that make him wonder “how [the prisoner] was ever convicted in the first place.” Thompson has also been struck by the reluctance of law enforcement to acknowledge actual innocence, even in the most compelling cases. Instead, Thompson notes, some authorities remain convinced of a person’s guilt even after his exoneration.

Other student groups have done their share to bring exonerations into vogue. On Valentine’s Day, the Criminal Law Society enabled scores of Michigan students to hear from an exoneree directly. Danny Brown was wrongfully convicted of rape and murder by a Toledo jury and served 19 years in prison before DNA evidence implicated a convicted serial rapist for the crime in 2001. Brown explained that, despite several witnesses who corroborated his alibi and the absence of any forensic evidence connecting him to the crime, he was convicted solely on the testimony of a seven-year-old eyewitness who originally said that Brown was not present during the murder. Despite the forensics uncovered in 2001, Toledo authorities still consider the case “under investigation,” on the theory that Brown may have been an accomplice. This case status precludes Brown from seeking compensation to which exonerees are entitled under Ohio law, because compensation becomes available only when the criminal process is complete.

1L Chuck Wineland attended high school in Toledo and remembers coverage of Brown’s release in 2001. After Brown spoke, Wineland said he was “amazed at [Brown’s] understanding of the law, his command of the trial and appeals process, and the way he critiqued the deficiencies of his trial attorney.” Indeed, Brown spoke at length about his job in the prison law library, gradual mastery of criminal procedure, initial bewilderment by Strickland, and the assistance he gave other prisoners in their legal battles. “Prison is the only place where you can practice law without any license,” Brown quipped.

Most students questioned Brown about the deficiencies in his original defense, seeking advice as future advocates. He emphasized the importance of listening to and taking time with clients. “You guys have the power to make sure this doesn’t happen to people.”

Yet Holden-esque cynicism remains among some. One law student who spoke on condition of anonymity said, “even if they’re innocent of that crime, they’re probably guilty of something.” While the RG does not out our anonymous sources, this was a white dude with brown hair who haunts the basement of Hutchins at 11 pm. If you recognize this conspicuous profile, feel free to shame him on Lawopen.

Pondering the death of innocents? Share your thoughts at rg@umich.edu!
MJIL Hosts Human Trafficking Symposium

By Linda Jong & Barry Price, MJIL Symposium Co-Chairs

On February 4th and 5th, the Michigan Journal of International Law (MJIL) hosted a symposium on “The Successes & Failures in International Human Trafficking Law.” The event drew over two hundred attendees and highlighted various aspects of international law and human trafficking.

Speakers included prominent academics as well as practitioners in the field of combating human trafficking, including Dr. Mohamed Mattar, Professor of Law and Executive Director of Protection Project, a human rights research institute, at The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies; Ms. Saadiya Chaudary, Legal Project Manager of Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence Law at The Aire Centre, a law centre with the mission of promoting awareness of European law rights; and Ms. Ruchira Gupta, President of Apne Aap Women Worldwide, a nongovernmental organization based in India with the mission of ending sex trafficking.

The Symposium began with the stories of two women who were freed from human trafficking. These women are currently clients of the University of Michigan Human Trafficking Clinic (HTC). The weekend also featured various Michigan Law alumni, including Professor Bridgette Carr, the HTC’s Director, Mr. David Abramowicz, Director of Policy and Government Relations at Humanity United, and the Symposium’s keynote speaker, Ambassador Luis CdeBaca, Ambassador-at-Large at the U.S. Department of State for the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

Human trafficking is one of the fastest growing criminal industries in the world and generates billions of dollars in profits every year for human traffickers who coerce and deceive millions of people around the world. Since human trafficking is an all-too-common problem both within the U.S. and abroad (there are hundreds of thousands of human trafficking victims in the U.S. alone), one of the speakers closed the symposium with the suggestion that each Symposium participant tell at least 10 people about the growing human trafficking problem.

More information about the Symposium can be found at: http://students.law.umich.edu/mjil/symposium/.

LAW & LIT, from page 2

What is this extravagantly dressed ruffian saying? To avert that eventuality, we’re printing a few common pirate expressions. Just the basics, so you can put some of your fancy negotiating skills to work and get yourself and your significant-other-for-hire out of there.

We’ll start with a few from the last example.

Son of a biscuit eater—Think Puffrock, daring to eat a peach. Now think...biscuits.

Doubloons—Old English for suspenders. When a pirate asks you to hand them over, you should really step up that negotiating.

Cat o’ nine tails—Pirates sailed the waters of the Galapagos long before Darwin’s trip. There they found this strange genetic mutant. Rumor has it the beast is so cute any man who sees it loses his doubloons. Be forewarned. Now for the advanced course. Drop a few of these beauties, and even the most hardened swashbuckler will think ye a true-blooded pirate.

Keelhaul—To tickle someone until the victim dies from a laughter-induced heart attack. Rarely used, but always deadly.

Scurvy—Variant on the more common “curvy.” If a pirate mentions his female companion, make sure to compliment her “scurviness.”

Bilge rat—Another weird animal you find on pirate ships. Kind of like a normal rat, insofar as it eats anything it comes across; kind of unlike a normal rat insofar as it vomits nearly everything it eats (“Bilge” is a technical term for rat vomit. Who knew?)

Wench—Isn’t this one of those things people use to crank stuff? Maybe they use it for their sails?

Davy Jones’ Locker—From what I hear, Davy Jones was the nerd at pirate school. You’d find him stuffed in his locker at least once a week. All the cool pirates rotated “locker duty,” wherein they’d shove him in there until a pirate teacher let him out. So if a pirate says he’ll send you to Davy Jones’ locker, be proud—it’s an honor to put ol’ Davy in his place.

I think that about wraps it up. Get out there and shiver some timbers, matesy.

Email Kevitt your questions at rg@umich.edu
LSSS Bar Month Bar Crawl:
4 Weeks, 4 Bars, 4Loko
Question on the Quad

The Motor City: Is This What We Do?

During the Superbowl last month, those of us from the Detroit area felt, perhaps for the first time since 8 Mile came out, pride in our rundown city. In fact, Chrysler’s Superbowl ad had more Detroit pride than you could shake a police baton at—but RG staffers wondered whether MLaw students could relate. How often do students actually visit Detroit, and what are their perceptions of the city? Is Ann Arbor a world away, or just a half hour down the highway?

We polled the student body and found that only 21% visited regularly, 52% had visited once or twice, and 7% said they were interested, but were afraid of getting shot.

Come on now, people. Detroit’s not that bad. It’s not even the murder capital of the country anymore. New Orleans took that title by a big margin last year. In fact, according to Wikipedia, Detroit recorded only 308 homicides in 2010, which is a 15.4% drop from 364 homicides 2009. Even non-fatal shootings are down 10.5%.

So, if you’ve got the time, head over to the big city for some partying, some Slow’s BBQ, an opera, or just a stroll down the Riverwalk. I’ll tell you from personal experience that in the 25 years I’ve lived in metro Detroit, I’ve only been mugged once. And shot a total of zero times.

Here are some more student body reactions to the question of whether or not they ever get themselves down to Motor City:

“Risk death by crime to subject self to death by boredom? No thanks.”

“I love the art museum! I would go more if you didn’t have to pay for it and I wasn’t too busy.”

“I go to Detroit for concerts, but that’s about it.”

“I don’t go there without a gun. Or four…”

“I was sure Tijuana is cleaner and altogether more pleasant than Detroit. Dude. Tijuana.”

“I’d be in Detroit a lot more if I had a car. Wish there were some kind of regular transportation between A2 and Detroit.”

“Bosom buddy whose homestead is just a little too far for me to visit as regularly as I wish.”

“Let’s pool our allowances and buy a few blocks of downtown.”

We want whoever submitted the last one to let us know if they’re serious. Because we’d totally be into buying up a few blocks of Detroit. Like the part with the big arm statue. Or maybe Greektown.

Got other thoughts or tips about Detroit? Let us know at rg@umich.edu!

| Percentage |\n|---|---|\n| Regularly | 21% |\n| Once or twice | 52% |\n| Interested, but I might get shot | 7% |\n| Not interested | 5% |\n| Does Chicago count? | 5% |\n| From Detroit | 10% |
Across
1. Serf’s oppressor
5. Pirate Laffite
9. Joe _· _ (average guy)
14. Numbered work
15. Competent
16. Butter maker
17. Drink for Vanna?
19. Funny O’Donnell
20. Augusta National members
21. Rob _ (drink with Scotch)
22. Caught some Z’s
24. Novelist Lurie
26. Regulation for Natalie?
29. Cold place?
30. Barbarian of the comics
31. Potato feature
32. Wilts
33. Critique harshly
34. Fools around (with)
36. Dessert for Edith?
39. Roundup rope
42. Form 1040 org.
43. Shade providers
47. Prez on a fiver
50. Enough
51. Family for Pearl?
53. Appreciative diner
54. Diarist Nin
55. Kipling hero
56. Sales worker, for short
57. Give the O.K.
59. Sound quality for George?
62. River’s end, sometimes
63. Soothing gel ingredient
64. Place to broil
65. Scaredy-cat
66. Pen points
67. Plain writing

Down
1. Catholic rite that lacks singing
2. Tragic figure in “Hamlet”
3. Spoiling
4. P.M. brightener
5. Chief Argonaut
6. Auction site
7. Entirely
8. “Schindler’s List” star
9. Airport anti-terrorism worker
10. Cuts (up)
11. Disco dances
12. Certain hosp. test
13. Solitary
18. Cupid, to the Greeks
23. Andes climbers
25. Kind of bar
26. Hand over, as for sale
27. Senate vote
28. General Clark, to friends
30. Knave
33. Three-term New York governor
35. Step (on)
37. Erodes
38. Attempt
39. Family dog, for short
40. Baghdad’s _· _
41. Consumer safety measures
44. Give the go-ahead
45. Sniffler’s supply
46. Garden of Eden inhabitant
49. Sentra maker
50. Prepares to shoot
52. Comb stoppers
53. Moon-related phenomena
55. Radio dial
57. Madison Ave. output
58. Oahu memento
60. ___ Baba
61. Young’un