SFF Auction 2011: This Is What We Do

By Ashley Mitchell

When a night begins with pre-game exercises led by Dean Zearfoss, you know that tonight, in the words of those pop hit savants the Black Eyed Peas, is going to be a good, good night.

After years of success, the organizers of the 2011 Student Funded Fellowships (SFF) Auction demonstrated that they were certainly not going to be the ones to drop the ball. Students, at least, were eager to drop the Benjamins. The auction raised $44,000 in funds to be distributed in an effort to assist your neighborhood public interest-oriented 1L’s to sustain themselves throughout their summer internship. This year, funded students are eligible to receive up to $3,850 in fellowship money.

The silent and live auctions had items for sale from far and wide. Third-year student Michael Mulvania, for example, opted for one-on-one time and a trip to the Big House with Professor (and law legend) J.J. White.

And who could pass up a trip to Hawaii (eligible for a group of up to eight students) auctioned off by Professor Eve Brensike Primus? Especially when some of the law school’s most treasured professors upped the stakes by throwing in travel expenses and shopping money. Not convinced of the awesomeness of this deal? Let’s break down the numbers: The Hawaii trip went for $3,000. Divide by eight students. (Stay with me now: the arithmetic is almost over. I promise.) Add nearly $1,000 chipped in by law professors. Now you do the math. No, really, you do the math. I’m a law student too, people.

And while ordinarily I would not recommend a trip to H-E-L-L, I also never imagined that such a trip could be for the benefit of others. Add a bad-mutha-shut-your-mouth professor to the mix and you have a match made in heaven. Plus, he’s chipping in for burgers and ice cream after the once-in-lifetime motorcyclic excursion. Blessed be Leonard Niehoff!

The night would not be complete without table dancing, more alcohol

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Letter From the Editors

Amazingly, the end of the year is upon us. Flowers are starting to poke out of the barren earth around Hutchins just as we were sure that, this time, spring was never going to come again. While we can’t ignore the fact that time marches inexorably toward final exams, at least we have the consolation of knowing once May 5th rolls around, another year of law school is behind us.

This is the eighth and final Res Gestae issue of the year, capping off Volume 61, and we’ve tried to make this last issue as informative, hilarious, and photo-tastic as possible.

Speaking of epic ordeals coming to an end, RG is losing two veritable law school Methuselahs this year—both Alysha Rooks and Tomek Koszylko are finally, finally graduating after four years of various dual-degreeing shenanigans. Having been on RG’s board in some capacity or other for the past four years, it’s a little bit-tersweet to let go, but the paper has been around for 61 years and will continue to charge forward, even without Rooks’ protocol-be-damned leadership or Tomek’s OCD-in-a-very-good-way management skillz.

Like those sprouting green things in the law quad, the next generation of RG leadership is also breaking ground—Kevitt Adler and Connie Chang have been selected to be next year’s co-editors-in-chief and are being trained to take the helm come August. This means that the Managing Editor and Layout Editor positions are vacant, so the search is on for new editors. If you’re interested, please email us at rg@umich.edu and we can give you the lowdown on what it takes to be a Managing Editor or Layout Editor. It’s not as hard as you think. Heck, if we can do it, anybody can.

RG has been therapy in many ways. When shit got crazy, we channeled the crazy into the newspaper: sometimes for better, sometimes for worse. But much like anything, you remember lessons learned from failures longer than those picked up from easy victories. It’s been a constant learning process to publish relevant, timely, and usually funny material for the student body while juggling the other hundred things we’re supposed to keep in our heads as law students. But for both of us, it has been worth the effort. Sure, it’s not Law Review. But there’s a reason for the sign on our office door that reads “LAW SCHOOL MISFITS AND TROUBLEMAKERS.” We’ve said it before and we’ll say it again—it has been the best experience we’ll never get credit for.

Over and out.

Rooks, Editor-in-Chief Emeritus
Tomek Koszylko, Web Editor Emeritus

Prom Photos! See pages 10-11
Down and Dirty With Harry Hutchins

by Tori Roth

On my way back from a long night at Ashley's a few weekends back, I was walking through the law quad and came upon the corbel of Harry Hutchins, perched above the main archway of the Lawyers Club, and stopped for a chat. He obliged me and provided a full interview.

TR: Hey Harry! How's it hanging? Or should I say, crouching?

HH: It's both hanging and crouching.

TR: Do you ever feel cramped up there?

HH: Yes. Sometimes my muscles feel like they're made out of stone.

TR: I know what you mean. Why don’t you get down and stretch?

HH: I would, but my back hurts, and I'm kind of glued to this archway or column or whatever this thing is.

TR: Well, as you're always there, and people usually don't even notice you (no offense), you must overhear some pretty interesting conversations and see some crazy stunts, right? Any good stories?

HH: No offense taken. I often forget I'm here too. I do indeed see and hear way too many inappropriate things. In fact, the other corbels and I often bet as to what will be the most outrageous scene of the night as we nurse our goblets of mead.

TR: You know all the other corbels?

HH: Well, there's that medicine guy... and Erastus Haven, but I can't stand him. He's such a pretentious ass.

TR: Huh. Never knew. Now for the really important questions: how do you like the image the MLaw construction project has created of you?

HH: It makes me look fat. And that yellow hat does nothing for my eyes.

TR: Speaking of the construction, how's that going? Are things on schedule?

HH: Well, they were falling a little behind because one guy put in a stone that was tan, when the model wall clearly showed it was supposed to be light tan. I mean, hello? Hasn't he ever heard of paint-by-numbers? It can't be that hard.

TR: You mean to tell me there's a difference between tan and "light" tan?

HH: Duh. And don't even get me started on how "coral" and "salmon" are as different as oil and water.

TR: Umm...

HH: So after that fiasco was fixed, they needed to make up the lost time somehow. They struck a deal with Career Services to hire the unemployed 3Ls as construction lackeys in exchange for the law school being able to count them in their "law-related employment" stats. Everybody wins.

TR: Except for the 3Ls and recent grads...

HH: Semantics.

TR: Say the world is about to end, and you can only choose three student groups to help create a new world on an alien planet. Which ones do you choose and why?

HH: Well, that's obvious. First I'd choose the Res Gestae, in order to publish outlandish news articles and stir up controversy to keep me entertained. Second, I'd choose SFF, for their amazing ability to convince faculty and students to make fools of themselves and shell out money for a "good cause," when we all know it's only being used to install a hot tub on the roof. The last group I'd choose is Reproductive Justice because of their promotion of sex education and concern for my sexual health.

TR: Sexual health? Is there a special lady in your life right now?

HH: Not yet, but I've had my eyes on that sculpture of Portia over by the Martha Cook dormitory for a while now. I'm thinking of inviting her over to my arch, but not before I get my hands on some Viagra or a stimulating penile salve of some sort. If you think 70-year-olds have it bad, try being 164. Know what I mean?

TR: Err, no. [awkward pause.] Sooo, what advice would you give to the 1Ls as they prepare for exams?

HH: Don't worry about the legal questions. It's all econ-based. Forget those outlines and just bring a calculator.

Since her interview, Tori has avoided the Lawyers Club main archway at all costs. Have a question or comment? Email us at rg@umich.edu.

For the record, Erastus Haven would like to note that Harry Hutchins is an insufferable nancypants.
LawOpen Emails I Wish Would Be Sent

By Zach Dembo & Andrew Park

Let's Go Red Wings! - Support the greatest franchise in all sports - the Detroit Red Wings! www.redwings.nhl.com

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Albert Cohol to [Unofficial] show details 8:24 PM (45 minutes ago)  
This is clearly a sensitive topic, so I will quietly consider my position and express my emotions face to face rather than sending an offensive and poorly thought out e-mail while hiding behind the false veil of anonymity my school e-mail address consisting of my last name and first initial provides.

Albert Nodgaard Cohol  
JD 2012  
MBA 2009  
BS 2004  
cohol@umich.edu  
acohol@gmail.com  
AIM: imgoingtosueyouintort

---

William O'Reilly to [Unofficial] show details 8:20 PM (41 minutes ago)  
While I was recently offended by an interchange on this listserv, I recognize that some people are beyond reason. I will not make the situation worse by making an even more irrational response to an already bad situation.

---

Gunter Farnsworth to [Unofficial] show details 8:24 PM (45 minutes ago)  
Hey guys, tee hee tee hee...

---

Jack Donaghy to [Unofficial] show details 8:24 PM (45 minutes ago)  
I almost posted without reading any of the previous posts selling the exact same thing I'm looking to buy. Good thing I didn't do that, because it would be really frustrating to see such a visible market failure as everyone's trying to simultaneously sell and buy without success.
Unlike a goldfish, which does not understand linear time, I have adequately planned my schedule sufficiently in advance so that I can still use the ticket I bought literally one day ago. I also realize that taking a few hours out of my Saturday evening will probably not jeopardize my bar results two years from now.

---

Students who Shepardize/Keycite/Google Buzz this case involving something you'll never encounter in the real world first gets total immunity from the bizarre situation of being solicited for a business you're guaranteed to use anyway by your own friends while walking to class. Runners up are promised only peripheral eye contact and no assaults with Wii controllers.

---

I almost wrote an incredibly esoteric e-mail asking if anyone knew any Italian numismatists living in Barren, Alaska. Fortunately I realized what an utter waste of everyone's time this is, so I will instead take a long hard look at my life and wonder why I'd ever have such a specific request that I couldn't find out on my own.

http://tinyurl.com/daftson

---

Wow, this interchange reflects poorly on the law school. Fortunately, I realize that sending it to AboveTheLaw would reflect even more poorly on the law school where I am currently enrolled. It would also make me an attention hungry d-bag, and therefore, I will use the kind of sound discretion my future career demands, and not forward it.

University of Alabama '08
South Arkansas Christian High School '04

---

5'11" out of shape Southern redhead. Must have encyclopedic knowledge of American history and West Wing. Ability to write substandard satire a plus.

PhD, Medieval History, University of Vienna '07
Student Funded Wackiness: The Photographic Evidence

than should probably be condoned at a law school function, and even a special impromptu (if procrastinated) duet from Professors Sonja Starr and John Pottow.

Job well done SFF folks! Lucky IL students everywhere will be more than happy to accept your hard-fought auction cash—well, as soon as they can get one of those noble-yet-strangely-elusive public interest employers to accept their free labor.

Thrilled about your auction winnings? Send your comments, questions, or additional photos you’d like published on our website to rg@umich.edu.

All photos on this page by Tim Estep
The Law Library: Legal Advice With a Generous Dose of Moral Support

by Tomek Koszylko

In general, libraries tend to get a bad rap as the silent and intolerant bastions of academia. I sat down last week and had a chat with Barb Garavaglia, the Assistant Director of the Law Library, and Jenny Selby, the Head of Reference, to dispel some myths and learn about the many services—both official and unofficial—that the library provides to MLaw students.

TK: So, in your opinion, why do you think students have a less-than-positive opinion of the Law Library? I assume there’s a sort of perfect storm of stereotypes: librarians are supposed to be severe and humorless, law school is stressful, so therefore “law librarians” must be über-severe, über-humorless, and über-stress-inducing. How do you respond to that?

BG & JS: We think that a significant part of the misperception of librarians and libraries is a result of the fact that librarianship has long been a feminized profession. Traditional gender stereotypes portrayed librarians as severe women with their hair pulled into tight buns, glasses, sensible shoes, dour expressions, and pursed lips. Nothing could be further from the truth. Librarians and law librarians are highly educated and skilled professionals who are friendly, approachable, and dedicated to helping law students navigate the stressful waters of law school.

BG: Before becoming a law librarian, I worked as a research attorney. After finishing my Masters degree in information science, I became the assistant director of the State Law Library in Lansing, then came to the University of Michigan Law Library to become Head of Reference. I have been a member of the State Bar of Michigan since 1981.

JS: I practiced patent law for 4-5 years at Harness, Dickey & Pierce in Troy, where I was on the partnership track. I later earned my Masters degree in Information from the University of Michigan School of Information in 2001. I have been a member of the State Bar of Michigan since 1996 and a member of the Patent Bar since 1997.

TK: What were your backgrounds before you became librarians?

TK: Huh. I didn’t expect that. I suppose another misconception is that librarians have always been librarians. How did you decide that this was what you wanted to do? Was there an epiphany, or was it a decision that developed over time?

BG: I experienced an epiphany. I originally planned to work as a public interest attorney, either as a legal aid attorney or environmental lawyer.

During the bar exam, the man sitting across from me mentioned that he was a law librarian and described his work. This intrigued me, so after the exam I went to the Law Library and asked to speak to a law librarian, who turned out to be Margaret Leary. Margaret generously lent me several books about the profession and talked to me at some length about the work. After this I was hooked—the profession was exactly what I wanted, one in which I could use my legal and research skills while also helping a variety of people with legal issues and problems.

JS: A seed was planted in law school when I interacted with a law librarian who was also an attorney and law professor. I knew I wanted to practice patent law and eagerly pursued that path, but kept law librarianship as a very viable option for a future career.

TK: How many librarians work at the library? What are some of their pre-law-library backgrounds?

JS & BG: There are currently 12 librarian positions in the Law Library. Seven of the twelve positions require JD degrees and Masters degrees in information/library science; passing the bar exam is highly desirable for the dual-degreed positions. The other 5 librarian positions are also critical to the work of the Law Library; the librarians in these positions handle important...
Librarians can be a source of comfort for students during times of stress, such as exam periods. The Law Library helps students manage stress by offering free coffee and water in the subs. This practice is supported by the fact that power bars are not only convenient but also considered a healthier food option compared to other snacks. The library remains a quiet space, and the students are grateful for the efforts made to maintain its tranquility.

The food ban in the library is a measure taken to prevent the presence of pests that may damage the books. The librarians have observed that these pests, such as birds and squirrels, can cause significant damage to the library's collections. The ban is also a way to ensure a safe and sanitary environment for the students.

The library's commitment to supporting legal education from a librarian's perspective is evident in its efforts to provide resources and services that are essential for the students. The library's role in teaching law students how to figure out the most cost-effective and efficient research approach is crucial. The library is not only a place to conduct research but also a source of support and guidance for students as they navigate through the stresses of exams.
Prom 2011: A Red Carpet Event?

Well, There *Was* Carpet
APALSA Soirée Does Good for Do-Gooders

by Connie Chang

Last month, the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA) held their sixth annual Origins banquet—a cultural event for both APALSA members and the general MLaw community. Students and faculty filled a swanky events room at Palmer Commons, many dressed in colorful cultural attire. Keeping with the banquet theme of “Mobilizing our Generation,” topic cards were prominent on the dinner tables as centerpieces, each card describing a topic of concern to the Asian Pacific American population. These cards, with topics such as “The Model Minority,” “The Bamboo Ceiling,” and “Asian Americans in the Media” sparked lively conversation over dinner.

Rubina Mustafa, a staff attorney at the Detroit Center for Family Advocacy, was the keynote speaker. Ms. Mustafa started her speech by posing questions to the audience, such as:

“What are you going to do when you grow up?”

“What does it mean to be a lawyer?”

Ms. Mustafa shared stories illustrating the injustices and rewards that she has dealt with as a public interest lawyer. She challenged the audience to consider public interest work:

“Children need a voice, and families need a voice...as a lawyer, you have to keep fighting and keep pushing that message. If you don't fight, then there is no voice. Be the voice for justice.”

Recipients of APALSA's annual Public Interest Fellowship were also announced. The fellowships are awarded every year to two MLaw students. Reena Bajowala, a 2005 alumnus, presented the awards. Ms. Bajowala was the vice-president of APALSA during her time at the Law School and was the founder of the both the Origins banquet and the Public Interest Fellowship.

The Public Interest Fellowship provides funding to highly qualified first year law students who plan to spend their 1L summer working for public interest organizations. As Ms. Bajowala noted, the fellowship was founded to encourage Asian-American law students to go into the public and non-profit legal sector, where they can contribute to the Asian-American community directly or indirectly: by serving low-income Asian Americans, or simply by increasing Asian-American diversity by entering a legal field where Asian Americans have traditionally been underrepresented.

The Fellowship was presented this year to 1Ls Anna Han and Renita Khanduja, both of whom have extensive public interest experience with the Asian American community.

Anna will work this summer for the housing unit of Bay Area Legal Aid in California, advocating for tenants’ rights. She will help low-income clients who are wrongfully evicted from their homes or who suffer from other forms of housing discrimination. In addition, Anna will assist in Chinese language outreach and in educating communities about homelessness prevention and affordable housing, which will benefit the millions of Asian immigrants living in the Bay Area.

Renita will work this summer with the Human Rights Law Network in New Delhi, India. This non-profit organization of lawyers and human rights activists are dedicated to improving human rights conditions in India. As an intern, Renita will engage in grassroots litigation over issues like human trafficking, with the overall goal of enforcing the rights of marginalized populations in India.

Comments? Email us at rg@umich.edu.

Fellowship recipients Renita Khanduja and Anna Han.

More Origins photos on page 20!
LIBRARY, from page 9

set up an appointment with a reference librarian for a one-on-one research consultation by emailing askalawlibrarian@umich.edu.

TK: I wish I had thought of that 1L/2L year. It might have saved me a good deal of needless pain and suffering. I was definitely one of those students who didn’t want to bother law librarians with inappropriate or inane requests.

I imagine that getting students to talk to you about questions they personally think are kind of stupid or irrelevant is a big hurdle to overcome. Is there a specific email address students should send questions to, or can they contact you directly?

BG & JS: Yes, as previously noted, law students should email askalawlibrarian@umich.edu. We never judge students negatively—we’ve all been there and have all felt uninformed and “stupid.” Note that we are able to help with legal research as well as research in other fields and disciplines.

TK: One last question, while we’re on the topic of mentoring and career advice. What are some tips you have for students on job interviews, internships, and starting full-time jobs?

BG and JS: In terms of job interviews, remember that you are interviewing them as much as they are interviewing you. Don’t try to be someone you’re not because you will likely be unhappy in the job if it’s not the right fit for you. Ask appropriate questions during the interview and try to get a true feel for the expectations, environment, and culture of the prospective employer.

When on the job in an internship, summer job, or full-time employment, have a pad and pen handy when you leave your office because someone might give you an assignment in an informal setting such a coffee lounge or hallway. You should ask questions when taking an assignment to be sure you understand the scope and nature of the project as well as how many hours you should spend on it. Also, ask follow-up questions to avoid going off in the wrong direction.

Questions for the RG? Email us at rg@umich.edu. Questions for the Law Library? Email askalawlibrarian@umich.edu.


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**Res Gestae to Open Career Services Wing**

by Tomek Koszylko

Not so much. But if we did, the first thing we would do is develop a job questionnaire, much like this one.

---

**RES GESTAE CAREER SERVICES QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Directions:** Please fill out the following questionnaire to the best of your ability, selecting the response that most closely matches your opinion. Please choose only one response per question.

1. **1L Year.** These questions are intended to measure your opinions during your 1L year. If you are not currently a 1L, please choose the response the most closely corresponds to the opinion you held 1L year.

1. What month did you first contact potential employers to inquire about internships or summer associate positions?
   - (A) December
   - (B) January
   - (C) February
   - (D) Tequila
   - (E) Zoloft

2. How many inquiries to employers, in total, did you make during your summer job search? An 'inquiry' includes letters, emails, phone calls, etc.
   - (A) Less than 10
   - (B) 10 to 100
   - (C) 100 to 500
   - (D) 500 to 1,000
   - (E) Fuck you I'm tired

3. Do you have a summer internship lined up?
   - (A) Yes
   - (B) No
   - (C) Not sure
   - (D) Shit
   - (E) Zoloft

4. How would you describe your OCI experience?
   - (A) Inspirational
   - (B) Constipational
   - (C) Horrifying
   - (D) Depressing
   - (E) Someone stab me please

5. How many call-back interviews did you receive from your OCI experience?
   - (A) More than 15
   - (B) 10 to 15
   - (C) 5 to 9
   - (D) Less than 5
   - (E) Die bastard die

6. How would you describe the nature of the advice you received from Careers Services or the Office of Public Service?
   - (A) Helpful
   - (B) Unhelpful
   - (C) Irrelevant
   - (D) Hilarious
   - (E) I wasn’t listening

2L Year. These questions are intended to measure your opinions during your 2L year. If you are not currently a 2L, please choose the response the most closely corresponds to the opinion you held or expect to hold 2L year.

7. Do you have a job lined up after graduation?
   - (A) Yes
   - (B) No
   - (C) Not sure
   - (D) Tequila
   - (E) Zoloft

8. Which of the following was most important in choosing between your multiple job offers?
   - (A) Money
   - (B) Location
   - (C) Area of law
   - (D) Firm prestige
   - (E) Shut the fuck up

3L Year. These questions are intended to measure your opinions during your 3L year. If you are not currently a 3L, please choose the response the most closely corresponds to the opinion you held or expect to hold 3L year.

9. Is the job you currently have the sort of job that you were expecting to get upon graduation?
   - (A) Yes, I am very happy.
   - (B) Yes, if by “expecting” you mean “I will whore out to whoever will pay my loans”
   - (C) No, but don’t tell my jerk boss
   - (D) No, but it will be a learning experience
   - (E) It’s “whomever,” not “whoever,” asshole

10. Do you feel that the Law School provided you an accurate and realistic description of your future job prospects upon graduation?
   - (A) No
   - (B) LOL
   - (C) LMFAO
   - (D) Tequila
   - (E) Zoloft
Supreme Court Roundup: Sex

by Lauren Rogal

Supreme Court justices past and present answer law students' most burning questions.

When is the appropriate time to inform my girlfriend of my VD?
—Lefty, 3L from Amarillo, TX

Scalia: Based on the text of your question, I have no idea what you are blathering on about Lefty. Have you lost control of your bowel functions and need to disclose a “Voluminous Diaper”? Have you been experimenting with a new Vodka Drink that you’d like your girlfriend to sample? Or perhaps, if you’re a real lowlife, you’ve been hiding glamour shots of that hussy Vivian Davis? The vagueness of your question completely precludes any judicial consideration.

Ginsburg: Immediately! And your terminology is obsolete, young man. This is what we get for abstinence-only education; I haven’t heard “VD” since puberty.

My boyfriend Roy and I have a great relationship, but lately he’s been begging to pee on me. I’m really not comfortable with that. What should I do?
—Fatima, 2L from Trenton, NJ

Kagan: I must recuse myself from this matter, as it too closely resembles issues I encountered as a lawyer for the federal government.

O’Connor: This dilemma clearly calls for a three-factor balancing test. The first factor is Roy’s interest in peeing on you. Yes, most of us naturally wish to try this, but does it rise to the level of an actual need? In determining this, ask whether he has any special scrotum conditions and how far he’s come in life without peeing on his partners.

The second factor is your interest in remaining pee-free. Things to consider include the effect of ammonia on your skin tone, the odor of Roy’s urine, how well he projects a nice rainbow, and intangibles such as whether it’s likely to come out at a bachelorette party.

The third factor is the likelihood that this will lead to a parade of horrible bodily fluids.

Now balance away! Remember, no single factor is more important than the others or dispositive on its own!

Who makes better lovers in your collective experience, Italians or Brazilians?
—Gabe, 1L from Minneapolis, MN, deciding where to study abroad

Roberts: This is not a forum for consideration of foreign places or peoples.

Scalia: Italians, you nitwit. Now don’t go contaminating our gene pool.

Thomas:

Kennedy: According to the recent polling figures out of Bratislava, Italian supremacy in bed is hooey, and Brazilians are more talk than toned, if you get my meaning. The definitive winner was Liechtenstein.

I have a horrible dilemma. Should I tell my husband that lately, when I’m having sex with him, I’m actually picturing the cable guy? On the up side, it may encourage my husband to work out (the cable guy’s ripped). On the down side, it may convince him to leave me for that skank Flossie from Kinko’s. Help!
—Mavis, LLM from Wales

Kennedy: It depends on the level of imagery you’re experiencing. The threshold for telling your husband is if you’re “regularly” imagining the cable guy. This is a higher standard than “often” but a lower standard than “constantly.” I hope this nuanced, graduated approach solves your problem, Mavis.

My girlfriend loves to talk dirty in bed, but I don’t feel comfortable with it. So most of our dirty talk is unilateral, and she’s dissatisfied. What should I do?
—Kody, 2L from Effingham, IN

Alito: So-called “dirty talk” is offensive to the ears of the honorable. People have the right to protection from it. Jeez Louise, first people like stomping on poor rodents with fuck-me pumps, and now this?

Why do you think there isn’t a heterosexual version of Grindr?
—Angelica, 3L from Baton Rouge, LA

Souter: I assume that “Grindr” is a new dance, a lindy hop for the millennial generation. In this case, I see no reason for its limitation to those who identify as homosexual, unless pregnancy is an imminent risk.

Sotomayor: Because the proximity of a sentient being is a low standard, missy.

Kagan: I have heard through a cousin’s friend’s sister-in-law that a lesbian version of Grindr is under development. Of course, this is mere hearsay and I have no personal knowledge of the matter.

Scalia: Always, this lack of respect for the framers! Ben Franklin invented the whole concept of Grindr.

The Justices are happy to provide more sex advice on request. Send your burning, itching questions to rg@umich.edu.
How to Build a Greener Gothic Fortress

by Lauren Rogal

Recently I had some time to chat with Michele Frasier Wing, Director of Finance and Planning at the Law School, to discuss what sort of green innovations are being implemented in constructing the new building across the street. Here is what she had to say in response to my questions.

LR: How was the plan for green construction conceived and finalized? Whom did the law school consult on this issue?

MFW: The Law School has been working for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) equivalency since the beginning of plans for the current building project. For anyone not familiar with LEED, it is a set of standards set by the U.S. Green Building Council which provide certification of the “green-ness” of a building based upon a set of standards that range from standard to “platinum” certification. It’s truly a complicated process that requires both green design and green practices in the building process. Our architects have in-house LEED experts; we have an outside consultant tracking our process and preparing documentation for us; and our contractors have an on-site expert who monitors and documents the green practices required in the construction process.

LR: What features of the new building are you proudest of in terms of promoting sustainability?

MFW: Well, it’s totally not sexy, but some of the best and most green features of the new building will be the temperature and lighting controls in the building. It is sooooo much harder to create a more sustainable temperature control system when you have such extreme temperatures to deal with (it can be a 100 degree swing in any given year)—much harder than for those in more temperate climates. We have this really sophisticated, chemical-free heating/cooling system and a lighting control system that Lois Harden, our Facilities Director, will be taking a week-long class to learn how to use. The University has also moved to green housekeeping practices, and we are using materials that are low emission. There will be a bottle filler in the basement (and we are, by the way, putting in 3 new ones in LR and Hutchins—I’m on a mission to reduce or get rid of bottled water!). We will also be using native plantings intended to thrive in this environment without much additional irrigation or chemicals.

LR: What is the timeline for obtaining LEED Silver certification?

MFW: Very smooth, Lauren...I haven’t said anything about Silver certification. Yes, we are working toward Silver. It has always been a goal and we’ve planned everything as well as we can to get there, but it’s all in the review process. You can’t ever be assured in this exercise that the way our experts see things is the same way the Green Building Council sees things, so every project, we’re told, loses points in the review. As for the timeline, I think Ross just got their silver certification in January, so it isn’t quick.

LR: How does the building compare to other U-M facilities in terms of sustainability?

MFW: I bet there is someone out there who can! Seriously, though, it can be more expensive to build a sustainable building (think how much cheaper it would be if we just threw everything out; sorting, recycling, and properly hauling things away takes money), but you make up the cost over time in energy and water savings.

Do you have any other questions not answered in this enviro-tête-à-tête? Tell us at rg@umich.edu.
Beauty and the Bite

I May Be Me, but I’m Perfectly Good at It

by Chaka Laguerre

Welcome back from Spring Break! I hope everyone had a fabulous time on the beach, at home with loved ones, or on the net. I took someone’s advice and went back, back to Jamaica, and I had a blast! Sunshine, good music, and good food! *sigh* Even though I loved the white, sandy beaches of Jamaica and wished that I could stay there forever, I just HAD to get back to all of you whom I love oh so much! (Dedication, I know.) Anyway, let’s get to the “nitty gritty” because my inbox has been flooded with questions. Coming straight from the mouth of a former beauty queen, let’s bite.

Dear RG,

It’s been difficult to fit in here. I am pretty involved in student groups and I go out now and then, but I still don’t feel popular (if that’s even possible). Any advice?

From,

Only Girl In The World

Dear OGITW,

You hit the nail on the head when you asked if that was even possible. I mean, come on, it’s law school! Can anyone really be “popular?” I think you’re already doing the right thing by getting involved in student groups. It’s a great way to meet people (nice people, obnoxious people, and those in between).

I have seen this problem time and time again, especially at small schools, where you find a self-professed “popular crew”—basically, a group of people who sit down and decided “we’re all cool” because we are all like super cool, do super cool things, at super cool places, at super cool times. Honestly, is that really what you want? At my undergrad, the kids actually made a “cool” list and a “hot” list. Are you puking in your mouth yet? I am. This isn’t high school! Superficial friendships and relationships are naught. (Beyond that, how hot are law students? Really.)

You want to develop substantive relationships and have rich experiences and fond memories. Often, you will be able to develop those friendships with people who have the same interests, or even hate the same things that you hate. Don’t worry about trying to fit into a mold of what’s “cool” or “popular.”

You would be surprised to know that some of those self-proclaimed cool kids felt the same way you do now, and this is their chance to “start over.” It is all just a front. You have to remember one thing about law students: we all think that we are the cream of the crop, whether we realize it or not. But the question you want to ask yourself is what crop? Is it the group that shares your views and cares about your interests? Perhaps it’s the group that doesn’t share your views but motivates you? Or even the group that doesn’t share your views or interests, but every member enjoys your company and you equally enjoy theirs? That’s all that should matter.

Keep doing what you’re doing—remain involved in those student groups, plan your own activities or community service projects, or run for a position so you can have more of an active role in engaging other students. Seriously, if I worried about fitting in here, then I would be doing a whole lot of worrying, and I am far from worried. I love and appreciate the friends that I have, and I am pretty sure that you feel the same way about yours. So, today, go up to your friends and let them know how much you appreciate them.

Now I just have one more thing to say: you should be ashamed of yourself for trying to be down with the “in crowd.” Girl, please! In your world, the popular crew should be where you are! Keep that philosophy, and you will always fit in.

Dear RG,

I’ve done a few things that I am not exactly proud of. I am concerned that some people may be talking about me and also starting rumors about my private life. I do not want to have a bad reputation. How do I deal with this?

Sincerely,
Lost My Tiara

Dear LMT,

Didn’t you ask the right person!? Here’s my response: who cares?

Though I would like to keep it short and sweet—since, to be honest, that really should be your attitude towards this stuff (and that’s all it really is, just stuff)—I will say more only because I love love love my readers!

Here’s my bite: you should not care about what people have to say about you. Everyone will always have an opinion, and often it is invalid, unwarranted, unsubstantiated and any other prefixed word that you would like to add. People just like to talk. Talk, talk, talk, talk, talk, talk as if there is nothing better to do. When I’m bored, I read my casebook or the Bible; go to the gym; or call my family and loved ones. But there are some that choose to talk about others instead. (Although reading the Bible is way more interesting. Just saying.)

You would think with all of this law that we have to learn, people would be too busy for this. Guess not. But do you know what the worst and perhaps the most frightening part is: those individuals falsely believe that

See BEAUTY, page 20
While the King Was Looking Down  
by Kevitt Adler

There’s a joke that used to make the rounds once a year in my undergrad dorm, about the time the frosh were doing quantum (yes, all freshmen at my undergrad learned quantum mechanics, albeit in chemistry). It goes something like this.

Werner Heisenberg’s driving down the road when a cop pulls him over. The cop walks up and asks him, “Sir, do you know how fast you were going?”

Heisenberg answers, “No, but I know exactly where I was!”

Hilarious, I know. (For the uninformed: Heisenberg’s uncertainty principle posits an inverse relationship between uncertainty in an object’s position and uncertainty in its momentum. Not that that makes the joke much better, but there you have it.)

I bring this up because I recently ran into a few related gags, slightly more apropos to the ol’ law school. To wit:

Werner Heisenberg’s driving down the road when a cop pulls him over. The cop drags him out and starts beating him. After a few minutes of taking it, Heisenberg complains, “Can’t you see this is excessive force?” The cop replies, “No, but I know exactly how fast I’m swinging this stick!”

My only qualm with this version (besides, again, the generally poor punch line) is that your average Joe might already have an idea of what “excessive force” means—and that’s just not acceptable where intellectual jokes are concerned. As much as I’d like to swap that line to “Can’t you see this violates Tennessee v. Garner?”, I think that would take away any remaining zing. And there wasn’t much to begin with.

Let me step back a bit. What’s the point? you might ask. What’s the appeal of crafting a joke no one understands? I think the answer’s in the exclusivity of the thing. Like a good inside joke you can’t help but laugh at (Number 37!), the idea that those schmucks standing right there have no idea what you’re saying makes a joke funnier. (Although bystanders might get a psychic kick out of it too—think noodle incident.)

Why is that? I’m not entirely sure. And I’m definitely not qualified to speculate. Law school’s about as clique-laden as high school, though, so if anyone gets what I’m saying it’s you guys (<3).

This one doesn’t even have the benefit of a good punch line. (If you didn’t get it, Heisenberg’s uncertainty principle can also be formulated to describe uncertainties in time and energy.) But it’s starting to bridge the gap between physics and law jokes, and that’s something I’d like to explore. So much turns on a word or a phrase. Seeing as this is already a bad joke, I don’t mind doctoring it a bit.

Heisenberg, car, etc. The cop drags him out and starts beating him. After a few minutes of taking it, Heisenberg complains, “Can’t you see this is excessive force?” The cop replies, “No, but I know exactly how fast I’m swinging this stick!”

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Anyways. I’m not sure the Heisenberg joke is salvageable, except as an ironic “Ha ha bad joke” sort of thing. (Which, admittedly, has its uses. Lots of them...)

The last bit of japery I want to look at should need no explanation.

Erwin Schrodinger’s driving down the road when a cop pulls him over. The cop walks up and says, “Sir, could I take a look in your trunk?” Schrodinger acquiesces and opens the trunk. The cop goes, looks inside, and comes back. “Sir,” he says, “did you know you have a dead hooker in your trunk?”

Schrodinger replies, “Well, I do now!”

Now that’s an absolute gold mine. E.g.:

Probable cause—Cop: Sir, is there a dead hooker in your trunk? E.S.: Well, officer, the hooker in my trunk is in a superposition of the alive and dead states, and, without our observing her, must remain so. Cop: You’re under arrest. This ain’t Copenhagen, buddy.

Chain of custody—Cop’s superior shows up. Cop: I’ll keep an eye on the hooker, boss. Sup.: Don’t worry about it. She’s in a collapsed state.

&c. I think that’s good for now. As you may have noticed, I’m not worrying too much about the lit half of law & lit. As we explore new avenues of humor, keep in mind the words of my high school driving instructor, setting off—

To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.

(I’m not a very good driver.)

Questions? Unfunny niche-specific jokes you’d like to share with Kevitt? Send him an email at rg@umich.edu.
by Sarah Zearfoss
Director of Admissions

I used to write a once-in-a-while column for the RG devoted to ridiculing the personal statements of hapless applicants. But then I got a blog, and, although that format doesn’t accommodate any personal-statement mockery, it does suck all the writing energy out of me. At the urging of RG’s graduating Web Editor Tomek Koszylko, though, I have agreed to cooperate in his vision of producing “the most amazing, insightful, funny, soul-healing issue the RG has ever seen.” Because, as he rhetorically queries, what is more soul-healing than making fun of Law School outsiders? Indeed. Yet another example of the famed Michigan Law collegiality moving me to tears. I present a mélange of mocking—a smattering of tips on what to avoid should you ever again be in the unfortunate position of writing a personal statement.

Tip one: Never, ever, ever begin by quoting Robert Frost. While Frost has an extensive oeuvre, the sole quote that I ever see is from *The Road Not Taken*—and it’s virtually always, fatally, an epigraph. You can get away with quoting something trite, but not if you think it’s momentous enough to set up your entire piece. In any event, law is not actually the road “less traveled by” in any meaningful sense. What exactly would a law school applicant be choosing between where law school is the less obvious path?

This year, my favorite use of the quote preceded a description of how law school trumped the lifestyle chosen by the applicant’s friend, who became a drug addict despite their alleged third-grade pact that neither “would drink alcohol, use drugs, or succumb to any other negative influence.” I have done no research, but is the number of people who become hopeless drug addicts actually larger than the number who become lawyers? Isn’t “drug addict” really the less traveled path? If less-traveled-ness were truly important to me, I should have admitted the friend.

**Tip two: Have a point.** I am often called upon to reassure applicants that it is not necessary to explain why exactly you want to go to law school; indeed, unless your reason is more captivating than most, you’re better off not addressing it. But that should not be understood to mean that you do not need any theme whatsoever. Likewise, while I am often very fond of the format that relays some compelling life vignette, ideally the vignette will illustrate something relevant to why I might want to admit you to law school.

One young man who failed to meet that test this year devoted almost 700 words to his first experience of naked group bathing in Japan. That was it. It was purely descriptive; no point was being made. The concluding sentence read simply: “In that moment, I felt more comfortable with myself and my surroundings, even in the presence of thirty naked Japanese men, than I had since arriving in Japan.” Okey dokey, but since we don’t have group bathing facilities in Hutchins Hall, I just didn’t care.

**Tip three: For the love of all that is decent, write in the first person.** A lovely law school admissions director, earnest and hard-working, spends lots of time reading law school applications, and she really reacts negatively to the third-person device.

People employ this device out of discomfort with writing about themselves, and I’m sympathetic. Nonetheless, whether in first or third person, you’re still writing about yourself; in the third person, though, you’re sounding ridiculous when you do it. And something about the device seems to set loose the inner narcissist; that sense of discomfort might have been an excellent check on intolerable bragging. Example:

> Once upon a time on top of a mesa...there lived a young girl named [Mary]. She lived an idyllic life...[Mary] absorbed the cultural richness that surrounded her, almost without realizing it...[Mary] loved to read, and her most feared punishment was having her book taken away. Fortunately, she was rarely punished...She learned to lead at a very young age, and she fell naturally into leadership roles throughout her youth.

Blah blah blah. Suffice it to say, she excels in sports and plans to save the world. She’ll just have to do it without a Michigan Law degree.

Alternatively, the desire for distance can lead to complete weirdness. Read the following, knowing that the last paragraph gives the big reveal that E and the author are one and the same:

> Everything in E’s life changed in an instant [on the day he was diagnosed with diabetes]. He told me his plans, his goals, his dreams...[but] his future seemed to have vanished in one second. I tried my best to reason with E, but to no avail...I knew, and he knew, that inside he was always different...[But] I told E that he was not the only person in the world with diabetes...Despite my frequent interactions with E, it took him a long time to accept and move on.

I am endlessly entertained by the part about how E and the author have “frequent interactions.” Really? Only frequent? Not, like, constant? Thank you very much for your application, Sybil, but we’re going in a different direction.

When she is not collecting awful personal statements, sharing morsels of wisdom on her “A2Z” blog, http://www.law.umich.edu/connection/a2z, admitting law students, convincing disheartened admitted law students like me that no, their application was not a mistake, and managing all her family affairs, Dean Zearfoss enjoys tearing up pictures of kittens while sipping a nice Cabernet. Comments or requests?

Email us at rg@umich.edu.
such chatter has significance. And who controls that? You do. Don’t allow the opinions of others to affect your morale and alter what you think about yourself. You should be confident in who you are and what you know to be true. You should relish the fact that there are people who care about you, love you, and do not want to hurt you—your family and friends. As long as you know that you are a good person, then all you can do is continue being a good person and that quality will manifest itself.

When you hear all that junk that’s being said, simply flip your hair and walk away. Your strength will confuse them and, sooner or later, that will be the only thing that they are left to talk about—how strong you are.

Now that’s addressing the untrue statements. As far as the rumors about things that are true but private, I can only say one thing: agency. Try not to do things that you aren’t going to be proud of. I know that it is easier said than done, but you must always think about your conduct. You should always be able to trust your friends and, if you can’t, then maybe you need to re-assess your friendships. You want to be around people who can keep your secrets. You want to be around people who will love you for who you are—flaws and all.

Remember, you are not perfect! No one is. So, don’t try to act like it (although, a girl can always strive). Don’t be concerned with what others think about you. Just keep strutting your stuff and acting like you’re the Queen of Amazing! And always remember to keep it classy. To the haters, ask one question and one question only: “You mad?”

I’ll leave you with this, stolen from Ms. Rihanna herself (with a little tweaking of course): Look in the mirror and say, “sticks and stones may break my bones, but I excite me!”

Chew on that.

Send Chaka your questions and comments at rg@umich.edu.

More APALSA Origins Banquet Pics