Jenny Runkles Banquet Celebrates Law Student Contributions

By Carla Lee

The cold, rainy weather Friday night didn’t dampen the turnout for the Women Law Students Association’s Jenny Runkles Scholarship Banquet at the Corner Brewery in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

The Banquet is the Law School’s premiere event honoring outstanding students and alumni for their significant contributions to women, law, and the law school. At the Banquet, the University awarded two scholarships to exceptional second-year law students.

The Jenny Runkles Award was established to honor the memory of Jenny Runkles, a student who was killed in an automobile accident following her second year at the Law School. Students, faculty, and administration worked together to create the memorial scholarship.

Mary Ann Sarosi, Assistant Dean of Public Service, spoke to the group about Runkles and announced the winners. When Runkles talked to someone, she made that person feel like the most important person in the room, every single time, friends and colleagues said. She was devoted to helping people.

Second-year law students are nominated for the award based on their selfless commitment to improving the Law School community and society as a whole through a demonstrated devotion to public interest and diversity. That commitment is shown through interactions with others, work with service and charity programs, and participation and leadership in various Law School programs and student-run organizations. Nominees embrace and bring together individuals regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, or other distinguishing characteristics.

This year’s nominees were Lisa Bauman, Mandy Castle, Margia Corner, Erin Opperman, Samara Schwartz, Amy Super, and Jake Weixler. The winners were Bauman and Schwartz.

Dean Sarosi read from a few of the nomination letters when she announced each winner. The letters for Bauman focused on her immigrant advocacy activities and her public interest work, which dates back to her undergraduate days. She is an editor for the Michigan Journal of Race and Law and a former contributor to DC North’s Latino page. She is the Mentorship Chair for the Organization of Public Interest Students and active in the Food Stamp Advocacy Project.

Bauman’s nomination letters called her “an example” and “inspiration to all.” When asked why she is so interested in public service legal work, she said she grew up in a diverse neighborhood and attended public school with a wide variety of people. She saw the problems that existed and it made her want to do all she could to help.

Schwartz is an FYI leader and senior judge for the Class of 2011 summer starters, a WLSA mentor, and is very active in Outlaws recruiting. She is hosting an LLM student, and works hard to bring the Law School community together through the events she plans.

Her letters focused on her devotion to giving back. “[She] is tirelessly devoted to improving the law school” and “makes herself constantly available to answer questions.”

“[She] would be lost without her,” one letter said.

Schwartz said she is “just going through the process of life” when she volunteers to do so much work, and was “in a unique position” to do so in the summer to give back to the school as one of the rising 2Ls who remained in Ann Arbor.

She doesn’t think what she’s doing is anything special. “So many people are... CONTINUED on Page 10
Letter from the Editor:

Once Every Four Years:
A Modest Endorsement

It may seem at first blush that we of the Res Gestae aren't huge fans of democracy. After all, our board is selected through a strange combination of fiat and conscription and I'm pretty sure we haven't had a vote on anything in over a decade. In fact, other than being rather enamored of Tuesdays as a general rule, there's not a lot your most local paper has in common with the democratic process in the United States.

We are further hamstrung by a University policy that dictates that we not take a stance on anything that smacks of the political... basically ever. (If snark about both candidates counts, we're screwed – see facing page.)

However, in the truest ethos of American politics – that of “do as we say, not as we do” – I speak for the editorial staff of the Res Gestae when I endorse not a person, but a concept: voting.

Speaking more personally, as an American citizen who wouldn’t have been able to vote officially until 1919, or practically until 1965, I feel that the right to have a voice in our governance is much too recent a development to have lost its luster to the daily grind of school, job applications, booze and sleeping (clearly not in order of importance). I’m troubled, then, when polls insist that the young (and, perhaps, the young at heart) aren’t among those who qualify as “likely voters.”

So I may get in trouble for this, but I have a revolutionary suggestion. For one day, Tuesday, November 4th, forget school. Seriously. Ditch. Heck, you can even tell your professors that the RG told you to (you take advantage of us, we take advantage of blind grading, everyone wins).

Of course, if you can get to your polling place, wait in line, make a reasoned, informed decision that will be instrumental in shaping the future of the nation, and get to all your Tuesday classes, then by all means, do. (And then schedule a time to come down to 116 LR to teach a mini-seminar to the staff of the RG about time management, because clearly you have your crap together in a way we could never even imagine.)

However, and I realize that I may be ripping the fabric of law school asunder by saying this, there are things more important than a day of class (as evidence I cite the beast known as the “call back” season, and the entirely anti-educational construction of same). Whatever your leanings or inclinations, we ask that you ease on down to your local purveyor of hot, fresh democratic process and get yourself a heaping serving.

But hey, what do we know? We’re just the media.

Alysha Rooks
Editor-In-Chief, Res Gestae

If you don’t vote in Michigan, you can still be involved via volunteering. If you have any questions about where or how to vote in Michigan, or how to become more involved on Election Day, please email Whitney Barkley (twabarkle@gmail.com) of MELP.
An Exercise in Redundancy:
Liveblogging a Debate in Print Media

By Nick Cheolas

9:02: And here come the candidates! In one corner, we have the Arab/family man—circle one!—Barack Obama. In the other corner, tortured by Robert E. Lee himself, John McCain.

9:03: To add to the excitement, we’re watching the CNN feed. Not only do we have the political expert scorecards, we have a group of Ohio voters who can’t figure out if they are more racist or sexist. CNN calls them “undecided voters.” They have little dials in their hands to let us know if they like or hate what the candidate is saying. Our prediction: the undecided Ohio voters will like stuff.

9:05: Barack Obama introduces himself and thanks Hofstra University, and one of the Political “experts” gives him a +1. That’s how Obama rolls.

9:07: Senator Obama is worried about “giveaways to banks” and “wasting taxpayer money.”

9:08: Barack Obama finishes by stating that we need to deal with our economy, fix our energy policy, fix our health care system and fix our education system. Then Bob Schieffer gives McCain a chance to ask Obama a question! A perfect opportunity to ask how, exactly, Obama will fix everything!

9:10: If your drinking game includes “Joe the Plumber,” you are in for a long night.

9:12: Six “Joe the Plumbers” in five minutes. The debate night drinking game is now using Draino instead of beer.

9:15: McCain: Ireland has lower corporate taxes. They also have O’Flannagan the Plumber.

9:16: Tremendous question by Schieffer, who asks how the candidates plan to reduce the deficit while promising all this fancy stuff. Obama says we’ll make money by spending $700 billion on a bailout. Schieffer has to whip McCain like a racehorse to get a straight answer.

9:21: McCain: “If you wanted to run against President Bush, you should have run four years ago.” Zing. Unfortunately, this one-liner comes as McCain claims he will eliminate the deficit in four years. False. The deficit will eliminate McCain in four years.

9:24: McCain has stood up to his party and “has the scars to prove it.” Didn’t know he was a member of the Viet Cong.

9:37: Question from William A. in Ann Arbor: If you jumped out of an airplane and your chute didn’t open, would you rather have Obama’s ears of McCain’s jowls?

9:38: We’re fencing about Ayers and ACORN and the Ohio voters have never heard of these things before in their lives.

9:40: Here comes the running mate question. McCain scores the first point by not vomiting on himself.


9:46: Schieffer goofs and says we’re going to talk about “climate control.” McCain corrects him, but Obama actually had a plan for that.

9:47: McCain: “You don’t tell countries you’re going to unilaterally renegotiate agreements with them.” Yeah, you tell them you’re going to unilaterally kick their a**.

9:48: We’re about three minutes from one of these gentlemen pledging to have our cars running on farts and rainbows by 2010.

9:53: McCain yaps about Colombian exports and then tells Obama that he should travel to Colombia to understand it better. Obama replies that he “understands it quite well.” Two points for unintentional comedy.

9:58: Schieffer asks both candidates to pick one: control health care costs or expand coverage. Obama chooses...both. Then he gazes into the camera to answer the question and turns the entire state of Ohio into putty. McCain wants fat kids to do calisthenics in the town square every morning. These will be led by Joe the Plumber.


10:02: How lucky is McCain that Obama was accosted by a plumber named Joe? What if he was chased down by a taxidermist named Bartholomew? What the hell would McCain have talked about for two hours?

10:07: Roe v. Wade time. Since I enjoy walking around Hutchins Hall without fearing for my life, I’m going to refrain from commenting and make some Easy Mac.

10:11: I wonder if Joe the Plumber eats Easy Mac.

10:12: Probably not. Obama had the government take all his Easy Mac.

10:13: McCain wants Joe the Plumber to keep his hard-earned Easy Mac.

10:14: McCain + Abortion + Undecided female voters from Ohio = Appalachian State + Toledo.

10:17: Obama wants to recruit an “army” of new teachers. In some of our schools, this isn’t such a bad idea.

10:23: Roland Martin is our “Analyst Scorecard Gunner,” chalking up 141

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The As Yet Unnamed Tech Column:

Back That Thang Up

By Greg Lavigne

If it seems like every few weeks one of your friends’ laptops craps out and results in a frantic, headlong trip down into the library to look for somebody wearing goofy glasses and a pocket protector, the RG has come to put your mind at ease. Our technology columnist, Greg Lavigne, explains in this first installment of his new column, how you can avoid being that person who needs to solicit outlines and notes and replacement porn on LawOpen because you didn’t adequately backup your computer’s hard drive.

For the generally OCD population of the law school, one might imagine regular computer backups would be second nature. However, judging from the pleading emails on LawOpen and panicked students at the local Apple store, nobody’s bothering. Backing up your computer is fairly easy, and typically just requires one purchase: an external hard drive. Most external hard drive manufacturers include backup software on the drive itself, so all you need to do is an install and a basic setup. The most efficient and practical option is a scheduled incremental backup, which will run every day at a set time and only copy the files that have changed since the last backup. Products from Seagate and LaCie get the best reliability markings, but make sure the drive you pick includes software, like the Seagate FreeAgent Desk ($129.99 for 500GB, www.seagate.com). A good rule of thumb is for your external drive to be at least 50% bigger than your laptop’s drive, a figure that is remarkably similar to the ratio of the RG’s alcohol consumption compared to the general student body.

Mac users should be happy to learn that the newest version of OS X (10.5 Leopard) includes a new feature called Time Machine that keeps a continual backup of your computer and automatically copies it to your external hard drive when you plug it in, so it requires no setup and configuration. Windows Vista Home users will find that automatic backups are not included in the operating system, and Premium users will find the system to be a bit cumbersome, so using third party software is still recommended.

If you want to have a more robust backup option, you can also purchase standalone software like Acronis True Image Home 2009 ($49, www.acronis.com) for PC, or SuperDuper! ($27.95, www.shirt-pocket.com/superduper/) for Mac. Both of these software packages let you make full copies of your computer at any given moment, which isn’t usually an option on the free offerings that come with your external drive. This is great because it allows you to plug in your backup and run your computer off a perfect copy when your computer crashes at a critical moment.

Now you have a daily backup of your computer, so when the cheap hard drive in your budget laptop crashes, your stuff won’t disappear forever. Unfortunately, you keep that hard drive in your room right next to computer, so what happens if someone breaks in and takes both your computer and your hard drive (see Francis Ford Coppola’s recent break-in) or you are struck by the endless rash of Ann Arbor house fires? Having an off-site backup solution can prevent the total loss of your files, and it’s not as hard as it sounds.

You already have access to one option, which comes as a nice little perk from the University (one of the few such perks we get). Every student has access to “IFS space,” which is basically a section of one of the University’s servers that is dedicated to student storage. Your IFS space automatically “mounts” to your desktop (sort of like freshmen at Rick’s) when you log onto one of the university computing centers on campus, but you can also access it from home on your personal laptop. Here are a couple options:

On the web: Visit mfile.umich.edu to access the files you store on your IFS space from any computer. This website allows you to upload and download files through your web browser, which is extremely convenient as it doesn’t require a separate program. There are downsides though, as you can’t upload or download more than a few files at a time, making it a rather inefficient backup system.

Via SFTP: Your IFS space can also be accessed by something called SFTP (Secure File Transfer Protocol). Basically, it allows your computer to connect to your IFS space safely from anywhere you have internet access. You will need to run a program to do this, and conveniently, the University provides free options here as well. For PC users, you can download a program called SSH Secure Shell, which will allow you to drag your important files from your computer into your IFS space. For Mac users, you can download Fugu from the University, which does the same, or you can purchase an excellent utility called ExpanDrive ($29, www.magnetk.com/expandrive), which will let you access your IFS space from within your Finder, giving you the ability to automate file backups using a backup utility. Visit http://www.itd.umich.edu/bluedisc/ for the free University downloads.

You automatically get 10GB of free IFS space for being a student, but you can purchase more from the school at $1/GB/month. However, if you are more likely to backup if you don’t have to do anything at all, there are other options available that come with both space and a backup program to automate the work for you. iDrive ($4.95/month for 150GB) is an online hard drive that comes with software to setup automatic scheduled backups that you can access from either the program or the web. For users who are looking for more features (really for owners of an iPhone), Apple’s MobileMe service ($99/year for 20GB) provides you with web and desktop access to the online hard drive space, but also allows you to wirelessly sync your iPhone (or iPod touch) with your computer. The service also comes with backup software to automate the process.

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This is Water:

If Great Literature Was Written
By Law Students

By Dave Heal

Song of the Gunner
by Walt Whitman

I raise my hand, and sing myself,
And what I assume nobody should assume,
And all I read in Hornbooks will be shared with you.

I never loaf or smoke a bowl,
I preen and gloat at my ease observing ev'ry post-hoc fallacy.

Torts class, every atom of my life,
form'd from this toil, this school.

Born here of lawyers born here from gunners the same, and their parents the same,
I, now twenty-three years old, talking begin,
Hoping to cease not till death.

Meads and nap'd drools forsaken,
Non-latin phrases shunned for what they are: plebes' language, verboten.

My ardor for precedents made, I wish to share at every hazard,
Thoughts unchecked without creative energy.

I Am Charlotte Simmons
by Tom Wolfe

Edward Terwilliger began twisting Charlotte's nipples as if they were radio dials, simultaneously palpating her soft palate with his tongue, alternately flexing and relaxing the tip with strokes in a ratio that matched the vote distribution in *Heller*.

Just then, like the Mighty Colorado at its confluence with the Green River, a wash of acetylcholine overwhelmed her synaptic cleft and she reared back like a horse frightened at full gallop. "Will you still love me tomorrow when your blood is no longer saturated with the eponymous Iced Tea from Long Island?" she asked. "I'll never keep you at arms length," he whispered. "Your five-pointed highlighter is poking me," she groaned. "I'm sorry," he said, and removed his pants.

The Law Student's Odyssey
by Homer

LEWS, speak to us now of those study techniques that assure him a top 1/3 finish after managing to suck his bank account Dry.
He came to see some undergrads' panties, maybe learn the common law.

While drunk at Rick's his spirit suffered many torments.
And he fought to buy a Shark Bowl and take some co-eds home, but though he wanted to, he could not get their digits —
They all replied and said they had no phones, the fools.
So he feasted on the burritos of Panchero,
God of Post-Bar Food — that's how was snatched away his chance of sleeping without distress. So now, son of Mass Produced Study Aids tell us his fall from glory, starting anywhere you wish.

We don't know what to tell you - we're just as continually blindsided by Dave Heal's brilliance as you are. Send accolades, flowers, or requests for other great works needing the ol' law school treatment to rg@umich.edu and make him regret that he continually sets the bar so high for himself (and the rest of us).
Students Against Right-Brain Atrophy:
Balance Your Brain With Art Class Breaks

By Carla Lee

The weather is getting colder, the sky grayer, and the days shorter. The semester is more than halfway over, and classes are picking up speed in the rush to finals. It’s the perfect time to think about classes outside of the law school, ways to tap into other parts of your brain. Sure, you’re busy. Don’t forget all the advice you’ve been given: a balanced life is a good life; be a well-rounded person, and try new activities to keep yourself happy. In other words, here are ways to take mini-classes and save yourself from being only a law student.

The Ann Arbor Art Center
http://annarborartcenter.org/
117 W. Liberty St. Ann Arbor, MI 48104

The Art Factory
220 Felch St. Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(Second facility which houses many of the classes.)

“Education. Exhibition. Exploration.”

The Ann Arbor Art Center offers classes, public exhibitions, outreach programs to fund art education, and a variety of special events. Classes are available for a range of ages (from toddlers to seniors) and talents (beginner to advanced).

The current exhibition, running through November 11, 2008, is Displaced Spirit: A Visual Journal featuring artwork from fourteen Michigan-based artists who have suffered forced displacement from their homelands, either personally or through the experience of their parents or grandparents. Mediums include gold leaf, hand painted ceramic, and egg tempera.

The Drop-In Family Workshop is a series of free workshops that explore the creative activities – art projects, music, dance, story-telling, and food – of various cultural groups. Sunday, November 9, 1–5 pm, is “Displaced Spirit: An Armenian Cultural Journey.”

Some of the adult art classes offered this fall include:

Handbuilding With Tilemaking – Clay slab, coil, and pinch methods, stamp making, bas relief and mural techniques.

Wheelthrowing 101 – Basic potter’s wheel skills – wedging, centering, forming shapes, as well as basic glazing and decorating techniques.

Raku Workshop – Traditional raku glazes, wax resist decoration techniques, horse hair and feather raku firing methods.

Color Mixing With Pastels – Still life, landscapes, and photos, techniques to layer and mix pastels.

Life/Still Life Open Studio – Still life arrangement and nude model provided each session, no instruction provided, just studio time. Passes available, or daily fee.

Animal Drawing Workshops – Partnered with Animal Kingdom Veterinarians at Copper Leaf Crossing, guided by instructor who is scientific illustrator. Animals include alligators, hissing cockroaches, and a two-toed sloth.

Jewelry Making and Metalsmithing – design concepts and basic techniques to create metal jewelry, includes sketching designs.

Beginning/Continuing Casting – Casting process from working with wax to finishing metal and attaching findings.

Painting 101 – Fundamentals of color and color mixing, still life, portrait, and landscape paintings with oil or acrylic paints.

MFIT Healthy Cooking
http://www.med.umich.edu/mfit/nutrition/cooking.htm

If cooking is your artistic outlet of choice, the University of Michigan Health System offers MFIT Healthy Cooking Classes each month. Classes are held at the Health Center, 4260 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor, in the Demonstration Kitchen, and most are taught by the MFIT Culinary Team. Vegetarian recipes included. Registration is available per person or per couple.

November: Thanksgiving Trimmings
Wednesday, November 19, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Recipes to highlight your turkey. Triple Cranberry Sauce with Citrus & Spice, Sweet Potato Casserole, Perfect Smashed Potatoes, Savory Fruit & Sausage Stuffing, Steamed Green Beans with Lemon Zest & Prosciutto, Caramelized Onion Gravy, Apple Crisp.

December: Just Desserts
Wednesday, December 3, 6:00–8:00 pm

Healthy dessert recipes for the holidays, including make-ahead strategies to reduce stress. Moist & Spicy Gingerbread Cake, Winter Fruit Compote, Cranberry Citrus Trifle, Warm Cherry Pudding Cake, Delicate Strawberry Shortcakes.

Hollander’s Decorative Paper and Bookbinding Supplies
http://www.hollanders.com/
410 North Fourth Ave. Ann Arbor MI

Located in a bright, beautiful shop in Kerrytown, Hollander’s is both a wonderful source for unique paper supplies and a great place to try new bookbinding and paper art styles through a number of workshops offered.

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Best of Law Open:

The 1L Make-Up Edition

Things You Might Not Have Seen Because You Were A Paralegal Last Year

This issue’s installment of the Best Of LawOpen comes from last fall and is the closest analog to this year’s Subway Sandwich debacle, both in the unabashed condescension of the tone and in its failure to follow the First Commandment of Writing Stuff to Other People: know your audience. In future issues we hope to provide a comprehensive guide to posting on LawOpen without being an asshole, but for now it’s enough to reproduce the email for you in all its wrongheaded glory.

But first, a bit of context: Last November, Michigan Student Assembly (MSA) President Zack Yost wrote a long and overwrought (by the conservative standards of our staid professional school) email to the entire student body in advance of the Ohio State game. In it he described all the pep-generating activities that were taking place on campus in the week leading up to the game and ended with the following paragraph, which youthful bit of breathless hyperbole seems to have viscerally offended our mystery law student:

“This is going to be one of the most memorable weeks of your Michigan experience, and on a personal note, this is the last time as a student I will see us play in the Big House. I suspect I’m not alone on this. Cherish it -- there is nothing like being a student at the University of Michigan. So let’s get fired up for a great week.”

It took the words of an undergraduate -- unashamed, unequivocal, and uncensored -- to put it all in perspective:

Going to Michigan football games is the most important thing I will ever do, the highest “privilege” I will ever receive, and everything else in life will pale by comparison. This game “transcends rankings and records” and is part of the “greatest rivalry in sports.” Being a Michigan student is “one of the greatest honors ever,” far surpassing the other paltry honors in my life -- being a son to my parents, becoming a godfather to my niece, playing the processional music at my friends’ wedding. I wonder if students at those other schools cry at the shame of their existence?

Thank you, Zack. Thank you for sending your unanticipated missive to my inbox, reminding me of what’s truly important. Thank you for reminding me that being a student is the highest form of living and that this week in Michigan football is the apotheosis of my all-too-brief time here.

What will I do next year? Or worse, Zack, this is your last year - what will YOU do next year?

Go........ Blue....... Go....... Blue........

Signed,
Random Michigan Student

But it’s not just the students. Diverse organizations such as the Michigan Student Assembly, the Alumni Association, a fraternity, and Domino’s(R) Pizza are standing shoulder-to-shoulder as never before to create a week of Go Blue gridiron goodness. Never before has a school organized itself around honoring a single football game, let alone for an entire Week of “spirit initiatives.” If only we’d had this kind of devotional demonstration at my high school!

From: RandomMichigan1L@umich.edu
To: lawopen@umich.edu
Date: November 2007
Subject: E-mails I Should Have Slept On Or At Least Thought Twice Before Sending

Fellow Law School Students,
In law school, sometimes I lose perspective. There are times when I think that my studies, my future career, or my personal relationships are the most important things in my life.

But tonight’s e-mail from Michigan Student Assembly President Zack Yost (forwarded below) put everything in perspective. Crystal-clear, ***blue-and-maize-tinted*** perspective.

The most important thing in life is football. And not just football. Michigan football. And not just Michigan football, but this week in Michigan football, that was taking place on campus in the week leading up to the game and ended with the following paragraph, which youthful bit of breathless hyperbole seems to have viscerally offended our mystery law student:

“...and finally this: this is going to be one of the most memorable weeks of your Michigan experience, and on a personal note, this is the last time as a student I will see us play in the Big House. I suspect I’m not alone on this. Cherish it -- there is nothing like being a student at the University of Michigan. So let’s get fired up for a great week.”

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Given the number of problems the team is having, we’re not sure if this LawOpen post has actually aged better than ever expected, becoming contextually funnier, or if it’s all that much more disheartening. Regardless, we have no idea what Zack is doing this year, but we imagine it involves a dark corner, a bottle of scotch, and a tattered maize and blue blanket. Got a LawOpen post you want to see cast into the fires of ignominy? E-mail us at rg@umich.edu. Want to write a sports column, ranting optional? Earn Rooks’ undying gratitude at rg@umich.edu.
Between the Briefs:

**OH ST § 2950**

When Sex Doesn’t Sell

By Rooks

There are few fundamental truths in this world. Bears generally crap in the woods, the Pope tends toward Catholicism, pretty much everyone dies, multiple choice finals are rarely as easy as they sound, Chmerinsky probably knows more ConLaw than you do, and Americans are completely bipolar about sex. These are the things we think we know for sure.

Sex writers are obviously confronted most often with that last one. The nation’s attitude toward sex spins more quickly than the overhead lights in your bathroom after a night at PJ’s (though the constant cycle between titillation and Puritanism might be equally nauseating); in the best of times, this is merely readily evident. Of course, what with an election right and economic implosions surfacing like a never-ending supply of Poptarts™ from a toaster, we’re hardly at our Dickensian finest. Unsurprisingly, the financial fallout has had implications for the sex industry too. Many famous, fabulous sex writers have gotten the shaft recently — most notably Tristan Taormino of the Village Voice — long-standing, informative, and generally awesome articles gone suddenly, possibly never to be seen again.

So you may’ve noticed I was AWOL last week. Some may chalk this up to my unbelievably selfish desire to sleep rather than give y’all your bi-weekly dose of sex randomness, and those incredibly cynical people might have a point, but I prefer to think of it as a moment of solidarity with my fellow columnists… that I spent sleeping. (After all, it’s not like I’m going to fire myself.) So while I’m busy being drunk on power, join me in pouring one out for the sex writers of America. (You don’t have to spill too much — from the callback/job offer horror stories I’ve been hearing, folks are going to need all the alcohol they can get. Happy, healthy, mildly intoxicated lawyers — that’s Michigan Law.)

But how is any of this relevant? Sex writing clearly isn’t the backbone of the sex industry. (It’s not even the clitoris of the sex industry… maybe more like the ear? Sensitive and close to the brain, but not exactly what most people would classify as a primary erogenous zone.) Despite a certain news source with a penchant for grossly inappropriate headlines (yeah, yeah, pot kettle, I know) reporting otherwise, sex work itself, much like other industries, is taking a spanking (and not in that good way).

Everyone, from stripclubs in New York to legal brothels in Nevada, is feeling the pinch, but unlike more legitimized industries in the US, there’s no economic bailout on the horizon. Of course, it’s not like people are going to stop having sex, even if they stop paying quite so much for it. ( Heck, folks may even have more sex, generally — orgasm is possibly the world’s cheapest high.)

So if there is hope for the sex, and those involved in the myriad industries that have built up around it, the possibly mercurial lining is apparently coming from a pretty unlikely ally — politics.

Don’t believe me? You might if you went to either the DNC or RNC earlier this year. Both Denver and Minneapolis sex workers credited the political conventions with a spike in business, and various bloggers had the craigslist ads to prove it.

Politicians paying for and/or seeking sex is pretty old news though. (Not entirely unexpected really, since people generally have sex and occasionally pay for it, and common comedic fodder notwithstanding, politicians are people too.) More interesting are the more esoteric examples of sexual healing, or at least mainstreaming, being proffered in the political realm.

One obvious example is Prop K, a San Francisco ballot initiative that would decriminalize sex work in the city. Clearly San Francisco, with the Castro, the Folsom Street Fair, and law firms calling things like MoFo (on purpose!), has long been regarded as a front runner of sexual acceptance, but a similar ballot initiative in neighboring Berkeley, generally regarded as even more wildly liberal than S.F., lost by a significant margin (27%) only four years ago. Berkeley’s Measure Q didn’t even decriminalize prostitution — it just asked that the city relegate enforcing California’s anti-prostitution laws to the lowest possible priority. (Actually that could have been the tipping point — I can just imagine the fight in Ann Arbor were there any effort to supplant pot at the low end of the totem pole.)

Another indicator that in some ways American opinions might be shifting position (missionary to reverse cowgirl in under a decade) is the news coverage itself — since when did anyone care if the sex industry was suffering? Despite the adage that sex sells, non-sensationalistic sexual reporting can be pretty hard to come by, and though there have been a not insignificant number of “ZOMG!!!1111!!eleven!!” type stories, there’ve still been some accurate and, dare I say it, refreshingly bland stories about sex from traditionally “vanilla” new sources. (As opposed to the RG, which is… raspberry pecan swirl.) (If that’s a real ice cream flavor, I’m a little disgusted, I think.)

This doesn’t mean that, money woes notwithstanding, things are all lollipops ‘n’ muffintops in the land of sex; legal policy, in my opinion, remains a rather
The Food Court:

By Michaela Tarr & Liz Crouse

Now that the RG has officially informed us that we are currently in a recession, your two intrepid RG foodies have risked their waistlines to bring you this Recession Special. With rumbling stomachs and eyes on the bottom line, we ventured around Ann Arbor noshing our way through the cheap eats so that you too can save a couple bucks at lunch.

First up was Za’s (615 E. University), where the cheapest item is the spaghetti with marinara ($3.99). But arguably the best deal is the “Create your own”-style pasta ($5.49). Choose a pasta type, a sauce, and four toppings, and get a plate of carbo-loading goodness with a side of “garlic” bread (light on the garlic, but not bad, either). We liked the spicy marinara (a little too much sauce, but hey, it’s extra vitamin A) with Italian sausage (counts for two toppings on its own), basil, and garlic.

The soda cups at Za’s are durable enough to take home and wash up for your rum and coke à la Lawyers Club later that night. For coffee maniacs, Za’s gets major points for their coffee—just pick your roast, and they grind it and brew it for you. If you’re easily confused (i.e., tired and disoriented), the set-up is a little unusual: there are four menus (pasta, pizza, salads, sandwiches) and you choose what you want, then circle what you want, then take it to the cash register. After you’ve paid, you sit by the order window until they call your name.

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Down the street is Red Hot Lovers (629 E. University), a hot dog place suitably outfitted with grease and eau de spicy beef. The cheapest dog is $1.25 for a relatively unremarkable boiled/steamed hot dog heartily endowed with bun and two condiments (you choose). But add $1.90 for a pile of gorgeous waffle fries ($3.99 for chili cheese!). Or for $4.60 you get scrumptious Italian sausage with peppers and onions. The cheap dog was pretty underwhelming, but the crowd, which occupied nearly every seat in the place during a fall-break Monday, indicates this is a must-try place.

One of the few restaurants we agree on is Pita Kabob Grill. Everything on the menu at Pita Kabob Grill (619 E. William), a tiny storefront up State Street, is fairly inexpensive (under $6). But for filling a hungry belly, we are most fond of the lamb kafta kabob ($4.99) or the spicy eggplant-feta wrap ($4.49 & vegetarian). Both are packed with flavor and much more filling than they look. And yes, duh, they have falafel and tabbouli, also under $5. It’s generally a good idea to get there early for lunch as the tiny shop fills up fast.

A couple blocks away, the Jamaican Jerk Pit (314 S. Thayer Street) has the cure for your sweet potato fry cravings. The fries are delish (and just three blocks from the law school!) and a bargain for $2.50. Or try the plantain fries for the same price. While you’re there, try one of the patties—either beef or jerk chicken in flaky pie crust-like pastry ($3.00). Farther afield are some other tasty morsels.

Bagel Fragel (1754 Plymouth Road) is the home of a true Ann Arbor original, the fragel. The fragel is the stuff of pure genius: cinnamon raisin bagel dough, shaped into a bagel, deep-fried, and then dredged heavily in cinnamon sugar. This chewy fried dough is better than a donut any day of the week and deadly for any diet. All that indulgent goodness comes for just 89 cents!

Another deal worth the field trip is the number 8 breakfast at Mark’s Midtown Coney Island (3586 Plymouth Road in the Busch’s shopping center). For $4.75 ($4.10 Monday through Friday mornings until 11) you can feast on 2 dinner plate-sized pancakes or slices of French toast, 2 eggs, and your choice of bacon, sausage, or thinly sliced ham. Nothing fancy, just good, old fashioned diner grub for a very reasonable price.

And, needless to say, our own Law School Snack Bar (do you really need directions?) is a gem. What more can we say about $1 grilled cheese (delightfully oozing American cheese slices embraced by crispy balloon bread), split and fried hotdogs for $1.25, and those delish sausage works breakfast sandwiches for $2? It’s clearly the parsimonious legal scholar’s first choice, and we won’t tell lawopen that you were reading Perez Hilton while downing your cheesy morsel.

Michaela and Liz really hate to eat on a budget, but we’re glad they made it happen for at least a couple of weeks. Get ‘em while they’re hot at rg@umich.edu.

Presidential Debate

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points between the two candidates. David Gergen, who has spent the entire debate watching YouTube videos, clocks in with 10 points.

10:27: McCain closes with an incomprehensible voucher joke that only he laughs at. That was 7th grade dance awkward.

10:30: And we have our closing statements. Now all I have to do is decide what name I’m going to write in on my absentee ballot.

Nick Cheolas was probably on Draino when he recently decided to join the RG staff, but we’re going to continue to take advantage of him, regardless. Reach us with comments at rg@umich.edu.
Jenny Runkles Winners

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qualified to be nominated,” she said. “Qualified to win. They don’t even think they’re giving back [by helping a fellow student find a book in the library or answering a question in the hall], but they are.”

Even in conversation, Schwartz doesn’t focus on herself. She answered questions by turning the discussion to what other people are doing, to the passion and enthusiasm of the current 1L class, and to the activities of her various groups.

The Keynote Speaker was Jen Salvatore, an employment litigation attorney in Ann Arbor who specializes in gender discrimination and sexual harassment and has a distinguished background working for women’s rights in both public and private spheres.

She graduated from the Law School in 1997 and was a finalist in the Campbell Moot Court Competition and an editor for both the Journal of Gender & Law and the Journal of Law Reform.

Between 1999 and 2001 she served as the first recipient of the Polikoff/Gautreaux fellowship for Public Interest Lawyers at Business & Professional People for the Public Interest, a prominent law and policy center based in Chicago. During that time, she helped create the Young Women’s Leadership Charter School of Chicago, a public all-girls school; organized a design competition for new Chicago public schools; and crafted a legal challenge to exclusionary zoning in Chicago’s suburbs.

She spoke about the importance of doing good work and making the clients happy; but she also emphasized personal happiness, and advised the gathering to figure out what kind of work makes them happy and do it.

Don’t be afraid to switch jobs and make your own opportunities, she said. “No one will hand you the perfect job, you must go out there and create it.”

The Corner Brewery is a large building in an out-of-the-way location. WLSA reserved one side for the Banquet, which almost wasn’t enough room for all the attendees. Unfortunately, the Corner Brewery doesn’t offer a private room, and the noise from the other, public side, though negligible at first, was a problem later in the evening, when it became too loud to hear the speakers, who did not have a sound system.

Despite the technical difficulties, the 2008 Jenny Runkles Scholarship Banquet provided an evening of interesting conversation, the chance to learn from intelligent and engaging speakers, and the opportunity to recognize some of the hardworking students at the Law School.

Congratulations to the nominees, the winners, and to WLSA for putting on another success.

If you’d like to learn more about Jenny Runkles, or the yearly banquet and scholarship that honor her memory, please contact the Women Law Students Association.

Back It Up

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So get cracking on that backup before your hard drive crashes and you lose your extensive Whitney Houston MP3 collection, or risk being forced to take time from your frantic job scramble to desperately search BitTorrent sites for a copy of “I Will Always Love You” – face it, no other ding letter music will do.

Sometimes even we at the RG run out of ideas, so if you’ve got a fabulously clever suggestion for the title of our newest column, a regular technology feature, email us at rg@umich.edu. Or, if you, being a reasonable person, are justifiably afraid of being judged by a jury of your peers, email the EIC personally at aerooks@umich.edu. We’ll give you credit where credit is due, honest.

Art Class

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throughout the year. Prices and necessary supplies vary. Samples of the upcoming workshops include:

Felt and Leather Books Workshop
Saturday and Sunday, November 1 and 2, 9:00 - 5:00 and 10:00 - 5:00
Cost $245

The workshop is based on a 15th century historical structure for felt and leather books with vellum spines, and can be used for both lace and case bindings, as well as most sewing styles.

Wood Engraving Workshop
Tuesdays, November 4, 11, 18, and 25, 6:00 - 9:00
Cost $155

Open to beginning and continuing students, the class will teach the drawing process, how to transfer the image to a block, and the actual engraving and proofing. Printing will be done on the Vandercook press.

Washi Egg Ornaments Workshop
Sunday, November 23, 1:00 - 3:00
Cost $38

The workshop will use traditional Japanese techniques to cut washi and other decorative papers and use rice paste to cover hollowed egg shells. Finished ornaments are quite strong, though they appear delicate.

From ceramics to food to book binding and beyond, Ann Arbor offers classes for nearly every artistic taste. Take yourself outside the law school for a couple hours and learn a new skill. The learning doesn’t have to stop outside the hallowed halls of Hutchins - plus it will be a lot of fun.

Carla Lee wants you to stay sane - email her your best anti-law school tips at rg@umich.edu.
Selling Sex

and makes pretty much any information a sex offender is required to provide to the state a matter of public record that is mandatorily disseminated. Yet the majority opinion of State v. Ferguson insists that the measures in question are merely remedial, not punitive.

The intellectual slight of hand here is mindboggling to me. Though I realize that arguing against sundry incarnations of Megan’s Law isn’t a very popular position (and ignoring the rather relevant argument that sex offender recidivism rates aren’t meaningfully different than those for any other crime), just about everything about this ruling, and let’s face it, this law, goes against the Don’t-Piss-On-My-Back-And-Tell-Me-It’s-Raining school of judicial analysis to which I personally subscribe. (I got my degree online and so can you!)

The dissent appears to agree that the seeming misdirection being applied in the ruling is troubling (note especially the dueling discussions of retroactivity and clear proclamation of legislative intent if you decide to check the opinion out: http://www.supremecourtofohio.gov/rod/docs/pdf/0/2008/2008-Ohio-4824.pdf), and that good intentions do not necessarily good law make.

So if you were thinking of making some “home videos” and staring an amateur porn website with your sectionmates to better keep afloat (read: pay off your beer tab) in these dire economic times, I strongly advise you film north of the border – “pandering obscenity” in Ohio just isn’t worth giving every Buckeye your home address in perpetuity.

In an interesting, but unquestionably timely, segue, next week’s column will, by special request, address the question of conjugal visits. If you’ve got a request or question for Rooks, email her at aerooks@umich.edu or, for greater anonymity, pendaflex her in the dead of night. (Actually that sounds pretty dirty - getting pendaflexed.) Regardless, she won’t judge.

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Law School Events

Thursday, October 30

Faculty Blue Jeans Lecture - Professor David Uhlmann (LSSS) - LSSS presents the first monthly Faculty Blue Jean Lecture of the year! Professor David Uhlmann, Director of the Environmental Law and Policy Program, will present a casual lecture open to all students. Even if Environmental Law isn’t your life's ambition (which it should be), Professor Uhlmann always promises an interesting and enjoyable discussion. Come learn what he’s been working on! 3:45 - 5:00 PM; 220HH.

Wednesday, November 5

1L Job Search & Resume Review (APALSA) - Hear insight from 2Ls and 3Ls about how to get a job after your first year of law school. Upperclassmen will talk about their experiences in finding firm jobs, public interest work, judicial clerkships, and opportunities abroad. Dinner will be served. 6:00 PM; 120HH.

Job Panels (OPIS) - Summer Job Panels with students covering 4 main topics: International, Government/Judicial Clerkships, Criminal, and Special Interests, November 5th, 11th, 18th, 25th. 12:20 - 1:20 PM; 150HH.

Thursday, November 6

“Author Talk” with Ehud Guttel, Visiting Professor at Duke Law (Michigan Law Review) - Professor Ehud Guttel will discuss his forthcoming article on the role of “uncertainty” in all areas of the law. Lunch will be served! 12:20 - 1:20 PM; 150HH.

Summer Job Panel (OUTlaws) - Join students discussing summer job opportunities; lunch will be provided. 12:20 - 1:20 PM; 218HH.

Friday, November 7

Law and Economics of Drug Development Symposium (MTTLR) - The Michigan Telecommunications & Technology Law Review will be hosting scholars from around the country to discuss emerging issues in the law and economics of drug development. All students and faculty are welcome to attend. 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM; 100HH.

Monday, November 10

Abigail Alliance v. Eschenbach (MHLO) - Peter Jacobson, Professor of Health Law & Policy, will discuss Abigail Alliance v. Eschenbach. The case, which held that terminally ill patients do not have a constitutional right to obtain drugs that have not received final FDA approval, raises profound legal and policy questions regarding the drug approval process and access to unapproved therapies. 12:20 - 1:20 PM; 150HH.

Case Notes!

Submit your visual/creative/just plain wacky representations of prominent cases to rg@umich.edu - you could end up published!

By Arnie Medley

By Eric Mao

Can you name these cases? Above is a Torts imminent danger case, while left is the Res Gestae’s first ever non-Torts Case Notes - a famous ConLaw case featuring commerce powers. Answers on pg. 2!