The End of an Era:

A Blue Jean Lecture with A.W. Brian Simpson

By Sarah Alex Bennett

Professor A.W. Brian Simpson says that institutions - boarding school, the British army, and academia - have made him the person he is today. It is not surprising, then, that to his students, colleagues, and friends at Michigan Law, he is an institution. As the two institutions of Michigan Law and Professor Simpson prepare to say goodbye to one another, the latter took some time on November 20th to share some “Anecdotes From an Academic Odyssey” with well over 100 students, colleagues and friends at the most well-attended LSSS Blue Jeans Lecture in recent memory.

The whimsical and light-hearted tone of the Blue Jeans Lecture was reminiscent of a typical Professor Simpson Property lecture, and indeed many audience members were either IJKL 1Ls or EFGH 2Ls who of his boyhood days in the small village where he grew up were of family funerals. At the end of the funeral, the lawyer would always show up and the young Simpson was impressed with how much power this character wielded. It seemed that as soon as the lawyer came around “in his fancy suit,” chaos would often erupt as the inevitable will disputes arose. The attorney was the one managing this chaos and directing the resolution of these disputes, and thus a seed was planted in the young Simpson’s mind. To him it was clear that knowledge of the law was a tool that carried with it great power.

Before beginning his formal study of the law, however, Professor Simpson first had a very interesting career in the British army. At 19, an age at which most of us were busy trying to figure out how much debauchery we could get away with and still get good enough grades to be accepted at a top law school, Simpson describes himself as in charge of a group of Nigerian soldiers. He says he has many “happy memories” of his time in Nigeria, and he even shared some of the soldiers’ “obscene marching chants” with the audience members at the lecture.

He then described his time in law school at Oxford, and this part of his story makes it clear that some things will never change. Simpson’s memories of lots of partying, imperfect attendance, and falling asleep during lectures make current tales of debauchery at Rick’s or the Halloween party seem on in comparison. Since law school, Simpson has spent 19 years as a law professor at schools ranging from Oxford to the University of Ghana to the University of Chicago, which he claims was so intense he always felt like lying down by 6 o’clock.

Simpson told his story chronologically, starting with an explanation of how he became interested in the law in the first place. He explained that some of his most vivid memories of his boyhood days in the small village where he grew up were of family funerals. At the end of the funeral, the lawyer would always show up and the young Simpson was impressed with how much power this character wielded. It seemed that as soon as the lawyer came around “in his fancy suit,” chaos would often erupt as the inevitable will disputes arose. The attorney was the one managing this chaos and directing the resolution of these disputes, and thus a seed was planted in the young Simpson’s mind. To him it was clear that knowledge of the law was a tool that carried with it great power.

CONTINUED on Page 25
Hey y’all-

We’re back!

Sure, this is true in the “new year, new attitude” sense, but the RG is back in a more practical way as well. For instance, you may’ve noticed that you haven’t seen a Res Gestae in awhile - this is because, in early December of 2008, the RG computer, Edith, decided to eat itself and subsequently self destruct rather than face the prospect of another day (don’t worry, the whole affair was more whimper than bang). Since it was finals and all, we couldn’t exactly blame her, but Edith’s untimely demise did leave the RG staff in a bit of a bind.

Thankfully, the nice folks in the IT department (shout out!) were able to recover pretty much everything; this issue is made up of articles both from The Lost Issue of December ‘08, as well as content developed since then.

So what awaits in 2009? Y’ all probably don’t care about our office cleaning party, though 116 LR has never looked so purty, but there are a number of changes in RG publication and distribution that will be phased in over the course of the semester.

--In an effort to save money, the RG will be cutting distribution by a quarter for our next issue. This change will affect the faculty more than the students, as the RG will institute an opt-in policy for faculty members who wish to have their paper delivered in order to maximize the number of issues available to students.

--The much-awaited website launch will also occur this year - we hope to have a rudimentary version available as quickly as possible, with improvements being made over the course of the semester. Keep an eye out!

--Speaking of redesigns, the Res Gestae is approaching its diamond anniversary, as the beginning of the ’09 school year will mark our 60th year of publication. And to commemorate three score years of MLaw journalistic insanity, we’re... redesigning the entire paper! (I know, it’s a funny way of celebrating, but we had a vote and “ritual casebook sacrifice” took a distant second.) The new, more modern, paper design will be ready to roll in September of 2009, just in time for the first issue of the 2009-2010. If you have any suggestions, of course, please feel free to let us know at rg@umich.edu.

Exciting times, right? So exciting you want to work for the paper? We thought you might feel that way, so a Res Gestae general body meeting will also be forthcoming. In the mean time, we hope y’ all are as pleased about these changes as we are, and we look forward to keeping each of you updated on all the MLaw news that’s fit to print in the coming months.

Rooks
Your Friendly Neighborhood Editor-In-Chief
Tax Deductions and Missed Connections: 
Public Interest Lawyers Seek Love (and Wallets)

By The MLaw Public Interest Student Community

A common misconception is that public interest law students aren’t in it for the money. Au contraire, being able to cast off vicuna wool sweaters to Goodwill is exactly why we came to law school. We’ve just figured out a different path into Colbert Platinum membership. And that path runs right to (through) you. So take out your customized GoldVish iPhones and send a dinner-at-Tetsuya’s invite to your favorite public interest charity case. After all, charity begins at home...specifically in the bedroom.

Starry-eyed government lawyer seeks her corporate counterpart. I enjoy romantic candlelit dinners, long walks on the beach and nights at the ballet... none of which I can afford without your largesse. My ideals are big, but so is my student debt.

International human rights lawyer looking for partner with ability to purchase plane tickets to exotic locations. Your perks will include staying in 5-star hotels while I represent the trafficked individuals on whose back said hotel is run. Interest in purchasing carbon-footprint offset credits (on your limitless line of credit) a plus.

Underfunded future public defender seeks abundant source of sugar. Will accept trophy husband applications if applicant has promising inheritance prospects. In return, I will spend the rest of my waking days fighting every parking ticket or possession charge you get.

Bespectacled, de-mustached, tree hugging, susceptible to photo- (and video-) synthesis, looking for someone to fell his forest, with a platinum-plated, diamond-toothed chainsaw.

---

Sexy reproductive rights lawyer looking to exercise hers. ISO private sector sugar daddy. Misogynists and missionaries need not apply.

Defender of the oppressed seeks morally flexible big spender for quick economic stimulus. I have miles and miles of moral high ground available; it’ll be just you, me, and our commingled assets. Location, age, gender, and integrity negotiable; your bank statement gets mine, and we’ll see what happens from there.

Academia minded egghead seeks same for commingling of woes, sack cloth, and crap salaries. Willingness to support her through grad school a major plus; open to reciprocal arrangement. Prudes need not apply.

---

Jet-setting human rights lawyer seeks worldly multilingual husband with elite status for all 5 star airlines’ mileage programs or even better, a private jet. Must enjoy fine dining, heavy drinking, occasional or not so occasional danger, conflict-free diamonds, Italian fashion, and have nothing better to do than follow me to the ends of the Earth and foot the bills. Dual (or more) citizenship and West African beachfront property a plus. On-the-run criminals of the non-war-crimes variety welcome.

Artsy city girl, prescreened by the government and into crime and punishment seeks big firm lawyer by day/deep thinking literary lefty type guy by night. We can go on indie rock concert dates and spend fun evenings in playing word games. Working knowledge of feminism theory a plus.

Indigent defendant-loving west coast transplant seeks New York City bound true gentleman with VIP status at all Michelin restaurants. Must be willing to visit the outer boroughs and put up with calls at all hours of the night. Conviction and arrest records welcome.

Manolo-loving immigrant rights lawyer seeks companionship of the male variety. Wealth (and a walk-in closet) required; warmth and compassion, not so much. Non-US citizens welcome—you provide the dollars, I’ll provide the green card!

Diminutive public defender seeks taller and wealthier half. I’ve got a taste for luxury and need someone who can provide and reach top-shelf goods.

Beans-and-rice subsisting environmental lawyer seeks remorseless industry insider to rationalize and finance her desire for veal, foie gras, chilean sea bass, and other not-PC foods. Baby eating okay, but no offal consumption allowed.

Voting-rights loving and democracy defending 3L keeping a blue eye out for a corporate-minded, firm employed sugar daddy. With your money and my soul, we’ll be like one real person!

Loyal NYer seeks a strong, handsome, financial shield to help sustain the shock of her city’s cost of living (surviving?) upon her return. Attractions: roofed dwellings, closet space, and the occasional undiscounted meal out (Restaurant Week applies). Personal car not required, but are willingness to share your extra Metrocards is (should the “insufficient fare” message strike).

Tree-hugging liberal elite seeks vinegar to his baking soda. Gaia is a generous and bountiful mother, but I’m a lawyer not a farmer. ME: Earnest, compassionate, communist. Love the good life. Vegan, except for processed pig products. YOU: Easily amused, RICH!!! Disease-free a plus, but not required.

In an ideal world, you’d love your job And I’d be able to pay my law school debt.

CONTINUED on Page 25
**A P.I. Into Public Service**

**By Nate Kurtis**

With the beginning of December came many things: the falling of leaves, the ravens returning to the Law Quad, that first HUGE snow storm that made us wonder why we picked a school in Michigan, and, of course, the opening of 1L recruiting season. (Shhh! Be wavy quiet. We’re hunting 1Ls!) [Umm, actually, we are. –Eds.]

By now, most students are relatively familiar with the Career Services Office and law firm expectations. However, there is a sizable chunk of students who have decided to take a different approach. These are the public services students who hope to work in government or public interest roles, both this coming summer and into the future. Now, the rest of us may laugh at their expense as we sip our wine and eat our law firm caviar, but remember: these are the students who will one day be running the government, among many other things! Thus, in the interest of better understanding our future leaders and regulation-makers, the RG sent me, a joint-degree business student going into corporate law, to speak with MaryAnn Sarosi, the Assistant Dean of Public Service, to find out just what public interest and government work is all about, and how our compatriots will be seeking said employment.

*Res Gestae*: Can you please tell me everything there is to know about Public Service at the University of Michigan Law School? And, in the interest of full disclosure, I’m about the farthest thing from a public service type they could have asked to write this so...

**MaryAnn Sarosi**: So put it in terms you can understand?

**RG**: Yes! Maybe that’s the point of sending me: This could be the Idiot’s Guide to Public Service stuff.

**MAS**: Well, you’ve been around a while so you have some sense, but most of the people haven’t been around to really get a grasp of what has been going on over the last four years here. I think Caminker started his first term as dean a year before he hired me, so we’ve been here roughly concurrently. And, in that time, in that four years since I’ve been in this office, we’ve created the Dean’s Public Service Fellowship, we’ve got funding for the Sonnen-Schein Scholars Program, the Perry Watkins Fellowship, and we started the Public Service Guarantee, which is for second year law students who want to do public interest work or government work, we guarantee that they will have a $5000 stipend for the summer. Not the law firm $80 Million over the summer, but it is a decent amount of money unless you’re living in London or New York. Second year is that critical summer when you decide which direction you’re going in; and, given the tuition costs and the other pressures on students, they often feel that they come in with the idea that they want to do public interest work or government work – public service, generally speaking – but they are pulled in the other direction because they feel this burden of finances. The lure of having $30,000 over the course of a summer and socking some of that away to pay for tuition is awfully attractive. So, we put the Public Service Guarantee into place, and the other funding sources into place, to support those students who want to do this kind of work. All that funding has gone into place over the last couple of years.

We’ve put additional staffing into this office under my tenure and Caminker’s tenure. With the addition of Amy, and, it’s a behind the scenes thing, but we’ve changed the role and the structure of Jackie Julien who is the office manager of our office. It was, before, just an administrative assistant position. So, those things translate into more services for the students who want to do public interest or government work. There’s been a ton of resources put into the website, a lot of it password protected just so that Michigan Law students can see it, to help students going in to navigate the public interest and government world – to help them get access to jobs, summer career positions, opportunities. One example is: a very common way for students to get into public interest work is by pursuing a post-grad fellowship, usually a one or two year fellowship that is funded by an outside source, and we created a whole library of materials called the Fellowship Library, put it in a password protected part of the site, and it comes complete with about 30 or 40 successful fellowship applications that alumni have used to apply to fellowships. That is amazing amounts of resources for students pursuing public interest work. It’s different from walking to a hotel room, interviewing with a law firm, and getting a job. It takes a lot of diligence and persistence and tenacity to get a public interest job or a government job, and yet we have a ton of students who want to do it here and at other schools so clearly there is something attractive about those positions.

**RG**: Before we go any further, could you just orient me as to just what Public Service entails? Maybe put a three or four second structure on all of this for me?

**MAS**: Well, there are two main subsets, government and public interest, so those are the two main branches that we talk to students about. Obviously within government, federal, state, local, you can go on for more than three million seconds about it. Public interest is non-governmental organizations, so that can span almost any subject matter...maybe not antitrust, but almost every other subject...
Who Do I Have to Kill to Get A Halloween Ticket Around Here?

By Tomek Koszyliko

Scene: Large cavernous club, bouncer at door, variously decorated Halloween partiers inside.

Guest: Hi—can I come in?
Bouncer: Do you have a ticket?
Guest: No. I couldn’t get one. But you can let me in, right?
Guest: But this club is so big! Please let me in!
Bouncer: Piss off. You’re not getting in.
LSSS Über-Person: What’s the ruckus? I heard a ruckus.
Bouncer: This little nobody wants to get in without a ticket.
Guest: But I’m a law student! I want to go to the Halloween party!
LSSS Über-Person: I’m sorry. You both mistake me for somebody who cares.

Curtain falls, hitting guest on head and knocking her unconscious.

This moment of Kafkaesque absurdity illustrates some of the student sentiment about this year’s Halloween party, how LSSS responded to the demand for tickets, and how students felt they were treated when they voiced disapproval to their senators. In grand law student fashion, I will endeavor to prove that this view is both right and wrong.

In an attempt to be pseudo-scientific, I decided to put together a survey that gathered popular sentiment about this year’s (and apparently, every year’s) Halloween shenanigans. I now proceed to present my raw data.

First, the responses came from sixteen students in total. This means that the results are not even laughably statistically significant. But perhaps only the people that really, really cared decided to respond. Which would make the results slightly more significant that objective numbers would tell. In any case, I tell you this information now, because after this paragraph I will blindly follow my numbers with no further reference to whether they are supportable or not. I am not a statistician, and if you are, please don’t tell me how bad my science is. I already know.

OK, back to the data. When asked how you thought LSSS managed this year’s Halloween party, you responded pretty evenly: 31% of students were happy with LSSS’s handling of the tickets, 31% thought LSSS did decently well, and the remaining 38% thought that LSSS unacceptably botched the job. When asked whether LSSS should have known to provide more tickets, students were generally favorable: only 12% of respondents thought the ticketing was “an absolute fiasco,” whereas roughly 40% thought the ticketing was just fine, and another 40% thought that LSSS did decently well but could have done better.

Unsurprisingly, more than 80% of respondents said that they would have handled the ticketing situation differently. Yes, we have egos here and we think we know how to do things better than others. It naturally follows, therefore, that we feel like we can personally manage projects better than other people. But armchair quarterbacking is very different from actually getting on the field. I, too, think I would have done things differently vis-à-vis Halloween party ticketing, but the fact of the matter is that I am more than happy to sit on my duff and allow others to deal with these problems.

That said, many people in the law school feel that, in response to student complaints about the Halloween party, LSSS just cranked up the volume on their iPods and ignored the problem completely. This, I think, is a little unfair to LSSS. I spoke with Sarah Gleich, the LSSS president, to get a better sense of how these events are put together. This is what I learned: LSSS is made up of students who are just as good and bad at throwing parties as you and I am. It’s an ongoing battle to determine what the proper demand for tickets is, and how much to charge for these tickets. Some facts are in order.

The Ghost of Halloweens Past

Every year, it seems that the Halloween party turns out differently than even the most well-informed party planner could predict. Two years ago, the 2006 Halloween party turned out to be a giant, surprising disaster. In previous years, LSSS sold about 250 tickets per event, and they planned their venues accordingly. In 2006, demand far outstripped supply, and tickets to that Halloween party sold out in eighteen minutes. Obviously, LSSS caught hell for that. The following year (last year), LSSS responded by doing two things: finding a venue that could accommodate more people (but that was farther away), and selling more tickets.

Still, we complained last year that the party was too far away. Most comments to LSSS asked for the venue to be somewhere close to the law quad. This would be great, except for the fact that we are a sloppy, drunken bunch of bastards at big parties like this, and not a lot of places want to do business with us. Nevertheless, LSSS did manage to work up a contract with the Cavern Club this year. In anticipation of the fact that...
Take Back Your Email by ‘Getting Things Done’

By Greg Lavigne

If you’re anything like the average email account holder, your inbox is packed with unread messages and their potentially daunting collection of tasks, requests, assignments, and, yes, spam. No matter how hard you try, these seemingly uncomplicated tasks become a blurry mass of subject lines every time you access your account. This is not an uncommon problem and popular authors like Malcolm Gladwell (Blink, The Tipping Point) have made a career out of demonstrating how our society is suffering from an information overload that slows us down more than helps us succeed.

Unsurprisingly, many individuals have created careers out of helping you manage your information, the most famous of which is probably Stephen R. Covey (I highly recommend his book The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People). What we need, however, is the next generation of internet-savvy management, and I believe that David Allen’s Getting Things Done® is a great place to start.

Getting Things Done, more commonly known as GTD, is a broad “work-life management system” that offers a simple structure for organizing your commitments and communication. It’s extremely flexible, because the strength of the system is in its core concepts, not in the structured application of a bunch of rules. In the context of your email inbox, the primary premise (brace yourself) is to immediately deal with any message that arrives and leave your Inbox empty every time you close your email. Seems pretty unlikely, right? Here’s how it works. Every time you receive an email (or emails), follow these steps:

Step 1: Determine Type

For every email you review, figure out how you need to handle it. Is it a task you can complete immediately? Is it a reading assignment from a professor? Do you need to respond to a request, but need some time? Are you waiting for more information? What about advertisements, mailing lists, and chain emails?

Step 2: Take Action by Completing or Filing

Once you’ve determined the message type, you need to immediately take action on it. The real strength of this system is that it forces you to separate your emails so you can quickly sort between critical tasks and leisure fluff. With GTD, completing a task is relatively straightforward. If you can deal with the message immediately, do so and Archive the email (in Gmail just check ‘archive,’ otherwise try creating a mailbox folder and putting the completed emails there). The email is now out of your Inbox, but you still have access to it if you need to reference it in the future.

If you cannot complete the task right away, you need to file it. How you do this is completely up to you, but here are a couple simple categories that work pretty well.

Action: file emails here that have tasks you need to complete right away. When you sit down to start doing work, open up this folder and make your way through the emails. Once an email no longer requires Action, file it in Archives.

Next: File emails here that are not critical, but need to be taken care of relatively soon. Action emails will always be completed first, but once your Action folder is empty, these are the emails you will deal with. Don’t be afraid to move Next emails to Action if they become more critical, and as always, file in Archives when no longer relevant. Make sure to review the emails in Next at the end of the day to make sure nothing needs to move to your Action folder.

Someday/Maybe: These are emails that you would like to look at sometime, but are definitely not critical. This may be a book recommendation from a friend or a sale at our favorite website. This folder should be checked once a week (say Friday) when you have more free time and want to deal with larger scale, non-critical tasks.

Waiting: Waiting on someone to respond to you before you can close out an email? Put it in the Waiting folder to deal with when you get the subsequent email in your Inbox.

That’s it! Five easy folders (Action, Next, Someday/Maybe, Waiting, Archive) in your email application or website will allow you to quickly evaluate what you need to do while keeping your Inbox clutter-free and productive.

This simple structure is by no means the extent of an organizational system of GTD, but it is a great introduction to simplifying your inbox and helping you to be more productive. There are many other ways to organize a GTD system, and everything I’ve written can be customized and adapted to your particular needs (I for example have a separate folder for course readings called ‘Read’). If you do some investigating online, you will also find organizational elements called “Tags,” “Contexts,” and “Areas of Responsibility.” You will also find ways to extend your own Getting Things Done system outside of emails.

Next issue, I am going to
Save Yourself:

Reading You’ll Actually Want to Do

By Carla Lee

Winter has fully set in, and maybe you, too, have forgotten what the ground looks like without a covering of snow. This time of year, in the after-holiday slump of back to school and nasty weather and illness, it can be difficult to dredge up the desire to go outside and deal with the snow and ice and wind. Curling up in front of a fire with a good book doesn’t have the same appeal when the books on hand are casebooks and hornbooks and study guides. Instead, try one of these books instead.

In addition to being enjoyable reading, they are all published by small press publishers, so if encouraging alternative means to big box commercial publishing is important to you, here you can get your entertainment while helping support non-traditional publishers.

You’re on your own when it comes to the fire.

Poetry

Dancing the Waves and Other Poems by Steven Curry
Publisher: Anoai Press
ISBN: 0-9653971-5-7

This collection of poetry and imagery uses some beautiful imagery to develop a sense of the life Curry experiences in Hawaii. He only briefly touches on some of the local traditions, but treats them with respect. Surfing is the cohesive base of these poems, but the writing is accessible by seasoned surfers and non-surfers alike. Surfing here is life, each rise and fall, rough patch, and dangerous trip into the ever-changing water. Curry builds the reader’s expectations, layers one image on top of the next, and leaves the reader wanting more. In places these lines, these words, are simple, and almost too easy, but then there are phrases which linger, like a surfer’s burial, ashes and leis upon the turbulent water. The strongest poems in this collection are the ones about death, not caused by the ocean itself--though the dangers of the water are enumerated in earlier stanzas, and never overlooked--but by time, by age.

Apocrypha by Catherynne M. Valente
Publisher: Prime Books

Apocrypha is Catherynne M. Valente’s first full-length poetry collection, though not her first publication, and she presents wicked stepmothers, Greek heroes, witches, and bodhisattvas through brilliant, evocative language. She touches on many mythologies, from ancient Greek stories to modernized fairy tales, all told with passion--rage, violence, desire all combine into characters, into women unafraid of their sexuality or their power.

Particularly well done is “The Shield of Achilles” which brings the past to the present: Helen works in a diner, hands covered with flour and beer, “the cunt that launched a thousand ships” covered by her apron, “the linen stained with yeast and tomato” while she chews her fingernails; Cassandra sings in a lounge, lacerated by stretch marks and spoiled breasts; and Penelope sews in a sweatshop, promises herself just one last dress, and thinks “only of her bottle of five dollar gin / in the cabinet at home, / and the taste is almost a weight—that prickle / of juniper branches on the back of her tongue.”

Apocrypha is inaptly named; this is no work of dubious authenticity, but the veil drawn back from the world of the reader. Once soft edges are sharp and dangerous, words become weapons to make thoughts bleed and purge the gentle lies that cover desperate need and the power inherent in fear. The writing is at times pretentious and repetitive, not just within stanzas but words and phrases shared between poems, but this collection drags the reader into itself and buries her within layers of intricate descriptions and truly is that “into which the whole world falls [...] And you, too [...] you fall and fall and fall” (from “Z”).

Fiction

Wind Follower by Carole McDonnell
Publisher: Juno Books
ISBN: 978-0809557797

This book deals with very human struggles in a fantasy world grounded in reality. The novel is told from alternating points of view: Satha, a poor woman who finds herself suddenly engaged and then quickly married to Loic, the other narrator, a rich younger man. Each narrator switch is labeled, which is especially useful early in the book when their voices are not fully developed and read quite similar. As the story progresses, they become easily distinguished and quite well-developed.

Their story unfolds against an African backdrop where three tribes — the dark-skinned Theseni, light brown Doreni, and tan Ibeni — have a tenuous peace often marred by inter-tribe conflict. A fourth tribe — the pale-skinned Angleni — has invaded and is changing the way the others must live and worship their ancestors. McDonnell’s writing is filled with amazing detail; her knowledge of African tribal systems is obvious, as is her understanding of Christianity, and details are woven throughout the novel without detracting from

CONTINUED on Page 26
Be a Good Sport:

Sometimes All You Need is an 8-Ball

By Justin Gayle

A new intramural powerhouse is emerging within the grad/faculty/staff ranks. The 8-ballers are poised to win the all-points title, and they made serious progress toward that goal at the end of last semester by winning the championship in flag football and reaching the title game in broomball.

The group coined the name “8-ballers” last year for their soccer team as a tribute to “Ann Arbor’s most underrated attraction: The 8-ball Saloon.” Long story short, several of the team members got into an altercation with the bar’s staff and they made the decision to memorialize the occasion by making it their team name. It’s a fitting name too, as this team boasts a one-of-a-kind character that embraces belligerence as a core value (but thankfully sans the unique aromatic blend of urine, decaying wood, and cigarettes).

As 2Ls they decided it was time to pursue the all-sports point title, so they needed a uniform name. “We chose it instead of another name because most of us already had 8-ball jerseys with our names from the soccer season,” explained Bill Andrichik.

In co-ed flag football, the 8-ballers paved the road to the championship with both power and finesse, taking a 2-0-1 regular season record into the playoffs. After a bye, they faced Team Last Year on November 21st and amassed over forty points while shutting down the opposing offense completely. Team Last Year only managed to make it past midfield on one occasion, and the 8-ballers quickly ended that drive with an interception.

Everyone got involved. In one play, Nick Cheolas intercepted a pass (letting out an audible gasp of back pain in the process) and lateraled to an unsuspecting Ashley Washington during the return. Dan Walbrun provided solid play at the quarterback position and completed several passes to multiple receivers in spite of the frigid conditions. The one-sided contest ended at the two-minute mark due to the slaughter rule.

The 8-ballers’ semi-final match against Puff n’ Stuff on November 23rd would prove to be much more of a test. Kara Bailey connected with Bill Andrichik on a 40-yar touchdown pass in the first half, but a couple of big plays by Puff n’ Stuff left them down 21-10 at the half.

Undaunted, the 8-ballers played suffocating defense in the second half and refused to give up a single point. The defense relied heavily on its female team members including Kara Bailey, Sana Muttalib, Leslie Steierman, Nichole Venious, and Ashley Washington to put pressure on the quarterback (recording four sacks in the process) and force interceptions.

Following a Bill Andrichik interception (one of three in the second half), a scrambling Joe Neely found Chris Marquez in the corner of the end zone with a twenty-yard toss to cut the deficit to six. On fourth down, with only 25 seconds left and the ball on the opposing team’s 25-yard line, Neely connected with Marquez yet again for the game-winning touchdown. The defense came up with another big stop as time expired to secure the victory 22-21.

In the co-ed championship, the team led from start to finish. On the first play of the game, Joe Neely connected with Bill Andrichik for a long touchdown pass. Despite numerous penalties, the opposing team’s skillful use of female players (touchdowns and conversions are worth more points when female players are involved), and a questionable call where the referees awarded the other team a touchdown after the play was thought to be blown dead, the 8-ballers held on 24-18 to secure the title and a place in University of Michigan intramural sports history.

The 8-ballers also fielded a flag football team in the men’s Graduate/Faculty/Staff AA Division and made it all the way to the semi-finals. However, the Wet Bandits defeated the 8-ballers in a disappointing loss that was eerily foreshadowed by Chris Marquez’s unsuccessful attempt in Evidence class to compare the class material to Home Alone.

In broomball, the 8-ballers pride themselves on defense and teamwork with every player serving an important role. Josh Clause, Nick Cheolas, Joe Neely, Marc Kaplan, Nichole Venious, Chris Rosa, and Bill Andrichik constitute the team that gave up only four goals in their last ten contests. “This is the third season we have played together and I think the chemistry really shows in how well we play as a team,” goalie Andrichik observed.

In their semi-final game, the 8-ballers’ stingy defense held a team that had scored over ten goals in previous games to just one in the first half. Andrichik amassed numerous saves in the second half to keep the team within one, and late in the second half Marc Kaplan broke through and tied the game with a powerful slap shot.

Time expired with the score locked up at one so the game went to a shoot-out. The 8-ballers failed to score on their first three attempts, but Andrichik’s four saves set the stage for Chris Rosa, who was celebrating his birthday to close it out. After a strong fake, he muscled it into the net for the game-winner. Following a few moments in silent contempla-
Op-Ed:

Racism is Dead! Long Live Racism!: Is A Postracial America Possible?

By Hanna Baek

A recent encounter with a fellow law student went something like this (I should qualify that this took place in a bar, and said student was a bit intoxicated):

Me: Hey, I’m visiting some college friends in New York over break, we should hang out.

Student: Yeah (mumble mumble)...do you have any hot friends?

Me: Uh...yeah I guess.

Student: Do you have any hot white friends?

Said student is a white male. I am an Asian-American female. Seeing my dropped jaw, he quickly tried to justify his remark, saying, “I don’t think my comment was remotely racist,” and “If I thought that was obnoxious or rude, I wouldn’t have said it to you.”

With that one remark, the happy, confident young woman I thought I had become was jolted back to my awkward adolescence in an all-white midwestern suburb where I constantly felt the sting of Otherness, the sting that reminds me that somehow I will never really “count” in a way that white people count, that tells me that non-white beauty is no beauty at all, non-white achievement is affirmative action, non-white friendship is token, non-white art is ethnic, political, reactionary.

His comment also presumed that all my friends must be minorities, specifically, all Asian. And in fact, most of my close college friends are Asian. Hmm, I wonder how that happened. (For a clue, read Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? by Beverly Daniel Tatum.)

The fact that his assumption happened to be right perfectly exemplifies the larger social problem at hand.

I’m guessing most of my fellow law students voted for our nation’s first African-American president. Most of these students do not have an iota of racism in their bodies. And yet, many of these students do not have a single close relationship with a person of color. To a certain extent, it is a numbers thing. On another level, there is the natural gravitation to those who are similar to you. And of course there is the fact that minorities aren’t exactly loitering around hoping to be gifted with white friendship. But beyond those factors there is the reality that while our country has made some amazing strides forward, it has also slowed down, mistakenly thinking that the fight against racism is over.

Racism today manifests itself in inaction rather than action, in the unintentional rather than the malicious. It is found not as much in conscious animus but in a subconscious dismissiveness that says minorities are undateable, that someone who acts too “ethnic” is weird or lowbrow, and that minority presence is acceptable only up to a certain percentage of the total.

Perhaps racism is just too charged of a word to describe something far less serious than systematic disenfranchisement or being denied a seat on the bus. The point is that whatever you call it, this sort of tension still exists in Obama’s America. We are not “post-racial” just yet. But the problem is exacerbated by unawareness that it exists, unawareness among even the highly educated, even in Blue States. To truly overcome it requires understanding, and understanding requires meaningful engagement, not just a lack of racial animus.

But even as I assert that this is a widespread issue, I want to believe that this guy is an outlier, that not many in our beloved school hold those sorts of thoughts, not even subconsciously. But I can’t help wondering if he was merely verbalizing what a lot of others think—a slurred slip of truth in a moment of lapsed judgment.

Please, Law School, prove me wrong.

Hanna Baek clearly lives in hope in this, her first piece for the Res Gestae, and she’s keen to hear what you think, MLaw. Tell her at hbaek@umich.edu or respond to us at rg@umich.edu.
The Beer Guy:

Make the Most of Bar Month in 2009

By Ben McJunkin

Hi! I’m Ben “Papa Junk” McJunkin, and I drink a lot of beer. I also make a lot of beer. I’m not sure that qualifies me as a beer expert, but I definitely have a beer passion. The goal of this column is to extend that passion to you. I want help law students expand their understanding of beer beyond just yellow fizzy stuff, and learn to appreciate the subtleties and complexity of beer. Right now, the format of the column is whatever the hell I feel like, so if you have thoughts or suggestions, feel free to let me know.

Beer You Should Know: Porter

This is where I try to get you excited about a beer style you may not have tried.

My fascination with Porter is largely a product of my love of the historic story of this beer. Porter was actually one of the most popular beer styles in Britain at the time of America’s founding, and was quite likely consumed by many of our colonial forefathers. (In the colonies, beer was considered safer to drink than the available water.)

Interestingly, Porter beer began not as an attempt to create a new beer style, but as an attempt to salvage stale beer. According to beer historians, the first Porter was created in 1722 when Ralph Harwood blended equal parts Strong Ale (a dark brown ale), Two Penny (a mild brown ale), and a stale or soured ale. The resulting drink—known then as “Three Threads” or “Entire Butt”—became so popular among the porters who worked the docks of London that it eventually gained the moniker of Porter. Indeed, its popularity in the 18th Century (which coincided with England’s Industrial Revolution) is often credited with inspiring the macro-brewery production model.

Despite that early prevalence, Porter beers began to disappear as early as the mid-1800s. As the beer’s popularity rose, so did its cost. Sales outpaced the availability of stale or soured beer, and Porter brewers were forced to age fresh beer in giant vats just to produce the blend. Due to technological constraints, however, this proved dangerous. For example, in 1814 one such vat—a half-million gallons in volume—erupted, destroying half of the brewery and a line of small homes, and killing eight people in the tidal wave of beer. Other breweries attempted to cut corners by substituting additives for the aged beer. Unfortunately, their choices were less than stellar—exotic poison berries, opium, Indian hemp, strychnine, tobacco, and salts of zinc, lead, and alum. Many Porter drinkers fell ill or died as a result. In America, Porters were quickly replaced by the Pale Ale, and eventually by the Lager, as the beer of choice.

As Porters begin to make a comeback, however, their absence from the American beer scene has proven a benefit, allowing modern brewers the freedom to reimagine this historic beer. Porters can range anywhere from true black to reddish-brown in color. They possess a medium to full body, and their malty sweetness dominates their flavor profile. Aromas of coffee, chocolate, and toasted nuts are common. Although Porters tend to finish bitter, they should not possess much hop aroma, nor should they contain roasted barley (which produces the burnt note common in stouts). Alcohol content ranges between six and ten percent.

I hope this inspires you to give Porters a try, even just to experience part of American history. To that end, I recommend the following:

Great Lakes Edmund Fitzgerald

Porter (American Robust Porter—dark, rich, and intense).
Samuel Smith’s Taddy Porter (English Brown Porter—mild, brown, and smooth).
Smuttynose Baltic Porter (thick, malty, and alcoholic).

Beer I Love This Week:
Dark Horse Scotty Karate Ale

This is where I rave about a beer that I just discovered.

Scotty Karate is Dark Horse’s version of a Scotch Ale. Dark Horse is a fantastic local brewery in the small town of Marshall, MI. The brewery itself is in a converted barn—with all the attendant quirks, like milk tanks for fermenters—attached to a great little rustic bar. Despite the (endearingly) small scale, Dark Horse makes some very big beers, with Scotty Karate at the top of that list. With a nearly 10% ABV (alcohol by volume), this beer will mess you up in a hurry.

But unlike many high-alcohol beers these days, Scotty Karate is also remarkably smooth and drinkable. It pours a clear dark chestnut, with a small but sticky head. The initial aroma is of Brown bread, wood, grass, and a touch of dark fruit (plum perhaps). The first sip is slightly thick, but the carbonation is controlled and the finish is refreshingly dry. The flavor is sweet and bready, with hints of peat (characteristic of a Scotch Ale) and charcoal, a bit of hoppy citrus, and a very enjoyable note of freeze-dried strawberries (like the kind you would get in cereal). This beer is a great introduction to the world of high-alcohol beers for those who loathe bitter beers. It is delicious, easy-drinking, dirt-cheap, and local. What more could you want in a beer?

CONTINUED on Page 21
From UMich to SCOTUS:
The RG Chats Up Hyland Hunt and Josh Deahl

By Sumeera Younis

During my year, as I was navigating the murky waters of law school, I signed up for a contracts tutor and was assigned to one of the smartest people I have yet to meet. Hyland Hunt had the rare ability to explain complex ideas with ease and confidence. So, when I heard that Hyland had secured a Supreme Court clerkship with Justice Stevens, although elated, I was not too surprised. Although she is humbled by the position, I'll be the first to say that the Supreme Court will be better off for having Hyland as a clerk. Recently, she took a few moments to talk to the RG about her experience.

First, A Little Background

Res Gestae: Where are you from?
Hyland Hunt: Atlanta, GA

RG: What is your favorite movie?
HH: It's hard to choose one favorite movie. I enjoy old comedies like It Happened One Night and The Philadelphia Story.

RG: What is your favorite book?
HH: Bleak House

RG: If you could be any superhero who would it be and why?
HH: Wonder Woman, of course. Who wouldn't want a lasso of truth and an invisible plane?

RG: Do you think Heidi and Spencer really got married?
HH: Um, who are Heidi and Spencer?

Moving On...

RG: What advice would you give to students who want to get a Supreme Court clerkship?
HH: The application itself is pretty much the same as for other clerkships - resume, transcript, writing sample, etc. I would advise talking to Professor Larsen early in the process, and reaching out to professors who might be able to help you. I think there is a lot of luck involved in getting your resume pulled out of the stack, but I had a ton of support and assistance from the Michigan community - professors and alumni - with getting someone to look at my application, and in preparing for the interview.

RG: What was your biggest fear going into the interview?
HH: I don't know that I can identify a specific fear. I was just very, very, very (insert as many as you want) nervous.

RG: Who was the first person you told that you got the clerkship?
HH: My husband, then my mom, and then Joan Larsen, who was incredibly helpful and encouraging throughout the application process. I made a lot of calls that afternoon!

RG: What are you doing as you await beginning your clerkship?

RG: Do you have plans for after your clerkship?
HH: My husband and I plan to go to the Galapagos Islands. Other than that who knows?

HH: I just feel very lucky. I'm looking forward to everything about it - it is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Although I have not had the pleasure of meeting Joshua Deahl myself, I am going to write him a rave review much like Hyland's. They say that the mark of a great person is that their reputation precedes them. Even before I was able to get in touch with Josh I started hearing great things about him. My own personal hero, Dean Z, said that the speech he delivered at his graduation was one of the best she has heard in her life, period. Michigan Law School legend Adam Dubinsky ("Duby") could not stop talking about him when we broached the subject. Bottom line, Josh is kind of a big deal. But you wouldn't know it from talking to him. He is humble as Heidi is plastic.

First, A Little Background

Res Gestae: Where are you from?
Josh Deahl: I'm from Mesa, Arizona, at least that's what my parents make me say. I spent my last year in high school in Apache Junction, Arizona, and when I was introduced at Law School graduation as being from Apache Junction, I could feel my mom recoiling because she is ashamed that she lives in a junction. I guess it sounds like a highway rest stop or something. Its only claim to fame is that it is where Raising Arizona was shot, which segues into the next question.

RG: What is your favorite movie?
JD: I love Coen brothers movies; everybody does. Raising Arizona, Miller's Crossing and No Country for

CONTINUED on Page 24
When You Were Cooler:

Thank Goodness for Collegiality

By Brett DeGroff

Sada Jacobson could kill you in seconds.

She wouldn’t, of course. After all, as a University of Michigan law student, you’re her classmate. Even if you weren’t she would likely spare you. She is a reasonable sort. But as a two-time individual Olympic medalist in saber, Jacobson is one of the best in the world at what she describes as the sprint of the fencing world.

“It happens very quickly,” Jacobson said. Jacobson bristles when she thinks of popularizations of sword fighting. “People think of it like Zorro or the Three Musketeers,” she said. “They think it’s like dance. But it’s really athletic. It’s hard. You don’t get flamboyant moves where you’re cutting down chandeliers or something. The movements are very precise.”

Look up Jacobson on YouTube and you will see what she means. The fencers position themselves. There is a slash, maybe a counter-move. A sword catches a torso and they back up and do it again. Out of a 15-minute saber match Jacobson says there is about one minute of actual thrusts and parries.

Normally all of this happens in relative quiet and obscurity. There isn’t a big fan base for fencing. But that only added to Jacobson’s Olympic experience.

“I walked into the stadium before opening ceremonies and there were 100,000 people all there for us,” Jacobson said about the beginning of the 2004 games in Athens. “Then when the U.S. team walked in and the crowd went crazy.

“In a sport where you don’t get any spectators it was pretty special.”

Athens only got better from there. Jacobson went on to win a bronze medal, beating Romania’s Catalina Gheorghieta, 15-7. After that Jacobson spent a year and a half finishing her Bachelor’s degree at Yale before taking two and a half years off to train for the Beijing games. A typical day during that span would start with a couple hours of strength, cardiovascular and agility cross-training. Then an hour slashing at a coach in a protective suit. A half hour focusing on footwork would be followed by a couple hours of practice bouts before calling it a day.

That routine resulted in a stress fracture in Jacobson’s shin that nagged her until the Beijing games last year. Still, she was able to take the silver medal as the United States team swept the medals in saber. Jacobson also earned a bronze in team saber.

How did Jacobson finish off her swashbuckling Olympic adventure? A quiet night with teammates. “People seem to think the Olympics is some kind of orgy, but I don’t think it’s like that,” she said. “There isn’t any partying in the village. The athletes are very respectful of their teammates that still have to compete. “People go out and party afterward, but I don’t think there is any more debauchery than in any other setting.”

The next morning Jacobson was on a plane to Ann Arbor. After all, she had to start law school.

Brett DeGroff is writing for the Res Gestae for the first time, but hopefully not the last. He’s a 1L and can be reached for comment at bdegroff@umich.edu.

Kicking It Old School:

Get Out of the Library!

By Meredith Weill

So, we’re a few weeks into the semester now, and even if resolutions to be more diligent than ever before remain strong at this point, such zealous engagement with the nuances of Jurisdiction/Securities Regulation/EO will likely fade eventually. It is in anticipation of this inevitable ebb that KIOS offers the following story. For 2009, maybe you want to resolve to be a more creative procrastinator (seriously, Lexulous is merely a pale shadow of Scrabulous anyway). For a start, try scaring yourself out of the library.
Nunc Pro Tunc:

Golly, What Did the Other One Say?

By Dean Z

It was a real toss-up to choose my latest offering for the pyre of wretched personal statements. I was considering two possibilities, and the one I didn’t choose was characterized by one Admissions Office staff member as “making [her] eyes burn” when she read it. Since that one didn’t make the cut, you can imagine how fabulous is the one I actually chose.

But it’s not mere entertainment that we seek from these personal statements. There are Large Life Lessons to be drawn, not to mention some general tips about persuasive writing—so pay attention to my cutting snarky trenchant and incisive commentary at the end. And for those of you who are worrying that I am doing something deeply indiscreet, bear in mind that pertinent points have been changed to protect the writer. And for those of you who think I am just too mean to be in charge of reviewing applications, I want you to know that I’m holding back—I didn’t add one comment about the paragraph breaks that should have, but weren’t, included, or the grammatical errors, because that just seemed trivial. So in other words, if you’re thinking I am just too mean, you’re probably right.

When I was 16 years old I went on a gymnastics tour with a company called XYZ Gymnastics. It was a five week long, five city tour that traveled from San Francisco, California to Atlanta, Georgia. Our usual method of travel was by bus. The buses were nice and luxurious charters with bathrooms, televisions and pretty comfortable beds. There were always two buses for the gymnasts and two buses for the gymnastics teachers, choreographers, technical crew and the rest of the gymnastics company faculty. There was one trip, however, where the bus company was either confused or just overlooked some important details, because instead of a four sleeper buses arriving to bring us to the next city, only 3 sleeper buses and one standard coach bus showed up. All of us dancers thought to each other, “gee, the faculty is going to have an uncomfortable trip.” The faculty was up in arms about the mix up, and we felt bad for them, but we just boarded our bus as we always did and waved goodbye to our teachers and techies. Once we got on the bus, we all chose our beds, got comfortable and began to pick out movies to watch. Just as we started to settle in, the director told use we had to switch buses with the faculty. There was nothing that we could do to defend ourselves and so we ended up being the ones taking the “uncomfortable trip.”

The last thing we wanted after doing gymnastics for hours from morning to night was to be cramped up on a lousy coach bus. We were tired and frustrated, but we did not have the adequate representation or anyone to be a voice to ensure our rights to a comfortable trip. [ . . . ] With my law degree I will be able to be that voice that speaks for others. I want to use my degree to represent gymnasts, gymnastics companies, and other performing artists. With my experience as a gymnast and with the skills and tactics I learn in law school, I will be able to legally represent other athletes. I may get to law school and realize that I want to do something completely different with my degree, but I know that I want that degree because after that, the sky is the limit. [ . . . ] University of Michigan is a wonderful match for me. I know that I am a necessary addition to Michigan Law because through my experiences, I have learned what I want to do with my degree and have developed outstanding skills that will help me excel in the field of law.

I’ve now re-read that about 15 times, and it’s really a gift that keeps on giving. At the risk of belaboring the obvious, let me point out a few problems here:

First, the writer might not have wanted to get so mired in tiny details. It almost certainly wasn’t necessary to specify what states are home to San Francisco and Atlanta. And despite all the detail, it nonetheless had all the charm of a AAA guide; this wasn’t the irrelevant but charming detail that gets you engaged—it was the kind of detail that numbs you. Thank heavens it got good pretty quickly or I might have nodded off and never realized the glories that were to come.

“Gee, the faculty is going to have an uncomfortable trip . . . but we just . . . got comfortable.” FantASTic. I feel like she’s channeling Donna from 90210, except that Donna is less two-dimensional. If you wanted to paint a picture of self-involved, could you do it better? I doubt it. So now we know she’s a dull writer and also lacking a bit in empathy.

Of course, the best part is how six years later, this grievance has landed her on our doorstep. It’s one thing to be petty—someone who doesn’t have any capacity to develop a petty grievance is too saintlike for most people’s tastes. But it’s something else entirely to be able to hang on to the petty and nurse it and let it shape your entire career—she has been hanging onto this for more than 25% of her entire lifetime. So we see that not only is she a fairly wretched writer who is lacking in empathy, she’s also lacking any perspective on the degree to which this was a tiny little thing that isn’t really going to measure up in a world that regularly offers up concepts like “human trafficking” and “ethnic cleansing.”

And it’s that lack of perspective that is a common flaw in personal statements. Most people applying to law school haven’t been through anything too astonishing—but a few have. It’s really galling to read the tale of someone who arrived in the country as a political asylee, for example, and immediately follow
Professor Impersonations!

Clockwise from top left:
Don Herzog
John Pottow
Eve Brensike Primus
Gil Seinfeld
William Miller
Miss Mr. Wolverine? You missed . . .

Skits!
Firm Wear!
Group Dances!

... and Kevin Reidy, your 2009 Mr. Wolverine!
Public
Interest Q&A
CONTINUED from Page 4

matter. So, for you business types, there are some good programs, so you are still within my reach! You could still come into public interest work. So, it's the non-governmental work. That could be environmental or civil rights, that could be reproductive rights, that could be land use, that could be Native American issues. It is a span of things. So, yes, three or four seconds times five....

RG: One common complaint from students I spoke to about this article was that they don't know how to start with public service work. You take a look at the website and from the first few pages you see a list of 19 practice areas, over 20 listed executive branch offices, and more than 33 pages of public interest named groups and information. The general response to all that is: “DEAR GOD! I'm not sure what I want to do and this is just information overload!” How should people first approach public service work? How do they dive in?

MAS: That is a criticism? I thought that was a compliment that there as so much available. There were criticisms when there wasn't enough information available. I think more information is probably better. That is why it's so important for students to come in and talk to one of the attorney advisors. It is a primer. You are going to get basic information on what's out there and how to pursue things. You don't have to memorize everything on there – I think the last page count I did was over 3000 pages on our website; four years ago, before I started, it was about 300. You are the children of the information age and so the more information the better. But, after you educate yourself, if you know nothing about public interest work, let's say, or nothing about government work...

RG: A good starting point when talking to me.

MAS: If you educate yourself about that, and learn some of the resources that are there--not memorize but learn some of the resources. Then you have to do some self-analysis too to figure out what you are interested in, what skills you are interested in working with. You may not be a litigator. You may be more of a policy person or more of a legislative advocacy person. So, by looking at some of what is out there, positions, our Making a Difference Guide, which is our basic guide to public interest and government work, by looking at that stuff you should begin to do an analysis of the kinds of things you are interested in. It doesn't mean you have to have the answers. It just means you have to begin to think introspectively about what you like to do, about what subject matters are of interest to you. And you could have a number of those. Then, you come in as a first-year and... I had a student the other day, a first-year, who had looked at the guide, looked at the practice areas, looked at the funding options just to get an idea of what is out there, and then we sat down for a while and talked about not what job she's going to get this summer but about what she is interested in, to get her grounding. And she didn't have the answer but, over the course of a half an hour or forty-five minutes, we began to tease out themes in the things that she was interested in. So, it's not for you to go to the website and you will find the answers there. You start at the website and then that opens the door to your mind to get you thinking about the things you are interested in, subject-matter-wise and skill-set-wise, and then you come in to talk to one of the career advisors.

RG: You or Amy?

MAS: Me or Amy. Or, you may find it helpful as a first-year to go to someone in the career service office as a career advisor and someone in the public service office if you don't know which path you're going to go on. If you've already decided that you want to do, say, government work, then you definitely want to come in and talk to Amy or talk to me after you've looked at some of the resources and done some of the thinking about what it is you want to do. Then we almost... it is a bit like we play the psychologist in a way, where we begin to talk about the things you enjoy, what you don't enjoy, what classes you like and why...

RG: That's why there is a couch in here?

MAS: Ergo the couch. Usually that's for me. My bowl of chocolate is around here somewhere too. I often tell first years: don't expect to come in and have us give you an answer. Part of what it is is like a psychologist in the sense that we are going back and forth to try to figure out who you are and what path you want to go on. And some of that is hard work, but that's not hard work for me, that is hard work for you. This is the time of your life when you need to answer the questions about what path or paths do you want to narrow yourself to. It can't be just ‘law.’ Well, that got you to law school but now you need to narrow it a little bit beyond that. So, the criticism – which is actually a good thing, a resource having that information available – is the first door you go through. But, you need to go through a series of doors.

I think it is always best, especially with someone going into public interest or government, at least this is my experience, if you can develop a relationship with an attorney advisor over the course of your time here. It doesn't mean you are here every week. It means that they are there at different stages. There are different stages to your time here: there's that first-year panic of 'oh my god am I going to survive?'; and then there is that second-year of 'wow, grades really do matter and my second-year summer job is really critical to what I'm going to do. I should really think about that...'; and third-year, beyond the
MPRE and what bar exam to take is ‘oh my god, I’m going to be a lawyer and an adult next year.’ So, there are different stresses. And having an attorney advisor who has been through this, and in my case and Amy’s case has been through that here – Amy far more recently than my experience – but, having someone to talk through throughout that, who knows who you are and knows the choices you may need to think about that you don’t even know you need to think about. It is not on the [wed] portal. Some of these things come with conversations. There are so many things that I’ll bring up in a conversation once I get to know someone that... it’s not in a book. It is not in a resource. It is just what you learn when you just start talking to people. And that goes for 1Ls talking to upperclassmen as well as coming to talk to attorney advisors. So, create a relationship with your attorney advisor.

RG: Another criticism of the office is the, for lack of a better word, inconsistency in students’ relationships with you. Some see you as better than their mother – one girl I spoke with has your home number and can call you at all hours. Other folks really don’t interact with you much at all. Could you speak to ways students can build a better relationship with their advisors?

MAS: Set up meetings with them! If I see a student more than once, I’m going to know something about them beyond their grade point and what they are interested in doing. I’m going to know something about what led them to law school, or something about their personality. Start that conversation early while you are here and that is a way of building... it’s like building any relationship. In public interest work, building relationships is the key to advancing yourself and finding jobs, networking. We say to you right from the beginning, networking is important. I think people have different personalities. There are some people that are hesitant to come individually and talk to an advisor. So, maybe their approach is to come to these panels and these workshops and observe more than actually being in the center, being in a one-on-one conversation. But, you are going to be lawyers and you are going to have to put yourselves out there as soon as you graduate in three years – well, in your case four years.

RG: You mentioned Amy Sankaran who is new to your office. What will her role be? Do you see her as expanding the services offered by OBP?

MAS: Yes, and if you think about that, most schools don’t have a public service office and we now have two attorney advisors, as well as Jackie who is absolutely fabulous. She is the office manager and she runs the show, basically.

Amy’s role, what I’ve asked her to do specifically, is two things that I did but not fully. One is really finding out about government positions. Just the federal government alone has probably over 1100 attorney positions, so I can know some of that but there is no way I can know all of that. So Amy’s role is to focus much more on the alumni in those positions around state, federal, and local governments, and what those positions entail. The second thing, that I could never put a whole lot of time into, is expand our pro bono opportunities for students. More and more students want to do not-for-credit legal work on behalf of an unrepresented group or an unrepresented issue. Once you get practicing, the ABA urges lawyers to do fifty hours of pro bono service every year. I want the Law School to become more active about supporting students who are doing that. Now, in fact, student groups are doing pro bono projects, and there are already things like the Family Law Project and the Food Stamp Advocacy Project. We’d like to make that stronger. Not all of it has to be direct service to local organizations around here because, while we have some great projects around here, we don’t have 30,000 of them. But, with technology nowadays, everything doesn’t have to be done locally. Your first year, Ellen Katz led a huge pro bono project that culminated in the Voter Rights Project. There is a database of information that Prof. Katz headed up, and students did research on all the voting rights cases that had been brought under one of the sections of the Voting Rights Act in preparation for its renewal, which was I think in 2005. That involved a hundred students doing pro bono work, and it was all done for the NAACP, for the Lawyer’s Committee of Civil Rights, all in D.C. and in other cities. So, I’d be interested in looking at more opportunities for students to do that kind of work from here in Ann Arbor.

RG: Every year the President gives a State of the Union address. Could you give us a State of Public Service address? We’ve seen the economy recently take an unfortunate set of moves. Has that impacted public service work as well?

MAS: I don’t think government is going to slash by a lot, I don’t think that it is going to have a huge downturn. If you look at it over the course of fifty years, it is pretty steady without a lot of upturns and downturns. You don’t see large amounts of layoffs of government employees. So, I don’t think there is going to be a big down turn. And, in fact, there may be many students who are attracted to going into government service because of this president elect, because of things he said during the campaign. There were specific things he said about the calling to public service and how important that is; and, when he said public service, President Obama means government work in that case. Now, for public interest, I haven’t seen it is so early because the real financial meltdown happened so recently, so I don’t know that we will necessarily see it right away. We may see it in the hiring for next year. That is still shaking out, I think.
The good thing is that for students who are interested in going into public interest and into government, there are many more resources to help them with their loans once they graduate now than there were even two or three years ago. Michigan has always had a loan repayment program, for the last twenty years we have; but, under Dean Caminker, we’ve really pushed to add more and new money – and this is alumni money – into the loan repayment program. From a decision-making standpoint, I think it’s impressive that the law school has a million different needs and one of the things that Caminker has said is let’s make sure that the loan repayment program has enough funding to support students that are wanting to go into the public sector, and that includes non-governmental and governmental organizations, and they get assistance paying their loans back. The other huge leap we took forward was last September when President Bush signed the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, and in that there is a loan repayment feature for attorneys doing public service – and public service is broadly defined – and there is loan forgiveness for lawyers who spend 120 months in public service. That doesn’t have to be consecutively. So, under the CCRAA, you have the ability to stretch out your loans so you pay less per months; and, if you know you are going to stay in public service, after that 120th payment the rest of those loans are forgiven. So, what we are focusing on right now is the regs, obviously as lawyers. It is all nice to sign a law into effect, but let’s see where the meat is. Those should be coming out this month. So, I think what we will be looking at over the next six months is these regs and how they play out with our loan forgiveness program.

Another concern of public service students is a lack of networking among the various public service offerings here at the Law School. One student I spoke with went so far as to suggest a Public Services office for students and student groups to help build that network. What are your thoughts on the subject?

MAS: You can look at it as wanting your own space, but you can also look at it as segregating yourself. So, if there was a separate lounge, let’s say, for public interest students, is this now “separate but equal?” I just don’t think as a public law school we want to get into that! We shouldn’t put walls in between us. We’ve had these conversations for as long as I’ve been here, and students have talked on both sides, and what I hear more often is: “No, we don’t want to be separated from our colleagues. These are our colleagues, the people we want to be with.” Now, the ways you go about finding out who your public interest community is: you participate in OPIS, you do the mentorship program, and just by sitting at OPIS meetings you will learn who is interested in what things. If you are interested in who else is doing that kind of work, come to our workshops. We have panels and workshops probably twice a month all during the school year. And that is where I’ve found that the public interest students who are committed to doing this kind of work... the way they learn about each other is first year when they are all attending the same public interest workshops. All of a sudden they realize that “hey, this is the third one of these I’ve seen you at!” So, I think I would be hesitant to segregate groups where they all have a different lounge. I think having us all together is wonderful. But, there are ways to discover your public interest community at any institution and those are some I would suggest. It is a common conversation that we have with students: “how do we create the public interest community?” I also urge students to join one of the two listservs, the public interest or government listserv. You get these e-mails tailored just to you about things that are going on or job opportunities, and then you attend those workshops and see who your compatriots are. Or comrades. I should say “comrades.”

RG: What is the future direction of OPS? Where do you hope the office and its programs are going?

MAS: Other than controlling the world – and that is a pretty big platter just controlling the world – there are so many things we’ve done in the last couple of years, with all the resources and all the funding. We’re going to work in the near future in developing those pro bono opportunities, and that also translates into more legal opportunities for students. We’re going to look into government, federal, state, local. I also want to work on implementing the Public Service Guarantee. Just saying we are going to give money to students is easy, but how to we implement that? How do we translate those experiences of our students, document that work and what they did, so that future students can access that information? I want to get job summaries online that future students can look at. So there are aspects to this implementation that I want to make sure we do right. Those are the short-term things. And then I take on the world! Here I come!

Nate is the former EIC of the Res Gestae and a phenomenally good sport for taking on this article. Now that all the firm-types know so much about public interest, maybe it’s time to revisit the classifieds on page 3? You can revisit Nate at nkurtis@umich.edu.
The Beer Guy
CONTINUED from Page 10

This is where I answer your questions about beer. Got a question for me? Email benmcj@umich.edu with “The Beer Guy” somewhere in the subject.

I hate hops. Why do breweries use them, and why do people find them enjoyable?

I’ve received variations on this question from a number of friends and family members over the years. The full answer is, of course, quite complex. But here a few things to think about.

First, I question whether anyone actually hates hops simpliciter. There are too many types of the plant, and its use in beer is much too varied. Hops can smell and taste like anything from citrus fruits and fresh pine needles to moss and mushrooms. Used in combination with yeast and malted barley, wheat, or corn, it can help create unique and interesting flavor combinations. While hops can also add bitterness to beer, they don’t have to. There is a big difference between disliking hoppy beer and disliking bitter beer.

Second, it may be time to rethink what beer is. Because pale lagers predominate the beer market, young beer drinkers often think that beer should be designed to quench your thirst without standing out. In addition, in a society where we grow up having pop with food, the lack of sugary-sweetness in beer is often a tough adjustment. Most beer makers, however, tend to think of beer as something more like liquid bread. American pale lagers (Bud, Miller, and Coors) are like Wonder Bread: bland, inoffensive, and slightly sweet; best when used as a vehicle for something else (there’s nothing like a lager with good ol’ fashioned barbecue, for example). [We dunno, there’s something to be said for a witbier. —Eds.] Other beers are more like artisan breads you might find at Zingerman’s. They can be intensely sweet with chocolate and fruit (say, like Dark Horse’s Tres Blueberry Stout) or they can be quite savory with peppercorn and rosemary (in fact, many early brewers used thyme, sage, rosemary, and juniper as replacements for hops in brewing).

Next time, think of a hoppy beer as a meal in itself, and try to discover and appreciate the myriad uses of the plant. If that fails, remind yourself that hops is close cousins with cannabis. If you (like 98% of law students) can stand to be around that stuff, you can down a hoppy beer no problem.

Why are macro-lagers (Bud, Miller, Coors, etc.) so popular, when they suck so much? It can’t all be frat-boy purchases, can it?

As a former fraternity member myself, I take offense to that. Also, I don’t think that all macro-lager’s suck. They have a time and a place (see above). But this is a common beer-snob position, and there’s more to answering this question than simply refuting its premise. The answer may in fact go back to Jimmy Carter.

Now, Carter is regularly credited with legalizing beer homebrewing in 1978. That is not quite accurate, as the bill that Carter signed into law simply repealed Federal taxes on home production of beer for personal use. That said, it wasn’t until roughly the late 1970s that homebrewing began to be an accepted practice. Until that time, it was illegal in some states, and was subject to complicated taxes. As the homebrewing movement gained traction, so did the accompanying micro-brewery (or micro-pub movement). Basically, the ability of people to make their own beers at home led an increased desire for unique or specialty beers with stronger flavors than their macro-counterparts.

And what I want to stress here is the timing of it all. Sam Adams, one of America’s largest craft beer companies was founded in 1984 (as the Boston Beer Company). Many of the great beers we enjoy today are from companies that are even more recent. In short, we are among the first generation of Americans who turned twenty-one with a wide selection of quality craft beers to choose from. Our parents didn’t. Their parent’s didn’t. By the time the micro-brewing movement reached many of them, they may have been drinking the same style of beer for thirty years or more.

So, no, it’s not all (or even primarily) fraternity boys driving the sale of macro-lagers. It’s probably people like your mom and dad. And instead of looking down on them, maybe you should (1) be thankful that you have access to the kinds of great beers at this age that they didn’t, and (2) introduce them to the world of micro-beers. Maybe instead of being a beer snob, you can learn to be a Beer Guy [Or Gal — Eds.].

Ben’s, oh, who’re we kidding, Papa Junk’s promised to keep the law school palate well-lubricated this semester with plenty of delicious beer-flavored information. Hit him up for a recommendation or with a question at benmcj@umich.edu.

Email Clutter
CONTINUED from Page 6

programs and websites that can expand on the basic GTD system we set up in your inbox today. As always, if you have any questions about GTD or computer stuff in general, email me at gregwl@umich.edu. Until next issue, best of luck with those runaway inboxes!

Greg is the new Managing Editor of the RG, so if you’d like to reach him for comment or give us loads of dollars, try him at gregwl@umich.edu.
Halloween Tickets

CONTINUED from Page 5
to this year’s party because Cavern Club is stumbling distance from the law quad, LSSS did forewarn us that tickets would sell out quickly. We just didn’t believe them.

“Yeah, whatever. That’s what they said last year, and last year’s party didn’t sell out. LSSS just wants our money. I’ll wait until the last minute, and I’ll still be fine.” Unfortunately, this train of thought is exactly what caused a lot of people to miss out on tickets this year. The contract that LSSS drafted with Cavern Club set the number of guests at roughly 500, which is the club’s maximum capacity. Obviously, there was not going to be room for everybody, and a lot of people wrongly assumed that LSSS’s warnings were just a way of artificially boosting sales.

“LSSS just throws these parties to make money, and they don’t really care about the quality of the event. They didn’t even offer free drinks this year!” Two issues here: first, the Halloween party is a huge money loser for LSSS. The event is mainly subsidized by the sale of MLaw gear during the year. So if you are worried that LSSS is just sitting on a pot of money and happily ignoring you while they sell you very profitable party tickets, that’s just wrong.

The second big complaint was that LSSS skimmed on the party because we didn’t get drink coupons this year. Apparently, however, student groups are not supposed to use their funds to pay for alcohol of any kind. The fact that we had drink tickets last year does not mean that we should have had drink tickets last year. If you read University of Michigan’s policy regarding alcohol and student groups, it is clear that this is a no-no. We got away with it in the past, either intentionally or by accident, but evidence of prior transgressions does not justify future rulebreaking. I don’t know if there is a way around the school policy, but for now, we have to suck it up and buy our own drinks. That is not LSSS’s fault.

“Fine. But still, LSSS members were total jerks when we tried to complain. They basically told us to shut up and stop bothering them.” I’ve heard a number of comments regarding this. And by now we’ve all read the various LawOpen messages that appear to prove this argument. But the gist of these messages was not to tell us, as a student body, to shut the hell up, but rather to tell us, as a student body, to email the senators directly with our complaints instead of publicly griping about it on LawOpen. Sure, public griping is way more fun. But as a matter of policy, LSSS is reluctant to post public statements on LawOpen because they tend to be misread, and it’s too easy to post a message without thinking through all the possible ways it can be misinterpreted. That was definitely the case this time around; messages that probably should have remained private conversations were broadcast to the rest of the school. However those messages sounded, they were not intended to say that students should not air their complaints to LSSS at all, but rather that they should do so directly, and not in a public email forum.

So how do we avoid having another Halloween party from Hell? I heard a number of suggestions from students. First, closer is better. Everybody liked that this year’s party was much closer to the school. Not too many people liked the location of last year’s party, which was in the middle of nowhere and required a bus and a donkey ride to get to. True, LSSS was able get a much bigger space by throwing the party farther away, but the flipside of this was that less people were willing to get on a bus and drive X miles out of town for a party.

Second, more tickets are better than fewer tickets. The leading suggestion among students this year was simply to rent out all of the bars in the complex that houses the Cavern Club. That’s a great idea, and everybody wants that. But the difficulty with that solution is: a) the ticket price is going to go way up; b) it’s hard to control who comes and goes at these parties because a lot of people sneak in with fake tickets or by good old-fashioned bribery; and c) bars are not exactly gung-ho about closing their doors to the public on Halloween, one of the most profitable nights of the year. Of course, money fixes this problem, but the question is, how much do we want to pay for tickets? Sure, LSSS could throw a wicked Halloween party and rent out half a dozen bars, but would you be willing to pay $30, $40, or more for a ticket to go this party? At some point, cost is just going to push down demand and people won’t be able to go because they can’t afford the tickets, rather than because no ticket was available in the first place.

Another suggestion made by a number of students to LSSS: publish the number of tickets that are available instead of just giving us vague warnings that they are in “short supply.” Additionally, adjust these numbers daily (maybe using a ticker on MLaw Live, our favorite student web portal ever), so that the slackers know when to pony up and buy their tickets. I see nothing unreasonable about this; more information is better than less information.

Finally, don’t wait until October 25, 2009, to complain. If you don’t like the way things were handled this year, or last year, realize that the problem isn’t going to fix itself through wishful thinking. For all the fire and brimstone whipped up on LawOpen over this year’s “Halloween ticket fiasco,” nobody attended the LSSS meeting the week after the
party to complain or offer solutions. It’s tempting to think that LSSS is simply not listening to us, but it’s less compelling when one realizes that it might be because we’re not saying anything in the appropriate forum.

All things considered, the argument that LSSS does not have our best interests in mind when they plan Halloween (or the upcoming prom) is simply paranoid. It’s not like LSSS members are richly paid fat cats that bask in the splendor of their own self-defined power; they’re a bunch of students like you and me, with the same class loads and competing obligations. Personally, I’d rather shoot out my left eye than take on something as weighty and time-consuming as running LSSS. But apparently there are some students here who can stay afloat in their classes, run LSSS, and avoid shooting out one or both of their eyes in despair. It’s not me, that’s for sure, but I’m glad there are others who are willing to pick up the slack.

So the facts seem to boil down to this: LSSS provided around 500 tickets for an event to which 1,000 students wanted to attend. LSSS warned us that tickets would sell out, and they did. People got mad. Who’s wrong? One camp says LSSS, because they knew this would cause trouble. But what would have been the alternative? Another Halloween party in Bufu-land? No party at all? Maybe deficit spending would have fixed the problem? Needless to say, LSSS didn’t provide these solutions. LSSS threw a smaller party in a better location, and people who attended generally agreed that it was a fun night. Maybe next year we can throw a bigger version, rent out the whole complex, and find a way around the drink ticket prohibition. Establishing an ongoing relationship with a venue would also eliminate the yearly surprises (like last year’s excellent beer fiasco) that come with dealing with a new venue. Maybe LSSS could poll the student body and ask how much we are willing to spend on Halloween party tickets.

The fact of the matter is that there is always going to be a group that will be dissatisfied with the final product. We were pretty satisfied with Tomek’s final product, were you? Let him know at tjkoszyl@umich.edu.

8-Ballers

CONTINUED from Page 8

In the championship game, a group of dental students outlasted the 8-ballers 2-1.

The 8-ballers excel in more places than just the rink and gridiron. They have already won a championship in 3-on-3 basketball thanks to the efforts of Matt Weinberg, Dan Horwitz, Dan Skavdahl, Dan Walbrun (all 2Ls), and Stephen St. Vincent and Eric Mao (both 1Ls). Additionally, 8-ballers reached the championship game in co-ed soccer.

Winning isn’t the only thing that sets this team apart; their attitude is also unmatched. “We lose an ungodly amount of sportsmanship points every game,” explains Nick Cheolas. “On multiple occasions, we’ve nearly forfeited games because of our mouths. I was once told I would receive a personal foul penalty if I said the words ‘flag guarding’ one more time. Josh Clause lost a broomball game by throwing his stick, and then un-lost it with an impeccable oral argument.”

The 8-ballers receive more than just personal foul penalties. In their quarterfinal flag football game, the opposing team probably would not have made it across midfield if it weren’t for two illegal contact penalties. Due to such a high level of intensity, one of their players was once hailed as “the second biggest d-bag ever to play co-ed flag football.” This intensity isn’t limited to the field of play; team emails have been known to push the limits of civility. Just remember though, this team isn’t named after Ashley’s, so don’t expect refinement. Expect winning.

And if winning is something you’d like to be a part of, the 8-ballers are interested in recruiting new members. “This winter we’re playing basketball, mini-soccer, more broomball, water polo, as well as throw together a swim team. We’re on the lookout for more swimmers especially,” said Matt Weinberg, the team organizer.

So do the 8-ballers have a good shot at the all-sports point championship? Signs point to yes. And will it be fun to watch them regardless? You may rely on it.

Justin Gayle’s fantastic impersonation of Eve Bresnike Primus is poised to go down in Mr. Wolverine History, yet this 2L still finds time to write for the RG. He can be reached for comments or sports story suggestions at jagayle@umich.edu.

Dean Z

CONTINUED from Page 13

hold a lack of life drama against candidates, but I do think it’s reasonable to hold against them their failure to recognize the lack of drama. I can absolutely imagine writing this with a different, somewhat self-mocking tone, and having it work.

Honorable mention goes to the fact that the writer tells us she is necessary to the Law School. Never a good idea to say something like that to an ornery dean of admissions.

She’s back! We know how much y’all missed Dean Z’s acerbic wit, but we can only bug her so much. Of course, if you folks did it too . . .
SCOTUS Clerks
Continued from Page 11

Old Men are my 3 favorites. But my all-time favorite movie is Dr. Strange-love Or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb. Not just because it's the best title of all time, but also because making a comedy out of a nuclear holocaust (caused by one man's impotence) is endlessly funny.

RG: What is your favorite book?
JD: I am ashamed to say I do not read a lot of literature, I usually stick to plays and screenplays. By the way, if you like Being John Malkovich, you should read the screenplay, a lot of crazy interesting things got cut out (it turns out the old man in the movie is actually Satan and at one point morphs into a giant swan that turns ben Franklin into a lot of literature, I usually stick to bandwagon, I think that's about what is actually Satan and at one point morphs into a giant swan that turns ben Franklin into)

RG: If you could be any superhero who would it be and why?
JD: I used to like The Tick, and one of his crew was this guy who just dressed in a full-body suit of carpet so that he could generate static electricity and use that as a power. But he always overheated and passed out before he could do anything. That seems like the trajectory my superherodom would go down, well-meaning and entirely ineffective.

RG: Do you think Heidi and Spencer really got married?
JD: Unfortunately, I understand this question, and have seen every episode of The Hills. Seriously. Sad. And seriously sad. I do think they really got married, and as much as I’m on the “isn’t Spencer a total douche” bandwagon, I think that’s about what Heidi deserves.

Moving On...

RG: Did any professor particularly inspire you while you were in law school?
JD: A lot of professors did. JJ White is the best classroom professor I have ever had by a long shot, Eve Brensike Primus is the most ardent advocate for her students and Gil Seinfeld is disgustingly smart (they all are, no doubt, but I actually understood him, so his ability to communicate with the dregs like me is probably what sets him apart). I was, and am, particularly close with Rich Friedman. He is coming down to my wedding in Puerto Vallarta next month and bringing his whole family. He has a great perspective on life and maintaining a nice balance between work, family and friends.

RG: What advice would you give to students who want to get a Supreme Court clerkship?
JD: Be very lucky. If you are unlucky, you should have been luckier. (No real advice, it’s a crap shoot, but remember that everything you work on and every person you work with may one day be in a position to help you, so don’t burn bridges and don’t assume it’s all about grades).

RG: What was your biggest fear going into the interview?
JD: I didn’t have time to develop any fears, I got a call from Justice O’Connor on a Monday, showed up the next day wearing my roommate’s suit because I didn’t have any that were clean, and it all happened extremely quickly. If anything, I was worried I would be asked about particular cases, because I don’t remember case names at all.

RG: Who was the first person you told that you got the clerkship?
JD: My family and fiancée, I can’t remember who I called first. Then I had to tell my boss, which was extremely tough. I worked in appeals at the Public Defender Service in D.C., which is a job I loved, hope to return to, and highly recommend to anyone who will listen. Telling them I was leaving after only a year, after making a 3-year commitment, was pretty tough even under the circumstances.

RG: What are you doing as you await beginning your clerkship?
JD: I am actually working at the Sandra Day O’Connor Project at Georgetown Law, which is basically speech writing and video game design. That is exactly what law school prepares you for, I know. The video game is a civics education game to teach middle school students about our court system and I help the game designers with legal content and coming up with various hypothetical legal scenarios in a bit of a sci-fi setting.

RG: Do you have plans for after your clerkship?
JD: The World Cup is in South Africa in 2010, I plan on taking a flight straight there after the last day of my clerkship (I attended 2006 in Germany for a month shortly after graduating from Law School). Beyond that, no plans.

RG: Who is your favorite and least favorite justice ever of all time and why?
JD: [Justice O’Connor aside] Justice Jackson is my favorite, I think his writing is the most accessible and he wrote the kind of opinions that I think say people can understand. That’s really important to me. I think the public should be able to understand
our Supreme Court's opinions. I also think he was pretty sensible; his dissent in Korematsu is my single favorite opinion. It's worth reading from time to time. I believe he was the last Supreme Court Justice not to have graduated from law school, and that might have something to do with why his writing is so clear. I can't think of a least favorite Justice.

Sumeera's gone on and graduated (lucky lady that she is), but in this, her last article for the RG, is all of the insight and humor we've come to expect from our former Managing Editor. We'll miss you Sumeera!

A. W. Brian Simpson

CONTINUED from Page 1

or two subjects. He started his academic work writing a book about legal doctrine but finished only the first of two volumes before moving on to other things like human rights law. Stories about his archival work were probably the crowd favorites. Professor Simpson described the archival work he had done to dig up the backgrounds of famous cases. This led to countless interesting interactions with descendants of the "characters" in the cases. In one instance, he found the granddaughter of Captain Dudley of The Queen v. Dudley & Stephens and won her over by describing Captain Dudley as "remarkable," to which she replied, "a bit too remarkable in one way, I'd say." Simpson also spent a lot of time digging through prison archives and shared a surprisingly touching story about a "triumph of the human spirit" that was accomplished through nothing more than toilet paper and the most "natural" type of ink I can think of.

Professor Simpson claimed at the beginning of his lecture that he had "nothing important or useful to say." Clearly this assertion was not shared by those in attendance, who did not attend for the sole purpose of hearing some funny stories and enjoying some cider and donuts. We also came to the lecture with hopes of gaining some insight into the keys to a successful career in the law. A career that would leave us with not only our life's accomplishments upon retirement but also the ability to laugh and poke fun at ourselves the way Professor Simpson does. How has Professor Simpson spent his life in the law and maintained a sense of fun, when by the eighth or ninth week of the semester we law students have often lost the ability to laugh at all, at least until finals are over? Simpson urged those in attendance to "have a bit of fun" in their careers, explaining that our jobs, like so many jobs, will be unavoidably intolerable at times unless we inject them with a bit of "bad taste humor." In other words, it is perfectly OK and probably a necessary to see the absurd humor that can be found in some cases that show up in our casebooks. Of course, Professor Simpson did not mean that we should not take our work seriously or lose all sense of tact.

His other main piece of advice urged students to never lose their ideals just because they are lawyers. "You don't have to do whatever dirty thing your client wants you to do," he said. Instead, if a client expects you to do something with which you're not comfortable, there is nothing wrong with tactfully suggesting that an alternative course of action might be wiser. Although many lawyers are afraid to challenge their clients' wishes, "a lot of times, if you refuse to go along, nothing bad happens," Simpson explained. He promised students that if they strove to do useful things with the law and to conduct themselves respectfully, they would not have many problems in their careers.

After nearly an hour of sharing stories and advice with students, Professor Simpson thanked his audience and took off, not even sticking around to hear the prolonged and enthusiastic applause - applause for a well-delivered lecture and in celebration of an amazing career in the law and the overwhelming feeling that after December Michigan Law is one institution that will never be the same.

Sarah Alex Bennett is really, really, going to miss A. W. Brian Simpson, and we can't say we blame her. Reach her for comment at rg@umich.edu.

Love and Wallets

CONTINUED from Page 3

Who are we kidding? Odds are neither will happen, but be not maudlin, I mean - let's fantasize - 'fore the court my assets assize. We can get together, I'm thinking maybe something with leather? I can come in forma pauperis And you can come in nothing but your priceless slippers

And it's not just public interest students who find that opposites attract:

Bored trust-fund-baby law student and future law firm associate seeks soul-mate. Please forgive, no soul to give here, but will pay top dollar for the company of yours. Public interest career guy a plus. Lean, hungry look is a definite turn-on. Also, must be accommodating to my vampire bloodsucking fetish. No litigators, please!
It is not a perfect book. The characters and the story are, at times, flawed. Sathe repeats the same mistakes, and Loic is needlessly stubborn and ignores advice he is given. The ending is rushed, the plot develops slowly, and the world is not all that accessible in the beginning. These things do not ruin the story, but readers must give the writing time to develop.

McDonnell handles many things very well: believable characters; a rich, well-developed world; and presentations of, as well as commentary on, race, class, and religion. This is a book filled with despair as well as love, loss as well as discovery. It is flawed, but its appeal is undeniable.
Students Against Right Brain Atrophy

By Dean Baxtresser

Dear Law School,
It's really fun to be a student here. There are so many performance groups that help me de-stress. They help all of us, really. It's easy to get involved, and fun to attend all the various shows. I went to the law school comedy troupe performance last night, and I'm looking forward to the law school musical next semester. Also, it's always nice to hear the chamber music group rehearsing in the lawyer's club lounge. All this makes Michigan Law a really nice place to be.

Sincerely,
Wishful Thinking

Dear Law School,
Where are your performing groups? Please get some more soon. The community as a whole would grow closer as a result of these groups. Also, I will stop being jealous of other law schools, because... Harvard and Duke have drama societies; Yale, NYU, and Columbia have a “Law Revue”; Penn has one too, and a light opera society; Chicago and Stanford have law school musicals; and UT also supported a chamber music group, and a “Law Revue.” What happened? Has the student body changed so much? Maybe the admissions department is taking fewer performers now. Or maybe fewer performers attend because other law schools have more fun. Oh well. We're all busy anyway.

Sincerely,
Only Slightly Entertained

Dear Law School,
I didn't make it into the law school a cappella group this year - they said they weren't taking women. Is there some other opportunity to perform at school? Maybe a talent show, or musical? It might be cool to have a talent show where all the student organizations participate. Oh, and I can't perform at Mr. Wolverine because I happen to have two X chromosomes. Any options for me?

Sincerely,
Female and Talented

Dear Law School,
I love to sing and I love acting. Mr. Wolverine is fun, but it doesn't seem like quite enough. Is there a drama club or something? Or maybe an improv comedy troupe?

Sincerely,
Justin Gayle

Dear Law School,
Where did all your performing groups go? Back in my day, we used to have two a cappella groups. We also supported a chamber music group, and a “Law Revue.” What happened? Has the student body changed so much?Maybe the admissions department is taking fewer performers now. Or maybe fewer performers attend because other law schools have more fun. Oh well. We're all busy anyway.

Sincerely,
Michigan Law Alum

Dear Law School,
I'm tired of this. I call for more performance opportunities at this school. It will bring us together, and take our minds off the law for just a moment. The Michigan Difference should not be: “We don’t do those crazy “performing” things other law schools do.” I suspect all we need is a push in the right direction. So if you’re interested, start talking about it. Get involved with the Law School Variety Show. And get ready.

Sincerely,
Dean Baxtresser

Case Notes!

Winter blues got you down? Give this torts Case Notes a shot! Answer on p. 2!

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

Tuesday, Feb. 17
Court Appointed Special Advocates For Children Presentation (OPIS) - The Washtenaw Trial Court CASA Coordinator will discuss the partnership with the court, volunteer opportunities, and the role of lawyers in the organization. Pizza lunch. 12:20-1 PM; 138HH.

Wednesday, Feb. 18
Changes in the Law: Expected Effects from the Obama Administration (ACS) - Professors Croley, Gross, Niehoff, and Pottow will outline changes they anticipate might be forthcoming. Lunch will be served. 12:20-1:20 PM; 250HH.

General Body Meeting (APALSA) - Members of the Michigan Asian Pacific American Bar Association (MAPABA) will talk about their experiences practicing law and answer questions about diversity in the work place. 6-7 PM; 138HH.

Wednesday, Mar. 4
IL Employee Meet and Greet (Career Services) - Opportunity for first-year students to meet some of the employers who traditionally interview during Early Interview Week. 4:30-6:30 PM; Michigan Union Ballroom.

Monday, Mar. 9
Student Paper Talk (Student Research Roundtable) - Join the Student Research Roundtable for tasty lunch and Alysha Rooks’ even tastier paper, “A Bridge Too PEPFAR: The President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief as Global Panacea.” 12:20 – 1:20 PM; 138HH.

Tuesday, Mar. 10
Women’s Week (WLSA) - Yes We Can, Women Making Change. Film “Tea and Justice” with the Michigan Journal of Race and Law.

Friday, Mar. 13
Women’s Week (WLSA) - Yes We Can, Women Making Change. Charity Trivial Pursuit Tournament.

Monday, Mar. 23
Student Paper Talk (Student Research Roundtable) - Join the Student Research Roundtable for fabulous lunch and an even fabulous paper topic, presented by Amy Medley! 12:20 – 1:20 PM; 138HH.

Thursday, Mar. 26
Origins Cultural Show (APALSA) - The annual cultural show and announcement of the APALSA IL Public Interest Fellowship. 6:00-10:00 pm; Union Ballroom.

Wednesday, Apr. 8
General Body Meeting (APALSA) - Elections for the 2009-2010 Executive Board. 6:00-7:00 PM; 150HH.

--- xoxo, The RG Staff

Have A Great Winter Break!