Reaching Across the Aisle (Or Down a Floor)
Revisiting PRS A Year Later

By Rebecca Oyama

It's the time of the semester when students are eager to start their finals preparation but instead find themselves up to their necks in footnotes, lengthy documents, and deadlines. No, we're not talking about journal assignments or note writing, we're talking about navigating the school's Priority Registration System. It's a journey we students take twice a year, and each time we do it we find we have more to learn.

A year ago, the RG visited the topic of the PRS and regular registration process in a two-part series (see "Get Your Priorities Straight: PRS Registration Explained" in the Feb. 2008 issue and "PRS Strategy: Steep Learning Curves, Relatively Easy Fixes" in the March 2008 issue). In that series, we provided a detailed user's guide to the system and offered our suggestions, as wannabe-journalists (and certainly law students) are wont to do. In this issue, we check in with the Student Affairs Office to find out what modifications have been made or are planned for the future.

Dean Baum was kind enough to entertain our questions and ideas once more and offered an update on changes the school has in the pipeline. Following last year's articles, the registrar's office has followed a few of the RG's suggestions. For example, in an effort to ease the decision of when to use one of the two "priorities" given to each student during their time at Michigan, the Registrar's Office now publishes a list of the classes that required a priority in the previous two semesters (found on pages 8-10 of the registration instructions). While this still doesn't guarantee one priority will be needed in future terms (as such classes are subject to fluctuation in scheduled times and other courses/sections offered), it is certainly a useful tool.

Regarding the registration guide, at 42 pages it is no more succinct than it was a year ago (it's actually quite a bit longer); Dean Baum indicated this may have been an intentional choice. The office has opted to place all the necessary information in one place so students can at least search for particular topics more easily. The office has also attempted to make the registration guide easier to use by providing an extensive table of contents with page numbers at the beginning of the document.

A recent discussion between the author and other 2Ls revealed the following source of confusion: does using a priority put a student even with or left to those students with the highest class position (i.e. 3Ls)? The answer, according to Dean Baum, is that students who use a priority will be considered first before those students that have not. The system places the students who use a priority, and, if there are additional spots, they will be filled in descending order of standing (3Ls, 2Ls, then 1Ls).

Have these changes made a difference for Joe/Jane? A few conversations with 1Ls showed that the system is still a far cry from the simple registration processes of some of their undergrad institutions. PRS still presents a difficult learning curve for 1Ls, especially in the second semester when the registration instructions are...
Letter from the Editor:
Hey y'all -

This past Sunday, for the first time in 2009, the staff of the Res Gestae surfaced from our subterranean home in the bowels of Legal Research to a crisp spring day, bright, clear, and even relatively warm. We saw our shadows and thought, well, must be time for the last issue of the year.

Divination, numerology, and a thousand paper cranes notwithstanding, we at the RG have, thus far, only determined one surefire way of ensuring the onset of summer break - the April issue - and, after yet another (mostly) unintentionally interesting year, it's definitely time.

This doesn't mean, of course, that there aren't things we'll sorely miss about the '08/'09 school year.

Primary among those things are all the staffers we'll lose to the big, bad world. Though Sumeera Younis, our former Managing Editor, already took the summer starter's way out last December, this April marks the final issue for Nate Kurtis, RG EIC Emeritus, and Austin Rice-Stitt, one of our two amazing Executive Editors. Nate and Austin combined have spent roughly five years on the Res Gestae's editorial board, and their leavening presence (ok, ok, and their tireless devotion to a semi-thankless task) will be sorely missed next year. (Austin asks that, in lieu of flowers, everyone take a moment to relearn the difference between 'its' and 'it's' - it's been driving him nuts for the last... twenty-four months or so.)

We're also saying farewell to a number of Contributing Editors, the nice folks who actually write much of the content you read biweekly: Michaela Tarr and Liz Crouse of The Food Court, Beer Guy Ben McJunkin, Bless Your Heart's Whitney Barkley, as well as roving reporters like Sara Agne, cartoonist Amie Medley, and photographer Brian Pascal. (Michaela and Sara, like Sumeera, hightailed it mid-year, but it doesn't mean they'll be any less missed, or are less deserving of thanks.)

So I'm taking this opportunity to say 'thank you' in print, but, if you get a chance and see any of these folks about, at least consider a pat on the back. (The RG both denies liability for any and all unconscionable touching that results from this editorial and heartily laments the infrequency with which we get to say 'tortfeasor.') While the paper might've somehow made it to press without all the work these folks have done over the months and, in some cases, years, it would have, without question, been the lesser for it.

It's not all tearful goodbyes, however. We're bating our breath for the Res Gestae's sixtieth birthday - Vol. 60, No. 2, the first official issue of the '09/'10 school year. If that's just too long to be without the delicious RG goodness you've come to know and love (or at the very least expect and tolerate), we're incredibly excited about the continued improvements to our new website (theresgestae.com) we'll be making over the summer holiday, as well as spiffy technological developments like our Facebook page and Twitter stream. (Whaddaya want, we're unabashed eConformists, so keep an eye on your inbox.) Coming on board to help us manage our growing electronic empire is Tomek Koszylko, who'll be succeeding Carla Lee as the RG's Web Editor.

We know it won't be quite the same as picking up a copy of the RG from between stacks of empty pizza boxes and half-filled two liters of soda/pop/coke, but we're hoping all this fancy newfangled technology will tide you (and us) over until we can be together again in the fall. Have a great summer, everyone.

K.I.T.4Eva!

Rooks
Your Friendly Neighborhood EIC
It's Not Easy Being (Without) Green: Professor Tom Green Retires

By Tomek Koszylko

The year 2009 will live in the memories of many as a bad, bad year. Banks, law firms, and businesses have collapsed around us like so many Soviet engineering mistakes. I will not even look at my stock portfolio statements anymore; I just don’t want to know. And remember on-campus interviewing? Hopefully you don’t. You’re better off. Unfortunately, I am not the only entity suffering priceless losses; the University of Michigan is facing its own priceless loss with the retirement of Professor Tom Green at the end of this semester.

Every generation has its share of influential teachers—those who we consider to be the sculptors of future thinking as we know it. They inspire greatness in those they teach. Logically, this means that there is always a supply of accomplished thinkers, doing the teaching, as well as a supply of young academics and students hanging on to their every word. It is always painful to witness the lessening of the ranks of the great. Although I have not had the pleasure of taking a class with Professor Green in my 19 years at Michigan, I feel qualified to write about him, because he is a professor whose reputation precedes him.

Professor Green came to teach at Michigan Law in 1972, after receiving a Ph.D. in history and a law degree, both from Harvard. At Harvard he was a student of the legendary John P. Dawson, legal historian and contract law authority, who taught at Michigan from the 1920s to the 50s, and later at Harvard until 1981. As a side note, Professor Green holds the John P. Dawson collegiate chair here at Michigan Law, which was awarded to him in 1990. The position commemorates the achievements made by Dawson, and also pays tribute to the contributions made by Professor Green (a fittingly poetic honor to both men).

Throughout his career, Professor Green has had three abiding academic passions: history, law, and the question of human free will. During an interview, he told me that even as a high school junior in 1955, he remembered reading Crime & Punishment and the works of Sartre, books which awakened his interest in the existence (or lack thereof) of human free will. Later, as a Ph.D. candidate, he focused on the theme of tensions between pervasive social ideas about responsibility and rules of the formal criminal law. His dissertation focused on the actions of juries in medieval England; he had proposed that jurors took their day-to-day understanding of what it meant to be criminally responsible (at least at the capital level) and applied it to the legal standards they were charged with finding. Where responsibility was debated, such as in cases that later were to become manslaughter instead of murder, juries resisted finding guilt, sometimes acquitting, sometimes rendering verdicts of self-defense, although the law at the time had no special defenses (other than a very narrow category of self-defense) for such mortal hot-blood crimes. In later work, Professor Green argued that by the eighteenth century juries applied their own rough-and-ready ideas about the defendant’s capacity for truly “free” behavior in both homicide and theft.

To put this innovation in context, I contacted one of Professor Green’s past students, Michael Hoffheimer (class of ’84), now himself a professor and legal historian at the University of Mississippi Law School. Professor Hoffheimer explained: “Professor Green is one of the outstanding legal historians of the past century. His scholarship profoundly demonstrated the impact of social morality on legal doctrines and institutions. . . [and] fundamentally altered the understanding of the origin and evolution of such doctrines.”

Professor Green’s influence is belied by his unpresuming manner; he is profoundly kind, self-effacing, and incredibly generous with his time and knowledge. His generosity is famous, and Professor Hoffheimer’s words are illustrative: “Professor Green’s historical importance is . . . larger than his contribution to academic research. He inspired students like me to pursue careers in legal education, and his teaching and personal commitment still serve as aspirational models for me and many others.” Professor Bill Miller seconds that emotion. “He just knows a ton—he’s a walking font of knowledge, . . . and a man of limitless, unremunerated generosity.”

Nor has Professor Green’s influence or popularity waned since the heady days of the 70’s and 80’s. Current 3L Shekar Krishan speaks for the majority of students I’ve spoken to; as a 1L, he took Professor Green’s seminar, The History of Criminal Justice. He found the course to be an uncommon mix of thoughtfulness and wry humor, and “particularly refreshing” after a day of slogging through the trenches of 1L doctrinal courses. “Two years later, I still feel as if I was in his class just yesterday. The doors to his office are always open to students past or present. [These are] precisely the reasons why we will miss him very much after he leaves Michigan Law.”

Retirement, however, does not mean a retreat to Golden Pond for Professor Green. Indeed, when he lists all the other projects he manages, one won-
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**Footnotes**

By Nate Kurtis

This article is about the importance of footnotes. We see them all the time—the ubiquitous, cramped text decorating the bottom of the pages of our course books—but how often do we read them or take time to ponder the awesome importance held by footnotes? Probably not very often.

In a way, it is understandable why so few students actually read their footnotes. Slammed as we are with readings, projects, cite checking, and pizza lunches ad nauseam, if something has to go the footnotes might as well be it! After all, if the judge that wrote them didn’t think they were important enough to include in the main body of the opinion, who are we to disagree?

Indeed, that is largely how footnotes come about in the first place. A judge or author has a purpose in writing, a set topic or holding to cover and support, and will try to focus their efforts to that end. Along the way they might well encounter a topic slightly beyond the scope of what they wanted to cover or a point of analysis that they feel is not necessary or important to where they are trying to take their opinion. When that happens, to stay focused on their original purpose, they will simply drop a footnote and move on.

Unfortunately, authors and judges aren’t great at realizing, in the moment, what about the current topic or case will, with hindsight, prove to have been the most important. That may explain why footnotes are later seen to color entire paragraphs and why there are whole Supreme Court opinions that are now famous and referenced exclusively for their footnotes—the very things that, during the initial writing, were not deemed important enough to incorporate into the main text of the opinion!

Since the purpose we have in coming to law school is to learn the law, and so many footnotes directly impact the holding and future interpretation of the very common law we seek to learn, we should all mind footnotes. As we near the end of yet another year, some of our classmates are beginning to realize what they have been glossing over in their studies.

And I, the end of my time in Ann Arbor. This paragraph is periwinkle blue. It may have been the purpose, but certainly isn’t what is most valuable. Why should we be any better than judges at realizing what is and what is not important? We may spend our time focused on our readings, our grades, and our precious curricular activities, but that doesn’t make any of them any more important in the end.

And I, the end of my time in Ann Arbor. The important things we missed in law school aren’t the pages we skimmed or the footnotes of opinions we glossed over. (See footnote 1, supra.) Those aren’t the things which, when we look back on our time here, will be the most regretted. Instead, it will be the friends we made and then ignored while we did our work; it will be the groups we joined and then blew off as deadlines approached; it will be the events, speakers, and symposiums we attended, or at least meant to before we got behind in our readings; it will be the missed bar nights and social scenes of law school, the missed proms, and the missed lunches with our fellow students. Indeed, all the non-curricular things we have learned and non-work connections we have made are what will prove, with time, to be more important than any of the book learning we set out to acquire. Of course, it is hard to see that now. As we focus on our purpose in coming to law school, all of these other things seem insignificant. So we, like judges, relegate them to the margins of our time, to be noted, observed, and possibly covered later... if time and space permit.

Before law school I’d never seen someone down seventeen cups of coffee and an entire course pack in a single sitting! There is a lot of coffee out there.... Or more, depending on just how well we maximize....

I’d care to admit. Gleaned from more years of law school than I thought possible in high school, or more, depending on just how well we maximize....

Threw in there the super-secret rule that an opinion’s length must be proportional to the topic it covers (why all the opinions about super models or negligent, high-speed car chases are a page long while every Con Law opinion is the length of a well, constitution) and the simple fact that many things discussed in legal opinions are about as interesting as The Rule Against Perpetuities. (I rest my case.)

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1 No it’s not.
2 For the non-1Ls out there: these are the bound, heavy, boring things we were asked to buy at the beginning of the term, and which professors keep asking us about in class. You remember what classes are, right?
3 I know I don’t.
4 Poor eyesight?
5 An answer no professor I’ve had has ever found convincing.
6 And not, as so many seem to think, as the bastard offspring of the main text and a ragoush accounting spreadsheet.
7 Almost inevitable given the length of many opinions—itself the result of a combination of the super-secret rule that an opinion’s length must vary inversely with the interestingness of the topic it covers (why all the opinions about super models or negligent, high-speed car chases are a page long while every Con Law opinion is the length of a well, constitution) and the simple fact that many things discussed in legal opinions are about as interesting as The Rule Against Perpetuities. (I rest my case.)
8 We’re sure they intended it to go somewhere when they started!
9 We’re almost sure they are as human as the rest of us.
10 This paragraph is periwinkle blue.
11 It may have been the purpose, but certainly isn’t what is most valuable. Why should we be any better than judges at realizing what is and what is not important? We may spend our time focused on our readings, our grades, and our precious curricular activities, but that doesn’t make any of them any more important in the end.
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18 We’re almost sure they are as human as the rest of us.
19 It is doubtful that, even with all the caffeine in the world, they will be able to cover it all in time, but we wish them luck.
20 Whether we are graduating 3Ls or fresh-faced 1Ls, whether we are left with two weeks or two years of law school, we should still try to maximize what we get out of the experience! We can read our text and our footnotes! We can have lunch with our friends, talk with our professors, attend those final group events and lectures, live up our bar nights, and make sure we regret none of what we do in law school!
21 Of course, what you do with your time is up to you. I simply offer my own perspective and with it a humble suggestion for you to take or not take at your discretion.
22 However you choose to spend it, I hope the rest of your time in Ann Arbor is everything you hoped it could be! I know mine has been.
When You Were Cooler:
You Could Say She Has an Addictive Personality

By Ryan Particka

Most of us have seen the old anti-drug commercial: “This is your brain. This is your brain on drugs.” Erin Opperman has actually operated on several brains on drugs, all of them belonging to furry little coke-fiends.

With a background unlike many law students, Opperman received a BS in neurobiology from the University of California-Irvine. Craving sometime away from life as a student before settling back into graduate school, she sought out research assistant positions at her alma mater and was soon hired by a former professor. The lab she was hired into was trying “to understand the molecular mechanisms of the addiction pathways in the brain” by researching what Opperman calls “drug-paired cues.”

One of the many things that makes a drug addiction so hard to overcome is the fact that many users will often inject while in the same room or in the presence of the same people. Over time the brain then forms a strong association between the people/places and the drug, causing an addict to crave the drug even more whenever these cues are present. As one might suspect, such cues are a significant cause of relapse, and by studying them on a neurobiological level, Opperman and her lab partners hoped to uncover new ways to combat at least one of the psychological aspects of cocaine addiction.

Opperman originally wanted to become a scientist to “help others” (she even worked in an Alzheimer’s lab prior to the drug addiction one). As strange as it may sound, coking up rats for a couple of years may prove to have been a huge help to others, both inside and outside the scientific community. “The practical result is that if a drug could be made to inhibit the same molecular mechanism that we had stopped, then people with severe addiction could eliminate the drug paired cues that makes it so hard for them to resist relapse,” she said optimistically. While her experiments dealt exclusively with cocaine addiction, there were others in her lab who did similar experiments using methamphetamine. In time, there may be any number of anti-addiction drugs based upon the reactions of rats to specific chemical blockers.

Ultimately though, Opperman felt that her “work was so far removed from any actual human contact that it was a little unfulfilling,” so she came to law school so that she “could have a closer relationship with those [she] was serving.” Although she intends to become a public defender, her experience, albeit limited, in performing brain surgery at least allows her to keep her options open, and who can argue with that given the current state of the economy.

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It’s safe to say that Ryan has countless stories from Opperman’s time in the lab that are not exactly fit to print . . . that means he needs more people to write about - send comments and suggestions to rg@umich.edu.

Case Notes!

By Amie Medley

Can you name this famous Torts case? Answers on p.21
This Is Water:

Law School: Now With Less Law?

By Dave Heal

Three of the closing paragraphs from a recent New York Times article on the craptastic legal market:

If the downturn is prolonged, law schools will need to keep tuition and other costs in check so students do not graduate with unmanageable debt. More schools may follow the lead of Northwestern, the first top-tier law school to offer a two-year program.

Law schools may also become more serious about curriculum reform. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching released an influential report that, among other things, urged law schools to make better use of the sometimes-aimless second and third years. If law jobs are scarce, there will be more pressure on schools to make the changes Carnegie suggested, including more focus on practical skills.

They may also need to pay more attention to preparing students for nonlegal careers. Law graduates have always ended up in business, government, journalism and other fields. Law schools could do more to build these subjects into their coursework.

So let’s get this straight. We’re at a professional school that might have the singular distinction of being described by both students and employers as leaving most of us woefully unprepared to do any actual work on our first day in the office. And the remedy for this is somehow to find a way to crowbar more stuff into the curriculum that isn’t the law?

Channeling, for a second, the male protagonist in Derrick Comedy’s Blowjob (Google it): that is the opposite of what is needed. The reason law graduates have always ended up in other jobs is often because they shouldn’t have gone to law school in the first place. For many students, that dual degree is a step towards gaining expertise in a field that will inform their law practice or catapult them to a teaching career. Those 12 credits of Law & “_____” classes are merely satisfying an intellectual curiosity. But for others, this desire to do non-law things with their time at law school represents a lifeline thrown to a vision of themselves that they only wish they had the courage to pursue fully. And for others still it turns out that even if you enjoy the intellectual rigors of publicly sparring with Richard Primus over the finer points of constitutional interpretation, you may, surprisingly, not enjoy interminable electronic discovery or combing through an offer document looking for rogue blobs in brackets.

And I’m not merely talking about the petty but pervasive frustrations of any life that involves more than 55 minutes of sustained concentration and is infrequently punctuated by drunken burrito binges and Guitar Hero marathons. (Although, for those law students who have never held a 9-5 job, having your introduction to the working world be 60-80 hours a week of document review is understandably sub-optimal.)

No, the heart of the matter lies in the fact that many law students are either uninterested in or ill-suited to being actual lawyers. For many, the practice of law, particularly at its lower, more mechanical levels, elicits the kind of marrow-level boredom that unmistakably means that you’ve failed in choosing a profession. Granted, the law is necessarily pyramidal; there is simply a lot of fairly mundane stuff you have to know in order to get to the ecstatic bull sessions that may characterize certain subfields of law as practiced at the highest levels. But being a lawyer is going to be really boring for a lot of people. In some circumstances being bored at work is OK, but it becomes quite a bit less OK when the boredom is a surprise and you’ve just spent 3 years of your life at law school and are severely undercapitalized as a result.

The idea that a law degree is a versatile one—“it’s the Swiss Army Knife of graduate degrees!,” says your Uncle John—while maybe true to a certain extent, is mostly a pernicious piece of self-deception transmitted from one generation of disaffected lawyers to the next. This is all in the interest of making everybody feel better about having taken out ~150k in loans and effectively wasted 3 years of prime life-living time. The truth is that not only is law school probably too long and expensive for people who actually want to be lawyers (unless we decide to make some or all of the third year a mandatory externship/apprenticeship), but it’s certainly too long and expensive for people whose ultimate goal is to do something else. The fact that some journalists are lawyers does not mean that law school is a good idea if you want to be a journalist. More than a handful of novelists and hand models are lawyers, too. These days, lots of hobos are lawyers. In fact, hobodom may in fact be the most likely alternative career path for some of today’s law students.

Current students find themselves entering the contracting the legal market in medias res, where “res” equals a giant shmist of uncertainty and plummeting job prospects. This means that a lot of people who viewed the law as camouflage for their indecision or as a cash-lined waystation en route to a career in competitive log rolling are finding themselves repeatedly kicked in their sensitive bits. And seriously in debt. Lots of debt.

So there’s a related question of don’t we think that there’s going to be something fundamentally wrong

CONTINUED on Page 18
By Greg Lavigne

Picture this: It’s Friday night, 8PM, and you’re about to have a bunch of the coolest law students over for a little pre-game at your apartment. Suddenly you realize that you haven’t visited the iTunes Music Store to make sure you have all the latest “cool kid” music, and quickly sign on to check out the scene. Uh oh, new Britney song, better have that on hand (obviously). “Buy Song” gets clicked, but then you notice...

$1.29 is the new price for most “hit songs” if you are buying a la carte from iTunes, or anywhere else for that matter. Back in January, Apple announced that their long-time goal of offering all digital downloads free of annoying digital rights management (known best as DRM, a coded attachment to MP3s that allows only one registered user to listen to purchased songs) would finally happen, but at a price. The same announcement confirmed that in April of 2009 (last week actually), songs would be available at three price points: 69 cents, the traditional 99 cents, and $1.29. At first glance, this sounded like a big letdown, as Apple has long held steadfast to the idea that all tracks should be free of annoying digital rights management. This obviously makes that one retailer quite powerful when it comes to negotiating the terms for sales contracts, and results in disputes like Universal’s above. It also hurts consumers, who can feel trapped into one reseller’s ecosystem, a fact which Apple addressed in an open letter back in 2007 which called on the music labels to drop DRM (www.apple.com/hotnews/thoughtsonmusic/). Even though such a system benefited Apple by keeping users tied to its ubiquitous iPods, it had not proven successful in preventing piracy and in all likelihood was hindering the digital media market (2 billion DRM-protected songs were sold in 2006, while over 20 billion songs were sold DRM-free on CD that same year).

Around the same time as Apple’s letter, EMI (the world’s third-largest music label) made the bold decision to begin selling higher quality DRM-free music through iTunes, and later through Amazon and other online music stores (incidentally, the price of these DRM-free tracks was $1.29, the same price as the top tier songs today). The move proved to be successful, with digital sales increasing significantly at a time when CD sales were dropping, suggesting that consumers were interested in a system that didn’t lock them out of their music if they decided to listen to their music on anything besides an iPod. Two years later, Apple’s entire 10 million song library (along with all other major online music sellers like Amazon and Walmart) is DRM-free, and over 6 billion songs have been downloaded from online music stores since 2003.

So what does all this have to do with my assertion that this indicates the first stage of a maturing market? First of all, getting rid of the failed DRM system is a great step forward for consumers. We immediately have more options for where we purchase our songs, along with more options for how we listen to them, as we are no longer locked into one ecosystem. Amazon and Walmart now have the same variable pricing model as iTunes, but different stores may offer sales or unique packages that will operate on any portable music player, giving the consumer a more vibrant marketplace.

Second, the market is much more free to act, charging more for popular songs, and less for older songs, or songs with smaller audiences. While there is the potential for the record labels to screw up again and continue to incentivize piracy by overpricing music, on its face it allows consumers and producers to interact more efficiently. Artists may get more full album sales if they have a few killer tracks on their album (albums are expected...
Bless Your Heart:

When Keeping It Real Goes Right

By Whitney Barkley

Someone's in my carrel all the damn time and what's worse, they keep leaving random stuff! I could handle the extra books and the scarf, but the snacks seem to be taking it a few steps too far - is there anyway to politely evict the asshole who's trying to adversely possess my study space?

--Keeping it Real on Sub-2

My Dear KRS-2,

I have a confession to make.

On the whole, I am a bad debutante. I am 24 and unmarried - nay, unattached! - and not a member of the Junior League, both the next natural steps in a good debutante's life. I curse, drink beer, frequently eat all of the food on my plate, and went to church on Easter for the first time in months. But the one ladylike habit I have maintained? Writing notes.

See, in my family, once a young lady becomes old enough for Cotillion (about age 10) she begins receiving monogrammed stationary every Christmas. Always eggshell white, printed on Crane stationary paper, with a slightly elevated, swirly monogram, the notes are to be dispatched any time she receives a gift, hears of a death, or is the recipient of a particularly nice compliment.

In fact, my own sister once sent me a thank you note after I stayed up late talking to her about a bad break-up.

While that may be taking things a little far (though I do expect a note for the invaluable wisdom I am dispensing in this column), notes are an easy way to handle situations like these. They are personal without being invasive, friendly while still being polite, and intimidating without being abrasive. In other words, notes are the most perfect weapon of passive-aggressive warfare possible.

Next time you leave your carrel, try tacking a monogrammed note, a funny little card, or a piece of white copy paper on the desk that says:

Hi!

This is KRS-2, and I wanted you to know that I am perfectly fine with you using my carrel when I'm not around. I don't even mind the extra books and sweaters - unless I am in here, feel free! However, darling, I would really appreciate it if you would take your leftover food with you when you go. Not only am I tempted to eat it, but soon it will begin attracting bugs, which will make both of our workplaces a disgusting mess.

Thank you and good luck with exams!

See? With this note, you have both directly asked that the food be taken out and subtly made the point that this is, in fact, your carrel...and that it's only by the goodness of your kind and caring heart that they get to study there at all!

Give it a week or so, and if the snacks are still around, wait until you see the person eating in the carrel, tack on your tail and go tattle about food in the library to one of the sub-2 librarians. Then stand back and watch the blood flow.

After all, you can always send a "get well soon" card to the hospital.

Say hi to your mama!

We really wish Whitney'd been around and dispensing advice during our 1L year - that unfortunate incident involving a blow torch, a Gilbert's, a pack of gummy worms and a vengeance may've gone down a lot differently. If you've got a question or an interest in filling Whitney's well-heeled shoes, email us at rg@umich.edu.

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Save Yourself:

By Carla Lee

The economy is depressing and the stress of finals growing every day. You need a break that won't break your budget. Save Yourself presents a selection of free activities to get you through the end of the semester.

Tuesday, April 14

The Madhouse Nudes: Concordia University hosts poet and novelist Robert Schultz. He will read from and discuss his 2007 epistolary debut novel about a New York painter of nudes who settles in rural Iowa, has a nervous breakdown, and is accused of assaulting one of his models. 4 PM; Earhart Manor, 4090 Geddes at Earhart.

Michigan Prisons and Reform: Ann Arbor League of Women Voters discussion, everyone welcome. 7 – 9 PM; Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw.

Sharp Teeth: UM Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group hosts a discussion of Sharp Teeth by Toby Barlow, a novel in verse about three werewolf packs in east Los Angeles. Age 21+. 7 – 9 PM; 3154 Angell Hall.

High Tech Trash: Nicola’s Books hosts a discussion of High Tech Trash by Elizabeth Grossman, a diatribe about the environmental effects of e-waste. 7:30 PM; Westgate Shopping Center.

Wednesday, April 15

Fair Isle String Quartet: House concert by a local professional ensemble; members are violinists Molly Hughes and Maria Bucco, violist Connie Markwick, and cellist Stefan Koch. 5 PM; University Commons, 817 Asa Gray Dr.

Thursday, April 16

The Goat; or, Who Is Sylvia?: UM student Jim Manganello directs Edward Albee’s comedy about an architect whose life falls apart when he falls in love with a goat. 7 PM; UM Walgreen Drama Center Studio 1, 1226 Murfin.

Susquehannock or Iroquois? Using Human and Animal Bones to Understand Cultural Identity: Michigan Archaeological Society hosts a talk by local archaeologist April Beisaw. 7:30 PM; UM Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, 434 S. State.

Friday, April 17


Revolution Hero: Ann Arbor District Library hosts an all-ages gaming tournaments for Dance Dance Revolution and Guitar Hero. 6 – 8:30 PM; AADL multipurpose room; 343 S. Fifth Ave.

Saturday, April 18

Solar System Walk: All invited to tour a scale-model solar system, complete with the recently demoted ex-planet Pluto and its Kuiper Belt neighbors. 11 AM – 3 PM; UM Diag.

Better Beer Through Homebrewing: Ann Arbor District Library hosts a talk by local homebrewer Jeff Renner, a member of the American Homebrewers Association Governing Committee. 2 – 3:30 PM; AADL Mallets Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower.

Gringo: A Coming of Age in Latin America: Freelance journalist Chesa Boudin reads from his memoir and travelogue about his exploration of the sweeping changes in Latin American politics that began with Hugo Chavez’s inauguration as president of Venezuela in 1999. Book signing to follow. 7 PM; Shaman Drum, 315 S. State.

Sunday, April 19

Retro Octathlon: Ann Arbor District

CONTINUED on Next Page
CONTINUED from Previous Page

Library hosts a gaming tournament featuring eight pre-1990 video games. 1 – 4 PM; AADL multipurpose room; 343 S. Fifth Ave.

Dinosaur Tours: Thirty-minute docent-led tour of the museum’s dinosaur exhibits. 2 PM; UM Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes.

Dixieland Jazz in Ann Arbor: The Story of the Boll Weevil Jass Band: 3 – 4:30 PM; Pianist and ragtime expert Mike Montgomery discusses, with musical samples, this popular traditional jazz band he co-founded in 1955. AADL Mallets Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower.

Communicating End of Life Decisions: Panel discussion with local professionals: lawyer Ed Goldman, nurse Roxane Chan, priest Alan Gibson, and others. 4 PM; Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare’s Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard.

Monday, April 20

Clutter and Chaos: Chronic Disorganization and Hoarding: Panel discussion with social worker Harriet Bakalar, UM Anxiety Disorders Program clinical social worker Laura Lokers, and Synod Residential Services programs director Laurie Lutomski. 7 – 8:30 PM; AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave.

Tuesday, April 21

Are We Color Blind? Or Do We Have the Courage to Talk about Race?: Panel discussion with Detroit history teacher Thomas Hoetger and EMU Education professor Robert Simmons. 7 – 8:30 PM; AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave.

Writers Reading: Hopwood-winning local poet Zilka Joseph reads from her 2007 chapbook Lands I Live In along with new work. 7 – 9 PM; Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, 123 W. Washington.

Wednesday, April 22

Impact of the Current Financial Crisis on the European (dis)Integration and on Europe’s Economies: Talks by Erasmus University (Rotterdam) economics professor Jean Marie Vlaene and UM Ford School of Public Policy associate dean Alan Deardorff. 12 PM; 1636 SSWB, 1080 S. University.

Carla Lee only has your best interests (read: your sanity) in mind; if you’ve got any questions or suggestions for a future Save Yourself, email her at rg@umich.edu.

Kicking It Old School:

A Series of Tubes

By Jason Gull

The Law School’s getting wired, and it is not because of the rancid snackbar coffee we seem to consume by the gallon. No, we’re getting our own on-ramp to the information superhighway.

The Law School already has extensive connections to electronic information resources through the commercial services WestLaw and LEXIS/NEXIS. Law students can obtain Internet accounts at no charge through the University (see sidebar). But only a fraction have signed up, and even fewer use their accounts on a regular basis.

One group of students is hoping to change that. Andrew Boer (2L), David Paulson (1L), and Jason Gull (1L—yes, that’s me), along with Frank Potter of the Development and Alumni Office, are currently assembling a World Wide Web site for the Law School. They hope to get students, faculty and administrators online.

The group, hastily christened UMLaw Web at a meeting last Thursday, hopes to have the site up and running by the time you read this.

The Net and the WWW

The World Wide Web (“WWW”) is the catchphrase for a vast collection of hypertext documents and information services scattered on Internet sites around the world.

“Hypertext” refers to a way of dynamically linking documents together. For example, if this article were a hypertext article on a WWW “page,” words and phrases like “WWW” and “Jason Gull” might be highlighted. “Clicking” on a highlighted word (using a Windows or Macintosh PC and the appropriate WWW “browser” software) would connect to another page that displayed a list of WWW resources, or that displayed a form for sending an e-mail message to me.

See WEB, p. 2
Law Prom:

A Night Under Stare Decisis

Special Guest Appearance by T.J. Hooper and the Learned Hands!

Photos by Adriel Sanders, Among Others
The Beer Guy:

By Ben McJunkin

Welcome everyone to the final issue of The Beer Guy this year. Thank you all for the questions, praise, and encouragement along the way. I’ve really enjoyed the opportunity to share with you a subject that I know and love. I know that some of you have already put my recommendations to good use, and I hope others continue to do the same.

Ask the Beer Guy

Q: What’s a good beer to order at a bar with limited selection (cough BW3 cough) if you’re trying to impress someone of the opposite sex?

If you’re really trying to impress someone of the opposite sex with your beer selection, start by avoiding places with limited selection. I don’t mean this to sound snarky, but no one cares enough about the subject to be impressed by your mad skillz.

But I’m avoiding the question. Assuming your premises (limited choices and a beer-conscious date), the key is to drink something you’re passionate about. Any schmuck can pick the fanciest sounding beer from the list and rattle off some pre-fab line to attempt to sound worldly (“You know, the Guinness in Ireland tastes nothing like the Guinness they have here. It’s the gypsum in the Lefey River that gives it that unique character.”). But the thought and care you put into explaining why you like the beer you chose will go a lot further with someone who is actually interested in you.

For example, my fallback beer at BW3 is the Magic Hat #9. It’s not a great beer. It’s low in alcohol, light in body and aroma, and it tastes more like apricots than malted barely. But it’s also made in the same Vermont town where I spent my college years. It was one of the first beers I learned to drink out of a pint glass rather than a solo cup. It launched both my appreciation for all things beer-related and my passion for supporting local business. To this day, drinking it fills me with a sense of community pride and makes me long for the Green Mountain State. That’s the sort of story that gets you laid (especially if you choke up just a bit during that last line). In all honestly, though, you only need to remember one rule: It’s not what you drink, it’s why you drink it.

Q: What beer will be waiting for you in heaven?

Oaked Arrogant Bastard Ale. It is probably the single-most difficult American beer for a beer novice to appreciate, but it has also been the most rewarding beer for me to learn to love. Anytime, anywhere.

Q: What is a high-gravity beer? Is gravity important?

Specific gravity is a measure of a beer’s density, and it requires two readings to tell you much about the beer itself. The first reading, taken pre-fermentation, is called the Original Gravity or OG. It tells a brewer the beer’s potential alcohol content. The second reading, taken at the end of fermentation, is called the Final Gravity and tells the brewer how much of the sugar content of the beer was not converted to alcohol. In this sense it is a very handy metric for brewers to monitor the progress of their beer, and the viability and efficiency of their yeast.

Recently, however, some brewers have begun to market beers as “high-gravity,” by which they usually mean only high alcohol (although a well-brewed beer often offsets the alcohol with high residual sweetness). Because the phrase high-gravity is ambiguous, it doesn’t necessarily tell you anything about either the alcohol or the residual sweetness (only that there is likely to be a lot of one, the other, or both). In addition, although a high Final Gravity is associated with a thick and/or syrupy brew, carbonation plays such a significant role in perceiving mouthfeel that you can’t predict that character until you taste it (for instance, Guinness has all the qualities of a typical “Lite” beer—low original gravity, and low calorie and alcohol content—but is regularly described as “thick” or “heavy” on the palate). Thus, for consumers, “high-gravity” proves to be a relatively meaningless descriptor (along with terms like “Imperial” and “Double”).

Beer You Should Know:

English Bitter

To me, English Bitter is the quintessential beer. It is the style that comes first to my mind when someone says the word “beer.” Not simply for how it tastes (which is fantastic), but also for what it represents about beer culture.

The first thing you need to know is that English Bitter is not objectively bitter. Bitters got their name to distinguish them from English Mild, a sweet brown ale with almost no discernable bitterness. Bitter is both lighter in color and hoppier than Mild, but is quite mild in comparison to their closest beer relatives: English Pale Ales, American Pale Ales, and certainly India Pale Ales.

The earliest Bitters were nearly indistinguishable from English Pale Ales (such as Bass). In England, most Bitters were served on draft and were dry hopped in the cask. As such,
2008 - 2009 Campbell Moot Court Finals!

Photos by Matt Weiser

Congrats to Campbell Champs: Frances Lewis & Usman Ahmed!
Softball Down South:
Michigan Law Competes in the UVA Tourney

Our MLaw team placed in the top 32 in a field of over 110 teams before a loss to the returning champs by a single run edged them out of the tournament.
SFF Basketball:
The Stuff of Epic Sagas

Photos by
Matt Weiser
(Don’t Tell Prof. Miller We Said That)

The students edge out the faculty in a nailbiter!

The Final Score?
Students - 81
Faculty - 75
**PRS**

**CONTINUED from Page 1**

no long fresh on their minds. Said one 1L, “This semester... I was more confused and was crazily texting and calling people at 3 pm on Friday to find out where to email statements of interests, etc.” As it turns out, “all the information was on the Registration Instructions, which was posted on MLawLive, about which we received one warning email from Amy Bishop.”

Last year’s series mentioned the need to offer our own web-based student course feedback site, like those offered at many other law schools. Unlike professor evaluations, this would contain evaluations for the exclusive use of other students. Thanks to LawOpen, law students have improvised their own system that consists of a single solicitation for feedback on a course/professor (or several) with the promise of publishing a summary of all responses. Clearly, having a centralized place for the posting of this information would not only save the time of the many generous students who currently share their opinions through individual requests, but would also serve a wider number of students (some of whom may be hesitant to send a LawOpen email about every class they are considering), provide a broader range of opinions, and stand up to the passage of time (unlike our inboxes).

Dean Baum is quick to acknowledge such enduring concerns among students. He explained that programmers have been busy on a multitude of projects for other offices but that “revamping the [PRS] system has been prioritized for the summer and is now listed at the top of the [programming staff’s] list.” Furthermore, with the hindsight gained from the MLawLive rollout earlier this academic year, he is open to suggestions and “plans to seek student input in the upcoming changes” (though the specific format for such input has not been decided). A difficulty of changing the registration process (say, compared to the exam procedures), is that there is not an opportunity to test the new protocol on a subset of the law school (read: summer starters). Focus groups and the like may not be able to predict the kind of school-wide reaction to a new system, so there is inherently a seat-of-the-pants feel to the first time a registration system is used.

Here at the RG, we applaud the Student Affairs Office’s commitment to taking a serious look at the current system and correcting its longstanding weaknesses. However, we urge the office to seek as much student involvement in the process as possible, even if it means emailing a survey out to students over the summer and/or soliciting feedback while regular classes are in session.

**PRS might not change without you! Make your voice heard, even over the summer, and hopefully everyone can work together for an improvement to the current system!**

**Green Retires**

**CONTINUED from Page 3**

...may not be the longest continuous faculty-graduate student discussion group in the University.” In addition, for the past 23 years he has edited or co-edited Studies in Legal History, a series published by UNC Press, and plans to continue to do so for at least another two years. He has worked with roughly 35 books put out by the series, although he estimates that he has helped edit up to seventy if one includes the work he has done on books which were eventually published by others.

Professor Green’s achievements, past and current, are enough to make one’s head spin. I am humbled to have had the honor of receiving an hour and a half of his time to interview him for this article. The great oaks eventually make way for the saplings that follow, but from a sapling’s point of view, those heights seem indomitable. There is no way to appropriately end this article, except, maybe, by quoting Sartre. “For an occurrence to become an adventure, it is necessary and sufficient for one to recount it.” So done.

**Tomek has, perhaps foolishly, opted to join the RG’s editorial board next year. Commiserate with him at rg@umich.edu.**

**Less Law**

**CONTINUED from Page 7**

with a profession when applicants are discouraged from demonstrating an actual interest in the profession? And that once in law school students aren’t required to have any exposure to the sorts of things they’re going to be expected to do on the job.

Anna Ivey, a former Dean of Admissions at the University of Chicago and now The Authority on applying to law school, gives the traditional advice against turning your personal statement into anything resembling...
what she calls a “statement of purpose.” But why don't law schools actually require or solicit something like this? While it might make Sarah Zearfoss's job more tedious, having an additional essay expressing what people hope to get out of law school and fewer essays about manually masturbating wallabees on the Isle of Man might be a good thing. Maybe if applicants were evaluated, in part, on having thought a little bit about why they’re about to spend 150k of money they don’t have to get a legal education, we’d be one small step closer towards not producing lawyers who hate their jobs.

Because of the barriers to entry in the legal world, law school applicants are unable to get a real up-the-butcher’s-ass view of what being a lawyer actually entails. So, every year, thousands of post-graduates try to get as close as possible by being paralegals at large firms, an experience that miraculously doesn’t dissuade them from going to law school.

Business school students, on the other hand, almost always have prior experience doing something similar to what they hope to do upon graduation and are therefore more than eager to pay for two years of beer bonging, hand shaking lessons, and supervised business card exchanges, content in the knowledge that they’re going to enjoy their job upon graduation.

So, to circle back to the possibility offered up by NY Times piece: the last thing law school needs is less law. Our Law School in particular hasn’t shown any signs of mandating juggling or TV/VCR repair classes, and this is clearly a good thing. And while undeniably shitty for current students, the demise of the idea that law school is a risk-free path to riches for bored humanities majors might not be the end of the world.

Would you actually like even less law at MLaw? Tell Dave at rg@umich.edu.

To remain the same at $9.99 even with higher priced singles, and if consumers don’t like a song’s price, they can withhold their purchases until the artist prices their tracks appropriately. In a market where some of the biggest successes have been from bands like Radiohead and Nine Inch Nails offering entire CDs for free or a voluntary donation, more choice and market flexibility should give other artists with less autonomy a better chance at success.

Third, maybe this change will be one step closer to a solution for the problems of the digital age. DRM hurts consumers, but is it fair to punish musicians by downloading copies for free in protest? As much as the idea of copy protection is anathema to the digital generation, most people don’t believe that they should be able to enjoy someone else’s work product for free. Industry changes have introduced a whole variety of unique models for musicians to make a living on their songs (for example, giving your music away to get an audience at a concert), but shouldn’t artists have more choice in deciding which model works for them?

Those are my hopes for this new chapter in digital media, and with any luck, the digital video market will follow soon (DVDs have long had copy-protection, and digital video downloads still use the DRM protections that audio has just shed). I, for one (joined by one of my professors who recently professed a love for MacTheRipper, a DVD decrypting software that allows you to copy your DVDs onto your computer), believe that when I purchase something, I should be able to consume it however I want, and physical media is too cumbersome in a digital age. Give me DRM-free!

Would you actually like even less law at MLaw? Tell Dave at rg@umich.edu.

Got NOTHING to do after finals are over?

Trying to stave off impending 3L-itis?

Consider working for the RG!

(We’ll love you forever!)
Did You Know that the RG has a brand new website? Check it out at:

theresgestae.com
**Beer Guy**

**CONTINUED from Page 13**

they have a distinct fresh hop aroma. English Pale Ale was traditionally the name for the bottled version of the beer. Since it couldn't be dry hopped in the bottle, hop aroma was added at the end of the boil, lending a different, cooked aroma and a subtly stronger hops flavor. In addition, because English Pale Ales were not “real ales,” they had higher carbonation levels. Because of these differences, the two styles diverged over time, with Bitters becoming even more mild, and Pale Ales becoming more assertive.

There are now three common subtypes of Bitter. Bitter is the lightest and most mild. Special Bitter is slightly darker, more alcoholic, and slightly more bitter. Extra Special Bitter (or ESB) is the closest in character to the modern Pale Ale – more alcohol, drier, and the most bitter. All three types share some unique characters, however. First, the beers should be light in color (anywhere from light golden to copper is acceptable) and light in body. Second, the predominant malt flavors should be of caramel and biscuit. The distinctive traditional flavor was in part a function of the high sulfite content in the waters of Burton. Many modern brewers still try to replicate this flavor by treating their brewery waters with sulfites. Third, English Bitters should make liberal use of traditional English hop varieties. Unlike American hops, which tend to be more citrusy and potent in flavor and aroma, English hops offer subtler, earthier flavors and much lighter aroma. English ale yeast also adds a slightly fruity nose. Finally, and most importantly, English Bitter is a low-alcohol beer.

Why is the lack of alcohol the most important aspect of English Bitter? Because English Bitter is the cornerstone of sessioning, an approach to beer drinking that is not often embraced in America. We’ve all known the person (or have been the person) to boldly proclaim, “If I’m going to drink, I’m going to get shitfaced.” Implicit in this statement is the idea that drinking is little more than a vehicle to a destination, and probably an unpleasant vehicle at that. Sessioning offers precisely the opposite ethic. It embraces drinking as the goal itself, with significant intoxication a consequence to be avoided. The idea behind a “session” beer is that you enjoy it enough to have seven or eight pints over many hours at your favorite pub with your closest friends. It need not—indeed should not—be too big, bold, or assertive. It should not draw your attention away, but rather should serve as your trusty ever-present companion. This is why Bitter, as a style, is so near and dear to my heart. It was designed to be a beer you enjoy without thinking about enjoying it. It is truly a beer without pretention.

If you get a chance to give Bitters a try, I strongly recommend the following:

--Victory Uncle Teddy’s Bitter (light, crisp, and fruity).
--Rogue Younger’s Special Bitter (malty and rich).
--Rogue Brutal Bitter (ESB) (strong and hoppy).
--Young’s Special London Ale (ESB) (the paradigm)

Really? Really?

I promised Cale Johnson that I would review a beer that he was kind enough to share with me during a quick game of poker the other night. The brew: Sparks Light Malt Beverage. Twenty ounces and many hours of deliberation later, I’m still not sure how to begin.

Although it is technically beer (despite the common misperception that malt beverages or malt liquors are something else entirely), Sparks Light has none of the qualities of a beer. Indeed, that’s a selling point. Served in a tall aluminum can, Sparks proclaims to be an energy drink that just so happens to be alcoholic. Its taste is true to that goal—a cross between watered-down Orange Julius and chewable Flintstones Vitamins. Nothing that could be described as either malty, hoppy, or alcoholic could be detected. Given the aim of the makers, it would be unfair for me to review it as if it were trying to be anything else.

The only comment that I can think to offer is this: This is the flipside to this column, and why it exists. Just as local brewers are expanding the boundaries of what traditional beers can be, leading a renaissance of beer appreciation, beer innovation is also working to capture those who enjoy being drunk but who (understandably) dislike the fetid offerings of commercial breweries. While I write to convince you that, despite your bad experiences, there are many beers worth learning to appreciate; Sparks exists to convince you that learning to appreciate beer has become unnecessary. I’ll leave it to you to choose your path.

Thank you to everyone for reading!

We appreciate the fact that Ben’s made us better beer drinkers—hopefully we won’t lapse back into our old, incredibly cheap ways under the pressure of finals or in his absence next year!
ACROSS

1. Slain nurse
2. Beige color
3. National Center for Atmospheric Research (acronym)
4. Drying oil used in varnishes
5. Fundamental
6. Type of dress
7. Israel: Aviv
8. Montezuma's revenge
9. Cross in middle of the block
10. A rat
11. The original Roseanne
12. Op of closes
13. Frivolous mood
14. Happen
15. Climber
16. Christian love
17. Related to a chimp
18. Prefix
19. Golden times
20. Cathartic
21. Digit
22. Sausage
23. One, two, three, etc.
24. Spruce
25. Leered
26. Type of cigar
27. A swelling
28. More than hefty
29. Card game
30. Designers
31. Dark complexion
32. ___ firma
33. A prophetess
34. Pertaining to the third degree
35. Turn the other one!
36. North Chinese Dynasty
37. Augury
38. Husband
39. Biting comment
40. Alamos, NM
41. What kind of bird gets worm
42. Male name meaning spear carrier
43. Dire
44. Barbed wire barricade
45. Relating to the main trunk of the heart
46. Computer's ____ and bytes
47. Question
48. Bundle of wheat
49. What some frats do
50. Course in supply and demand
51. Noggins
52. Middle Eastern
53. True
54. Stare at
55. No winner
56. Lip

DOWN

1. In the ___
2. Beige color
3. National Center for Atmospheric Research (acronym)
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6. Type of dress
7. Israel: ____ Aviv
8. Montezuma's revenge
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51. Noggins
52. Middle Eastern
53. True
54. Stare at
55. No winner
56. Lip
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Being ourselves.
That’s our practice.
FINALS!

Good luck everyone, and have a fabulous (and relatively stress-free) summer!

--Your RG Staff