Teaching Law Students to Be Lawyers
Professor Lutz Discusses Life, Law School and the Pursuit of Success

By Karen Lockman and Sarah Getchell

Carl E. Lutz was formerly a senior partner with Kirkland & Ellis in Chicago, but now focuses on teaching and other outside interests. While at Kirkland, he practiced corporate law, specializing in private equity, venture capital, leveraged buyouts, mergers and acquisitions, debt and equity financings, and board representations. He also served on Kirkland’s senior management committee for a number of years. He has lectured on numerous occasions at graduate law and business schools, and has served as general counsel of a public company. At the Law School, he has taught courses in business transactions, private equity and entrepreneurial transactions, law firms and legal careers, and professional responsibility.

RG: Tell us a little about yourself. How did you get to where you are now?

KL: I graduated from Yale in 1972, from Michigan Law School in 1975, and then went to Chicago, where I worked at Kirkland and Ellis for 22 years. I retired from Kirkland at age 47.

RG: Why did you retire at 47?

KL: That’s a complicated question. First, I was lucky to be able to do it financially - both because the law firm treated me well and I was able to invest with my clients in transactions that I did as a practicing lawyer – they turned out pretty well.

Then the rest of it was pretty much - been there, done that. By the time I retired, I had pretty much done the kinds of transactions that there were then to do for corporate lawyers at large law firms - after a while, they all started looking pretty much the same to me. I was also involved in firm management for a number of years and I felt that I had made my contribution there. Same with my area of practice. When I started at the firm, I was the second lawyer in the private equity group. When I left, there was well over one hundred lawyers doing what I was doing. I felt the department had grown to the point where it was no longer as important.

RG: What have you been doing since then?

KL: A number of things. When I first left the firm, I looked at some general counsel positions at very large corporations, but ultimately decided that was too much like the job I was doing before. I looked into various business enterprises - golf course companies, minor league sports teams - but basically decided those were not terrific businesses to be in. Then, finally, in 1999 Dean Lehman asked me to come in and teach a class here.

RG: How did you and Lehman connect?

KL: He got to know me originally through fundraising, and asked me what I thought was missing in law school education. I had a few thoughts. We finally decided that I would teach a course that talked about private practice and the business of law. My sense was that there were a lot of lawyers who, when they got to be 35 or 40, were becoming aware of things about the profession that no one had told them before. So I felt that I wanted to teach a class that would sensitize students to what it was really going on in private practice.

RG: Was the course the same then as it is now?

CONTINUED on Page 6
Editorial: Construction Frustrates Disabled Access

Ongoing construction of the public policy building now makes the law school nearly impenetrable from the south west side. However, the two buildings comprising the school’s class and library space provide at least three other entrances. Students who normally entered via State street or commuted from west of Monroe street experience but a minor inconvenience; permanently or temporarily disabled students however, suffer a much greater problem.

The building’s handicapped access, already not particularly convenient, is now alarmingly poor (is slowly descending towards abysmal/non-existent?). With more than one M-Law student sporting both crutches and casebooks, the increased difficulty regarding access to the law school for disabled people has been brought to our attention more than usual.

A student with a handicap who wishes to enter the law school from the south west has to travel a fairly far distance to reach any kind of accessible entrance. The Monroe entrance to the reading room, and the Hutchins entrance to the Quadrangle, are the only two entrances without stairs. But Monroe is no longer accessible from State, and Hutchins closes after business hours. With the rapid approach of another Michigan winter, restricted access to the school for disabled visitors and students is an issue.

The most obvious reason for the frustration is, of course, architecture. Hutchins and Legal Research, while (hopefully) ADA compliant, were built decades ago and only patchwork methods exist to provide full access to all areas for people with disabilities. Several students who’ve sustained foot or leg injuries have described the lengthy process of reaching classrooms or the sublevels of the library with great disdain. Getting to Sub-3 from the Monroe street entrance to Legal research, without using stairs, takes three separate elevator rides and about fifteen minutes.

The law school administration, from the students we’ve talked to, seems both responsive and sensitive to the needs of handicapped students. Nevertheless, the logistics of reaching and navigating the law school for students with handicaps are now more difficult than ever.

We hope the law school recognizes these difficulties and does what it can to ease them. Opening the law school’s State Street entrance in the near future may be a lofty goal, but it is not an unreasonable request (particularly since we’ve heard that the State Street entrance was supposed to be open in time for the first day of classes.)

That’s not to say that access is solely an administrative problem. Students can help out disabled students by not taking the slow and small Hutchins elevators, particularly between classes, and by avoiding use of the unisex bathrooms on the first and second floors of Hutchins whenever possible.

This may not seem like a pressing issue at the law school in this time of law firm callbacks, alumni donation drives and bar application preparation. Most of us can easily forget the experience of using crutches or other mobility-enhancing devices to get around. It makes it easier to ignore issues such as disabled-person access. But a public law school should do all it can – from the administration to the student body – to make itself as open as possible to every member of public, no matter how differently-abled we are.
Feeling Like the Mayor of DingVille?
Here’s How to Execute Plan B

By Carolyn Spencer

haven't started your job search? Waiting for the phone to ring? Think everyone has callbacks except you? Or perhaps you know that the big firm is not for you, and you haven't even started your job search yet. Think you're the only one? Certainly not, according to the Office of Career Services. Assistant Dean for Career Services Susan Guindi reports that each year, many students find their summer jobs outside of OCI.

Three members of the 3L class who did just that talked to students on Sept. 27th about finding a job outside of the Law School sponsored interview programs. Jenny Chen, Trent Crable, and Leanne Hartmann spoke about how much they enjoyed the summer jobs that they obtained through letter-writing campaigns and networking. All spoke about the need to be proactive and persistent, even if that's not your style. The students also emphasized the importance of executing Plan B now and not waiting until later in the semester.

Leanne Hartmann recommended that students meet with a Career Services counselor to tweak one's resume and discuss a job hunting strategy. Leanne employed several strategies in finding a job, including a mailing campaign to all the law firms in the NALP Directory that didn't interview on campus or solicit resumes via the Student Job Bulletin. Jenny Chen used the alumni network to find her job; using Martindale-Hubbell, she identified Michigan grads who spoke Mandarin Chinese – as she does. She wrote to them, and landed a job. Like the other students on the panel, Jenny reiterated the need to follow up with each firm you contact about a job.

Trent Crable emphasized the importance of not waiting too long to initiate Plan B. He cautioned against waiting until mid November when all of your callbacks from EIW and FIP might be done. Another suggestion Trent made was to “leverage” your interviews. Once you have a callback in a city, call the other firms you haven't heard from in that city to let them know when you'll be in town in order to find out whether they also would like to interview you.

When identifying firms to apply to, you can send a resume and cover letter not only to NALP firms but also to firms or alums listed in Martindale-Hubbell (www.martindale.com). There are many ways to research firms such as size, location, and practice areas. As noted above, you can also find alumni and other lawyers that share your ability to speak another language. Westlaw is also very helpful in locating lawyers using not only the criteria above but also a lawyer's undergraduate institution, membership in a sorority or fraternity, or representative clients. In addition, Westlaw has the “Law Student Jobs Online” (LSJO) postings. The “Summer Associate Law Firm Directory” is particularly helpful in finding firms that may not be in the NALP Directory as well as firms outside the United States. Another function allows a student to search for firms that allow split summers with a public interest or government agency.

Under-utilized resources

Several promising but under-utilized resources are available for students looking for summer positions. One is late sign up for interviews. During the Fall Interview Program, schedules of the employers interviewing students that day are posted on the bulletin board in the Computer Lab, outside of the Career Services Office's double doors. If an employer has a time slot in its schedule that isn’t filled, then students are allowed to sign up for interviews on a first come, first served basis. Recently, a firm from San Francisco and one from DC had unfilled slots.

In addition, each year more than 100 employers that do not participate in EIW or FIP request students to submit resumes to them either directly or through OCS. A listing of these employers (not just law firms) can be accessed on the OCS website at http://www.law.umich.edu/currentstudents/CareerServices/jobbulletin.htm. Keep an eye on the deadlines for these jobs.

New this year is the “Small and Medium Sized Firm Database” at http://www.law.umich.edu/currentstudents/careerservices/jobsearch.htm#firmlist, consisting of law firms located in the cities where most of our students spend their 2L summer. These firms hire summer associates but neither come to campus to interview nor solicit resumes from our law students. The Database will be updated continuously, so please share any information you have by emailing it to lawcareers@umich.edu.

Finally, look at the list of where students worked in past summers, at http://www.law.umich.edu/currentstudents/careerservices/jobsearch.htm#summer, and talk to them to find out about their previous employers. There may be firms or companies that would be happy to hire another Michigan law student.

The bottom line in finding a summer job is to be persistent and proactive. Make an appointment with a Career Services counselor. We're here to help.

Staff members at the Office of Career services also contributed to this article. Carolyn Spencer is an Attorney-Counselor at the Office of Career Services. E-mail the Office of Career Services at lawcareers@umich.edu.
There’s Still Time to Save the World: Learn How to Land a Public Interest Job

By MaryAnn Sarosi

Why can’t the government and public interest job search be as easy as the firm job search?

If you want to know the answer to that question, Grasshopper, you’re better off foregoing this article and going straight to the horoscopes. If you want some pointers for the summer job hunt, read on.

First of all, you don’t need to have a job in hand now. The public service job hunt schedule is NOT the same as the law firm hiring schedule. Students often secure jobs well into March! Having said that, you do have to do some homework before applying for jobs.

The homework should include:


• Studying Last Year’s Summer Employment List. Find out where other students worked this past summer. Get ideas and get tips from a student who has already worked at the summer job of your dreams. The OCS web site lists students who are willing to speak with other students about their summer jobs with public interest organizations and state, local, and federal agencies.

You can access the information by clicking on “Student Summer Employment List - Geographic by Employer Location” (PDF document) or “Student Summer Employment List - Alphabetical by Employer Name.” (PDF document)

• Looking at the SFF list of funded jobs to see where fellow students worked last summer. This list is on the OPS website (http://www.law.umich.edu/currentstudents/PublicService/funding/sff.htm), and a hard copy can be found in the career resources library in room 210 HH. Make an appointment to see me (MaryAnn Sarosi) after looking at these resources. Call Paula Payton at 734-647-3256 to make an appointment.

• Checking the jobs listed on Pslawnet.org (www.pslawnet.org). After registering for a password, you can search for “opportunities,” which are job descriptions for positions already listed and/or by “organization,” i.e. type of employer. Opportunities with numerous government agencies as well as prosecutors’ and public defenders’ offices are listed.

• Familiarizing yourself with the Office of Career Services website; of particular interest is the “Useful Links” section (http://www.law.umich.edu/currentstudents/careerservices/usefullinks.htm).

• Studying our federal government employment resources. We have a list of agencies along with deadlines for applying. Also, we have links to other resources that list government employment opportunities that you should check out.

Examples include:

www.law.arizona.edu/career/honorshandbook.cfm - Government Honors and Internship Handbook (for 2005-2006, the username and password are lemon and yellow3);

And www.nalp/jobseekers/fedempl.pdf (a wealth of information that offers job seekers an in-depth look at the government’s myriad functions and roles, as well as a glossary of terms unique to the federal application process, and tips on landing a government job. Particularly helpful is the “Appendix: Federal Departments and Agencies: What They Do and Who Does It.”)

The student group OPIS has set up a mentorship program for 1Ls and 2Ls interested in talking to 3Ls with experience in government or public interest. If you’re a 3L, I encourage you to sign up to provide assistance to 1L and 2Ls. If you’re a 1L or 2L, take advantage of this wealth of experience. Please contact Rebecca Teitelbaum at rebt@umich.edu to sign up.

My office will also underwrite some of your costs to go to job fairs such as the upcoming Equal Justice Works Job Fair (October 27, 28 in Washington, D.C.) and the Peggy Browning Worker’s Rights Conference (October 14 and 15 in Silver Springs, Maryland). OPIS is coordinating transportation & housing to the EJW Job Fair. Look for a sign up sheet on the board outside the OPS office.

One word of advice from students who have been to the EJW Job Fair: set up interviews before you go to the conference. OPS will reimburse $50 toward housing/travel and we will pay for registration if you submit receipts within 3 weeks after the event.

That’s the general advice I can provide in the confines of an 800 word article. Of course, if you’re seriously considering pursuing a summer job in government or public interest, you should make an appointment to see me or talk to Paula Payton. We can then tailor our discussion to your interests and needs.

MaryAnn Sarosi is the Director of the Office of Public Service. E-mail comments about this article to rg@umich.edu.
Rubin on Roberts: ‘He’s No Moderate’

By Anne Gordon

The debate about “activist judges” rages on - particularly as Supreme Court Justices seem to be dropping like, well, old people. An “activist judge” stands for unelected, unaccountable, and out-of-touch academic who thwarts the will of the people in an effort to support a political agenda. Such a picture is generally painted by conservatives who urge the judiciary to be more accountable, both to the people and to the Constitution. But Peter Rubin, co-founder of the American Constitution Society (ACS), thinks that’s not what’s really going on. “The danger of judges getting onto the bench and interjecting their own personal preferences into the law isn’t coming from the left, or the center, but from the right,” he says.

In a speech given to UMLS students in 150 Hutchins on September 19, Rubin tried to outline the basis of conservative legal theory, linking it to the confirmation of Judge Roberts to the Supreme Court.

He first presented an outline of conservative legal theory. He started with a warning. “The Right has vastly superior skills in public relations; that’s why the names they give sound fantastic… who would be against ‘textualism?’”

The reality, though, says Rubin, is that all lawyers are textualists, because they believe in the written word of the Constitution. In that sense, he advances, all lawyers are “originalists,” as well. However, the disagreements lie in what to do after this point. “With the Violence Against Women Act, the Court said that Congress can’t regulate domestic violence,” Rubin said. “But the Constitution Art. IV said that they have the right to take action against insurrection or domestic violence!”

In this sense, Rubin says, everyone thinks that there’s such thing as originalism; words simply don’t mean the same thing in every context. Most scholars concede that Constitution as drafted did not explicitly extend equal rights to African-Americans or women, yet such rights are central to our democracy today. What to do? The conservatives on the Court have made up a standard of regarding the Constitution at the “narrowest level of generality.”

This is all well and good, says Rubin, except for the fact that this standard was simply “made up.” This standard appears as many times in traditional legal theory as many of the legal theories mocked by modern conservatives (penubras and emanations, anyone?).

The standard and its construction relates directly to the Roberts nomination because Roberts invoked the “narrowest level of generality” standard during his confirmation hearings. Rubin argues that although he did so in a more moderate way than Rehnquist, Scalia, and Thomas have done, adoption of any of these legal theories would “impact all of our lives.” Rubin emphasized the importance of truly understanding the impact of what Roberts said in the hearings.

He then stepped back and took a look at the confirmation process as a whole. “The most notable thing about the Roberts confirmation hearings,” Rubin said, “was that they were largely boring.” In response to a student question, Rubin tried to explain why: “The skill with which the nominees have learned to cover their views has basically made them meaningless. Thomas said a number of things that bear no resemblance to anything he’s ever said before or since… [he] basically read from Souter’s script. He said he believed that there were rights that weren’t enumerated in the Bill of Rights, and that he agreed with Harlan. But then he didn’t do anything like that! There’s been no mention of Harlan since.”

Rubin continued: “[Thomas], basically, ‘fill in your euphemism for “lied.”’ Roberts, too, was deliberately equivocal in his answers. “He wrote a memo to O’Connor [when he was in the Reagan administration] that said ‘show them your knowledge of the law and don’t answer any questions.’ He’s written the perfect script, so that no one has to tell anyone anything!” This new mode of judicial confirmation hearings leaves Rubin, and others, asking whether the hearings have become essentially meaningless.

Rubin closed with another warning. “Either, Judge Roberts is far more moderate than anyone had ever thought, or he’s created a false impression that he is…. If I hadn’t seen his Court of Appeals decisions, or his memos in the Reagan/Bush Administrations, and I’d just seen these hearings, I’d say he seems pretty moderate.” But, Rubin said, “I have seen these opinions. He’s no moderate.”

For more information on the American Constitution Society, go to http://students.law.umich.edu/acs/.
KL: The course was originally called “law as a business.” When I started teaching, I thought I wanted to teach students about how law firms operated and what the business of law is really like, but what I found over time was that students were more interested in job counseling. So I redirected the course more towards helping students understand the recruiting process and understanding the differences among the law firms.

RG: Tell us about the “Law Firms” course.

KL: The basic theme of course is that not all law firms are the same. They have different cultures, different things that are important to them, different value systems. Individual law students have different value systems and different things that are important to them. I want to emphasize to the students how desirable it is to make a good match between the student and the law firm.

The law firms class is an exposure class — my intention is to expose students to the reality of private practice. I don’t place tremendous demands on the students; I am basically throwing a bunch of stuff out there. My other classes place different demands upon the students.

RG: In what way?

KL: The other classes are more demanding. You really have to want to be in these classes — enrollment is limited and I get to pick who gets in. I’ve taught private equity classes, and am currently teaching what is called “Business Transactions Practicum I” and “Business Transactions Practicum II.” The courses are an attempt to simulate the experience that a young associate in private practice, in a corporate department would have. So it’s not supposed to be easy.

RG: What else are you doing now?

KL: On the professional side, I do some legal work for people that I did legal work for before. I also have been asked to be an expert witness in a couple of cases.

RG: What are you an expert in?

KL: One of the cases has to do with a compensation dispute between a highly compensated partner and a very large law firm. So I’m a compensation expert in that particular case. Another one has to do with contract interpretation. I enjoy these assignments because they present a different kind of challenge.

RG: Do you have family?

KL: Yes—I have 3 children—they matter to me more than anything else. One of my original reasons for coming to teach here was that my oldest son was an undergraduate in the business school. Then my second son also came to Michigan as an undergraduate, and then my daughter also decided to come here. Kelsey is now a senior in the undergraduate business school.

RG: All of your children were in the business school here?

KL: The second one actually majored in economics, but is currently in investment banking in New York. None of them seem like they are headed towards the law, though.

RG: Why do you think that is?

KL: Maybe a couple of reasons. They probably saw the demands that there are being in a service business like the law. Also, I probably never viewed myself as being a real lawyer’s lawyer. I was more of a business lawyer, more interested in the business aspects of the deals that I did. My practice was primarily in private equity—leveraged acquisitions, venture capital and the like—so I always was aware of the business side of what I was doing. My children were probably aware that I talked more about the business aspects of what I did than I talked about the legal aspects.

RG: Did you always plan to do business law? Why did you go to law school in the first place?

KL: I was at Yale in the late sixties and early seventies. This was a very activist time on college campuses. It was not considered a particularly acceptable thing for students to go into business. If we were going to change the world, as we thought we would, the law provided a more appropriate venue for change. I thought most Yalies pretty much looked at three choices—there was medicine or law or business. Maybe a few people wanted to be teachers. I always thought about law or business. By the time I graduated in 1972, nobody was going into business and everybody was trying to go to law school.

RG: Would you do anything different if you did it all over again?

KL: During my early years of practice, I had a number of opportunities to go over to the business side, but for a variety of reasons I always stuck with the law. My firm was particularly cooperative in enabling me to do things as a young lawyer that other young lawyers were not permitted to do, and they were pretty flexible in compensating me in a way that was unusual for large firms.

CONTINUED on Next Page
RG: What do you like to do for fun?

KL: Most people know that I'm an avid golfer — I belong to courses in Illinois, Michigan, South Carolina and Ireland, and I also take several other trips a year to golfing destinations. I also like to travel a lot, which I am more able to do now. Last summer I spent a couple of weeks in China with my daughter, and I also spent time traveling in Greece with a very good friend.

RG: How long do you expect to stay at Michigan?

KL: Well, since I am not tenured, it is a year to year thing. I really enjoy teaching. The reason I originally went into teaching and the reason I teach today is because I feel that I am making a contribution. As a practicing lawyer at a large law firm, you are representing large organizations, for-profit generally, and my practice was representing investors who were hoping to get rich. This is fine, but I felt that it would be nice at some point in my life to do something where I felt I was helping people. Teaching gives me that outlet.

RG: What are some of the most rewarding experiences you've had as a professor?

KL: It's nice when people tell you that you are doing a good job, and it's nice when you get good reviews. It is particularly nice when students communicate with me after leaving the University of Michigan. So probably one of the most satisfying things is having someone come back to me 2, 3, 4 or 5 years later and say that "you really helped me a whole lot," whether it be with the selection of a law firm or approach to the practice or something like that.

RG: Do you think that all law students should go into private practice?

KL: I certainly don't think everybody should end up in private practice — it is a tough business, a competitive business, and terribly demanding. But it is a fact of life that a high percentage of law students at schools like Michigan end up in private practice at least at the outset. Whether or not they will be in private practice forever, I still think they should think about going to the right place, because you will still be spending most of your waking hours at your job.

RG: Are you happier now than you are not working at a law firm?

KL: People have asked me what I miss about working at the law firm. I say basically 2 things. First of all, I miss the paycheck, and secondly I miss all of the wonderful, talented people that I worked with. Really special people.

RG: Speaking of wonderful talented people, what has been your impression of the students you've been working with here?

KL: I've been very impressed with the quality of the students at Michigan law School... talented, highly motivated, goal oriented.

RG: Do you have any criticisms of the students here?

KL: I wouldn't suggest that this is necessarily a criticism, but some of the things that I failed to understand when I started teaching were that students are incredibly grade conscious, and related to that, they are anxious to know exactly what they are supposed to do in order to accomplish their objective of getting a good grade.

RG: Do you think we should be focused on other things?

KL: It is an unfortunate fact of life that the grades that students obtain in law school determine the range of opportunities that they have when they graduate. So it is understandable. But unfortunately, it is not clear to me that a student's grade point average correlates terrifically well to success as a practicing lawyer.

RG: What qualities do correlate to success as a practicing lawyer?

Well, the ability to write is critical, and law school does a good job of identifying those people. But there is a much broader range of skills that are relevant to success in practice—problem solving, people skills, management skills and the like. In my smaller classes, students do a lot of projects of the type that they would do if they were working at a law firm. If I have a student for one term, I have a lot of exposure to their work, their skills and their approach—things that will be relevant to them when they practice law. More so if I have them for two terms. There is certainly a correlation between students with high grade points and students who do well in those classes, but it is not as much as you would expect. Whether somebody has a 3.8, 3.6, 3.4, or 3.2 at this place, in my view, does not really operate as a great predictor as to how well they will do in the practice of law.

RG: How should students decide, then, where they should practice?

KL: The message of my law firms class is, first ask yourself, what is important to you? And then try to make the appropriate match. It is not "one size fits all."

RG: Do you think that the law school does a good job in guiding students toward the right match?

KL: That's a very difficult thing to do, I believe. Obviously, career services helps a lot, and students should take advantage of that. One of the problems is that most of the faculty at Michigan end up in private practice—problem solving, people skills, management skills and the like. In my smaller classes, students do a lot of projects of the type that they would do if they were working at a law firm. If I have a student for one term, I have a lot of exposure to their work, their skills and their approach—things that will be relevant to them when they practice law. More so if I have them for two terms. There is certainly a correlation between students with high grade points and students who do well in those classes, but it is not as much as you would expect. Whether somebody has a 3.8, 3.6, 3.4, or 3.2 at this place, in my view, does not really operate as a great predictor as to how well they will do in the practice of law.

A related concern is that many are now saying that law schools may not be doing a very good job of preparing students to be practitioners.
CONTINUED from Previous Page

Do you agree with that? Do you think that law schools will veer away from teaching theory to teach more about practice?

KL: I think that existing trends will continue and accelerate. The law business will move in the directions of consolidation, globalization and increased use of technology. The unfortunate fact for individual attorneys is, if you are capable of doing something in a very short period of time, you will be expected to do it. For that reason I think that the demands on professionals’ lives in private practice will continue to increase.

RG: What should law schools be doing better to prepare students for the changes in the profession?

The Michigan Law School faculty is awesome. They are brilliant, great scholars, great teachers, and leaders in their profession. On many occasions, I have expressed my belief that the capabilities and talents of this faculty exceed that of the senior partners at top law firms — and these partners are making millions per year.

What we have to get better at is preparing students for the practice of law. I really hope that the faculty here will make greater efforts toward working with practitioners to better prepare students.

RG: What other changes might be necessary?

KL: There is a lot of debate about whether law school should be just two years. Think about it. If you are going to be a doctor, you go to school for a period of time, and then you go into your internships and residencies. You actually practice being a doctor before you actually do it. There is nothing like that in law — nobody’s learning how to be a lawyer before they actually go do it. Why not have law school be two years and then have some kind of apprenticeship program where a student has an opportunity to really learn how to practice law?

RG: Are there changes that can be made in the way law school is taught, as well?

I don’t have all of the answers. It just seems to me that we have been doing things the same way for a really long time, and that it not as relevant today as it used to be.

In the first year of law school we have a certain set of subjects. When Abe Lincoln, in the 1840s, decided to be an attorney, what do you think he studied? Probably pretty much the same subjects. This worked pretty well for Abe because what Abe did as a practicing attorney was get on a horse with a couple of other lawyers and judges and ride around to local towns and handle disputes between individuals, or between the local jurisdiction and the individuals. The kinds of subjects you would talk about in the first year of law school.

Practice of law in law firms today is nothing like what Abe was doing back in the 1840s. You are representing large business organizations, companies, and financial institutions. Their issues are different than the issues that individuals had back then.

I also am concerned about how we test student skills. In most cases, we are asking students to absorb a large body of law, and then look at fact situations and spot issues. Fine, but I don’t that law school practice is like this.

The practice of law is more like a take-home exam. You have a problem to solve, an objective to accomplish, and you can use any resources that you can bring to bear on the situation. Clients want you to solve the problem, win the case, and accomplish the objective. They really don’t care how you get it done. If you want to test students as to whether they will be good practitioners, give them the kind of assignments that they will receive in practice. Solve problems, accomplish objectives, be creative in coming up with solutions to real issues.

RG: When and how might some of these changes happen?

KL: Law schools will have to change. The marketplace will demand it. Michigan is well-positioned to be a leader in this process.
Me As A Lawyer: Better Than Shatner?

By Mike Murphy

A writing assignment I had last week required some outside research, with the instruction that "your judgment as to when you have done enough will be a measure of your present adequacy as a lawyer." That made the assignment easy for me, since my measure of my present adequacy as a lawyer is very, very low. (Relax. I'm not going to self-destructively descend into alcohol-soaked depravity. My friends and I already do that every weekend, particularly since we acquired the kegerator.)

But am I the only one who felt like I was playing a lawyer on TV this summer? I kept expecting William Shatner to walk into my office with no pants on, talking about making out with the managing partner, Murphy Brown. (Did you guys see that "Boston Legal" commercial? Some guy at ABC must have been all like "And then Shatner comes in with no pants on!" and the rest of the boardroom was like "Brilliant! Put it in the teaser.")

When I told my mother that I was going to write my next column on my inadequacy as a lawyer, she angrily accused me of libel ("I did not raise an inadequate son!" and so on) and declared herself a bad mother. I'm fairly immune to her Irish Mother guilt trips at this point, so I said that truth is an absolute defense to libel. So if she's suing me for insinuating that she's a bad mother (by way of rearing my Cowardly Litigator self) but confirming what I'm insinuating, then I win. "You sound pretty adequate to me," is what she said next. Curse her and her craftiness.

Maybe law school is the Irish Mother we all never had. The one that loves us (or at least our money), but makes us feel guilt-ridden and inadequate. Even if you think I'm crazy, admit that the nexus of brain power and self-doubt in law school is surprising – and compelling.

See, I came from an undergraduate degree (Journalism) where some of my classmates' primary concern in terms of their scholastic aptitude was how their hair and face looked in front of a camera. I was told repeatedly that grades didn't matter. I flourished in such an environment. Some days my classmates' primary concern in terms of their scholastic aptitude is the B+ distribution in last year's offering of the Jurisdiction course. It's because of this that I hate printing the grade curves. I hate them more than I hate misuses of the hearsay rule on "Law & Order." (Cup check! If you laughed at that joke, you're officially a nerd. 3 p.m., bike racks, bring your lunch money.) My friends read the curves, and spend two days talking about their flunking out and bleak future – and these are my friends who have GPAs above the median. At least they did last year. This year, they don't come to class and haven't seen the paper.

One way (and not the best) to eliminate self-doubt is through external validation. In the third year, the primary way to do this is through accepted permanent offers and, for the advanced doubters, clerkships. Some people are going into clerking because their intellectual curiosity isn't yet satisfied and they'd like to delay practice. Others are interviewing because they, for some reason, feel they should. I think some others are going because it allows them to nonchalantly mention their "offers" and "callbacks" some more.

See, last year, it was the same song but with summer job offers. It was even harder then not to gauge your self worth on the offers you have. But they're just offers, guys. I mean that whether you're sitting on several or begging for one. How well you work in practice and (more importantly) who you are as a co-worker determine your real worth to a law firm. If you're a smart guy but also a total dorkus, you (yes, you) are not going to make partner. You read it here first. Be afraid. Be very afraid.

The first year it was, and I'm not kidding, whether and by how much the professors seemed to like you. You'd think this would only be an issue if, say, Jessica Alba or Vin Diesel were teaching law school classes (bioethics and feminist jurisprudence, respectively).

Yet in some way, large or small, these were the things we cared about. I've seen it before. Even many of my television journalist buddies are caring about what you could call "the wrong things" – money, prestige, fame. The ones that do well are the ones who cared less about how much credit they got and who saw what they did, and more about making themselves happy doing something they really liked to do. The other ones are either frustrated our out of the game.

But that's the tv biz - a hypercompetitive job market filled with Type-A personalities and extremely limited chances for advancement. Other than that, it's nothing at all like being a lawyer.

"Your judgment as to when you have done enough will be a measure of your present adequacy as a lawyer." Our present adequacies as lawyers are low because we're not lawyers yet. No magical ceremony happens upon bar completion that makes us more competent (except if my future employers are reading this, in which case I'm just kidding.) We have to develop our professional judgment the same way every other professional does by (har-har) trial and error.

Which reminds me. Just like Shatner would, I filed a counterclaim against Mom for defamation, and she brought an action to sanction me for practicing without a license. That old lady is crafty.

Mike Murphy is the Editor-in-Chief of Res Gestae. E-mail comments about this article and criticisms about the way he treats his mother to rg@umich.edu.
Last Chance to Take Part in the Record-Breaking Nannes Third-Year Challenge

By Matt Nolan

Only halfway through the anticipated pledge drive period, the Class of 2006 has become the strongest giving class the Nannes Third-Year Challenge has seen in its eleven-year history (121 pledges have been submitted as of September 29), something we can all be very proud of. That being said, there are still plenty of reasons why the Law School's student organizations and the Law School itself need you to join your peers and take the Challenge, if you haven't done so already. Only 79 pledges remain until the 200-donation limit will keep you from being a part of history in the making, so get your form in ASAP!

Reason #1: $50,000. More money is available through the Nannes 3L Challenge than through LSSS appropriations for student organizations ($250 x 200 pledges). Read that again – the challenge could more than DOUBLE the yearly budgets of student organizations (some already have). If you’re the chair of a student organization that could use more money, leaning on your 3Ls is the easiest and most flush way to get much-needed dough or to take your group to the next level.

Reason #2: The Law School needs it. While it may not always seem like it, schools absolutely HATE raising tuition; they know we can’t afford it, and then have to witness the crunch it creates on us daily. Tuition goes up out of necessity; state appropriations to the school continue to dwindle and represent a lower percentage of the Law School budget (2.5% this year, meaning 97.5% of funding comes from private sources). The Law School pinches its own budget as much as possible before raising tuition, but for the school to become what it COULD be, it needs to expand programs, not contract them. Your support of the Law School Fund by participating in the Nannes Third-Year Challenge is the most direct way you can help the “U” grow and have your children’s children still be impressed when you tell them you went to Michigan.

Reason #3: Simply, we can. Through alum John Nannes’s (’73) generous contribution of $50,000/year, we are offered an incentive structure that is too good to be true. According to Career Services, 73% of the Class of 2004 took jobs in private practice, and most of the 15% who took judicial clerkships will have firm jobs waiting for them as well. Even 3Ls currently without any solid job prospects know that 98-99% of Michigan Law grads enjoy employment within a few months of graduation, and the first donation through the Challenge is not due until May of 2007. If we’re truly honest, there is not a SINGLE one of us, even without a job, who could not afford $50 a year and a half from now, $75 a year after that, and $100 a year after that...especially those of us with firm jobs. If you’re working at a large big-city law firm after graduation, your pledge amounts to about one hour of pay PER YEAR.

The Challenge officially ends either on October 13 or when the 200th pledge is submitted, whichever comes first. With some of your classmates pledging as much as $500/year already, please ask yourself how much the Law School and its organizations mean to you, and please, take the Nannes Third-Year Challenge today.

Forms are available by the yellow submission box at the Reading Room desk, or at the Challenge’s website below.

http://www.law.umich.edu/AlumniandDevelopment/thirdyearchallenge/

Matt Nolan is the Executive Editor of the RG and is on the Executive Committee for the Nannes Third-Year Challenge. He can be reached with questions regarding either at mnolan@umich.edu.
THE LAW SCHOOL FUND

The Annual Fund of the University of Michigan Law School

2005 Nannes Third-Year Challenge

Yes! I will help the Law School now by pledging my support and directing $250 of Nannes' gift to either an organization(s) of my choice or directly to the Law School Fund:

Please allocate $250* to those organizations listed on the reverse side of this form.

☐ Student organization/publication $_____

☐ Student organization/publication $_____

☐ Student organization/publication $_____

☐ The Law School Fund $_____

TOTAL DESIGNATED $250

*You may select more than one recipient, with the total not to exceed $250.

I pledge to contribute to the Law School Fund (please check selections)

Year 1: ☐ $50 or I will contribute ☐ $_________ in May 2007

Year 2: ☐ $75 or I will contribute ☐ $_________ in May 2008

Year 3: ☐ $100 or I will contribute ☐ $_________ in May 2009

Name (Please print) ________________________________

Permanent Address ________________________________

City/State/Zip ________________________________

Email Address ________________________________

I understand that completion of this card indicates a good faith commitment on my part to contribute to the University of Michigan Law School Fund in each of the University's first three fiscal years after graduation pursuant to the designation(s) as noted above.

Signature/Date ________________________________

Please return form no later than October 13, 2005 to: BOX IN LAW LIBRARY READING ROOM

*Open to the first 200 students
Please Don’t Kick Me Out: The Average 1L Settles In

By Nate Kurtis

It seems that the beginning of each new school year just gets tougher and tougher. There were some familiar experiences: selling my body to science (again) so I can afford textbooks, weathering orientation (“Of course the ice-cream social is mandatory!”), and showing up to the wrong classroom for my first class of the year.

I also managed to spend all the rest of the money I had left on a “Michigan Law” shirt. I can no longer afford things like food, but this purchase was at least as necessary as my Contracts book since it would (surreptitiously) advertise the fact that I was a “law student” to the “co-eds” of the undergraduate population in four-inch tall gold lettering across my chest.

You would think this wouldn’t work. It doesn’t. I mean, anyone can (and apparently does) buy one of these shirts. It turns out proof of attending law school isn’t necessary and being a law student may actually hurt your chances with girls.

One example of this phenomenon is found in the women who attend law school with me. They know I go here and they are friendly and welcoming. I think they do this hoping I’ll pay dues. Obviously they don’t understand why I’m scrounging for free pizza in the first place.

But I didn’t write this column to discuss the important issues of the Law Student Surfing Club. Instead, it was to discuss the experiences of the “average” incoming law student.

We’ve all heard about the amazing class of ’08: the UM basketball captain, the Peace Corps volunteers, the Fulbright scholars, and the NASA rocket scientist. We did not, however, hear about me. But if we did, Dean Caminker would have mentioned about the student who won Metal Gear: Solid Snake in one 34-hour sitting.

Listening to Dean Caminker talk about my fellow incoming 1Ls, and meeting them while enjoying mandatory ice cream, I found I was asking myself one question over and over (the same question I’m sure many “average” members of the class of ’08 are asking themselves): Why on earth did they let me in?

Of course, it would be a simple matter to go meet with the folks over in the admissions office and find out first hand. This is something I certainly plan to never do. I’m terrified the admissions staff is going to realize what they’ve done, pull me aside, and explain that this has all been some kind of big mistake. It is possible to see how something like that could have happened: Dean Zearfoss accidentally put the wrong letter in my envelope.

Clearly that isn’t what happened. The fine men and women who work in admissions don’t make mistakes – and if you don’t believe me, make a federal case out of it. (Again, please don’t kick me out.) What is more likely is that I’ve just imagined the whole thing. My admissions letter wasn’t from Dean Zearfoss telling me I had been accepted to Michigan Law School, but from Ed McMahon telling me I may have already won 10 million dollars. The folder I received at orientation wasn’t my course schedule and book list but was instead a booklet of coupons to Meijer’s. I won’t even mention the fact that I’ve probably been listening to my lectures from the squirrels on the Diag.

If this really is the case, I’m too far gone for any help. Instead, I should just focus my energy on surviving this first semester of law school. This is why I formed a study group to help me learn the material, and with whom I can commiserate about the quality of our classmates.

Unfortunately, I don’t think talking with the Olympic gymnast and the Nobel Prize winner has helped all that much. Maybe instead I should organize my own group: the Dumb Law Students Association (DLSA). I would then be able to attract like-minded individuals by offering free pizza at an organizational meeting. I should be able to afford that; after all, I may have already won 10 million dollars.

Nate Kurtis is an odd first year law student. Questions, comments, and looks of puzzlement can be sent to him at nkurtis@umich.edu. No other warranties expressed or implied.
Violate Some Copyrights Tonight:
Check Out These New Tracks on the D/L

By Matthew Jedreski

The Boy Least Likely To, “The Best Party Ever”

I have a soft spot for The Boy Least Likely To because they remind me of the uncoordinated kid in my second grade music class. Mrs. Gilbert would give him the triangle or the washboard or some other instrument that didn’t require too much dexterity, and the look on his face as he banged along with “This Land is Your Land” was one of well, pure joy.

“The Best Party Ever” sounds like the result of locking a folk singer, a musically gifted hipster, and a couple of cats from the 60s California sunshine rock scene in a grade school music room along with all those quirky instruments (remember the glockenspiel?). The tracks, particularly “Monsters,” “Warm Panda Cola,” and “Paper Cuts,” are breezy and lyrically reminiscent of Belle and Sebastian, but full of childish whimsy.

“I’m Glad I Hitched My Apple Wagon To Your Star” coquettishly begs me to forget about my work and to mosey on down at the ole’ pond for a dip. I’d go, but I’m tripping so hard that the faces on the trees swaying to the music are creeping me out. “I’ve got the blues / I’ve got lift in my shoes / And I’m scared of the countryside / I can’t sleep ’cause I see spiders when I close my eyes.” Me too, man, me too.

Buy this album if: You need some cheering up after reading about a catastrophic Bush blunder.

Don’t buy this album if: You were sexually abused in the “It’s a Small World After All” room at Disneyworld and/or vote Republican. One ride on “It’s a Small World” was enough, thank you very much.

The Cribs, “New Fellas”

Andy: “What’s this music you’re listening to?”

Matt: “It’s the new album from The Cribs.”

Andy: “It sounds like The Strokes.”

Matt: “It’s way better. Julian Casablancas is a vain, lazy hack. These guys talk shit about hipsters, rather than trying to be their gods. That’s so deck.”

Andy: “Are you wearing your girlfriend’s jeans?”

Matt: “Yeah. Mine are at the tailor’s.”

Buy this album if: You’ve always wondered what a 45-minute orgasm feels like.

Don’t buy this album if: You’re deaf.

Slim Thug, “Already Platinum”

“You know the boss talk shit/walk shit/floss shit/like it don’t cost shit/that’s why I’m the boss bitch.” There’s something so compelling about the baritone confidence in Slim Thug’s voice that after listening to “Already Platinum” for the first time I found myself out on the streets hooking for him. The self-proclaimed part-time hustler/full-time grinder distinguishes himself from fellow Houstonians Mike Jones and Paul Wall with sonorous non-repetitive rhymes flowing over minimalist Neptunes’ tracks. “Three Kings” and “Like a Boss” feature Fosse brass beats and a catchy drawl (when he says “girls” it sounds like “guhhs”). “I Ain’t Heard of That” shines as the single that gives away Slim’s patented philosophy on pimping (“I’m just here to train hos / put’em on the main road / teach’em how to change clothes”). The album is basically devoid, much to my relief, of any social commentary or positive message. “Dedicate” laments the killings of friends as a result of gang hits, but foregoes a “stop the violence” message in favor of a death threat to those responsible. Besides a sentimental ballad to “Miss Mary” (yes, LLMs - the drug Cannabis), Slim sticks to convincing us he was “Already Platinum” before this album. Check out that badass pic of him in the cd case… is it the first of the month already? Gimme a few more days, Daddy, I’ll get that money I swear.

Buy this album if: You want to get off the streets, get a hot meal in your belly, have a real man takin’ care of ya.

Don’t buy this album if: You’re not scared of catching a mean ass-whupping when Slim Thugga finds out.

Be Your Own Pet, “Damn Damn Leash”

Eighteen year-old Jemina Pearl Abegg is absolutely the sexiest thing in music right now. She makes Gwen Stefani look like a pack mule, and the girl can sing. “She’s ripping off Karen O [of the Yeah Yeah Yeahs],” scoffed my girlfriend, who’s clearly jealous that a printed out picture of Abegg with hearts drawn all...
Attractive Nuisance: 
Introducing the Poetry of Robert Lowell

By Jay Surdukowski

This week I introduce a poem by Robert Lowell (1917–1977). Lowell is a giant of American poetry and a leading figure in the school of “Confessional Poets.” This poem is from his groundbreaking 1959 book Life Studies:

Skunk Hour

For Elizabeth Bishop

Nautilus Island’s hermit heiress still lives through winter
in her Spartan cottage;
her sheep still graze above the sea.

Her son’s a bishop. Her farmer
is first selectman in our village,
she’s in her dotage.

Thirsting for
the hierarchic privacy
of Queen Victoria’s century,
she buys up all
the eyesores facing her shore,
and lets them fall.

The season’s ill--
we’ve lost our summer millionaire,
who seemed to leap from an L. L. Bean
catalogue. His nine-knot yawl
was auctioned off to lobstermen.
A red fox stain covers Blue Hill.

And now our fairy
decorator brightens his shop for fall,
his fishnet’s filled with orange cork,
orange, his cobbler’s bench and awl,
there is no money in his work,
he’d rather marry.

One dark night,
my Tudor Ford climbed the hill’s skull,
I watched for love-cars. Lights turned
down,
they lay together, hull to hull,
where the graveyard shelves on the town . . .
My mind’s not right.

A car radio bleats,
‘Love, O careless Love . . . .’ I hear
my ill-spirit sob in each blood cell,
as if my hand were at its throat . . . .
I myself am hell,
no body’s here--

only skunks, that search
in the moonlight for a bite to eat.
They march on their soles up Main Street:
white stripes, moonstruck eyes’ red fire
under the chalk-dry and spar spire
of the Trinitarian Church.

I stand on top
of our back steps and breathe the rich air--
a mother skunk with her column of kittens swills the garbage pail
She jabs her wedge-head in a cup
of sour cream, drops her ostrich tail,
and will not scare.

Lowell was a great man. His poetic voice boomed with the authority of a brash god. His is the voice we would expect from one affiliated by blood and soul with the famous Boston saying: “So this is good old Boston. The home of the bean and the cod. Where the Lowells talk only to the Cabots. And the Cabots talk only to God.” How intimidating to be born into a family that had conquered both civilian and military life, into a family with two great poets before him — James Russell Lowell and Amy Lowell.

But Lowell’s branch of the family fell on hard times. Life Studies is the book that lays it all bare. His alcoholic father’s pitiful trips to the naval history museum, solace from his idiocy with business and family. His mother’s distance. His own bouts of deep depression, illness, and committal to hospitals. He was like Toad in the Wind and the Willows, gunning to wreck cars, boats, planes.

That lust for life led him to break a wife’s nose in a car accident, punch out his father in front of his mother, transfer from stoic Harvard to sleepy Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, and serve a six month prison term for conscientiously objecting to World War II (images of our firebombings drove a stake through his Catholic soul). He once moved to Tennessee to be with his poetic heroes — and promptly had an affair with one of his hero’s wives. He turned down President Johnson’s invitation to the White House to protest the war. He had a

CONTINUED on Page 19
Two-Time Contender Gives Campbell Advice

By John Fedynsky

Editor’s Note: The Campbell Moot Court Competition is often a rite of passage for 2Ls, and a great way to get experience in brief writing and oral argument. If you would like to participate, please email campbell-help@umich.edu. Consider the following recommendations offered by an alumnus who competed twice.

Deadlines
They’re huge. You must sign up on time to compete. You must turn in your brief on time to have a shot at winning.

Time Commitment
This consideration is even bigger. Seriously competing in Campbell is like taking on another three-credit course – except you do not get any formal academic credit for it. Considerable research and writing is involved. If you do not think that you will have the time to do it right, then you probably should not do it at all.

Picking a Partner
Choosing a partner with whom you work well is key. There are some horror stories out there. For that reason, I do not recommend registering without a partner of your own choice. You will work hard, in close quarters and under pressure, so it helps to be friends.

Nit-picking
There are all kinds of rules about what font to use, page limits, etc. If you hate stuff like that, then Campbell is not for you.

Money
Printing 18 copies of your brief, which is required, costs money that you may or may not prefer to spend otherwise.

Subject Matter of the Problem
You don’t get to choose it and you do not get to see it before signing up. Bet on a constitutional issue involving one of the big amendments – Fourteenth, Fifth, First, you get it. One party will probably be a sympathetic individual and the other will be the big bad state. If you never plan to do appellate constitutional litigation, then Campbell is the best chance you’ll ever have to give it a go. By the way, you also don’t choose which side you represent. If you advance far enough, you will represent both sides.

The Judges
Alumni serve as judges in the first round and they are a mixed bag. Then it’s faculty in the quarterfinal and semifinal rounds. Finally, there is a distinguished panel of, usually, federal judges for the final round. As can be expected, the expertise and scoring of the judges vary. As a general rule, none of the alumni are constitutional experts and therefore simply enjoy hearing good arguments. Be prepared for sometimes puzzling questions. In the quarterfinal round, most of the faculty judges also are not constitutional experts. Only in the semi-final round do some of our con-law teachers volunteer their time. They ask tougher, more nuanced questions that pre-suppose a lot of knowledge.

Emotional Investment
This aspect of the competition is probably the most unexpected and, in my view, unavoidable. When you spend so much time on something, it is hard not to get wrapped up in it all. And unlike in real life, the judges are explicitly deciding how good you are as an advocate, not whose side prevails on the legal merits. The deeper I went into the competition last year, the more subjective the judging became. One panel asked lots of questions and gave great feedback. Another was cold and seemed to just want to go eat the free food afterwards. Sometimes you think you crushed the other side in oral argument, but the scores came out pretty even. Other times, you think you had an off night and you score well. Or you get a low score for no apparent reason.

More than anything in law school, Campbell made me sympathize with legal realists. Repeated experiences seemed to show that scoring depended less on the abilities and the performances of the competitors and more on who the judges happened to be. Cynicism and resentment crept in. Sad to say, there were feelings and perceptions among competitors of gender bias, racial bias, journal favoritism (remember, the faculty judges generally know who does what for what journals) and the like. I do not know if those feelings reflected the reality of the situation. But I know that those feelings were there and that some people would rather not have them or deal with them, which is reason enough not to enter.

In Conclusion
Personally, Campbell was a genuinely positive experience. There were drawbacks, to be sure, but I had a heck of a time and look forward to doing it all over again. Weigh the considerations above and see how things shake out for you. Most people who study here only get two shots at the prize. Life is short – take your best shots.

John Fedynsky ('04) lives in Detroit and works for the Michigan Court of Appeals.
Teed Off Teams Hit the Links at the LLSA Golf Scramble

Michigan Law students put their "lawyering" skills to a real-life test in a legal practice environment Sept. 24 at the Latino Law Students Association (LLSA) Fall Scramble Golf Tournament at the Stonebridge Golf Club in Ann Arbor.

All proceeds supported LLSA and its activities, including the Project Comunidad Fellowship program and the Hurricane Katrina Relief effort.
ACROSS

1. Tide
5. Burned tobacco by-product
8. Not close
12. Top grade of gasoline
14. Birthday count
15. La_____ de ma tante
16. Fingered
17. Tigers
19. Lowest point
21. Speeds up
22. Race distance
23. October birthstone
25. What willows do
27. Satyr
30. Nears
33. Type of center
34. Controvert
36. Curry
38. Yaks are a type
39. Ditto
40. Patella
41. Columbus ship
42. Horse control
43. Car type
44. Acetate is one
46. Power from a nuclear_____
50. Wound protection
51. Tom Hanks' first starring movie
54. President's office
56. Leave without permission
59. A triangle
62. Some are for football bets
64. First Hebrew letter
65. Dye quantity
66. Brain box
67. Evening in Roma
68. Isle in E. England
69. Remain

DOWN

1. Priorress, e.g.
2. Style
3. Hindu principle of life
4. Excel
5. _____ O'Shanter
6. Used as gelling agent
7. Sign up again for a magazine
8. Model Carol
9. Gasoline
10. Aeronautics and Model Rocketry Association (abbrev.)
11. Deference to an older person
13. Acid used to produce nylon
15. Leisurely stroll in Merida
18. Female name
20. Tease
24. Live with
26. Reticules
27. The South
28. Ties up
29. Breathe through 'de nose'
31. _____ Cane
32. Cover with cream cheese
33. A lifer, e.g.
35. Dressed to the ______
37. Big ______
39. Get there
43. Skin on top of head (pl.)
45. Era
47. What can be in a hole
49. An iceberg does this
51. Prejudice

(C) 2001 Collegiate Presswire Features Syndicate
http://www.cpwire.com
CD REVIEW, from Page 13

over it hangs above my bed. OK, so the lead singer spits and screeches tough lyrics (“You’ve got me on a leash / I damn damn leash / and it’s hard enough to be myself”) like a stereotypical female rocker, but these recent high school grads from Nashville have such a quintessential garage-punk sound that you won’t mind being the creepy old guy at the party.

Buy this album if: You have early childhood memories of being turned on by Blondie videos.

Don’t buy this album if: You’re insecure listening to a woman who is both hot and could kick your ass.

Matthew Jedreski is a 3L. E-mail comments about this article to rg@umich.edu.

NUISANCE, from Page 14

crush on the anti-war Minnesotan Senator and minor poet/presidential candidate Eugene McCarthy, whom he called “a one man Greek chorus.” He blazed through three wives and two children.

At the age of sixty, purportedly on his way back to wife number two after a stormy fight with wife number three in Ireland, his heart punched itself out and he died in a taxicab taking him from JFK to the Upper East Side. It was September. He clutched a picture of his second wife hard to his chest as he died.

A reviewer of his collected works speaks of “a castle built on its own burning” – in sum, Lowell’s poetic achievement. A vast collection of work built on burned out ruins of his mind and his generation.

“Skunk Hour” is a poem written on the edge. Set in coastal Maine where Lowell lived at times, it begins almost like a film would. There is a slow, dreamy gaze. The camera picks out some characters to quietly follow. We meet a rich Yankee widow who, like the Rockefellers in Tarrytown, buys up all the land on the opposite shore to keep her vista clean. But she longs for a richer past. The rich man who fancies himself a sailor has sold his boat to the plebian lobsterman—his finery has gone to the dogs. Some have read in this character something of Lowell’s father, who left the honor of the sea to find an honor in business, and found nothing but failure. The family’s material wealth passed to lesser hands.

The gay shop proprietor has amassed the useful fishing gear in pretty displays. It rings of the contrived, like a poet who “with used furniture/builds a tree,” as fellow Confessional poet Anne Sexton put it. And also like poetry, there is no money in the work. There is something very sad in the line “he’d rather marry” — because we know he can’t.

Other clamp traps of paranoia abound in the poem: the “ill” season, the ominous red fox stain on Blue Hill. Lowell meant the color red of leaves on pavement, but the line also has the alternate morbid read of a literal fox body staining the road. Also, the skunk’s hell red eyes, the graveyard, and the puritanical and spired downtown in darkness.

The emotional nausea of the poem lies in the speaker’s voyeuristic trip to spy on lovers parked in their cars. There is a feeling in the pit of the reader’s stomach, like walking past Michigan dorms alone on a Saturday night and being both attracted and repelled by the glimpse of lovers stumbling into each other, eager mouths and quick hands.

After this night of madness, of the “Paradise Lost” allusion of “I myself am hell,” a strange optimism and calm rears its head like the skunk from the sour cream cup. The speaker is back home and on his porch. The air is suddenly rich. He sees the fearless mother skunk and we are left with the feeling that like the determined critter, our hero “will not scare.” Both Lowell and the equally eminent poet Elizabeth Bishop found a kind of solace and truth in the animal world. This poem was indeed a response to Bishop’s “The Armadillo.” It is the resolve after a night of self hell that makes this poem a foothold for survival. It’s a quiet, clear, night place where men and skunks can talk to God.

Jay Surdukowski adopted a skunk in late-August and fed it whitefish and Twinkies for dinner.

Res Gestae

Needs Fresh Blood.
We need writers, photographers and editors.
And especially a web site maintenance guy. And an advertisement person.
(Not actual blood)
E-mail rg@umich.edu
Michigan Law Announcements

Dean’s Special Lecture

“Facts And Rules In The WTO”

Luiz Olavo Baptista
Member, Appellate Body, World Trade Organization; Professor of International Trade, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil

Thursday, October 20, 4:00 - 5:30 PM
Location: 120 HH

Event Contact: Stephanie Wiedehold, wls@umich.edu 734.764.0535

Going on a Callback?

Law Firms Love L-Star

The Law Student Travel and Accommodations Reimbursement Program (L-STAR) is a national fundraising initiative that runs in conjunction with law school on-campus interviewing (OCI) programs.

If a law student stays with family or friends instead of in a hotel during a callback interview, the interviewing law firm(s) agrees to donate $165 to that student’s public interest funding organization.

http://www.umich.edu/~lawweb/sff/L-STAR.htm

Interested in a Public Interest Career?

Go to a PI Career Fair

The Office of Public Service OPP will pay the registration fee and $50 towards transportation toward any of the public interest career fairs listed below. Please check with Barb Summers (ops@umich.edu) for details.

EJW Career Fair

For those of you interested in pursuing summer jobs in public interest, the Equal Justice Works Career Fair is going to be held on October 27 and 28 in Washington DC. We will have a sign up sheet on the OPS bulletin board for people willing to share a ride to DC. http://equaljusticeworks.org/

Law Students Workers’ Rights Conference

Peggy Browning Fund’s seventh annual National Law Students Workers’ Rights Conference is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, October 14 and 15, 2005. Once again this highly-acclaimed event will be held at the George Meany Campus of the National Labor College in Silver Spring, Maryland. Information is also available on the website, www.pegybrowningfund.org. Same deal on OPS paying registration.

The Public Interest Environmental Law Conference

http://www.piele.org/

Thursday, March 3rd - Sunday, March 6th, 2006
The University of Oregon School of Law in Eugene, Oregon will host the PIELC.

Midwest Public Interest Law Career Conference

The Midwest Public Interest Law Career Conference, sponsored by the Chicago Area Law School Consortium, is a job fair for students interested in employment in the public sector. The Conference is usually held in February and attracts over 50 employers for on-site interviews, informal discussions and for resume collections. The registration website will not be up until December, but the site is http://www.mplcc.org

LSSS ANNOUNCES

October 12 (Wednesday):
The first of the revived (and sorely missed) Blue Jeans Lectures with a professor to be named, in the LC lounge, sometime in the late afternoon, with some kind of lovely edibles.

October 20 (Thursday):
Wine & cheese (aka student-professor mixer), also in the LC lounge, also sometime in the late afternoon, also with lovely edibles likely to be of the wine and cheese variety.

October 28 (Friday):
Annual infamous Halloween party, at the Links @ Whitmore Lake, sometime in the dark of night, tiix go on sale Oct 24.

Student Animal Legal Defense Fund presents...

“Hurricane” Relief, a Charity Dog Walk-a-Thon

October 22nd, 10AM - 2PM
Gallup Park

100% of proceeds will go to the Louisiana SPCA to help animals impacted by the hurricanes.

See our website: http://umichsaldf.blogspot.com for more information.