Spring Break: the perfect time to jet to exotic locations, catch up on rest (or margaritas), and enjoy yourself. It's also the perfect opportunity to slip away and work for a great public interest cause (or alleviate the guilt you have over taking that firm job - either way).

This spring break, Sarah Bookbinder, 3L, organized a trip for fourteen students to the gulf coast regions devastated by Hurricane Katrina. We spent the bulk of our time information-gathering (à la Erin Brockovich) for the Mississippi Center for Justice. Prior to Hurricane Katrina, the Gulf Coast was already experiencing a great housing shortage. Now, after the storm, the situation is even more dire with hundreds of people displaced.

We went door to door at 110 government subsidized apartment complexes to gather information about their post-hurricane condition, on which the government still has little information. We focused on three basic issues:

Was the complex still there? Countless buildings had been completely wiped away in the storm leaving nothing but the cement foundation slabs.

What was the condition of the dwellings? Many people were living in apartments with missing ceilings, sometimes roofs, and quite frequently with toxic black mold growing throughout.

What was the landlord doing about these problems? Evictions after the storm were frequent. Some evictions have been motivated by property owners looking to turn a profit by selling to developers. And still, many people continue to live in dwellings which would be considered utterly uninhabitable under any other circumstances.

In Trent Lott's hometown of Pascagoula, Mississippi, we visited an apartment complex with around 200 units. The roofs were missing on all 20 buildings and black mold pervaded the interiors. The residents had received eviction notices two months prior and the buildings were condemned, but still people remained. When asked where they would go, most did not have an answer. On the waitlist for FEMA trailers which would seemingly never arrive, they would have to move out. The more fortunate ones had a car to live in. As if the devastation of the storm wasn't enough, residents must cope with the crime that has gripped the region in Katrina's wake. One woman sleeps upstairs (despite the missing roof and inevitable rain) because residents had been raped in her complex.

We took pictures, made notes, and tried somehow to record what was an indescribable experience. The government has granted money for rebuilding efforts, but that money is earmarked for home owners, not for apartments. The attorneys we assisted hope to change that allocation. Since some landlords have not yet repaired apartments, tenants are either homeless
Here at the RG, we’re all for freedom of information. That’s why in this issue we give you the long-awaited Fall 2005 grade curves. But, like any resource, grade curves can be used and they can be abused. Hence, the following disclaimer: using the grade curve for course selection or pass/fail determinations may be an unwise over-reliance on almost-meaningless statistical information. Read at your own risk.

Grade curves for a class are necessarily determined by the quality of the exams written - a factor necessarily dependent on the collective skill of the test-takers, the effectiveness of the instructor, and the difficulty of that year’s exam. A much more useful statistic for maximizing the possibility of a high grade is the number of people in a class. If less than 40 students are enrolled in a class, the law school’s “required” curve is only “recommended.”

Note that a “recommended” curve doesn’t automatically, always, or even consistently result in a higher average grade; but it certainly sounds comforting. A much more efficient strategy for maximizing your chance to attain a higher grade is to stop trying to find slight edges in the system, take courses of interest, and actually go to class having done the reading.

Curves are further abused as a self-flagellation device for people who earned lower grades (by finding out that exactly 83 students did better than them) or as vehicles of self-glorification for people who got high grades (the other way around). At the risk of sounding like cynical 3Ls, we see plenty of flagellation and glorification around here as it is. (For example, turn to our columns on pages seven and ten, respectively).

The only reasonable use of grade curves is to see if your professor has failed anybody recently, and it’s fairly comforting to see that they rarely do. Or to overcome that mid-semester is-possible-to-pass-this-class anxiety (again, the answer is always yes).

By this time in the editorial, you’re probably not reading anymore because you’re too busy flipping over to page 12 to see just how many people beat your A in Con Law. So, we can say whatever we want here since you’ll never see it. Booger booger poopie-pants.

Grade curves will continue to be a staple of the Res Gestae, in both its print and electronic forms, as a way to appease cat-killing curiosity and make the grading process more open. (And, because we know that grade-curve expectation accounts for the majority of our readership.) Nevertheless, we challenge our readers to use them wisely—or at least abuse them sparingly. On a final note, your Con Law grade isn’t that bad. (Except it is.)

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**Phi Alpha Delta Movie Night**

“PCU”

Starring Jeremy Piven of TV’s “Entourage”

Tues., Mar. 28, 8pm
Room TBA
Snacks will be provided
Everything That's Fit to Moot (Court)

By Bria LaSalle

In November, over 50 teams entered the preliminary round of the 82nd Annual Henry M. Campbell Moot Court Competition. This year’s case concerns an appeal by a woman charged with murder and involves Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Amendment issues. Following four days of competition, twelve teams were selected to compete in the quarterfinal round held in February.

From the quarterfinals, four teams advanced to the semifinal round, held March 8 and 9. The semifinalists were 3Ls Mary Catherine Martin and Richard Zito; 2Ls Alicia Carra and Lubna Alam; 2Ls Jessica Stoddard and Derek Milosavljevic; and 3Ls Sarah Bender-Nash and Scott Risner.

On April 6, Stoddard and Milosavljevic will face off against Bender-Nash and Risner in the final round, to be held in 100 Hutchins Hall. The finalists will argue before Judges Kozinski and Reinhardt of the Ninth Circuit and Judge Boggs of the Sixth Circuit.

Michigan students also achieved impressive showings in regional and national, trial advocacy, appellate advocacy, and client counseling moot court competitions.

3L Josh Deahl and 2L Jackie Roeder joined Bender-Nash and Risner at the regional Philip C. Jessup International Moot Court Competition at Wayne State in February. The team won the overall competition, as well as three individual awards in the oralist category: first (Deahl), fourth (Risner), and fifth (Bender-Nash). Joining the team at the competition was alternate Ted Kill, 1L, and coaches 3L Joseph Ashby, and 2Ls Jackie Kahng and Lubna Alam. As winners at the regional level, they will continue on to the international rounds to be held in Washington, D.C. at the end of March.

The Michigan Chapter of the American Constitution Society sent teams to the First Constance Baker Motley National Moot Court Competition in Constitutional Law, held at Columbia Law School on March 4 and 5. 3L Aron Boros and 2L Osvaldo Vasquez successfully made their way to the quarterfinals, while 1Ls Adam Little and Sonya Mays were named finalists. Little and Mays will advance to the national competition in Washington, D.C. in June to compete against the other finalists.

Two teams participated in the Second Annual National Sexual Orientation Moot Court Competition at UCLA in February. 1L Stephen Kilar and 3L Germaine Gurr wrote the winning brief, which was successfully argued through the semifinal round by Kilar and 1L Lyzette Bullock. 3Ls Cliff Davidson and Lousene Hoppe also competed.

The Intellectual Property Student Association sent two teams to the Giles Sutherland Rich Regional IP Moot Court Competition in Chicago, on March 10 and 11. 2Ls Judi Cothorn and 3L Sabu Mathai won the preliminary round held among University of Michigan teams. Joining them in Chicago were 2Ls Cosmin Maier and Maher Haddad, who placed second in the preliminary round at Michigan.

1Ls Stephanie Da, Antonia Eliason, Anna Nesterova, and David Szeker represented the Law School at the National Native American Law Student Association Moot Court Competition in February held at the University of Washington. 3Ls Anne Finken, 1L Chris Coulson, and 2L David Hobstetter represented UMLS at the Eighteenth Annual Environmental Moot Court Competition at Pace University in February. Coached by clinical professor David Santacroce, the team competed among 72 other teams. Coulson won the competition’s Best Oralist award in the third round.

The ABA Law Student Division sponsors both the Client Counseling and Appellate Advocacy competitions. In February, 1Ls Corie D’Angelo and Angela Tyler placed second in the team competition at the Region Finals Client Counseling Competition. D’Angelo placed first in the individual round at the intraschool level. 1Ls Mitch Holzrichter and Alanna Clair finished 2–1 for the oral arguments portion of the National Appellate Advocacy Competition.

Michigan’s National Trial Competition team won the regional round at Case Western Reserve University Law School in February. 2Ls Masayo Nobe, Anthony Lange, and 3L Marisa Perry will advance to the final round held in Dallas from March 22 through 25.

As these results show, UMLS students don’t shirk from the opportunity to flex their competitive muscles and show their superior lawyering skills. Congratulations to all who participated in competition this year!

The Second Annual ORIGINS CULTURAL SHOW

Michigan Union Ballroom
Friday, March 24, 2005 at 8 pm
(Silent auction featuring items from local businesses will start at 7:30 pm.)

Tickets on sale starting Wednesday, March 15th during lunchtime in front of 100 HH
$10 in advance / $12 at the door.

Proceeds to benefit the APALSA Fellowship Fund
Mark West On Japan, Fashion and Why Dean Croley Will Never be on ‘The Daily Show’

By Michelle Sharpe

Mark D. West, the Nippon Life Professor of Law, is the director of both the Japanese Legal Studies Program and the Center for International and Comparative Law at the Law School. While in practice with the New York law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, West spent a year in Tokyo conducting an investigation for Sumitomo Corporation, whose chief copper trader created the largest individual trading loss in history through unauthorized trading. He earned his B.A., magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, from Rhodes College, and his J.D. with multiple honors from Columbia University School of Law, where he was notes and comments editor for the Columbia Law Review. He clerked for the Hon. Eugene H. Nickerson of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York. He has studied and taught at the University of Tokyo and Kyoto University, and has been a Fulbright Research Scholar, an Abe Fellow, and a fellow of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. Since 2003, he has served as director of the University of Michigan Center for Japanese Studies.

Why Japan? Why Japanese law?

That’s always the first big question. I grew up in these little rural towns in the South, mostly in south Louisiana and Tennessee. And I wanted to prove I was really cosmopolitan when I got to college. So, I initially told myself I was going to be a real badass and take 5 languages at the same time, and then I realized I couldn’t do that. . . . So I figured I’d just take one, but I wanted to pick something unusual and interesting. I’d been curious about Chinese, just the fact that you had to memorize all the characters. . . . My little college didn’t have Chinese, so when Japanese became an option there I thought, “yeah, that’d be cool,” because of the whole character memorization thing. But mostly I was thinking, “it’d be cool to know that because nobody else would.” That’s the whole “grew up in a small town” thing. So I started that and then went to Japan, and the first place I went was a little rural town, much like the places I grew up. And I had just enough language at the time that I could have rudimentary conversations, and it felt just like home, there was no culture shock, just country folk. So I missed out on that whole mysterious, exotic stage where you go and are awed by everything in Japan. I kind of wish I had had that, that I hadn’t gone in so full of myself to be impressed. But the flip side of this is it all seems normal now; I get more culture shock when I go below the Mason-Dixon than when I go to Japan.

As for Japanese law, I went to Columbia, which had a Japanese law program very much like the one we have here, and again, I thought it would be interesting, but also that it would be rare, and after two years of that, everybody was saying, “oh, I guess you’re a Japanese law expert.” And I was saying “uh. . . I guess so?” But an odd thing about me, I probably have the least interest in Japan as a country of all the Japan-related faculty at the University. I never got into the Japanese cultural stuff, into the things people said were truly Japanese. Like the whole pop culture stuff, it just seems normal to me; you like Dane Cook or whoever, I like Hitoshi Matsumoto. But if my work is any good, I think that’s why it’s good. I’m not approaching it saying, “oh, I want to write something about geishas’ kimonos.” I try to approach it like any law professor would, “ok, what do I think is interesting here?” I think that approach makes it more interesting to people who aren’t interested in Japan to begin with.

What about your book on sex and suicide and – sushi?

Oh yeah, that was the last one. Law in Everyday Japan: Sumo, Sex, Suicide and Statutes. Honestly, that’s not a good book. Don’t buy that book.

Ok, I’ll mention that. Save $60 on Amazon.

What happened was that I wrote an article about the rules and norms of law of sumo associations in ’96, and I actually spent a lot of time with the sumo guys.

Did you wrestle?

No. Well, not well, anyway. . . . And then, after I did the sumo bit, I think maybe I found data on noise complaints from karaoke next. And then I said, “OK, I’ve got another article there.” And then I thought, “people would be interested in love hotels,” and their placement

CONTINUED on Next Page
I can't tell you how jealous I was like four months ago when Steven Levitt, author of *Freakonomics* and an economist at Chicago... I've talked to him a few times... well, I turn on *The Daily Show*, and that guy is on there. And that burns. So I immediately emailed the most jealous, envious, bitter people on the faculty, which is of course people like Croley and Miller, and said, “can you believe this?” And I started this tirade about how it should be me and not him. But hey, he's the one selling books.

**Nice. Good fraternity. So, why academia, why not business?**

You know I just had ideas I wanted to research. I think a lot of people come to academia saying they want to teach and mold young minds, and a lot of times that's not the best thing for you, it doesn't make you a productive scholar or even a good teacher. To be a good teacher, you have to be good at scholarship and research; otherwise, you're just teaching the basics, like teaching a hornbook. So I came in wanting to research, and thinking maybe I could tolerate the teaching thing. I had a whole research agenda planned, couldn't wait to get into it. And then, as it turns out, I liked the whole teaching thing too. I find it the most relaxing part of my day. It wasn't my first year. My first year after every class I would come back here and collapse. I taught EO, and I would come back to my office and be soaking wet. Every bone in my body would be aching. Anyway, there are certain issues I wanted to research, and if you're in practice you don't get to do that. My last year in practice, I billed 3000 hours; so, how am I going to write with that?

[Cause while reporter tries to figure out how long that is] That's a lot of hours.

It's a lot of hours. If I were to bill my hours now, I'm sure I've had many 300-hour months, but those hours are on my schedule: early in the morning, late at night, whatever. I can completely wipe my calendar clean and just do it. And whenever the muse leaves, then I don't have to do it for a while.

And you're at Michigan because, we're so cool?

Yes.

That's what I thought.

Well, it's not just that. For one thing, they really had resources in Japanese law. And the other thing really, and this is going to sound so hokey, but it really was the people. When I was interviewing in Washington, D.C. at the meat market, there were some schools that had no idea what to ask me. They looked at the resume and get me in there and say, “So, what's your favorite Japanese law?” At Michigan, when I go into their room, Sherman Clark, Peter Westen, Tom Green, Bill Miller, and Ronald Mann are there. Bill was the chair, so Bill starts the conversation. I had never met him, knew nothing about him. I had this article on sumo, it was basically a law and econ article, but I walk in and Miller starts criticizing me from the beginning: “How can you look at these big fat guys in diapers and then come back and say it's all about rational choice and law and economics? You mean, there wasn't anything interesting to report?” Immediately I thought, this is what it would be like to be there. He's already collegial, he's already giving it to me, and everybody's smiling and laughing about it. When I left that room, I thought, “I'm going to Michigan.”

The RG would also like to know where you get your fashion sense from? Someone in one of your classes wanted to know.

Huh. Where do I get my fashion sense from . . .

What is your fashion sense?

On my days off, I wear junk like this; just jeans and stuff. I just do not care. But when I'm teaching, I try and look a little nicer, and when I have meetings, I try to look really nice, which is hard given what

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**CONTINUED on Page 18**
The Law School Student Senate Elections will be held Thursday, March 23. The following are statements from candidates for LSSS office.

**2L REPRESENTATIVE**

**HADI HUSAIN**

Hi 1Ls! I’d like the privilege of representing you as Senator. As such, I would address any issues or concerns that might arise, oversee funding to student organizations, and look into faculty hiring, among other things. My proactive attitude, coupled with my penchant for listening, would enable me to speak for our class, and ensure that our voices and interests are heard in the Senate.

I’ve been both at the head of student organizations and at the bottom of the food chain in board meetings, developing a set of skills which I think uniquely equip me to be your representative.

**MEGAN LAMBART**

Friends,

As far as I can tell, LSSSSSSS isn't terribly political. Well, neither am I.

But, I do get fired up about a few things:

1) Bringing good food and great people together.
2) Building a sense of COMMUNITY at the law school so that we get to know each other and look out for each other.
3) *Grey’s Anatomy*

I’d be honored to put 2/3 of these passions to use as your 2L Senator.

**SONYA MAYS**

As the voice for 2Ls, I will bring a wealth of organizational experience to the Senator position. As 2L Senator, I will work to ensure that the dialogue between Law School Student Senate and the 2L student body remains open and honest. This year I attended practically every LSSS sponsored event, and am currently working diligently in the hopes of achieving greater cooperation between the law school administration, LSSS, the basement groups, and the current 1L class. I am exited about working with the incoming LSSS President to facilitate greater student involvement in all aspects of student life.

**KATE WALES**

I didn’t run for Senate at the beginning of the year because I had no idea what I would do with the position. After being here a semester-and-a-half, I have both come to love our law school and to find some things that I wish were different. As an LSSS senator, I would love to focus on creating a daily e-mail newsletter about events happening at the law school that day and planning more diverse LSSS events, such as: community service days/projects, a law school football tailgate, and law school intra-mural sports. Thanks, and I look forward to a great 2L year!

**3L SUMMER STARTER REPRESENTATIVE**

Plenty of great seats still available.

**3L REPRESENTATIVE**

**DIANA GESEKING**

Hi Everyone,

I am running...again. I have been on Senate since a 1L as section rep for EFGH. I have seen and been there for it all these past couple years and would love a chance to finish what I started back in fall of 1L year. I just want to see the Senate throw some more damn good bar nights and even more damn good sober events. Hopefully I can help make everyone’s 3L year fun and chill with more great memories. Thanks.

**JAMIE KERSTETTER**

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as 2L Senator this year. It was a great experience to serve the law school, and to repeatedly send annoying bar night e-mails. Next year, I plan to continue terrorizing your inboxes; but I also plan to facilitate stronger relationships between the law school and the business and medical schools through joint social activities. Plus, I will always, always vote for a Rick’s bar night. I would really love to continue in this post and would appreciate your support. Please vote for Jamie Kerstetter for 3L Senator!

**SECRETARY**

**SARAH MOLENKAMP**

Bar month, Halloween party and prom – oh my!

I’ve been Senate’s little planner, that is no lie

I’m cool as they get – though no trendsetter

And yes, I believe Coke just tastes better!

Now for secretary, I’m seeking your support

Vote for me, and I won’t commit a tort.

I’ll make sure not EVERY bar night’s at Ricks,

And be your voice to the administration, just for kicks!

From agendas and minutes to planning galore

You’ll always know what LSSS has in store

My goal is to keep you in the know

I’ll be a superstar secretary, VOTE SARAHMO!

**TREASURER**

**MATT MADDOX**

Vote Matt for Treasurer. No one else is running, but that doesn’t mean I won’t still care a lot about doing the right thing. And, you might think Senate is a vehicle for the egos of law students without enough resume lines. Come on - we clean the fridge. Oh, yeah, we decide where law students should get drunk next. And, more importantly, we give out money. In any case, I’ll do a good job. I’ll do my best to make sure the process of getting money is open and easy to navigate.

Thanks! Vote Matt!
Don’t Let Your Life Bully You

By Mike Murphy

My voice didn’t change until I was about 16, so you can imagine how much fun I had in middle school and the early years of high school. I was an out-of-shape kid with a mullet and a feminine lilt to my voice. Suffice to say, my mere presence in class was inspiration for bullies to stay in school.

When I was a freshman, this kid tried to step on me at lunch. I know it sounds weird, but that’s what he’d do. This is what passed for bullying at my high school. As I sat on the grass eating my snack pack, he would walk over to me and try to step on my thigh. He would even go so far as to sing while he did, so that other people would recognize what he was doing. It’s amazing; I can’t remember any of my teacher’s names (except the unfortunately-named “Mrs. Gunkleman”), but I can still recall that damn song.

My friends and I – yes, I did have friends; but they were more Dungeon Masters than Team Captains, if you get my drift – yelled at him, but he didn’t seem to mind. This went on for a week, maybe longer. I’d like to say I wasn’t used to being put down at school, but I was. Yet, I hadn’t ever been publicly put down like that, and it wore on me. Mind you, I was neither a lover nor a fighter, I was more of a quiet smart-ass. But the next time that guy tried to step on me, I had a plan. I had ketchup packets open and ready. I grabbed his sneaker – a new white Nike – and tomatoed the crap out of it. Success! He yelled, jumped away, and tried to wipe his sneaker off in the grass. That didn’t work, so he went inside to wash it off. My ass remained surprisingly unbeaten, and he never bothered me again.

That lunch period was easily the high point of my early teenage years.

It wasn’t just ruining a $100 pair of shoes that made it such a victory; it was feeling that I could change my life. It was easy, back when we were 13 and being bullied, to accept the inevitable. As cool as we tried to be, we were still the butt of jokes, disrespected, and shamed. There is no feeling more fatalistic or cynical than knowing things won’t be okay and watching as prophecy fulfills itself.

Today, I feel comfortable sharing these experiences. After all, it’s hard to fling a spit-ball around here without hitting someone who’s had their lunch tray slapped down, their underpants wedgified, or been subjected to locker confinement. This place is like a high school on Skip Day; while all the cool kids are at the beach the nerds are free to form their own hierarchy. Call it “Nerd of the Flies,” if you will.

Here in law school, I thought I had left those days behind. But sometimes I find them back in full force as I walk the hallways, classrooms, and bars. Fatalism and cynicism are easy traits to find in a law school, even when we do our best to be self-aggrandizing. I guess it makes sense: it is easy to imagine a hopelessly flawed world when we break down absolutes and focus on the instances when our legal system breaks down. We don’t often learn how to keep people from getting injured; we learn what happens after they’re hurt and need to be compensated. We don’t often learn how to write a constitution; we learn how to interpret its ambiguities. We don’t often learn contract drafting; we learn what happens when people break their promises and sue. That wears on you after a while.

When the world looks so bleak, it’s easy to believe there are bad things about ourselves as well. How many times have you heard someone say “I know doing this is selfish, but that’s how I am?” Think about that. Is that really just the way you are? Since when are personality traits inevitable?

And, it’s easy to believe we live in a world where opinions are made on first impressions; nobody cares about second place, and nice guys never finish above sixth place. That world wants to tell you that you need to be smarter, richer, thinner, better, or own more things. It wants you to waste your life on status symbols, submit to a lifestyle twisted towards superficial sentimentality and instant gratification. The reward for matching these expectations is a bland-tasting complacency and an odd sense of alienation. The penalty for failure to conform is pretty much the same.

That world doesn’t want you to feel good about your life because that’s bad for business. Nevertheless, you have to love your life unconditionally. You have to love it when you win, and love it when you lose. The only way to love it is to love the joy and love the pain. That’s the trick, see? That’s how you win.

When I stared that bully in the face, I fully accepted that my face might get kicked in. As scary as that was, I didn’t care because at that moment I was loving my life.

I think back on those high school times and they’re a lot funnier now than they were then. That’s not to say bullying stops; there will always be people in your life who try to make you feel small, who try to make you the punch line in their jokes, or try to make you be like them. All they’re looking for is validation of our own insecurities. Don’t take their hits. Make friends with them if you can, laugh at them if you can’t, hit them back if you must.

Make your life great, not good. Wherever you go, go hard. However you live, live large.

And always fight.

Mike Murphy is a 3L. E-mail comments about this article to rg@umich.edu.
Bar Month 2006: Hazy Recollections
Reflections on my Term: Successes and Failures

Submitted by
Justin C. Pfeiffer

This past year, I served as the Law School’s only representative to the Michigan Student Assembly (MSA), the central student government for all of the 37,500+ students at the University. In addition to acting as the voice of the student body to the administration and beyond, MSA also allocates funding to student organizations, including many law school organizations.

Representing the Law School presents unique challenges. I have held myself to the view that the person occupying this position should act as a filter for the voice of the law students. As such, I have voted against my own personal ideology, notably affirmative action, when I believed that a solid majority of law students held the contrary view. Additionally, this position entails being the ambassador from Hutchins Hall to the rest of the University. The Law Representative has special significance since others on the Assembly are deferential to that individual on constitutional and legal questions, as well as questions on interpretation of rules, procedures, and student rights and responsibilities, which requires this person to be judicious.

For whoever succeeds me, it is extremely important that he or she is able to work well with representatives from the other schools and colleges. It is crucial to develop strong relationships. Not only will it result in you getting more done, you may also develop some close friendships. For me, my partner on the Assembly, who has become a close friend, is LSA Representative Andres Ramos.

I wanted to highlight two accomplishments. One, during my term, there has been a marked increase in participation from the Law School in MSA. Two years ago, this seat was vacant. Now, there are three law students on the Central Student Judiciary, a law student chairs an MSA Committee, and several serve on various MSA Committees and Commissions. The election for my successor is hotly contested. I hope that this participation in MSA from the Law School continues to increase.

Second, I unanimously passed a resolution calling for reforms to the student disciplinary process. While my proposals won’t be considered until next year’s amendment cycle to the Statement on Student Rights and Responsibilities, I moved this issue to a high place on the Assembly’s agenda and garnered support from corners of the University for whom things like due process and fair procedure don’t have the same salience as they do for us.

The University maintains that the student disciplinary process is meant to be educational rather than adversarial, providing extremely lax procedural guarantees. On MSA, I serve on the Election Board. In adjudicating disputes, we allow counsel, witnesses, public trial, and proof beyond a reasonable doubt, but we are somewhat of a kangaroo court. However, the kangaroo courts of MSA are a far better place to be than the secretive, Kafkaesque, Star Chambers of the University of Michigan.

Most shockingly, accused students do not have the right to have counsel actively represent them or cross-examine witnesses. The Law School allows this in their proceedings so long as counsel is another law student or law faculty member. The Law School should allow any counsel of a student’s choosing, but has a much better policy than the central campus. The central campus policy, not allowing counsel an active role, purports to preserve the educational nature of the process. The MSA position on this issue is that counsel should be allowed to actively participate in cases that may result in expulsion or suspension. This gives deference to a well-functioning system and would only allow full counsel participation in those cases where the proceeding has become adversarial—it is hard to claim with a straight face that expelling a student is in his/her educational interest. Though the Office of General Counsel will assert that justification to its logically absurd extremes, when pressed, they complain that lawyers tend to act professionally irresponsibly and contest cases of clear guilt. While I personally believe that their main concern is to spend University resources to have GC attorneys act contra retained counsel—like they would actually let one of their “Resolution Coordinators” face an attorney, or one of us for that matter—their professed concern lacks merit. Putting aside the questionable legality of the denial of counsel, the concern over professionally irresponsible behavior insults us. The official University position implicitly assails our profession—they don’t trust us to not raise frivolous defenses and confine ourselves to fighting unjust actions. What a nice thank you for the $36,000 we each pour into their coffers per annum. We should also take this into consideration when the University asks us for donations, for while they may not listen to the student government; we all know they listen to alumni. I hope that my successor continues my work on this important issue.

Furthermore, my term has been marked by a dramatic increase of regulation from central campus. The University’s positions on totally disallowing law student organization lobbying with University resources as well as new regulations regarding student organization registration (SOAR) have been troubling, particularly to the extent the law students have not had the type of consultation and comment that would have been appropriate.

I am generally troubled with the central campus bureaucracy. I have encountered numerous officials who do not feel compelled to justify themselves or give the Assembly its proper due. During my tenure as a member of my undergraduate (University of Virginia) student council, some senior officers, including the University President came

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Which Me is Me?

By Matt Nolan

In the final RG, be prepared for my final sendoff, summation, life message; you must know I like those by now. If you buy into that description, you also probably wonder who in the hell the other Matt Nolan is who shows up in these columns; the rant, ramble, bad sentence structure, stuff doesn’t make sense unless you try to get in my head which is impossible so it doesn’t make sense, Matt Nolan. That’s the guy to whom I tip my hat today.

I’m sick. After nine days of symptoms, UHS has decided “It’s a virus. Come back Monday.” This sounds familiar. Three years ago, when I was a senior, I went into UHS feeling more than sick. They told me I was only sick. A week later I returned to hear, “you should have come earlier; you have pneumonia.” Yeah. Why do I go back? Hell if I know, I’m sick and lightheaded; cut me a break (on that, and my diction/punctuation/etc.).

So anyway, back before I knew I had random bird flu/whatever else isn’t known yet that could be killing me (and if you don’t see me when this issue comes out, now you know why - this can be my memoirs. True, 800 words is short for one’s memoirs, much shorter than A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius which I’ve been reading, and which is awesome, even in the waiting room at UHS which is not awesome, and of course not reading the five days previous to that due to blurry vision/lack of concentration, but regardless, this is short for memoirs is my point; so hopefully one of you or a high school or college buddy will do me justice, or maybe my dad, that’d be cool) I was really excited for the Michigan v. Minnesota bball game.

This was cured, partially, the morning after the (Michigan-less) brackets came out, when ESPN Classic decided to air the 1989 Final Four, where Michigan beat Illinois and Seton Hall by 2 points and 1 point respectively to win the national championship. The wound had salt rubbed in it when the 1993 Final Four featured Chris Webber’s infamous time-out (note: if you don’t know what this is, look it up on the internet now; and, if you don’t look it up or know about it then Zearfoss shouldn’t have let you in. I’m kidding. But not really).

Monday was also the day I realized there was no way in heck I could make it to class; this was a kind of fun feeling, but then the whole sickness-in-ways-I-won’t-describe-to-you feeling overwhelmed me again to make me once again say “dang.” [aside: ESPN Classic just mentioned Lamar Alexander as the 59th “Most Influential Student Athlete in NCAA History;” this is ahead of Magic Johnson, mind you. Now, I get that Alexander was a Governor and ran for President and whatnot, but did he really influence more than MAGIC JOHNSON? The basketball GOD who told the world he had AIDS and kept rolling along? Who has built an empire of businesses helping inner-city communities? Bah. Sure, Magic did go to MSU, and his real name was Earvin, which is kind of funny; so ok.]

The #1 thing keeping me living right now, aside from college basketball tournaments (seriously, if I had gotten this godawful disease or combinations thereof a month ago, I’d be screwed), is the new one hour Carlos Mencia special on Comedy Central. If you have not seen it, oh man, please do. I want to vote for that man for President; that’s all I have to say.

Wait, no, it isn’t, it’s never all I have to say when I say “that’s all I have to say,” right? I am at that point where I’m not really looking at the screen as I type this, the bubbles in the 7-Up are fun, too tired or whatever this is too change, can’t focus on important stuff or sit in class, but too awake to sleep. Arrgh. I have to sit consciously and fall behind; this is unbearable but also warm. Mmmm. Wait that warmth is outweighed by the pain in my ear. Where in the hell did THAT come from?

“It’s like mono, but not mono.” That’s what the “doctors” tell me. Is that kind of like what the NIT is to the NCAA tournament? Oh well. Go Blue; and eat fruit and vegetables and sleep eight hours a night so you don’t get sick like me.

Matt Nolan is really sick. E-mail get well wishes to mjnolan@umich.edu.
Elections for the Michigan Student Assembly will be held online on March 21 and 22. The three candidates for Law School representative to the MSA are James Bryant, 2L, Laura Davis, 1L, and Israel Moya, 1L. See http://www.umich.edu/~vote for more details and to vote.

James “Jimmy” Bryant
Class of 2007; Richmond, CA; UC Berkeley

Experience:
• Vice President - UC Berkeley representing 35,000 students; 
  Accomplishments - Organized the hate crimes task force, Created the Student Safety and Housing Forum, Lobbied state and local legislators on various issues.
• Legislative Chair of the UC Students Association representing 170,000 students in the UC system; Accomplishments: Organized the largest student lobby day in a decade bringing over 300 students to lobby legislators in the California state capitol.
• City Commissioner (alternate) for the City of Berkeley planning commission.
• Member of the Revenue Task Force for the City of Berkeley.
• I have been the president of many organizations and have served on the board of directors for several non-profit organizations.

What I plan to accomplish: I would like to provide a voice for the law school within the larger student body. I have a wealth of experience with student governments as well as having been a business owner for several years before attending law school. While LSSS provides a bulk of the support to many student groups within the law school, I believe that there are even more untapped resources (funding and miscellaneous support) that law students and their organizations have not necessarily tapped into. I plan on working very closely with LSSS next year bringing the concerns of our students to the larger student body.

Next year will also bring the debate over the issue of affirmative action. I have first hand experience with this issue having been a student at UC Berkeley during the time when affirmative action was banned. While I am a supporter of affirmative action, law students may not all agree on a stance on affirmative action. I plan on providing law students with an avenue to speak their minds on this important topic.

It would be my pleasure to serve as the Michigan Student Assembly Representative for our law school. I would bring both political and business experience, as well wisdom and a unique perspective to the general student body.

Laura Davis
Class of 2008; Grand Rapids, MI; University of Michigan

My candidacy for the Law School's representative to the Michigan Student Assembly is built around increasing individual students' and student groups' choices, while ensuring the fiscal responsibility of MSA—ideas important to both law students and the larger University community.

MSA funds are gathered from fees from students from all of the University's Schools, and this money should be allocated to student groups. Student groups will be more effective at directly benefiting students than MSA can be on its own. Increased allocation of funding to student groups will also ensure that a diversity of educational, social, and political views will be expressed through those student groups.

I would also like to see MSA work to increase student choice, rather than reducing student choice, as they did in their campaign to end the University's contract with Coca-Cola. Such ethical decisions should be left to individual students and not made by only a few on behalf of everyone. Furthermore, MSA should restrict itself to dealing with issues that affect the University and students—there is no need for MSA to waste time and resources by issuing political statements.

Israel Moya
Class of 2008; McFarland, CA; UCLA

I am running for Michigan Student Assembly (MSA) Law School Representative because I want to help ensure that The University of Michigan remains friendly and accessible to students of diverse backgrounds. Michigan Law's stance on affirmative action gave me a great deal of confidence in the University's commitment to education and social justice, and this is the main reason I chose to enroll here. Unfortunately, despite the University's strong stance in favor of affirmative action, there are formidable challenges to our campus diversity, including the deceptively titled Michigan Civil Rights Initiative (MCRI), which seeks to reduce minority access to higher education. The Michigan Student Assembly is an important university entity because it is the collective voice of our university's students, and it can make an impact in the effort to keep our University accessible to all members of our community.

You should care about this election and vote because MSA is responsible for networking different areas of campus and promoting and co-sponsoring student group events which can shape our campus culture. It is essential to students that our University remain an open environment where the exchange of ideas is welcomed and nurtured. As MSA Law School Representative I hope to support initiatives which maintain Michigan's commitment to diversity, tolerance, and social justice. I encourage all law school voters to review the MSA website, at http://www.msa.umich.edu/, so that they can learn more about MSA's work and relevance to our great University.
How Smart Are You Now, Smarty?  
Flagellate with the Fall 2005 Grade Curves

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3/2/2006
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**Key:**
- No. Graded: The number of students in the class receiving grades A+ through E.
- Mean Grade: Based on the No. Graded (rather than the Class Size).
- Within range? Based on the guidelines for Mean Grade: 3.13 minimum, 3.19 target, 3.25 maximum.
- Deviation from Grade Guidelines:
  - A+: maximum 3.25
  - A: maximum 3.25
  - B+: maximum 3.25
  - B: maximum 3.25
  - C+: maximum 3.25
  - C: maximum 3.25

**Mean Class**
- 1st Year: 3.23
- Upperclass: 3.41
- Seminars: 3.74

**Targets for class mean:**
- minimum: 3.13
- target: 3.19
- maximum: 3.25
The Ancient Art of Mixtaping

By Heidi Manschreck

Faced with looming deadlines, old seminar papers, and other threats to my timely graduation, my irrational impulse is to devise additional, completely useless—yet pressing—projects. My favorite such diversion is making mixtapes, and I take it very seriously.

Though I deserted virtually all artistic and creative ambitions around the time I kicked my clove habit, I never abandoned the ancient art of mixtaping. Alright, maybe “ancient” is a stretch, but it is art. A great mixtape takes time, thoughtful composition, and un certain je ne sais quoi (sorry, that’s French-speak for “art”). Consider some of the many variables that the mixtape artist must consider: the intended recipient’s music preferences, overall knowledge of music, and relationship to the artist; the mixtape’s context, if any (e.g., a birthday or going-away present); and the purpose of the mix (e.g., to expose the recipient to new artists, to compile music of a particular genre, to communicate the artist’s feelings for the recipient).

Much of the art lies in balancing these meta-considerations, but it also takes technical adroitness (or perhaps just neurosis) to execute a truly fantastic mixtape. While arranging the order of tracks is the sine qua non of mixtaping, it doesn’t stop there. The advanced mixtape artist regulates tempo and volume, eliminates the two-second lapse at the end of each track (also known as “slow and painful mixtape death”), and even remixes individual tracks to perfection.

To illustrate the depth of this art, I have included below an annotated copy of a mix I made for my dear friend Matt. My goal with this mix was to give him a big dose of recently-released music, although I did make a few flow-conscious exceptions. I hope he likes it.

The Danger Zone – for Matt, with love from Heidi

2006 Roo Tang Clan Productions, Ltd.

1.) Clor – Dangerzone. The first track sets the tone for the entire mix; it should be instantly awesome. This synth-heavy New Order throwback is an ideal opener that also doubles as a title for the mix (an oft-neglected consideration).

2.) The Jesus and Mary Chain – Just Like Honey. This is an oldie, but it’s so good. Much like honey, More importantly, it works with the dark mood of the early tracks. (Side note: Until a recent online lyrics search set me straight, I had always thought that he said “eating up this scene is the hardest thing for me to do.” I guess I saw it as a quintessentially British psychosomatic reaction to heartbreak).

3.) Sunset Rubdown – I’m Sorry I Sang On Your Hands That Have Been In The Grave. This longish, dark, creepy, Elfin-esque track will either be adored or invite regular fast-forwards. Were it not for my self-imposed rule not to include more than one song by any one artist, I would throw in another by this group (led by Spencer Krug of Wolf Parade).

4.) Casiotone for the Painfully Alone – Love Connection. This is another synth-heavy song that, like its predecessors, seamlessly mixes beauty with a pervasive sense of unease, this time through raw, uncom fortable lyrics.

5.) The Boy Least Likely To – Be Gentle With Me. One of my favorite tracks of 2005, I’m using its uplifting tempo to hint at the coming redemption.

6.) Elliott Smith – Let’s Get Lost. As quickly as they come up, they come down. We’re in the Danger Zone, after all. This beautiful track is from his posthumously released album.

7.) The Decemberists – The Sporting Life. We move from grief to acceptance with Colin Meloy’s foot-stomping gem that sets the pace for the next few songs.

8.) The New Pornographers – Broken Breads. Songs that jar the flow will either hit or miss—I’m hoping this Dan Bejar piece will do the former.

9.) Belle & Sebastian – Funny Little Frog. I intentionally placed my favorite songs from their new album at the center of the mix; its unabashed sweetness is perfect.

10.) The Clientele – E.M.P.T.Y. While Alasdair MacLean’s voice sounds like it is from another era, the production on this song is clearly contemporary. I like that disconnect, and I’m using it here to facilitate a transition from upbeat to sinister.

11.) The Cloud Room – Hey Now Now. This song is so addictive. One risk with especially catchy songs is that the mix will be ignored for the fix—the recipient will fast-forward to the songs that got in his head. But artists must take risks.

12.) Tapes ‘N Tapes – Manitoba. This fantastic waltz of a new song radius before it hits a frenzied pace—I had a hard time choosing between so many great tracks on The Loon.

13.) The Arcade Fire – My Heart Is An Apple. Anxious love again emerges as a Danger Zone theme; this echoes the first tracks.

14.) My Morning Jacket – Off the Record. As the end approaches, I’m choosing to pick up the pace again, and this catchy reggae trip-out works well.

15.) The Zombies – This Will Be Our Year. Every mix has room for some classic ‘60s simplicity/brilliance.

16.) Grand National – Drink To Moving On (Roo’s Cheese-Out Mix). Once Matt hears this song he will want to hear it over and over again until he pukes. I chopped the song’s super-cheesy backup vocal echo (re-mix!).

17.) When In Rome – The Promise. Every mix has room for some classic ‘80s cheese/awesomeness. This one works well either as a “last” song or a denouement.

―)Simian – Never Be Alone. Shhh, y’all—it’s the Hidden Track! One of those little touches that separate the Gods/Goddesses of Mixtapes from Mere Mortals.

Heidi Manschreck, a 3L, will gladly burn a copy for you. E-mail heidiman@umich.edu.
Question on the Quad:
Show Us Your Best Frown

Reporting by Dan Clark and Jay Surrudowski

[Bad frowns mean really happy, happy suckers.]

The 1st Annual Law School Charity Poker Tournament
No Limit Texas Hold ‘Em
Win up to $500 in one afternoon of play! - 10% of players will finish in the money
Sunday April 9, 2006 @ 11 am in The Michigan Union

Sign up Monday and Tuesday March 27, 28 12:15 to 1:30 in front of HH 100.

The top 1L/2L player will be sent (all expenses paid) to the next
Annual Intercollegiate Michigan v. Ohio State Poker Tournament (courtesy of the University).
It IS Wrong to Yell Fire in a Crowded Library: You Shouldn’t Yell in the Law Library

By Nate Kurtis

In conjunction with the University of Michigan’s School of Human Folly, this is Part 8 of the RG’s continuing series: “Could Law Students Actually Survive in the Real World?” (Short answer: No.)

As a survivor of the terrible law library fire [alarm] of 2006, I am here to tell you that it was a truly life changing experiences, one of those moments that helps define just what kind of person you are. It turns out I’m not a very bright kind.

For readers fortunate enough to have avoided the library on the night of February 22, 2006—a night forever etched into the memories of those present—I have reconstructed the events as they occurred that evening:

7:30 PM: I walked into Sub-2 of the law library, noticed some friends, and proceeded to engage them in discussion [in pantomime, of course; it is a library after all!].

8:00 PM: I sat down at one of the large study areas near the northern-most wall of the law library and proceeded to check my e-mail.

8:02 PM: After carefully reading each and every one of the thirty or so [lawopen] posts which I’d received, I finally hunkered down to some serious “studying.”

8:03 PM: The Fire Alarm began to sound its deadly warning, to which the students responded, as one would expect: “Shut up!”

That’s right. No panicked evacuation—not even a mass calm exit of the building. Instead, I beheld ornery law students in their natural habitat, lashing out at any noise that dares disturb their quiet studying.

Several theories might explain why otherwise rational law students would ignore a perfectly deafening fire alarm: They might have decided that their case readings were more important—and who could slight them; which is worse, cold-calling or third-degree burns? (My opinion: It’s a toss-up.) They might have figured that, in the event of a fire, the fire suppression system would kick in, protecting both the books and themselves (and providing that much needed refreshing shower). Or, as was the case with all the students studying in my section of the library, they might have been completely ignorant as to what the noise meant in the first place. Collectively, our time in the library evidenced a tragicomedy of ignorance, confusion, and shear stubbornness.

8:08 PM: Eventually, frustration over the blaring “noise” reached a boiling point. A committee of us set out to find the source of the disturbance and, if possible, yell at the person responsible. Only then did we discover that the source of the racket was a red box labeled “Fire Alarm.”

8:10 PM: Back in my section of the library, we sat in deep discourse deciding whether we should leave the library.

8:12 PM: We finally decided that we should leave the library, which prompted another question for debate: “should we take our books with us?”

8:14 PM: Finally, eleven minutes after the alarm first sounded, we left the library, books in hand. Yet, even as we were leaving, we passed still more students on their way into the library, seemingly undaunted by the still-blaring fire alarm.

As it turned out, there was never a fire. According to the Department of Public Safety, a pump in the fire suppression system had locked on, run for too long, and started to leak. The alarm we ignored was a “low pressure” warning, which DPS simply shut off while they waited for a repair technician to arrive. None of this was known to us at the time we failed to leave; and, given our response, had it been a real fire we’d have all died.

Well, not all of us.

“I’d have lived, but for all the wrong reasons,” says Karin Kringen, IL. “I just couldn’t study with all that noise.”

* * *

The moral of the story: It is a sad state of affairs when law students are more concerned with studying than with survival. Of course, the fact that the majority of students in the library can’t recognize the sound of a fire alarm possibly contributed to that failure.

But how would a hapless law student learn this essential survival skill? Margaret

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Leary, the Director of the University of Michigan Law Library, could not recall with any certainty when the last fire drill took place, though she was certain it happens at least once a year. "The alarm [itself] was last tested early one morning a week or two ago. This was not to test how building occupants respond, but how well the alarm itself worked. We don't want it to be oversensitive and create so many false alarms that no one pays attention to them." And Leary does her part to prevent death by conflagration, leaving information at each of the 482 library seats once a term, outlining the fire policy and procedures.

A quick survey of students wandering the halls of Hutchins revealed that the Great Fire Alarm Fiasco has already entered the realm of myth; everyone was sure that there had been fire drills before, but no one could recall precisely when. In residence halls, DPS requires semestery fire-alarm and evacuation drills be held at times when residents would be around. This policy should be extended to include the law library since, let's face it, most of us live there anyway. While they should not become so common that they provide another reason for students to ignore them, the response in the event the alarm does sound should, at the very least, be: "Ah, a fire alarm! Let us leave the building in an orderly fashion." This would be a dramatic improvement over the current: "Gee, what is that odd noise?" or "Shut up!"

Nate Kurtis, a 1L, is among those who would have crisped had this alarm been a real fire. Questions, comments, and marshmallows may be sent to nkurtis@umich.edu. No other warranties expressed or implied.

KATRINA, from Page 1

or living in squalor. But landlords, in areas where pre-storm development was overtaking communities, have found an excuse to kick out low-income tenants and sell their property at a profit.

As we observed the gutted buildings, casinos and hotels that were missing the bottom three floors, and barges that had been thrown onto buildings hundreds of feet inland by the waves, it became apparent that Mississippi was hit much harder than the media let on. Not only was the coastline obliterated, but areas further inland suffered from storm swells, flooding, and spin-off tornados. During our visit, the national news media observed the six-month anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, with just three months left before the start of the next hurricane season. This simple fact drove home the reality of the devastation: if it looks this bad, six months later, how long will it take to rebuild? Will another hurricane hit before there's a chance to pick up the pieces?

The media has told us that "the hurricane didn't discriminate," that everyone was affected equally. But, sitting in the courtroom of a Biloxi judge, it was clear—despite the great loss of antique furniture and a $3,000 stainless steel fridge in his newly renovated kitchen—that his recovery will be different from that of the residents we surveyed: It is certain to happen.

VICE PRESIDENT
TIM HARRINGTON

I love serving on LSSS and want to serve you as VP. I work well with other Senate representatives and enjoy representing student concerns before the administration. In addition to spearheading the Bar Night Task Force, I will improve communication between students and the administration as well as increased transparency of LSSS committees. I am helping to plan the Hutchins renovation and will advocate for an ATM and debit/credit in the snack bar. I will support the Law School Humanities Council and mental health initiatives, and improve campus safety. Let me represent you next year on LSSS.

Vote Tim!

PRESIDENT
GRACE LEE

Hi, my name’s Grace Lee and I’m running for LSSS President.

As President, I’ll represent your concerns and priorities with an open ear and a strong voice. I hope to increase student input, raise committee transparency, and continue addressing your needs for academic and social support... (including more rockin’ parties.)

I love this school and have served on the Senate for two years, spearheading academic, career, and mental health initiatives, and addressing student safety. I’ve served on the budget and bulletin-board committees, and organized bar nights, prom, faculty-student receptions, and the year-end picnic.

I’d be honored to be your President. Vote Grace!

THANKS, from SFF!

Just by shopping for your textbooks at Ulrich's you helped us raise $6,000 for public interest summer internships.
I've got to work with. I'm not dreamy and charming like Howson, who has admirers swooning in front of him all the time. When I started practicing in NY, I was wearing cheap suits and ill-fitting shirts because I thought, "as long as you're wearing a coat and tie, that means you're a professional." But after a while I was getting tired in my clothes, physically tired. It probably didn't help that I was about thirty pounds overweight, but I'm going to blame the clothes because, once I started buying better clothes, I felt better.

Then, when I came to Michigan, most people here have this Midwest sensibility about their clothing, like, they might go to Marshall Fields, but only if they can't find it at Sears. Ok, that's not true. A few people have style. Rick Hills has style. He has a look. You can put Hills' clothes on a hanger and say, "that's Hills." You can do that with a few other people, and say, "That's style." But I really don't care. I just like to feel good, and I won't pay retail.

All right, analogy time. Steve Croley is to Tom Cruise as Mark West is to... Jack Bauer.

Evan Caminker is to his hair dryer as... well, I'm not sure Caminker uses a hair dryer. Evan Caminker is to hair products as Mark West is to...

How do you know he doesn't use a hair dryer?

I think he may air dry.

Well let's find out.

Wait, are you going to e-mail him?

Sure. If he's there, he'll answer. [Pause while professor turns to his computer...] "Evan: I have been asked to ask you if you use a hair dryer."

So Evan Caminker is to hair products as Mark West is to... body piercings. I don't know.

Nice. Do you actually have any piercings on your body? That we'd want to know of?

No, well... no. Yes? Hard to say.

Right... So Mr. Wolverine. Besides the under-the-table money exchange, why did you do it and how did you like it?

Well, they asked me to be a judge first. And, I knew that Sarah was emceeing. And, well, I try to avoid all student contact.

You're on the fifth floor of Legal Research. No kidding.

So I emailed Sarah and said, "they got me, do you think I should do it this year?" And either she said or I said, "why don't we emcee together?" And it's a good thing we did, because we had to kill a lot of dead time. We were terrible at it, but at least it was two of us up there and not just one. Yeah, it was fun. I enjoyed doing it.

Related question: how do you really feel about Zearfoss?

Zearfoss and I have a policy of mutually assured destruction. So, I will say that she is a saint of a woman. And the most wonderful person I've ever met. None of us deserve to share this planet with her.

SFF Auction? What did you donate?

I donated two tickets to Ben Folds. I've got aisle seats in the 14th row or something, and my son and I are going together. I haven't donated anything in the past because I never know what to do. I have a really boring life so it's not like I can be like Reimann and say, "come skydiving with me!"

Yeah what is that all about? He skydives?

Yeah, Reimann is completely insane. He will do anything like that. He's a very extreme kind of guy. All these people have these really interesting hobbies, like Croley: "I will play piano for you or kick your ass in boxing."

This year it's Laser Tag.

Oh yeah? I might take him on in that. He looks slow. But everybody has these things, these hobbies. But me, it's like I work and I go to the gym. So I never know what to give – do you want to watch me watch TV, or do squats with me? I think I'll pass on both – but finally Ben Folds came up this year. I plan to sing all the lyrics really loudly in the ear of the buyer.

Would you bid on Soper's hot tub? Have you been in Soper's hot tub?

If I have ever been in Soper's hot tub, I would never, ever admit it. That's a disturbing image. That's like something out of the videotape in The Ring, right in between the woman brushing her hair and the housefly. They ought to assign a police escort.

Laptops. Yea or Nay?

I don't care, but they're not good for you. You either tend to take things down verbatim, which is terrible, or you're basically making your outline as you go, so you miss those two steps of translating it from your head to the notebook and then again to your outline. Putting together the outline is what works for you; the process is what matters. But, I don't care as a teacher, you can do what you want. People get worried about students playing Minesweeper. But when
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we were in law school, we played law school bingo. You know, you make your own 5x5 grid, and you put the names of 25 students in the grid, and you try and get the gunners, 5 in a row. So, when you fill a row, in order to claim that you’ve won, you have to say the word “Bingo” in class. So if you didn’t have computer games, you’d be playing Bingo.

Faculty member who can drink anyone under the table?

That’s a good one. There was a time when I’d have said “me.” I don’t know. I know some of the senior faculty have completely pickled livers, so they have a really high tolerance.

So, there’s a caste system; the senior faculty and the junior faculty?

No, not really. But, I think the line might be at Carl Schneider or Bill Miller; they still are marginally young, but not for very long. But the caste system? I’m not allowed to make eye contact with my secretary and I have to bow to Doug Kahn every time I see him. But, back to the drinking, I can’t think of one person.

The group of people most likely to drink someone under the table?

People closest to retirement, maybe. There’s not a big drinking culture here. It must be underground. It’s more sophisticated drinking here. I went to Rob Howse’s house and he had really good wine. That’s pretty sophisticated for me; I think that anything that’s not in a 40-ounce bottle is primo stuff. I’ve never been to J.J. White’s house, but I imagine he’s strong. I told those stories at Mr. Mike D’s place in the Beastie Boys. I don’t want to be one of the Bing Bong Brothers.

Who is the faculty member most likely to win in a no-holds-barred fistfight?

I can’t pick that. But J.J., Bruno Simma, and Rich Friedman, those three in a cage match. I bet J.J. fights nasty. He does low blows; bet you he would bite your jugular out of your neck. And then Rich, he’s strong. I told those stories at Mr. Wolverine, and they’re true. I think Bruno would just be wrestling, Greco-roman style. First of all, if Bruno Simma decides to do cage match wrestling, then his name should just be Bruno. Or maybe Bruno Simma or Bruno the Simma; he just has the name for it. And, I picture him being like he just got off some massive sailing vessel out of Patrick O’Brien; you know, he has the huge forearms, he’s pulling on ropes, and I bet when he gets in there, he’d just tear them up.

I’m not sure he could beat them; J.J. wouldn’t be fair, and Friedman would be kind of wily, I don’t know, but it would be between those three. Yale Kamisar loves these questions. He’ll just ask out of the blue, “who would win in a fight between a hippopotamus and an alligator?” And we would have these conversations right in the middle of the faculty lunches, and I would say, “I don’t know, Yale.” And he would say, “you ever think about that?” And I’d say, “no,” and he’d be amazed that I hadn’t.

Ok, last question. If you weren’t doing anything with law, what would you do instead?

You know who the Lonely Island group is? They’re the comedy group that makes the digital shorts on SNL. They just did the Natalie Portman rap last week. They want to be in that group. They also have a subgroup called the Bing Bong Brothers. I want to be one of the Bing Bong Brothers. If I couldn’t do that, I would like to take Mike D’s place in the Beastie Boys. I don’t want anything bad to happen to Mike D, I just want to take over his parts.

[As the interview concludes, professor and interviewer notice that Dean Evan Caminker has answered the question, “Does he use a hair dryer?” His response]

“Yeah, but I only use it when I shower, which is once a month. Is that a problem?”
Signed, Evan Caminker, Dean and Professor of Law, University of Michigan Law School.

REFLECTIONS, From Page 9

to the meeting to make a presentation and take questions virtually every week. That does not happen of the MSA. I have had some success, notably Athletics Director Bill Martin, but the problem remains. It is sad, but true, that during this past year I have had more contact with the President of the University of Virginia than the President of the University of Michigan. That is troubling considering that I am far from the only law student to have a rapport with his/her undergraduate institution president.

The Law School Administration is not included in the above criticism. I hope that the other student leaders would agree that they are responsive. Dean Evan Caminker has numerous lunch programs and gives opportunities to answer questions. Although his responses can sometimes be opaque—not uncommon for someone in his position—and he has a highly deferential posture towards central campus, his responsiveness is decent. I want to stress that this is a general problem. There are exceptions, notably Dean of Students Sue Eklund. Some fault may also lie with the Assembly for being overly deferential. However, the next person in this position should encourage MSA involvement and comment on policies that affect students.

I identify these problems in an attempt to give a balanced view of my term. I want to express what a positive experience and honor it has been to represent you. I want to thank Law School Deans Baum, Caminker, and Johnson as well Dean Eklund for listening as we worked through tough issues. I also appreciate General Counsel Marvin Krislov and his staff for their thoughts. Lastly, I wanted to publicly congratulate LSSS President Brad Wilson for his outstanding leadership during his term and thank him for his friendship. It is crucial that our successors in these offices work as well together as we have.

Justin C. Pfeiffer, 3L, is the Law Representative to Michigan Student Assembly. E-mail Comments about this article to rg@umich.edu.
Too Close To Call:  
SFF Auction May Have Been Best Ever

The Student Funded Fellowship (SFF) Auction made a triumphant return to Hutchins Hall last Thurs., March 16. This year's auction raised over $65,000 and was one of the highest-grossing SFF auctions on record.