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Elections Approach for Law School Rep to Michigan Student Assembly

By Matt Nolan

Once a year the Law School gets to elect its representative to the Michigan Student Assembly (MSA). The candidates for this year are 2Ls Cliff Davidson and Justin Pfeiffer. MSA is the central student government for the U, with representatives from all undergraduate and graduate colleges, as well as an elected President and VP. In addition to disbursing over $250,000 of your money each year to student orgs, MSA also advocates for student and other issues with the administration. You can vote online March 23rd and 24th (all 48 hours) at vote.umnich.edu. The RG sent the following questions to this year’s candidates; below are their responses.

RG: What experience do you have with MSA, either interacting with or being part of it?

Davidson: I am currently the Law School’s interim MSA Representative. The LSSS appointed me in February because the slot was vacant. In addition, I currently represent a student suing the MSA, before the Central Student Judiciary (CSJ), to enjoin it from voting on a resolution that would violate the Supreme Court’s requirements for student government funding allocations and would endanger MSA’s mandated 501(c)(3) status. Other than my role in the CSJ case, my proudest accomplishment has been to facilitate funding for Law School student groups. In the past month, Law School groups have received around $1,730, and my working with constituents on that issue helped make it happen.

Pfeiffer: I dropped by their office once to file for this seat. I had to call and ask for directions. In case you’re curious: 3rd floor of the Student Union, make a right at the elevator bank, last office on the left at the end of the hall.

RG: What student government experience do you have in general, or other experience that you feel relevant in qualifying you for the job?

Davidson: I was on the Undergraduate Council when I was in college (not at U of M), though I’m not so sure that’s what makes me most qualified as a candidate. I have had a great deal of experience representing large numbers of people in the real world. For example, while working for the US Government before law school, I represented the employees at my agency before an umbrella organization advocating on behalf of federal employees. In addition, I represented this same constituency before the administration of the agency for which I worked, and often was required to convince hostile managers that they should adopt our positions. The combination of representation and persuasion that these roles entailed so far has served me well in MSA. The skills I learned through my real-world experience have allowed me to make the Law School’s presence known, even after only having been a Representative for a month, while at the same time getting along with my colleagues.

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Prof Evals Should be Posted

By Steve Boender

A privilege of attending two schools at the University allows a unique perspective on each school’s strengths and weaknesses. While the differences between the business school and the law school could fill a five-volume series, one particular aspect has been stuck in my proverbial craw lately, and it involves the ability to be informed consumers of our educational experience.

Here at the law school, we rely primarily on hearsay in choosing professors and classes. Besides the clear “You have to take something with Professor X before you graduate” and “avoid Professor Y like the food at BW3,” the information we gather on classes and faculty prior to registration for a semester is pretty weak. The school provides a paragraph explaining the course and a biography of the professor with a list of articles which gives an estimation of writing rather than teaching ability.

The business school, on the other hand, has adopted a more transparent process for informing students on faculty popularity/teaching proficiency by making available the results of student evaluations for the previous several school years. Each of the standard questions on the evaluation surveys for a given course in a given semester is averaged, providing a nice snapshot of student evaluations. While discerning the academic wheat from the chaff is a game of inches—the difference between a good professor and a bad one may be a score of 4.5 and 4.0 for a given question—the evaluations nonetheless provide valuable information if choosing between two professors offering the same course, as well as making the decision whether or not to take a course. (If you’re on the fence the professor scores may tip the balance.)

The Law School community has acknowledged and addressed this issue in two ways, after a fashion. In years past the administration published “Notes from the Underground,” which collected various comments from student evaluations. These were helpful to a certain extent, but because they were edited by the administration, they were taken with a grain of salt by students. Also, because many students refrain from writing comments unless they feel passionately for or against the professor/class, you end up with a sort of polarization of viewpoints, with those in the negative camp somewhat redacted.

Alternatively, one may refer to a student-initiated professor evaluation scheme separate from the school’s evaluations. The J. Reuben Clark Law Society has undertaken this to a limited extent on their website at http://www.personal.umich.edu/~patent/jrcsl/evaluations.html. However, the survey utilized is limited to two questions, and the site hasn’t been well publicized. Achieving the critical mass of survey questions and student responses via this route will be quite difficult. A further concern, any student-initiated evaluation scheme could in theory be set up using anonymous responses and free commenting, and I don’t think anyone will benefit from the “Professor Z is a jerkhead” comments that will result. Publishing the responses to official professor evaluations (without the comments from the back) will avoid such shenanigans. Structural differences between the two schools may be used to object to the necessity of publishing evaluations at the law school. For example, popular courses in the business school may be taught in a given semester by three different professors, whereas at the law school, one professor may “own” a particular course and offer no alternatives in terms of the instructor. Also, because in my opinion the nature of the professor-student relationship in law school is generally less collegial than at the Business School, low evaluation scores

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SNARL Transforms Law School into Simulated Refugee Crisis

By Anne Gordon

Chronic food insecurity, small arms dealing, and oppressive dictators aren’t usually among the problems students at UMLS face on Saturday mornings. On March 12, however, the law school was turned into Suremia, a fictional country with a refugee problem. That’s where the chaos, and fun, began.

Over the course of the day, around 30 students from the law school (and a few from the public health and policy schools) learned how a real refugee crisis is managed, which often isn’t pretty. “If you don’t have any experience in the refugee field, this is the closest you’re going to get,” said Julie Pfleuger, who graduated in 2003 but returned to campus to participate in the simulation.

Every hour was a different month in Suremia, with different problems – and everyone had a different role to play. “It was like 24, but crazier,” said 2L Kat Duffy. Everyone from camp coordinators to UN personnel had to deal with miscommunication, food and funding shortages, UN bureaucracy, angry refugees, and the occasional “divine” decree from the Premier.

“I feel like it gave me a better sense of the sheer chaos that you’re in in these situations,” said Duffy, who played the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. 2L Meghan Guido agrees: “My role was hectic the entire day - I can’t imagine the people that do this all the time.”

UMLS students first did this kind of simulation two years ago; Chad Doobay, who is on the Executive Board of SNARL (Student Network for Asylum and Refugee Law) decided to bring it back. “There was a lot of interest in the program, particularly because of the shortage of refugee classes,” Doobay said. “This is an attempt to fill that gap.”

The simulation was organized by Sheila Reed of InterWorks, a Madison-based development and disaster management firm that does training and assessments for organizations involved in emergency situations worldwide. Reed has done more than 25 of these simulations, and said unequivocally that the UMLS group outdid anyone she’s ever worked with. “You guys knew how to think outside the situation you were given,” said Reed. She said that she hopes that by participating in these simulations, students will find their way toward doing some humanitarian work in the future.

All of the students felt that regardless of what they choose to do with their law degree, they gained a greater understanding of the intricacies and problems of a complex international crisis. “I don’t plan on going into refugee law,” said Omario Kanji, who played the Premier of Suremia. “But it’s good to know what’s going on in the world.”

SNARL will be sponsoring other refugee-related activities in the coming weeks. E-mail Doobay at cdoobay@umich.edu for more information.
Boykin’s Speech Addresses African-American, GLBT Issues

By Anne Gordon

Keith Boykin knows a thing or two about political wheelings-and-dealings. After working for the unsuccessful Mondale and Dukakis campaigns, and after being a major player in the Clinton administration, Boykin knows how politics can shape the values of a country.

So when Karl Rove declared in 2003 that gay marriage would be the defining issue in November’s election, Boykin became immediately skeptical. “I always want to know how people can predict the future, unless they’re creating the future,” he said. As a Special Assistant to the President and Director of Specialty Media in the Clinton White House, he has come to realize how important it is to “realize the way that people manipulate the media to construct reality.”

Boykin, now the president of the National Black Justice Coalition, spoke on Wednesday, February 23, in Hutchins, a month after the US celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Yet Boykin did not come with the purpose of commemorating Dr. King. He came to describe life at the intersection of being black and being gay, and how the civil rights struggle is continuing today in the form of a struggle for gay rights. This evolution of the modern civil rights struggle angers some, who say that “civil rights” means “African-American civil rights,” and that overlapping it with GLBT rights serves to blur the issue.

But Boykin disagrees. “[When you hear civil rights], you think ’54 to ’86, largely influenced by Martin Luther King. And that image is so ingrained in our heads that we have difficulty thinking of anything else as civil rights.” But, he said, “it doesn’t matter who was oppressed first, or most. To engage in a hierarchy of oppression misses the goal that we have to eliminate that oppression.”

Boykin first described how it all got to be a controversy in the first place. “The gay marriage issue,” said Boykin, was a ploy not only to divide the gay community from the rest of America, but also to target that all-important, traditionally Democratic, voting block: African-Americans. “[Rove] concocted a ploy designed to divide African-Americans from the GLBT community, and to divide the gay community from the Democrats.” This kind of “wedge politics,” he said, “served to suppress black folks from going to the polls, out of fear that the Democratic Party was going to give license to gay marriage.”

The problem was substantive, as well. The media and the right wing, said Boykin, played up the fact that African-Americans as a voting bloc are politically progressive but socially conservative. This confused the public and the African-American community about the similarities and differences between civil rights and gay rights, and caused a clash between the gay rights movement and African-Americans. Boykin encourages African-Americans to move away from this artificially-created dichotomy. “At no point in the women’s rights movement, or in the disability rights movement, did African-Americans come out and say ‘they were never as oppressed as we were!’ We need to be having a more intelligent conversation.”

He also had a message for those in the GLBT community. “The arguments that have been used to justify racism are the same ones used to justify homophobia. All the same, I’m not sure it’s effective to try to convince people that the suffering of gays and lesbians is equal to the suffering of another group of people; we have to be careful about how we talk about our approach.”

As a public-relations guru, he is intensely aware of how the shaping of a message can be as important as the point being made. Because the gay community is often portrayed in American media as an affluent white man (or sometimes woman), people aren’t seeing the diversity in the GLBT community. And to a lot of African-Americans these affluent gay men are part of the hierarchy. “It’s hard to look at those people we see on TV and think they’re oppressed.” The gay community, said Boykin, has to be careful about the arguments, particularly the legal arguments, that it makes in its struggle for rights.

Boykin may not win everyone over in his fight to break new ground in the civil rights movement. But through his nearly constant appearances on TV and radio, his books (including “Beyond the Down Low,” published this year), and his blog/website (www.keithboykin.com), his message is getting through.
Getting Down to Business
With Professor Pritchard

By Matt Nolan

Dam C. Pritchard teaches corporate and securities law at the Law School. His current research focuses on the effects of fraud on securities markets and the role of class action litigation in controlling fraud. His articles have appeared in the Business Lawyer, Virginia Law Review, Southern California Law Review, the Stanford Law Review, and the Journal of Finance. Pritchard holds B.A. and J.D. degrees from the University of Virginia, as well as an M.P.P. from the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago. While at Virginia, he was an Olin Fellow in Law and Economics and served as articles development editor on the Virginia Law Review. After graduation, he clerked for Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson III of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and served as a Bristow Fellow in the Office of the Solicitor General at the U.S. Department of Justice. After working in private practice, Pritchard served as senior counsel in the Office of the General Counsel of the SEC, where he wrote appellate briefs and studied the effect of recent reforms in the areas of securities fraud litigation. He received the SEC's Law and Policy Award for his work in United States v. O'Hagan.

RG: How long have you been teaching at the law school, and what made you want to be a teacher?

AP: I've been teaching at the law school since 1998. I left for a year and a half to move to Washington so my wife could work at the Justice Department. I decided I wanted to be a law professor in my 1st semester of law school; I loved civil procedure, really loved law school generally, and wanted to be just like John McCoy, my civil procedure professor. So, the things I did between then and now were geared toward helping me achieve that goal. I did a lot of things with becoming a law professor in mind.

RG: You were senior counsel for the SEC at one point, yes?

AP: Well I was staff attorney when I started, but got promoted to senior counsel. It sounds really impressive, but I was doing basically the same things, just a bit more. I was an appellate lawyer. But fairly early on in my time there, I caught the general counsel's eye as knowing some things other than just securities law, which I actually didn't know much about when I started. And I got some work that I would characterize as more legislative.

I got to help write the Securities Litigation Uniform Standards Act, a piece of legislation that cuts off securities fraud class actions in state court. So that's where I first developed my interest in securities fraud class action, which is a big area of my research now. It was interesting working on legislation, preparing commissioners to go get beat up by members of Congress, which the commissioners didn't enjoy very much. But the members of Congress seemed to enjoy quite a bit. I also got a chance to think hard about some of the legal issues that come up in securities law.

RG: What advice would you give to students who may want to work in a similar role in their careers?

AP: I learned a lot. If I didn't want to be a law professor I'd still be working at the SEC. I got to work with talented lawyers, I was a government worker and the hours were reasonable; I was the last guy to leave at 6:30, so that was nice. I certainly would recommend it. I think law students are worried about their

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debts, and think they have to go work for a law firm. And maybe they do.

I think maybe the best choice I made after I finished my clerkship and internship with the Justice Department was to work for a law firm and get a huge boost in pay, but then live on what I lived on when I worked as a law clerk. I used the rest to pay off my loans, so when I got a chance to go work for the government I was debt-free. That way, I could make the decision on what work I wanted to do and what I thought was interesting. So, pay off your debts, that's my advice.

RG: Do you have any suggestions on how to get upper-class students to engage more, or is the drop-off too natural?

AP: I think three years of law school is a bad idea. I think three years is unnecessary, that two years would be sufficient. Of course, this is a racket that is to my benefit because we extract a third year of tuition from students. The ABA's accreditation standards that for "educational integrity" law students need three years. I think it's nonsense. I think most students end up taking a lot that's largely irrelevant to what they're going to do once they become practicing lawyers, so it would be easier to engage students for two years. That being said, I'm not going to change the system anytime soon, because the forces are more powerful than me.

RG: Do you think your opinion prevails among professors, or are you in the minority?

AP: I think I'm in the minority on that opinion, because they think all the courses they teach are of vital importance. I'm more skeptical. I think so far as we can offer some courses in the third year that would give more practical application of what is learned in the first and second, that would be good. We had a securities regulation practicum this semester which helped out a little bit. It allowed students who had taken securities regulation to then try their hand at drafting 10k's and proxy statements and other documents. It seems to me that they are really learning something in the third year when they get a chance to do that.

RG: Do you think the courses offered are generally what the law school wants to provide, or are offered because it's what the faculty wants to be teaching?

AP: I think that a lot of the courses we offer are largely self-indulgence by the professors. I think it's an outrage that Constitutional Law is a required course. It's wholly irrelevant to the overwhelming majority of lawyers but we make it a required course because law professors think it's interesting and engaging. I think there's no law there, and very little legal training is brought about by teaching students Con Law. It teaches them that juries get to make things up, that law doesn't matter, and that's not true in broad areas of the law. There are rules and statutes and judges try to follow them, but that doesn't happen in Con Law because judges get to be philosopher kings. I think it's very misleading for students.

I think there are lots of offerings taught because the professors are interested in them and students are trying to fill out their schedules because they have to be here for three years, and they're taking things that are largely irrelevant to their future careers as lawyers. I guess that's a fairly longwinded "no."

RG: You are also married to a faculty member, right? Are there any faculty members not married to other faculty members?

AP: My wife is an adjunct professor. We have small children and she thinks it makes sense to spend time with our children rather than writing law review articles, which strikes me as a fairly intelligent choice. I think the answer is five couples. There's Professor Croley and Professor McCormick; Professors Katz and Halberstam; Gross and Ellsworth; Hasen and Eisenberg, so that makes five. But I may have left someone out unwittingly.

RG: Does being married to a faculty member affect your role on the faculty?

AP: Well, I think if my wife were on the tenure-track faculty it would make more of a difference. She's not interested in what I teach, and I'm not interested in hers, and that's fine, so I'm not sure if it makes that much of a difference.

RG: How did the two of you meet?

AP: It's a classic law geek romance. I was set up on a blind date by a friend of
mine from law school who thought that Professor Larsen was like the women I had gone out with in law school, only much smarter. I had a case I had worked on in the Solicitor General’s office; the 9th Circuit had ruled that Alaska was not part of interstate commerce, and the case was being argued in the Supreme Court. I went up to hear the oral argument, we had lunch afterward, and my future wife was willing to overlook my bowtie. We had a 2nd date, and the rest was history. And I won my case – Alaska was restored to interstate commerce.

RG: Glad to know it’s back in the union. Anything else law students should hear from you?

AP: They should work harder. You’re paying an awful lot of money to be here, and I think a lot of people take the attitude of “I’m just here to get the degree. I’ve got to put in my three years, and then I’ll have a comfortable upper-middle class lifestyle when I’m done. This is just paying my dues.” That just seems like such a waste to me. It’s shocking to me when students are embarrassed to get called on in class, and have no clue what the case is about, haven’t looked at the statute that answers the question they’re being asked to answer. If you did that in a meeting with a partner or with a client, you’d find yourself looking for work.

The matter of taking pride in doing a thorough job begins when you’re in law school, and if you’re going to be successful in the practice of law, you should do so in the practice of being a law student.

When I went to the SEC one of the early assignments I had was an Amicus Brief in a case. Part of that process is you have to go around to the commissioners to find out what the legal issue is, and why the SEC filed the brief. One of the commissioners, Commissioner Hunt, did me the very good service of telling the general counsel that I had done a good job of explaining the legal issue to him and why it was important. I got more responsibility after that because the general counsel knew I knew what I was doing.

You have to be able to talk about the law as a lawyer, not just as a litigator. If you’re a domestic relations lawyer you have to be able to tell your client what she can get out of her husband.

RG: Have you thought about what you want to do with the rest of your career?

AP: I’ve been thinking about that question, because I think I’ve realized all my ambitions in life. It’s pretty early to have done that, and it suggests maybe I’ve been lacking in ambition?

I wanted to teach at a good law school, write some articles. I’ve got a book coming out, that seems good. What else do I need to do? I’ve got my house in the country, my pond...

RG: Your kids...

AP: Yeah, them too. I’ve got a wife. At this point, I just need to continue with what I’ve got. So I guess, really, I just need to do a good job at what I’m currently doing. I don’t have additional goals, but maybe I’ll write another book, write some more articles. I won’t have any more kids.

RG: You have two kids currently?

AP: Yes, my wife and I just had a boy in the fall. I have to do some work after the kids go to bed, usually editing a chapter or editing a chapter of the teachers manual, on the couch after they fall asleep. It’s a matter of being organized and not squandering time with various distractions, just getting into a routine. Time to edit teacher’s manual, it’s 8:30! Organization is the key.

RG: Any other interesting things law students should know about you?

AP: Hmmm. I don’t think I’m all that interesting. I’m the average guy. I’m the average guy who became the law professor, I go to football games, have basketball tickets – not a good investment, but I’m holding out hope for the future. It’s been punishment so far. On balance I’m doing all right, the football team’s been quite good!

RG: Did the sports teams have any influence on your choice to teach at Michigan?

AP: It was dispositive. Once I got the offer from Michigan I withdrew from Chicago and Harvard because their football teams are not that good. The football team’s very important.

RG: It was for us students, too.
Civil Rights Attorney Speaks About Abu Ghraib Abuses

Submitted by Andras Farkas

On Monday, February 21st, Shereef Hadi Akeel, a local civil rights attorney and a University of Michigan alumnus (undergraduate), spoke to law students about his clients’ experiences in the Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad, Iraq. Akeel, on behalf of his clients, has filed a class-action suit against the private companies and certain government officials in charge of prisoner interrogation at the infamous Iraqi prison.

"In law school we talk about everything in the abstract. Often times we forget that there are real people behind these cases. Shareef Akeel’s story was a reality check," said 2L Nada Kristie Abu-Isa. “When he described the first meeting with his client from a HUMAN viewpoint, it reminded me of the very reasons I decided to go to law school - something I admittedly lost track of in the past couple of years.”

Akeel recounted the story of a man he would identify only as "Mr. Saleh" who came into his office claiming to have been recently released from Abu Ghraib. According to Akeel, Saleh, was imprisoned in Abu Ghraib under Saddam Hussein’s regime before being released and fleeing to Sweden. After the Hussein regime was deposed, Saleh returned to Iraq in September 2003 to invest and help rebuild the war-torn country. Shortly after returning to Iraq, however, he was detained and sent back to Abu Ghraib.

One of the more disturbing stories related by Saleh was an alleged incident wherein the interrogators used rope to tie naked male prisoners together by their genitals. After they were tied together, the first person in line was pushed over, causing the rest of the prisoners to fall over on top of each other. Akeel acknowledged that he was at first skeptical but then realized that Saleh’s allegations must be true because the events of the story were too unusual to be fabricated.

Akeel decided that he needed to speak to more detainees in person. In July 2004, he decided to visit Iraq and interview as many former captives as he possibly could. He returned with allegations of human rights abuses and enough information to file the class action suit. Among the other claims alleged by the parties in the class action suit are systematic beatings, deprivation of food, water, and medical care, and physical and verbal humiliation by prison officials working for American companies.

The complaint further alleges that prisoners were forced to perform sexual acts on personnel in American uniforms and were shown pictures of persons dressed in American uniforms. Also alleged is a wrongful death action, wherein another prisoner, identified only as “Ahmed” was forced to watch while his father, identified as “Ibrahiem”, was tortured to death. The lawsuit claims that some of the torture was aimed at humiliating the captives by subjecting them to activities that were against the laws of Islam.

The suit is being filed under the Alien Tort Claims Act (ATCA), the Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO), and the Fourth, Fifth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution. The suit claims that the defendant corporations and their government co-conspirators combined to form an enterprise that engaged in a pattern of racketeering activity.

The ATCA, passed by the First Congress in 1789, gives foreign citizens a right to sue in federal court for torts committed abroad. The suit claims that the torture the prisoners were subjected to is a violation of several human rights’ treaties and norms of customary international law.

Akeel closed his talk on an optimistic note by saying that he hopes to show his clients that the reason the United States is different from Saddam Hussein’s Iraq is because there is an effective system for redressing the wrongs that the detainees suffered at Abu Ghraib. The case, filed in the Southern District of California, is Saleh v. Titan Co., Case No. 04 CV 1143. This event was presented by the Muslim Law Students Association and co-sponsored by the ACLU, APALSA, BLSA, Criminal Law Society, ILS, LLSA, and SNARL.
In less than five years, the organization rapidly matured into a nationally acclaimed competitor to the Federalist Society. Now, the ACS is comprised of over 80 student chapters, and has recently launched lawyer chapters in Boston, Cincinnati, Chicago, Georgia, Houston, Iowa, Los Angeles, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Nashville, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, South Florida and Washington, D.C.

Additionally, the ACS has attracted such prestigious legal leaders as Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, Janet Reno and Laurence H. Tribe.

Until recently, Michigan Law’s student chapter of ACS was the only chapter in Michigan. With an eye towards expansion, the student chapter worked closely with leaders in Michigan Government to create a statewide lawyer chapter dedicated to lawyers, scholars and members of the public interested in advancing progressive law and policy.

“Governor Granholm has really led the charge in bringing a Michigan Lawyer Chapter to life,” said 2L Jamie Weitzel, president of the law school’s ACS chapter. “Working with her office to coordinate the kickoff event has been a great learning experience for all of us.”

Their joint effort will become reality this Saturday, March 19, when progressive lawyers, policy makers, and law students will convene in Hutchins Hall to launch the creation of the Michigan Lawyer Chapter of ACS. Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm, Senator Carl Levin, and former ABA President Dennis Archer are all confirmed to speak at this historic event. Numerous other leaders of Michigan’s legal community are expected to attend.

2L ACS Vice-President Jennifer Klem stressed the significance of this event in light of the current political climate. “The need for a strong, unified voice in opposition to the currently dominating conservative views has never been more important, both in Michigan and nationally,” she said.

The Michigan Lawyer Chapter will work with the Michigan Student Chapter and chapters nationwide to influence legal thinkers through forums, speakers and debate. “We are especially excited about the mentoring and networking opportunities that the Michigan Lawyer Chapter will bring to students at the law school,” said Weitzel.

Despite ideological differences between the groups, the Federalist Society welcomes the ACS expansion. “I think that the creation of the ACS Michigan Chapter is a great thing,” stated 2L Joe Brennan, Federalist Society Vice President. “On certain issues we may disagree with them from a jurisprudential perspective. However, both the Federalist Society and the ACS are best served by healthy debate on judicial and political issues.”

Weitzel encourages students to attend the ACS kickoff event on Saturday, which promises to be both a monumental occasion and an excellent networking opportunity. The event will occur on March 19 between 11:30 am and 1:30 pm in 100 Hutchins Hall, and will be followed by a lunch reception. Students are welcome to attend at a discounted $10 ticket price, which includes a one-year membership in ACS National. Space is limited, so RSVP to jamiesb@umich.edu by Friday, March 18 at noon to reserve your ticket.
LSSS Bar Month Brings Cheer, Beer

Photos courtesy of Diana Geseking.
APALSA 'Origins' Show: In Pictures

Photos courtesy of Diana Gekking.
Question on the Quad: If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

"Oh! The power to calm jittery squirrels."
Tom Ferrone, 1L

"The power to answer questions like these on the fly."
Jenny Carter, 2L

"Fly." [no, people said that already] "Teleport." [been said too, sorry]
"Hmmm. I don't have a lot of use for shooting fire out of my hands."
Dave Allen, 2L

"The power to grant myself additional wishes at will. That's so thinking like a lawyer."
Mike Murphy, 2L

Reporting and photos by
Jay Surdukowski and Dan Clark

Please join the Women Law Students Association for a weeklong series of lunchtime events, panels, discussion, and more at
The University of Michigan Law School's First Annual

Women's Week
March 14-18, 2005

Wednesday, March 16th: 12:00-12:50 pm in HH 136
Multiple Layers of Identity: Being a Minority, Gay or Transgender Woman in the Workplace
-- Martha S. Jones, University of Michigan, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Center for Afroamerican & African Studies (CAAS), and Visiting Assistant Professor, Law School;
-- Zanita E. Fenton, Assistant Professor of Law, Wayne State University Law School; and
-- Judith Levy, Assistant U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Michigan (Detroit)
Co-sponsored by BLSA and Outlaws
Lunch from Ali Baba's

Thursday, March 17th: 12:15-1:15 pm in HH 120
International Experiences: Women Lawyers Practicing Abroad
-- Virginia B. Gordon, Assistant Dean for International Programs, and a panel of University of Michigan Law School L.L.M. students
Co-sponsored by the International Law Society and the Center for International & Comparative Law
Followed by Open Office Social in the WLSA Office (food & refreshments provided), 1 – 3pm
'Origins' Celebrates Spring, Culture

By Erick Ong

The harsh winter weather could not spoil the show as a large crowd gathered to witness the first annual Asian-Pacific American Law Student Association's (APALSA) cultural show, "The Origins Spring Festival," at the Pendleton Room of the Michigan Union on March 10. According to its program, the Festival was designed to "showcase the beauty of individual cultures while also emphasizing the celebration of one Asia."

The first acts by the dance troupe of U-M’s Chinese Student Association set the tone for the evening. Dancers adorned in gold and red performed a traditional Chinese coin-stick dance, a lyrical number and a hip hop dance.

The next act was a Hindi Bollywood dance performed by law students. For the uninitiated, the term "Bollywood", is the blending of the city Bombay (now known as Mumbai) and Hollywood. Bollywood is the nickname of the popular film industry in India. It’s part of the popular culture in India, the Middle East, parts of Africa and the South Asian diaspora worldwide.

2L Jenny Lee impressed the audience by singing a Korean song, "Ku Li Wun Kum Kang San." The song is an expression of lost and liberation based on the mountain range that borders North and South Korea. 2L Sam Li accompanied her on the piano. Next was a solo dance treatment performed by 1L Mitoshi Fuji-White, who displayed her Hawaiian hula skills while wearing a grass skirt. Her dance was about the love affair of King Kamehameha II.

A fashion show followed the singing and dancing. It featured clothing originating from the Middle East to Japan to India to Vietnam. The fashion show was one of the many highlights of the night as law students took this opportunity to strut their way down the aisle in a stunning display of the fashions that represent Asian cultures.

U-M’s Taiwanese Student Association Influx Dance Troupe performed the Ribbon and Sword Dance. The flowing red ribbon display was mesmerizing as the dancers worked their ribbons in unison with their dance movements.

3L Sehla Ashai performed a Kashmiri love song originally sung by the last Kashmiri queen for her husband. This was accompanied by a drum performance by 3L Amer Zahr. Zahr followed this performance with a solo one of his own by playing the ‘Oud, a traditional Arabic musical instrument with roots tracing back over two thousand years. The instrument looks similar to a guitar and Zahr was stirring as he improvised his play on the spot.

An energetic Bollywood dance followed Zahr’s performance. After seeing two performances of this dancing style I can see why it is popular in so many parts of the world. The rhythmic gyrations set to music along with colorful outerwear make for a dazzling display. Sam Li returned to give a solo piano performance entitled "Flute and Drums and Sunset", a piece based on traditional Chinese music.

As seen in Term of Arts, the Law School Talent Show, the APALSA Cultural Show, and even in Mr. Wolverine, our law students come from diverse, rich backgrounds and are blessed with the abilities to perform arts to entertain and educate us all.

Mixing up the entertainment offerings were spoken word performances by Marcia Lee Leemy and Jennifer Yim identifying the artist’s identity in a world of cultural realities. Leemy spoke of a little girl who desperately tries to grow up in a talk titled, “Small Girl, Large World” and Yim’s performance identified growing up as an Asian-American female in the Midwest by singling out cultural stereotypes pertaining to Asian female demureness and martial arts. In a fitting end to the night, the Encore Hip-Hop multicultural dance group performed hip hop dances and sent everyone home with a smile. Proceeds of the show went to the APALSA Scholarship Fund.

See Page 11 for more photos of this event.
It’s Always the Season to GO BLUE!

By Matt Nolan

Football is clearly the top priority sport at Michigan, but after the Bowl season most law students seem to fall out of contact with the Michigan sports scene. That’s a big no-no if you’re going to be conversant in all things about your alma mater after graduation! In order to prevent mass Summer embarrassment, here’s a quick rundown of what’s going on generally with the “big three.”

FOOTBALL

Even though opening kickoff of the 2005 season is 172 days away, there’s plenty going on with the football team. Earlier this semester coach Lloyd Carr finalized the recruiting class heading into his 11th season at the helm, and the group of kids coming in is considered a consensus top five class in the nation. The two biggest recruits coming from within the state of Michigan (and arguably overall) are both from the West side, the better side of course. Kevin Grady out of East Grand Rapids is considered good enough to possibly split time with Mike Hart as starting halfback next year, and Terrance Taylor out of my own hometown of Muskegon is a 6’2”, 295 lb defensive lineman (those are his stats now, as a high school senior) who promises to shore up the middle for years to come. My two favorite recruits are such because of their names – our new fullback is formally named “Mister Simpson,” and the new highly touted punter is “Zoltan Mesko.” I can see the signs in the crowd already.

The first chance to see the 2005 product is in the annual Spring Game, an intra-squad scrimmage that usually sheds light on who’ll be the up and comers. This year’s game will be held on my 24th birthday, April 16, 2005, in the Big House – and if I remember correctly, admission is either free or $5, a steal to see one of the best teams in the nation.

Early pre-season polls have Michigan, on the strength of many returning starters, ranked between 3rd and 8th nationally. Chad Henne returns at quarterback, along with Mike Hart at RB, three of the five offensive linemen, and the entire receiving corps minus Braylon Edwards (which will still be considered possibly the best in the nation). The defensive line will be solid, led by Gabe Watson returning for his senior year, and the linebacking crew stays strong, too. Replacing Ernest Shazor and Marlin Jackson in the defensive backfield will be a big task, but we are rumored to have good talent stepping into those roles.

Bottomline: the Rose Bowl is this year’s national championship game, so in order to make it three in a row we’ll have to run the table. The schedule is tough, with two sets of back-to-back road games at Wisconsin/MSU and Iowa/Northwestern respectively. The season concludes at home against Ohio State, so if you don’t buy season tickets this year you’re making a big mistake.

HOCKEY

Known to fewer students than the Football or Basketball teams, Michigan Hockey is actually the most dominant of the bunch. Heading into the 2004-05 season Michigan had been to the Frozen Four (equivalent to b-ball’s Final Four) three of the last four seasons, and we returned 19 of 22 players from last year’s squad. The preseason #1 team in the nation, our squad dropped a couple easy games mid-season, but finished strong by winning the CCHA (our conference for hockey) regular season title. Watch closely over the next few weeks as the CCHA playoffs conclude and the NCAA playoffs progress – you could get a national title while you’re at Michigan after all. Editorial note to all you Fighting Irish fans: this past Friday night, Michigan hockey beat ND 10-1, the 2nd time this season they tallied double-digit goals against ND. If you can score tickets at Yost Ice arena, do it. It’s the most electric hockey crowd around, including pro venues, and without exaggeration.

BASKETBALL

The Michigan men’s basketball squad began the season with high hopes, coming off last year’s NIT Championship and returning most of the lineup. Eight different players suffered injuries throughout the season, however, including the team’s best scorer and captain Lester Abram for its entirety. Starting point guard Daniel Horton got in trouble with the law mid-season, leaving the injury-riddled team to start three different walk-on players for much of the year. After starting the Big Ten season 3-0, the team dropped 13 of its last 14 games, not being able to overcome the loss of those two crucial players.

The good news? Michigan graduates one player, not even a starter, and next year returns Horton and Abram to the now deeper and more experienced Blue roster. 2005-06 will be coach Tommy Amaker’s first senior class, and they’ll have something to prove. I’m going to predict they’ll make the NCAA tournament next season, because if they don’t, I’ll have been here for seven years without seeing them do so. Go Blue!

Matt Nolan is the Executive Editor of Res Gestae. E-mail Matt at mjnolan@umich.edu.
I hereby announce my retirement

By Mike Murphy

When baseball is no longer fun, it’s no longer a game, and so I’ve played my last game of ball.” Joe DiMaggio

I had a free place to crash over the break at a warm place because a friend of mine has parents with a vacation rental and giving hearts. For those of you who weren’t in such a position, I apologize and I assure you I’m not trying to rub it in. I grew up here; this is my 25th Michigan winter. I feel your pain.

I hit the lounge chair with books for all of my classes, writing deadlines and a workout schedule, all of which lasted less than 12 hours. By the second day, I didn’t know what time of day it was, what day it was, and didn’t care. Now, I figure, my friend’s parents always live like this. They’re retired! So the logic chain is easy.

The thing is, and this is by no means an affront to my past professors, but I’m enjoying law school now, more than ever. You put even the most engaging Socratic game to shame. The ABA must be beaming, and I know the professors reading this just did a double-take. But if you put even the most engaging Socratic debate up against pool drinks and an inflatable chaise lounge, well, my type-A tendencies are put to the ultimate test.

“When a man retires, his wife gets twice the husband but only half the income.” Senior Tour Golfer Chi Chi Rodriguez

Judging from my father’s experience in retirement, I can also take up a favorite former pastime of mine: bugging the absolute crap out of my mother. Two years ago, my mom’s empty nest syndrome had just finally subsided and she’d settled into a routine of jigsaw puzzles, cracking out at the slightest risk of snow or rain precipitation (despite the fact that she doesn’t drive) and meticulously monitoring the movements of our immediate neighbors and passing them along to the rest of the family. But then, Dad came home for good and has “thrown off her entire schedule.”

It’s not as if Dad’s spending his retirement running a casino out of the basement, learning to breakdance on the hardwood floors or playing in a garage band. He plays solitaire all morning, takes a nap after lunch and watches about 15 hours of TV a day. She insists that it’s more work looking after him than it was looking after two infants AND a dog, but I remained dubious. I mentioned to her that some people would consider themselves enriched when the person they’ve been happily married to for over 30 years had more time to spend with them than ever before. My mother’s counterargument to this assertion was, apparently, that I failed to realize that I should shut up.

Now, my parents are getting along reasonably well on a fixed income. My problem will be that I have no income to fix. But I figure, I have a couple of credit cards with high limits, and I can get quite a few more before they realize what I’m up to. Combine that with some Party Poker success and E-Trade investing, and I can set myself up a nice series of returns until my pension kicks in. Unfortunately, I don’t have a pension, so I’ll have to wait about 41 years or so until my social security starts up. I may have to lobby to the AARP to get that changed. (And with my relative youth and what’s left of my law school drive, I’ll be running that organization in no time!)

“First you forget names; then you forget faces; then you forget to zip up your fly; and then you forget to unzip your fly.” Branch Rickey

So I haven’t peed my pants. Yet. But I’m already senile. For example: I lost my lucky Tigers hat for two months – it was in plain sight, on my dresser. I’ve missed class last semester because I forgot I had a Monday morning class – in November.

And let’s not even talk about my Legal Practice coursepack last year. The one that I had to pick up three times ’cause I lost it twice? I am, probably, the sole reason why they now limit free coursepacks to one per person. My roommate can track my movements throughout our apartment by the lights I’ve left on – even if I’m not presently at home, because I don’t turn them off when I leave.

And take Denny’s, for example. It’s more fun than law school. And I don’t mind complaining about poor service, especially if it isn’t particularly poor. I already dress shabbily and shave every few days. I even have hair growing out of my ears! The ladies think it’s cute. They do, right? Ladies? Whatever. I can distract them by keeping my fly down (and keeping a part of my tucked in plaid shirt sticking out through the ensuing hole), which I will do, of course, on purpose.

“There’s never enough time to do all the nothing you want.” Bill Watterson

I went to a self-help retirement web site, and it had me enter three interests that I would take up upon retiring for their evaluation. I’m still waiting for a response, but I figure they have their hands full decoding what I told them: “Watching the same SportsCenter three times in a row every day so that I can finish the anchor’s sentences on the third run-through, getting drunk on foreign beaches like at the end of Office Space (“I said no salt, no salt on the margarita!”) and writing a definitive scholarly critique of The Big Lebowski.”

“Retirement is the ugliest word in the language.” Ernest Hemingway

And look what happened to him.

Mike Murphy is the Editor-in-Chief of Res Gestae. He’s driving slowly in front of you in the left lane because he has all damn day. E-mail Mike at murphys@umich.edu
Bid Until it Hurts at the SFF Auction

By Liz Seger

Admit it. You’ve always wanted an 8-foot inflatable wolverine. More to the point, you’ve always wanted to be the proud winner of an alcohol-lubricated, St. Paddy’s Day bidding war over an 8-foot inflatable wolverine, facilitated by a bawdy Brit wearing some sort of taxidermy project on his head. Thursday, you’ll get your chance. With 125 of your erstwhile classmates vying for SFF grant funding this summer while you waltz into the arms of the Big Firm, this wolverine dream of yours is no mere fantasy – it’s a moral imperative.

The 2005 Student Funded Fellowships Auction will take place this Thursday evening, March 17, at the Michigan League. The doors open at 5:30, and the live auction beings at 7:00. Come hungry, as dinner-hour events at the League come with mandatory ample portions of food, and don’t be as fashionably late as you were last year, because the new schedule won’t allow it. The problems with last year’s auction – we couldn’t hear the auctioneers, not enough chairs, the chatter of people browsing the nearly 200 silent auction items will not disturb the main event.

Not to worry – the crack team of auctioneers can handle the pace. The cast of characters comprises the superstar faculty members of years past (Profs. Sherman Clark and Brian Simpson), the pageant-proven Sarah Zearfoss, and a pair of students from each class. The 1Ls are represented by none other than Mr. Wolverine and his runner-up, and rumor is they will sing and/or dance if the crowd insists. (Insist.)

The auction looks to be the crowning glory for an already very successful year for SFF. For the first time, the program has reached out to SFF board alums and former grant recipients, and the support has been phenomenal. This year’s catalog, which is color and glossy for the first time, brought in more than $10,000 in ad revenue from law firms. The hotel voucher program, a Michigan innovation now in its twelfth year, is undergoing a transformation into a national program, dubbed the Law Student Transportation and Accommodation Reimbursement Program, or L-STAR. In cooperation with Northwestern and the University of Virginia, and possibly Stanford and Penn in the near future, the new program aims to register 400 firms, and will include the option of claiming reimbursements for unused cab fare in addition to hotel allowances. "Hotel vouchers had been dying a slow death in recent years," said Pryor, "but the new program will be much bigger and more streamlined."

The final SFF fund-raising event of the year, which will begin on the evening of the auction, is the annual pledge drive. Graduating 3Ls, especially those who will be working for a big firm next year, are asked to pledge a portion of their future earnings to the SFF cause. While in recent years the typical pledges have been relatively nominal – a day’s pay, for instance – SFF hopes that this year’s graduating students will embrace a return to the more generous ethos of the past. "It used to be the expectation that students going to big firms would donate at least a week’s pay," says Pryor. "That was the ethos here. We’d like to see a return to that. But even if every graduating student with a Big Firm job – say, 200 of them – pledged just one day’s pay, that could be $80,000 for grants." And with 125 applicants for SFF grants this year, who won’t be notified about decisions until the last week of March, when all of the money has (or hasn’t) rolled in, every pledge is going to make a difference that will be immediately felt.

So while you’re letting those considerations of your moral responsibility simmer on the back burner of your mind, download that catalog, highlight your top picks (the RG would like to draw your attention especially to Item #2, which we would describe here at length, were it not for our loathing of shameless self-promotion), and get ready to spend money on things (karaoke with Potow?!? A book signed in blood?!?) you won’t remember you bought the next morning. Because, yes, the SFF team promises there will be ‘lots of cash bars.’ So bring lots of cash. ‘Nuff said.

The Crim Law Society presents:

(1) 2-3 Hour Tour of Washtenaw County’s Brand New Juvenile Detention Facility – Friday, March 18th.

Reply back to crimlawsoocietyboard@umich.edu so that we can assess the number of interested students.

(2) Book Drive for Female Prisoners, March 14-17th.

All this week, between 11:15-1:15. the CLS will be hosting a book drive for Female Inmates outside of 100 Hutchins Hall.
Married Law Student’s Sanity Vanishes

By Matt Rojas

What is it like to be a married law student? In short, it rocks, and it's probably a lot like being a married associate. So to all of you students of who are getting married after you graduate: be nice and be understanding. That’s what makes it great.

But I’ve noticed that I seem to be losing my mind. This could be a family trait, but since it has only begun since I’ve been married, we’ll attribute it to that. The primary evidence of this is my forgetting important and obvious information making a fool of myself in public. During OCI my phone number was tattooed on the back of my hand because it took less time to look at my hand than to remember my own phone number.

When someone asked me for my phone number, I didn’t want to look at my hand but I didn’t want to give them the wrong information. So I usually ended up with a blank look on my face. Not good. The only phone numbers I can reliably remember are my wife Katie’s cell phone and my old number from when I was five. There were several situations when I was on my cell phone and someone on the other end asked for my number. I’ve stayed up nights wondering whether the person could hear the beeps as I flip through the phone looking for my own number.

The worst case happened while crossing into Canada last summer. The whole time I was trying to remember to say “U.S.” instead of “American” when asked what my citizenship was. This was important to me. Why? Because I’m crazy. After nailing that question, the guards asked me who the kid in the back (in this case, my daughter Lucy) was and could he see some documentation. Of course we had documentation. I was traveling with my wife, after all, and she always has the documentation. They asked me Lucy’s birthday, and I responded with her due date (which is very different from her birthday) and the wrong year. Katie was trying to decide whether to laugh or strangle me, because after looking at the documentation, the guards would think we were kidnapping a child. The guy gave Katie a look of sympathy and waved us through. I’d like to say I fumbled the questions because I was nervous, but I wasn’t. It wasn’t like I was trying to get large plastic bags of fine, white, volcanic ash over the U.S.-Mexico border.

Let me regale you with more family-centered confusion and madness. For some reason I am paranoid about Lucy spilling her drink at the dinner table when we’re dining out or at someone else’s house. This is noticeably similar to my “U.S. v. American” dilemma – I devote large amounts of brainpower to ridiculous things. At home Lucy hardly ever spills her drink, but once we get into public I am paranoid.

I guess you could call me a milk-hawk. It’s almost always necessary for me to intervene, and naturally my intervention generally results in me saving her milk from uncertain destruction. Unfortunately, it sometimes also results in me spilling my own milk, one time into my brother-in-law’s lap at a large family dinner. “Lucy, don’t spill your milk! D’oh, my milk!” Ah, delicious irony.

Marriage has also made me (occasionally) heroic. Last summer Lucy wandered into a swarm of bees in the middle of a playground in family housing. I swooped in and grabbed her; she escaped unharmed. I escaped harmed, with stings on my wrist and a toe. Later, while we were out running errands, my toe doubled in size, my hand went numb and I nearly passed out. It’s all I can do to write my number on my hand, remember that I’m a U.S. citizen, and keep Lucy’s milk safe - now I’m supposed to worry about bees, too?

You can take a break from law school, and you can (I hope) take a break from work. Some stuff though, you can’t really take a break from. Like spilled milk. And bees.

Matt Rojas is a 2L. E-mail comments about this article to rg@umich.edu.

EVALS, from Page 2

may reflect student sentiments more than the professor’s teaching ability. At the law school, professors are more likely to be demanding but good teachers, so low evaluation scores may reflect the fact that students felt the profs were “mean” as opposed to disorganized, unclear or uninspired. At the business school, professors occupy a role closer to being “peers” of students than at the law school.

However, the benefits of allowing students to see evaluation results are fairly obvious. Along with giving students more information on selecting from a semester’s menu of, the evaluative process itself will be improved. The evaluation process is fairly mysterious to students. Allowing them to see the results will incentivize students to take the surveys more seriously than if they think the evaluations are just a nominal attempt to gauge satisfaction. The administration will have more accurate evaluations, and students will end up taking fewer classes that they ultimately dislike.

Making the evaluation results available to students poses benefits for the administration, faculty, and students. The administration and faculty get more accurate evaluation responses, while students gain the benefit of additional information to reference in selecting courses. Given the low costs of implementing such a system, the Law School should offer evaluation results to students.
ELECTION, from Page 1

Pfeiffer: I have a great deal of experience with student government at the University of Virginia. I was elected and re-elected a representative of the College of Arts and Sciences, affectionately referred to as Arts & Crafts. I also served as Chairman of the Parking & Transportation and Housing Committee, University Committees concerning Parking and Transportation, the Board of the Student Legal Services, executive search committees, and my favorite of all, The Oahu Bowl Arrangements Committee, involving a trip to Hawaii and a luau with the football team.

I also enjoyed being an advisor to the athletics director and several members of the Board of Visitors, analogous to the Board of Regents, one of whom was kind enough to say: “During his time on Student Council, he advocated a number of interesting policy positions with true skill. As a result, the Council and Administration adopted several significant policy changes that would not have passed, but for Justin’s extraordinary advocacy. Needless to say, Justin demonstrated to me beyond any doubt that he is a natural leader.” Although that may be a bit overstated.

RG: MSA has three main jobs: disbursing funds to student groups, advocating for changes for students on campus, and discussing “other things.” How do you rank their relative importance and what do you intend to do for each?

Davidson: While it is difficult for me to answer this question without knowing what “other things” are, I rank these functions as follows: 1) Funding for student organizations; 2) Advocating for change on campus; 3) “Other things.”

From what I’ve seen, student groups on their own are far better at contributing to everyday life on this campus. Moreover, on many issues, they are more capable than MSA in achieving change on campus and doing “other things,” assuming those “other things” refer to issues of social welfare, tackling political

issues, etc. I’ve come to appreciate very much the structure of LSSS when it comes to Law School affairs. There are some large, traditional events that the LSSS hosts, and the LSSS takes on a select few social issues as related to its mandate (e.g. the constitutional amendments it ratified, last year). The MSA could learn a great deal from this. Rather than allowing student groups to tackle issues, the MSA increasingly devotes its time to considering a great number of issues of social and political import. While certainly I have opinions on these issues, I feel it more appropriate to allow student groups to conduct these campaigns and for the MSA to lend support only where appropriate, and through appropriate means.

Pfeiffer: I would say serving as an advocate for students to the administration is the most important and distributing money is second.

The primary and most important role is serving as a voice for students to the administration, which includes not only negotiating with the senior administration, but knowing when to bypass them and go to the regents directly. This is where the three plus years on Virginia’s student council will most come into play. It is important to realize that these large state universities are businesses that operate without shareholders. Any change is difficult and asymmetric information is a true problem. The University is an ever-increasing, perpetual bureaucracy that stays largely the same while student government officials, and to some extent regents, come and go. I will serve as an effective advocate not only for the law school, but for the entire student body, and know how to ensure some tangible results.

Distributing money is also very important, but is supposedly done in a neutral, administrative fashion. As the funding among groups remains constant, I have no reason to doubt fairness. I would only get involved in cases of prejudice or unfairness, and would also serve as a liaison to law groups.

“Other things,” I’m sure is a reference to some of MSA’s advocacy work, like the recent resolution to cancel the University’s contract with Coca-Cola because of unfair labor practices in the developing world. Although such measures are well-intentioned, they are beyond the organization’s competence. Professor Rob Howse’s work encouraging labor and environmental standards to be taken into account by World Trade Organization adjudicatory bodies is going to have far more effect than anything MSA does. The same holds true for all of us that research trade issues and plan to go into the trade field.

RG: What types of things would you like to see MSA do for students?

Davidson: For the Law School, specifically, I would like to see MSA draw more upon law students when confronting regulatory issues. For example, in my (and the University General Counsel’s) opinion, MSA’s funding allocation guidelines are unconstitutional as written; they violate Southworth v. University of Wisconsin. Also, the Central Student Judiciary’s procedures could use an overhaul; they last were updated in the 1970s. I would love to see MSA involve law students in this process. Also, I think MSA needs to pay a whole lot more attention to graduate students. I don’t mean this, necessarily, in terms of meeting our needs; our needs rarely differ from those of undergraduates (other than issues such as housing, family policy, etc.) Rather, what I mean is that the MSA has done a poor job drawing upon skills of its graduate population. Here are some examples:

MSA recently decided to fund an immigration and international law attorney to assist students with those issues. Let’s set up an internship program between them and the Center for International Law. Also, the North Campus Committee is trying to find ways to revitalize common spaces. Why not use students from the Design School?

CONTINUED on Next Page
The good news is the burden for culpability is a clear and convincing standard, the accused can cross-examine witnesses, and has the right to see evidence in advance. However, there are several problems. Students can be suspended on an emergency basis ex parte. This should be a matter for the criminal justice system if a student is that dangerous. The role of the investigating authority (resolution coordinator) is not that of prosecutor, but that of conflict negotiator and investigator, who determines when a formal hearing can be held. Whether or not to proceed to a hearing is in the discretion of the resolution coordinator based on his/her professional judgment. An accused student may have an attorney, but that attorney may not participate in a hearing (there is a move to change this but only for cases involving expulsion). Even if the accused student wins at the hearing level on substantially relaxed rules of evidence, the complainant can appeal. Most problematic, a disciplinary hearing is always closed to the public even if the accused wants a public hearing. The reason given is to protect the accuser from embarrassment. Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights calls for a “public hearing” in “determination of any criminal charge against him, or of his rights and obligations in a suit at law.” Even the notorious Star Chamber operated in public.

This is not an easy issue, but if elected I would urge major reform. At Virginia, the students ran the entire system, from investigation through trial, with ultimate supervision only by our Board of Visitors. While accused students can elect a student panel to determine their guilt, these students are elected by no one, but in fact appointed, and then trained and accountable to, you guessed it, OSCR. I would urge tightening up the evidence rules as much as practicable (particularly hearsay rules), more complete rules of procedure, complete attorney involvement, ultimate appeal to the elected Regents rather than the unelected University President and Vice President for Student Affairs, and public hearings at the request of the accused. I would also urge serious consideration of complete student control by a separate elected student judiciary committee.

RG: Finally, what else should voters know about you?

Davidson: I’m a big fan of decentralized student government. This view is based on the example of LSSS, which since I’ve been here, has been fantastically responsive to student requests and ideas. If I had my way, I would establish a system in MSA that encourages the various schools, especially the graduate and professional schools, to manage their own affairs. That said, of course, there are some issues on which MSA must act as a unified voice on behalf of the entire student population. This is true particularly when addressing issues to the University administration.

Pfeiffer: I’m a second-year student from Findlay, Ohio. I received my undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia in history and economics. I spent my first-year at the University of Texas Law School and one year down there was more than enough. (I proudly wore my Michigan apparel at this year’s Rose Bowl Game and have received numerous taunting messages from my former classmates.)

I’m an avid Michigan sports fan. I’m a season ticket holder in football and hockey and attend many away games. I also enjoy golf and lifting weights, although it shows less and less thanks to a hectic work schedule and free firm meals at gourmet restaurants.

At the Law School, I’m on the Michigan Journal of International Law and Michigan’s International Trade Moot Court Team, which recently was awarded runner-up for Best Written Submission at the national competition in Washington, DC. I am going to spend the summer at Washington, DC office of Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP, where I plan to work in the trade and regulatory practice groups.
**Michigan Law Announcements**

**ELS presents...**

Ten ways YOU can combat global warming:

1. Raise your voice!
2. Choose a fuel-efficient car
3. When possible, take mass transit, bike or walk
4. Unplug unused appliances
5. Buy energy efficient appliances
6. Use compact fluorescent light bulbs
7. Conserve energy at home
8. Buy good wood and recycled paper products
9. Choose clean power
10. Plant a tree

"The World Today: Multi-Disciplinary Perspectives on Climate Change."

March 14-18th

The Environmental Law Society and the National Wildlife Federation are pleased to invite you to attend this special speaker series.

March 16th, 12:15pm, 218 IHR

"Science and Politics of Climate Change" Presented by Edward A. Parson, Professor of Law, Associate Professor of Natural Resources and Environment at the University of Michigan.

March 17th, 12:15pm, 218 IHR

"Business Perspectives on Climate Change" Presented by John Bozzella, Vice President for Public Policy and Government Affairs, Ford Motor Company and moderated by Professor Andy Hoffman, Holcim (US) Professor of Sustainable Enterprise, Stephen M. Ross School of Business. School of Natural Resources & Environment at the University of Michigan.

March 18th, 12:15pm, 133 IHR

"Climate Change as Public Nuisance: States fill the vacuum" Presented by Simon Wynn, Assistant New York Attorney General.

A complete schedule, including speaker bios, can be found at: http://www.law.umich.edu/Journals/Orga-ELSA/events.html

Don’t miss the annual

**SFF AUCTION!**

Thursday, March 17th at 5:30pm at the Michigan League. Silent Auction starting at 5:30 in the Vandenberg Room. Live Auction starting at 7:00 in the Main Ballroom.

**The University of Michigan Law School Black Law Students’ Alliance presents:**

The 27th Annual Alden J. "Butch" Carpenter Scholarship Banquet & 4th Annual Barrister's Ball

Saturday, March 19, 2005

Keynote Speaker: Dennis W. Archer
Chairman, Dickinson Wright, PLLC, former ABA President, former Mayor of Detroit, former MI Supreme Court Justice

The banquet will be held at: Kensington Court Ann Arbor (formerly the Crowne Plaza Ann Arbor)
610 Hilton Boulevard
Reception begins at 6:30 p.m. Dinner begins at 7:30 p.m.
Ball begins at 10:00 p.m.

Tickets will be sold outside of Room 100: 11:30-1:30 on March 8-11 and March 14-17
Tickets for the banquet (includes admission to ball): $30 per student, Tickets for the ball only: $10

Come...Celebrate...Enjoy

**Grammy Foundation Forum on Music & Entertainment Law**

Tuesday, March 15, 12:15-4:30

Andrew W.K. leads off an amazing panel of special guests for three exciting discussions on digital music, negotiating transactions in the music industry and litigating entertainment law.

Free food and great networking!

See http://students.umich.edu/elsa for more information

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