Dean Lehman Reflects on Time At Michigan, Looks Forward to New Role

By John Fedynsky and Andy Daly

As he announced last semester, Law School Dean Jeffrey Lehman will be leaving his post at UMLS at the end of the school year to take the helm as President of Cornell University. This past week Dean Lehman sat down with the RG’s John Fedynsky and Andy Daly to discuss his prestigious new position and to provide some final thoughts on the one he is leaving.

So what’s it like now, wrapping things up in these last few months before you’ll be gone?

It’s overwhelming, it’s bittersweet. It’s been nine years as dean, sixteen years on the faculty. My entire academic career has been here. I’m very excited obviously to be going to Cornell to serve as president. But it’s hard to disengage from an institution that I love.

Would you say it’s been good or bad timing with the litigation and the construction plans going right into phase now? It seems like your leaving at about the most interesting point.

I know there is never a good time to do something like this. I don’t feel like this is a particularly good time. But I don’t feel it’s a particularly bad time. The litigation will have been completed. The Supreme Court will have affirmed the Sixth Circuit decision before I actually leave. I expect that that will not be an issue at all for my successor.

The building plan is another story. But it is the case that a building project like this is invariably an 8, 9, 10-year project. It usually involves the work of many people and more than one dean. I’d like to be a year farther along on the fundraising than I am. But at the same time I do feel as though we made a lot of progress in the last few years on the building. It’s a very exciting project. It will be an important continuing effort for the School.

Do you have any pet projects that you are remiss to be leaving now - the sorts of things that you think you’ll follow throughout your career just to see how they’re going even if your not any longer personally involved?

There are a lot of things that this school does that are wonderful, special and...
March Musings

By Andy Daly

As we enter our last full month of classes before a desperately anticipated summer, allow me to offer the following observations with respect to this first month of spring.

As a word, March is peculiarly versatile. It is a month, a common noun as well as a verb. A sentence such as: “I marched while playing a march during March” doesn’t work with any other word.

To Julius Caesar, while July bears his name, March presented his final curtain call. “Beware the Ides of March” the soothsayer said. Is it a coincidence that my rent is due that day? “Et tu, landlord?”

In terms of numbers, March is uniquely associated with “three-ness.” Not only is it the third month of the year, but also, for Irish Catholics such as myself, it brings with it the most celebrated of days: St. Patrick’s Day. And as the legend goes, St. Patrick used the three-leafed clover to explain the Trinity to the pagan ancestors of the kingly O’Neil, the rebellious Collins, and, lest we forget, the most musical of lines, the Daly’s.

Although past transgressions have ensur- ed that March Madness will not infect a campus experiencing an outbreak of the Maize Rage this year, for 65 other campuses, the month will bring with it college hoops-inspired insanity. For puck fans, the college game kicks into playoff fervor while the pros race to fill the last few playoff spots for a run at Lord Stanley’s Cup. Let the goals be separated from the sieves!

On a more serious note, world events continue to be dominated by the debate over the march to war. In light of the President’s recent prime time remarks and overseas summit, it looks increasingly like this March will largely be remembered by the echoes of soldiers marching in quickstep through a distant desert; a desert that lies in a region, or march, that borders, or marches, with three continents. In an etymological sense, at least, it is fitting. After all, the month was named after Mars, the ancient god of war.

I must curtail my musings, however, because this March sees me launching into another late semester flurry of activity. As Winter ’03 marches on, I must force myself to fall in, shape up, suck in the gut, stand up straight and march those last few clicks through the end of another semester.
By Joel Andersen

No doubt many Michigan law students relish their big law prospects of seventy-hour weeks. Putting aside the money, certain students seem to define themselves by how many hours they can bill in a given month. No doubt other students relish their public interest prospects of $30,000 before taxes. Putting aside their good works, certain students seem to gain some sense of meaning out of claiming they “aren’t in it for the money.” Though obviously different, each group seems to be motivated by some weird sense of masochism.

Alas, I write not to attempt to decipher these two unique groups; rather, I write in the spirit of Tony Blair to offer a “third way.” Far from masochism, this way leans as far to hedonism as law firm life allows. This way is the firm job in Hawaii.

To pursue this career possibility, the law student must embrace several concepts often foreign to the typical Michigan student.

First, you must feel comfortable with a yearly billable hour expectation (read: not requirement) of 1,750. For the English majors, that is less than 34 billable hours per week (expected, remember, not required). I realize this might not sit well with our “biglaw” friends, but it is something the Hawaii associate must get used to. Of course many attorneys in Hawaii work far more than this out of enjoyment both of their work and those with whom they work, but the system appears set up to accommodate someone committed to the “hang loose” lifestyle.

Second, to enjoy the Hawaii firm job, you must welcome the idea of walking into the partner’s office wearing a short sleeve reverse-print aloha shirt emblazoned with flowers, palm trees, and/or surf boards. And of course you will see said partner sporting the same. This may be difficult for someone who needs a power suit to feel effective, but as a past adherent to this philosophy I can assure you that the adjustment can be made. Along this clothes line (pun intended), you must also be able to trust that on “aloha Fridays,” even though your administrative assistant might be dressed in a loud floral print mui mui, one can still trust her to efficiently proof a document.

The most challenging requirement for success in a Hawaii firm job is mastering the names of cases you will be citing in your memoranda to partners. The Hawaiian alphabet contains only twelve letters (A, E, H, I, K, L, M, N, O, P, U, W), yet it is amazing the variety of names these few letters can accommodate, especially when half of them begin with K. Few recent examples from Hawaii courts include Kamaunu v. Kahea, Kealamakia v. Heirs of Kamoechalau, Kaina v. Kapalua Land Co., and Keliipuleole v. Wilson (Wilson, I love you, man!). Suits involving governmental entities as parties offer little solace, since most Hawaii place names are equally as difficult to the uninitiated (recall Nicholas Cage in Leaving Las Vegas: “Is that Kapaia, or Kapaia??”)

Once these onerous requirements are met, you will discover that life as an Hawaii attorney holds many benefits, some less obvious than others. Of course, the quality of life in terms of weather and activities is amazing. It is difficult to find another city in which to practice where it is 80 degrees year round and you can take in an ocean swim after work (in daylight, no less). Then, on your days off you can hike up Diamond Head or check out the big wave surfers on the North Shore. Plus, with no wasted weekends at the office (remember that 34 billables per week expectation), you have plenty of time to enjoy the islands. The local puddle-jumper airlines offer many kamaiaina (local) specials which make it even easier and cheaper to get away from the city for the weekend.

In addition to the already mentioned work-related benefits, the relatively small legal market in Honolulu often makes dealing with opposing counsel more a pleasurable than an adversarial experience. There are so few attorneys in the state (fewer lawyers have taken state bar in Hawaii ever than take the New York bar in any single sitting) that you tend to face the same rivals repeatedly. Even if the aloha spirit did not already pervade attorney relationships, it would still behove you to be as friendly as possible - if your opponent needs a filing extension this month, it’s probably best to consent, because you will probably need that same consent from her next month on another case. This same attitude is even more alive in meetings. Before any work can get done, attendees always “talk story,” or just share pleasantries about work and family. If the conversation is between two true locals (those born and raised in Hawaii), talk typically turns to how friends from high school are doing, which usually means one of the two Honolulu private schools, Iolani or Punahou.

Continued on Page 8
Family First: An Interview with a First-Generation Lawyer

By Sara Klettke

Law has long been a field where many young people follow parents and grandparents into the profession, leaving those students whose parents equate lawyering with “1-800-Cali-Sam” commercials feeling lost in the crowd. Professor of Legal Ethics, Len Niehoff, remembers how intimidating and overwhelming this can feel. Professor Niehoff announced on the first day of class that he is available if any first-generation lawyers would like to talk to him for guidance and support. I decided to take him up on the offer, and also to share his answers with all Res Gestae readers. Here is an excerpt of our interview:

You’re a first-generation lawyer. What did your parents do? How did they feel about your career choice?

My mother was a psychiatric nurse and came from a family of self-sacrificing health care professionals. In fact, my great grandfather died after contracting pneumonia because he left his carriage blanket with a patient and rode home in the snow uncovered. My father was a first-generation German American businessman, complete with a sister named Gertrude who ran a beer house. Neither my mother nor my father knew anything about lawyers and I think they were a bit mystified by the choice.

What made you decide to go to law school?

I planned to go to graduate school in philosophy. I had heard that the LSAT was an easier test than the GRE in philosophy, and that most graduate programs in philosophy would accept it. I took the LSAT and then, more or less on a whim, applied to the Michigan Law School. They accepted me — also on a whim, I fear. By the way, I don’t know if there were LSAT courses then, but I do remember that my preparation consisted of going to the library and checking out a book on geometry so I could remember how to figure out the volume of a cone. I can’t tell you how often that has come up in my practice.

Would you like your children to be attorneys?

I don’t have any children, but if I did I would want them to lead full and happy lives. I think there are a lot of unhappy and unfulfilled lawyers, and I would want to talk to them about that. I also think that it is a wonderful and rewarding career for many people, and I’d want to talk to them about that, too.

Why do you think first-generation lawyers may need additional guidance or support?

They generally have less information (for example, about different kinds of career tracks) and fewer connections with people who can help them think through their choices. I love the firm where I practice and the kind of work I do, but dumb luck has played an enormous role in my career.

How are you, as an attorney, different from someone whose parents or grandparents were also in the field?

I’m not sure there is a difference now. My sense is that I came into law profoundly uninformed about the profession. That was a disadvantage, but it passed over time. Of course, there was also little or no family pressure to stay in law if I didn’t like it. That was an advantage, but perhaps it has passed over time as well!

In your opinion, are non-first generation law students more confident than students whose parents are not lawyers? Are there any discernable general differences between the groups?

At other law schools I have periodically taught first-year law classes and I have had the sense that I could tell the difference in some cases. The difference did not seem one of confidence but one of vocabulary.

Tell me about your first business suit: When and where did you get it? Who helped you pick it out? How did you feel about wearing it?

I bought my first suit at a now-defunct men’s clothing store in Ann Arbor. It was a gray pinstripe — painfully conservative. I picked it out myself. I liked the suit but hated wearing ties. I still do.

What advice do you wish someone had given you before you started practicing?

I wish that someone had encouraged me to do some very practical reading right away. I had studied literature and philosophy as an undergraduate (and briefly as a graduate student), and had leaned toward the more abstract and theoretical classes in law school. The first time I had to try to read balance sheets, financial statements, and so on I felt awfully lost.

Who were your role models as you started your career? Who are they now?

I am an avid film buff, so in the beginning all my role models came out of films: James Stewart in “Anatomy of a Murder,” Gregory Peck in “To Kill a Mockingbird,” Charles Laughton in “Witness for the Prosecution,” and so on. When I started trying cases my role models became great litigators like Ed-
FAMILY FIRST, from Page 4

ward Bennett Williams and Louis Nizer, and some of the wonderful trial lawyers with whom I have worked like Bill Saxton and Dick Rassel. And Lee Bolinger has had a profound effect on my view of the law and my sense of what it means to approach legal issues thoughtfully. I’m afraid I have a lot of role models, few of whom would want to claim me.

Being confused may not be a bad thing...

Over the years I have told my classes that I am a first-generation lawyer and have invited students to come see me if they felt a bit confused or lost—either because they too are first-generation lawyers or for any other reason. Dozens of students have come to talk with me over time, and I have come to this conclusion: feeling a bit confused or lost is a wonder-

ful thing because it forces you to examine closely all of your decisions. Those students will make some mistakes, but I think it was from Lewis Thomas that I first learned that the root of the word ‘error’ means ‘to wander around, looking for something.’ In the end, I don’t worry about those students; I worry about the ones who don’t start wandering around until they’ve been practicing law for twenty years.

Announcements

Q&A on Affirmative Action with Prof. Richard Primus

Tuesday, March 18
12:20 - 1:20 p.m. in 220 HH

Sponsors: ACLU, Federalist Society & Law Students For Affirmative Action

Pizza will be provided.

Federalist Society Welcomes MI Supreme Court Justice Stephen Markman

“The Contemporary Judicial Debate”

Friday, March 21
12:15 p.m. in 138 HH
Free lunch

Skate for Justice Event to Benefit ATJ Civil Legal Aid Programs

Michigan law students and lawyers will don their skates on Sunday, April 6, 2003 in downtown Detroit for a very good cause—to help poor people with pressing unmet civil legal needs. A Skate for Justice tournament will be held at the Joe Louis Arena beginning at 10 a.m. Law student hockey clubs at the University of Michigan, Detroit - Mercy, Wayne State, Ave Maria Law Schools and the Michigan State University - DCL College of Law, are sponsoring the event. The organizers will donate the net proceeds from the tournament to the State Bar of Michigan’s Access to Justice Fund to benefit the general operations of civil legal aid programs throughout the state.

“I am so pleased to see that law students are aware of our profession’s need to support legal services for the poor. I congratulate the organizers for their commitment,” said Charlotte Johnson, Chair of the State Bar’s Access to Justice Task Force and Assistant Dean of Students at the University of Michigan Law School.

Tournament games are scheduled at the following times:
10 a.m. Wayne State University v. University of Detroit - Mercy
11 a.m. Michigan State - DCL v. University of Michigan/ Ave Maria
1:00 p.m. Consolation Game
2:00 p.m. Championship Game for the Justice Cup

Zamboni rides will be offered between games and a skate with the players will be offered from noon until 12:45 p.m. Tickets are $5.00 each. To purchase tickets, please contact the Law Hockey Tournament Managers at Law_Hockey_Tournament_Managers@umich.edu or call (313) 205 0569 for more information.

After the Championship Game for the Justice Cup, a reception celebrating the efforts and involvement of all participants, organizers and fans is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. at Maverick’s Food and Spirits at 630 Woodward Avenue.

For more information on the Access to Justice Fund or to make an individual or sponsorship donation that may be eligible for federal or state tax benefits, please contact the ATJ Campaign staff at 1-800-968-1442.
SFF Faces Budget Crunch

by Jessie Grodstein

In stark comparison with the funding available in 2002, this year’s allotment for Student Funded Fellowships has dropped nearly seventy percent. While advising students to “keep the spirit, willingness, and desire to work in the public interest,” 3L Student Funded Fellowship (SFF) Co-Chair Roxanne Wilson broke the news that, as a result of these shortages, SFF will only be able to support one in four applicants for summer grants.

While the SFF board announced its goal of improving upon this ratio, it also warned students to consider other options for the summer, such as taking on a second paying part-time job or working near home. At the same time, SFF fund-raising events, including gathering community donations for the auction on March 27, are on target with last year’s numbers. The tally from last year’s auction was over $50,000, and the board expects similar success this year. A hurdle for this year’s auction, however, is that, with fewer second year students in paid firm jobs, there will be less money to spare come auction night.

The lack of available grant money comes as a shock to most students. What most students, certainly most 1Ls, don’t realize is that the last two years of complete funding have been an anomaly. The opportunity to fund all applicants began in 2001, when this year’s 3L class was in its first year. When SFF started over twenty five years ago, however, the funding allocation was closer to $12,000. While the figure has fluctuated over the years, last year’s high was at $350,000.

The connection to the economy is undeniable. At the moment, the program relies substantially on federally allocated work study funds. The University’s Office of Financial Aid (OFA) receives its annual work study allocation at the beginning of each academic year then distributes these funds to each separate school, including the Law School. In the past, this work study money was minimal, but three years ago the allotment was raised to $50,000. The $50,000 baseline figure was augmented each spring largely to the resourcefulness of the Law School’s Assistant Dean for Financial Aid, Katherine Gottshalk. Once OFA realized how much of the work study money was actually being used by the undergraduate students, Gottshalk would approach OFA to see if they would donate a certain amount of the remainder to the Law School. In fulfillment of the federal mandate that requires that a certain amount of the work study funds go to helping the community, OFA would donate the unused work study funds to the law school, and ultimately to SFF.

But this year, no work study money is going unused. With the economy suffering, undergraduate students are not finding jobs off-campus and are instead resorting to fairly low-paying work study jobs on campus. As a result, when Gottshalk went to OFA this spring, she was told that there was absolutely nothing that they could spare for the law school. To her credit, Gottshalk was able to round up another $50,000 from the medical school’s work study allotment, raising the total figure to $100,000. The situation might be just as low next year, which is upsetting for Gottshalk, who holds the SFF program “near and dear to [her] heart.”

The SFF board maintains that Michigan’s grant program is still one of the strongest in the country. According to Co-chair Sharlyn Walling, “What is going on here is part of a larger picture.”

However, Walling would like to make the program less sensitive to the economy. One of the board’s solutions is to seek out an endowment fund for the program. While that will not be of much consolation to this year’s students, many of whom have already agreed to take unpaid legal internships in such expensive cities as New York and San Francisco, an endowment would give the program a cushion to prevent similar disparities in funding resources in the future. Until then, the best advice is for law school community to show up in force on auction night.

The SFF board maintains that Michigan’s grant program is still one of the strongest in the country. According to Co-chair Sharlyn Walling, “What is going on here is part of a larger picture.”

2003 SFF Auction
Thursday, March 27th
Carnivale Internacionale: Annual Law School Prom

By Nick Janiga

Last Saturday night more than 240 law students and friends partied to the Carnivale Internacionale spirit with music from more than five continents at the annual law school prom. According to LSSS president Maren Norton, LLM students approached the organization with the intention of adding some international flavor to the traditionally Mardi Gras themed dance. They provided drink recipes, posters, flags, pictures, music and a slide show to help show off an international element of the law school that many students may not be aware exists.

Unfortunately, the carnivale mood was dampened by Michigan Union officials’ early closing of the cash bar. Around 10 p.m. Union representatives approached the LSSS organizers and said they were closing the bar because of several violations of their alcohol policy. They had observed attendees bringing in their own alcohol, doing shots, spiking glasses of Coke from the bar, and attendees without wristbands drinking alcohol.

When notified of the violations by the Union, Norton tried to negotiate with the building supervisor. Norton wanted the opportunity to inform party-goers of the situation and use her alcohol hosts to remove any alcohol brought in from the outside. The Union would not agree and the bar was closed, leaving attendees with nothing to drink but water.

Norton says she understands the Union’s safety concerns with not being able to control alcohol consumption when students bring their own alcohol; however, she was disappointed the LSSS was not given an opportunity to rectify their mistake. “When we used tape to hang posters on the walls, apparently violating another Union policy, we were asked to remove the tape and given the opportunity to fix the mistake,” said Norton.

She expressed her own safety concerns worried that the closing of the bar encouraged some students to leave the controlled, safe party with alcohol hosts to go drinking elsewhere.

“I don’t understand how closing the bar helped with safety,” remarked 3L attendee Geoff White, “it just encouraged those of us who didn’t bring in alcohol to go get some.”

The Union’s actions may cause the LSSS to rethink venues in future years, but Norton was hopeful that most attendees enjoyed themselves and the bar incident won’t negatively affect attendance at future LSSS events. The closing of the bar put a little damper on the evening,” said 1L Rich Naski, “but overall, everyone still had a great time.”

The LSSS may yet pursue refunds. Norton added, “this is not done. We were there all night with the building managers and this is ongoing.”

STUDENTS BRING THEIR OWN AFTER THE PREMATURE BAR CLOSURE
Bon Jovi: The Tie that Binds

By John Fedynsky

Once upon a time, not so long ago, a 2L from U of M spent part of his spring break in Chicago to see Jon Bon Jovi live. The tour—Bounce 2003—was making one of its last North American stops and the venue was the United Center, home of the Blackhawks and the Bulls.

Call it karma, call it luck, but he managed to score some tickets back in October. Many of the better seats were sold early to fan club members, so he had to settle for seats up in the third level at just about dead center. A few clicks on Ticketmaster’s web site and the deal was sealed. There was nowhere to run. No one could save him. The damage was done.

So he hopped in a car with a friend and on that steel horse they rode like wanted men down I-94. Under the gun, out on the run and ready to set the night on fire. They knew that they would live through the rain, or snow, whatever the season may be. “Goodbye to all those law school yesterdays, goodbye, so long, we’re on our way,” they thought as Ann Arbor faded in the rearview mirror.

They did their best to enjoy the city and contain their giddiness. Try as they might, they knew that the concert was the center-piece of the weekend and that everything else—walking the Magnificent Mile, partying in Lincoln Park, sidecars at the Signature Room atop the Hancock Building, etc.—was, relatively speaking, filler.

So when they entered from out in the cold into the arena, it was as though they stepped into the twilight zone. Suddenly, it was a hot night and the natives were restless. They felt it in the air, for the crowd was a wire set to explode in the heat. They sensed that they and the rest of the crowd were in for a good time.

The Goo Goo Dolls, a fine band in their own right, opened. They got things rocking, but the long break between when they finished and when Bon Jovi started was a downer. More experienced concertgoers seemed to take the break as a cue to refilling on beer and, er, unload in the bathroom. Desperate and brave women eyed the ridiculous line to the women’s room and invaded the men’s room—or so one would gather while staring at the wall above the urinal and hearing voices that men typically do not hear in that context. It’s all right if you wanna cross that line and break on through to the other side. Like a fire burning out of control, you can’t stop a bladder bursting out of control. You think that by now stadium planners would design more adequate facilities.

They reclaimed their seats and before they knew it, Bon Jovi, the poet and the preacher, freed their bodies and their minds. Like all good performers and rock stars in particular, he bled charisma and made people feel good about themselves. No one was just a face in the crowd, but a voice to be heard when they shouted out loud. Bon Jovi invited it, leading the crowd in a collective, rousing rendition of their favorite hits. He started out “Livin’ on a Prayer” a cappella with the crowd, remarking before the accompaniment jumped in, “does it get any better than this?”

As far as rock concerts go, probably not, they figured. Better seats, a buzz and more company would have made the evening ideal, but as it stood there was no cause for complaint. Though they did know going in that no doctor can cure their disease because they get a little and it’s never enough. During select songs, they had to break out a phone and call friends. If only for a moment, they were living in another world, trying to get a message through. All night, their hearts beat like drums and it was all right. For they experienced the beauty of a few thousand souls collectively enjoying the same thing.

A crowd of people from all walks of life could magically clap to the same beat and sing with one voice. Where they once were divided, now they stood united. One for love. One for truth. One for me. One for you. And instead of asking if anyone was out there, they could see and feel that everywhere around the world, everybody’s waiting for someday. When everyone around the world is feeling just the same way that they are. And that maybe someday might be tonight.

PS. The author pledges to buy lunch for the person who first guesses all the Bon Jovi songs to which the author alluded. Hint: there are 17 by his count.

HAWAII, from Page 3

For those to whom diversity is important, it does not get much better. At the firm I will join next year, I will be one of five Haoles (white-skinned persons) out of 18. Attorneys include those of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean descent, those of Native Hawaiian ancestry, as well as varying mixes of those listed.

Working in Hawaii of course requires some sacrifices. If you do manage to land a job (most firms require a strong family connection—apparently they have been burned too many times by law students seeking a summer vacation), the move is costly and stressful. Shipping a car costs upward of $800, and firms vary in how much they will reimburse. Also, being separated by thousands of miles of ocean from your family can be difficult, especially as you embark upon a new and challenging career. Most importantly to law students, salaries at Hawaii firms max out at about $72,500. After taxes and accounting for the high cost of living (on par with New York City), paying off those loans may be difficult at first. But if masochism does not define your career expectations, and if living where you work is more important than working where you live, Hawaii may be the place for you.
Out of Gavels:
The Year’s Worst Music Moments

By Steven Boender

I know, I know. It’s too late for a year-in-review deal. However, I’ve had numerous people tell me that all my reviews are positive. See, the philistines at the record companies refuse to send free swag to a newspaper with a total readership of about 500, so I have to buy everything I review, and I don’t have money to spend on records that I won’t like. Anyways, people have been clamoring for me to write something negative, and I decided to let it all out in one cathartic diatribe. I hope you like it. Please don’t be offended. As Royal Tenenbaum said, “it’s just one man’s opinion.”

Worst Songs
Chad Kroeger – “Hero”: Oh man, the hatred I have for this song. I saw the video where they’re on the roof of a building and I was praying that a low-flying Piper Cub would clip their heads off. Another reason why NAFTA was the worst idea ever (that Jesus-looking singer is from Canada.)

That song in the Mitsubishi commercial where that girl dances all crazy and that tool of a driver amazingly doesn’t push her out the door: That’s all I have to say about that.

That Paul McCartney freedom song: Some people will do anything to get to the Super Bowl. Players juice, fans scalp, and advertisers pony up the dough. In Sir Paul’s case, it was writing this trite piece of crap. John Lennon’s rolling in his grave, laughing his ass off, and still pissing that Michael Jackson owns half the rights to his songs.

R Kelly – “Heaven, I need a hug”: Heaven, I need Johnnie Cochran.

Any Mall Punk Song: Secretly, all of these bands are sponsored by Hot Topic.

Least Anticipated Albums
Limp Bizkit – “Less Is More”: Hey Fred, if less is more, then wouldn’t not releasing the record be “the most”?
Blur – “Think Tank”: c’mon guys, without Graham, you’re nothing.
Any solo album by a former boy-band member: Sure to be polluting “used bins” in two years.

Worst Career Move
Moby Calls Eminem as he sees him, rather than figuratively fellate him like the rest of the music world. Gets coldcocked in return. Remember that fake ad on Saturday Night Live for Coldcock Malt Liquor? That one was hi-larious.

Worst Music-centric Film
“8-Mile”: While I didn’t see it, the only other music related films I saw were “I Am Trying to Break Your Heart” and “24-Hour Party People”, and there’s no way that a movie with Detroit’s finest homophile Oedipus and Brittany Murphy could be better.

Worst Post-millenial Incarnation of the Monkees
The Vines: I bet Silverchair is really bummed that they aren’t the new “Australian Nirvana” anymore. The coolest thing about the Vines is that they were kicked off the set of Leno for being destructive during rehearsal before the show. The two people under 45 who watch Leno were bummed.

Worst Gratuitous Use of Band-Aids
Nelly: Maybe he should consider changing the blade on his Mach3.

Most Overhyped
electroclash: Beyond the clever LCD Soundsystem, and perhaps Detroit’s Adult, this whole movement just sounds like drum n’ bass played through a transistor radio.

Worst Trend
Pedophilia/child pornography (alleged, at least): R Kelly, Jacko, Pete Townshend, 3D from Massive Attack. Who says rock and roll isn’t dangerous anymore? Zing!

Worst band name
Good Charlotte: Killer brah.

Biggest Disappointment
Weezer – “Maladroit”: Note to all Harvard alums: what the hell did you guys do to Rivers. He was fine before he enrolled, and then he lets Matt Sharp go, puts out the mediocre “Green Album”, and then this disaffected turd. Hey, did you know that “turd” isn’t in the Microsoft Word dictionary?

Worst Genre
Singer-Songwriters: John Mayer, Pete Yorn, David Gray. etc. My dad used to always tell this joke about country music that all the singers were actually one guy: he would just change his hat and take a new name. Same deal here, except instead of a cowboy hat, it’s cargo pants. Fortunately, I’m married, so I don’t have to pretend to like these guys to get girls to like me.
unique. Some of them were here long before I was dean and some of them started in the last decade. I’m sure that at Cornell I’ll be pointing to them when I talk to the folks on the faculty of the law school.

Looking back on closure, have you picked something out as your proudest achievement as dean?

I haven’t. There’s a way in which people measure the history of institutions like this. They sort of say well there was the period of the X person deanship. They then make a logical mistake when they say that whatever happened during that period of time at the institution is a function of who happened to be dean then. It is mostly a function of the intuitions of the governing faculty as a whole. When I think about things that happened at the Law School during the deanship and the things I am proudest of, I guess, I think of receiving the Weightman Award from the ABA as public interest school of the year. I think that the recognition that the transnational law course requirement received is terrific. The fact that the legal practice program was started and then other schools wanted to emulate it was very gratifying for me. I think that the growth and diversification of our clinical programs has just been very satisfying to be a part of. Those are four things that are exciting.

What about the litigation?

Nobody tries to get sued. Nobody wants to get sued. I am very proud of the way the School as a community has conducted itself in the defense of the litigation. There’s a lot of stress that comes with being a defendant, and that stress can be divisive or silencing. I think we have defended ourselves aggressively, effectively, and in a way that people can be proud of for its quality and its integrity. We’ve done it in a way that has been very open and honest and welcoming of criticism. In many ways that has helped us to be more effective. I think we have presented a very powerful case, in court and in public, that our admissions policy is both lawful and right.

Anything else?

Perhaps the most important item is the addition of members to the faculty. We have been able to recruit some just spectacular teachers and scholars. If you talk with fellow students or reflect on your own experience and think about who has been most meaningful for you during your time here, I suspect some of the people who have had the biggest impact were not here ten years ago. That’s the sign of a healthy school.

The Class of 2005 is the last class you had the opportunity to give the welcoming speech. This interview will be available to prospective students. What message do you have for somebody who’s considering coming to Michigan, maybe even in light of this impending change at the top?

The choice of where to go to school is a very personal choice. At least when you’re looking among the handful of truly extraordinary law schools, the choice is really about fit. What distinguishes Michigan within that group, what makes it such a great choice for so many students, what made it a great choice for me, what still makes it a great choice today, are a couple of things. One is the incredible faculty. The quality of the faculty here as scholars and teachers is really remarkable, even among top law schools. A second is the quality of the student culture here. That’s something that varies more among the top schools than other aspects. The student culture here is exceptionally healthy. Students here take the study of law very seriously without taking themselves too seriously. I think that is a wonderful quality. The students here are competitive. I think that people do not end up being admitted to this law school unless they are in some ways competitive people. They push themselves to excel and they are used to excelling. But that does not manifest itself in a kind of mutually destructive, cutthroat environment. This is a place where students are good to each other. They want each other to succeed. They at some level want to do better than each other, but only by virtue of their having done the best they’ve ever done, not by tearing down the person next to them. That’s an amazing aspect of Michigan.

What have been some of the fun parts of the job that you think you’ll miss - like being invited to be in the Law Revue every year, being invited to be an auctioneer for the Student Funded Fellowship Auction. What sorts of experiences like that do you treasure the most and do you think might not be present for you at Cornell?

There are opportunities as a dean to be humiliated that are very special. I don’t think that they’re available to university presidents in the same way. I will miss the chance to pretend to be a member of Aerosmith. I just don’t think that’s going to be an opportunity that’s going to come my way again. The kind of ridiculousness that goes with being an auctioneer is just a trip.

What is the learning curve like for a dean?

It’s not that steep. Anyone who is chosen as a dean has been a law professor. They know what it means to be a law student and a faculty member. There are aspects of the job - managing budgets and fundraising - that are unfamiliar. But the overall core mission of the school is completely understood. The environment is pretty familiar. There are aspects of daily life that take getting used to. Having a calendar that is filled from morning till night is something that takes getting used to. Having to travel so much takes getting used to. But the intellectual aspects of the job, the challenges, they don’t take that much time. The biggest change is feeling personally and individually responsible for long-term agenda setting. I’m supposed to draw up the list of questions that we as a faculty and we as a community should be asking ourselves. The first year is always hard in any new job. After a year any dean is going to be completely comfortable.
ACROSS

1. Bring water to this
6. South Orange, NJ college
9. Cupid's projectile
14. Earth
15. Total commandments
16. WHINNY
17. Made of oats
18. Pacific NW state
19. Monastery
20. Move cautiously
22. Subterfuges
23. Help
24. Pawn
26. Go to sleep
30. Calculated
34. Invalidate
35. Strides
36. 100 square meters
37. Inhabitant of #19 Across
38. Ear or Panama, e.g.
39. “Out, damn ____!”
40. Fall mo.
41. Actor Flynn
42. Idaho city
43. Acidic volcanic rock
45. Roam
46. Red gem
47. Answer sheet
48. God’s
51. Allied goods transfer
57. Racoon-like animal
58. Wrath
59. Golf score
60. Social prohibition
61. Nothing
62. Involving a certain space
63. Serious
64. Electric fish
65. Hound lips

DOWN

1. Not under
2. Suitor
3. Scraps
4. Angers
5. Canon firing cord
6. Endured
7. Submarine sandwich
8. Immoral
9. Practice anarchy
10. Admonish
11. Baby back, e.g.
Do you expect the same time frame for a university president?

There are differences. For a university president, you have to learn a lot of things that are really quite unfamiliar - engineering, medicine, at Cornell, hotel administration. These are things I don’t know very much about. So there’s a lot of new substantive ground. I think the learning curve will be a little steeper, but I’m still going to try to climb it within the first year.

If President of Cornell is one of the few positions that would’ve tempted you away from Ann Arbor, can you think of any sort of dream job that would tempt you away from Cornell?

It’s really hard to imagine. I hope to be president of Cornell for a very long time. I think if someone were to offer me a seat on the Supreme Court, I’d be receptive. But shy of that I think this is the job I’m going to hold onto.

What challenges do you see for your successor and for the community at large?

The challenge that a school like Michigan always has before it is to be looking far down the road and to ask what we will need to be doing in fifteen years and what we need to do now to be prepared for that. That question becomes harder to answer each year. The pace of change in the legal profession is widely understood to be accelerating. To remain alert to the changes that are going on around us and to be able to evolve in the ways we need to stay cutting edge is very hard work. It’s important to do that because institutions like this are best when they evolve. I don’t think we’re very good at lurching from one direction to another direction. I think that the nature of the legal profession will continue to become ever more international and interdisciplinary. What that means for what we teach is a hard question on which reasonable people will differ.

Any last thoughts? How would you characterize the Lehman years?

I’m not emotionally ready to use terms like “last thoughts.” I feel like there’s still a few months of important work left to do and I really want to keep pushing forward on that. I will say it’s been an amazing joy and privilege to be the dean of this law school. I’ve gotten to know a lot of other law school deans, and a lot of schools are very cruel to their deans. This school is incredibly kind to the dean. I’m very grateful for that. I hope that it will always be that way.

Law School Bowling League
Thursday Nights