



## Mixed Emotions on Black History Month

By Katrina Campbell

Black History Month may be a time of celebration for many people, but for Janine Gilbert '96, it is a time to reaffirm her commitment to make history, not just learn it.

"I hope to create black history in the future by becoming a great lawyer, or the next Marian Wright Edelman, Dorothy Height or Thurgood Marshall," said Gilbert.

For many blacks and others across the country, February is a month in which to reflect upon and celebrate black history in the United States.

What began in 1926 as Black History Week, initiated by the late historian Carter G. Woodson, is now celebrated by millions nationwide.

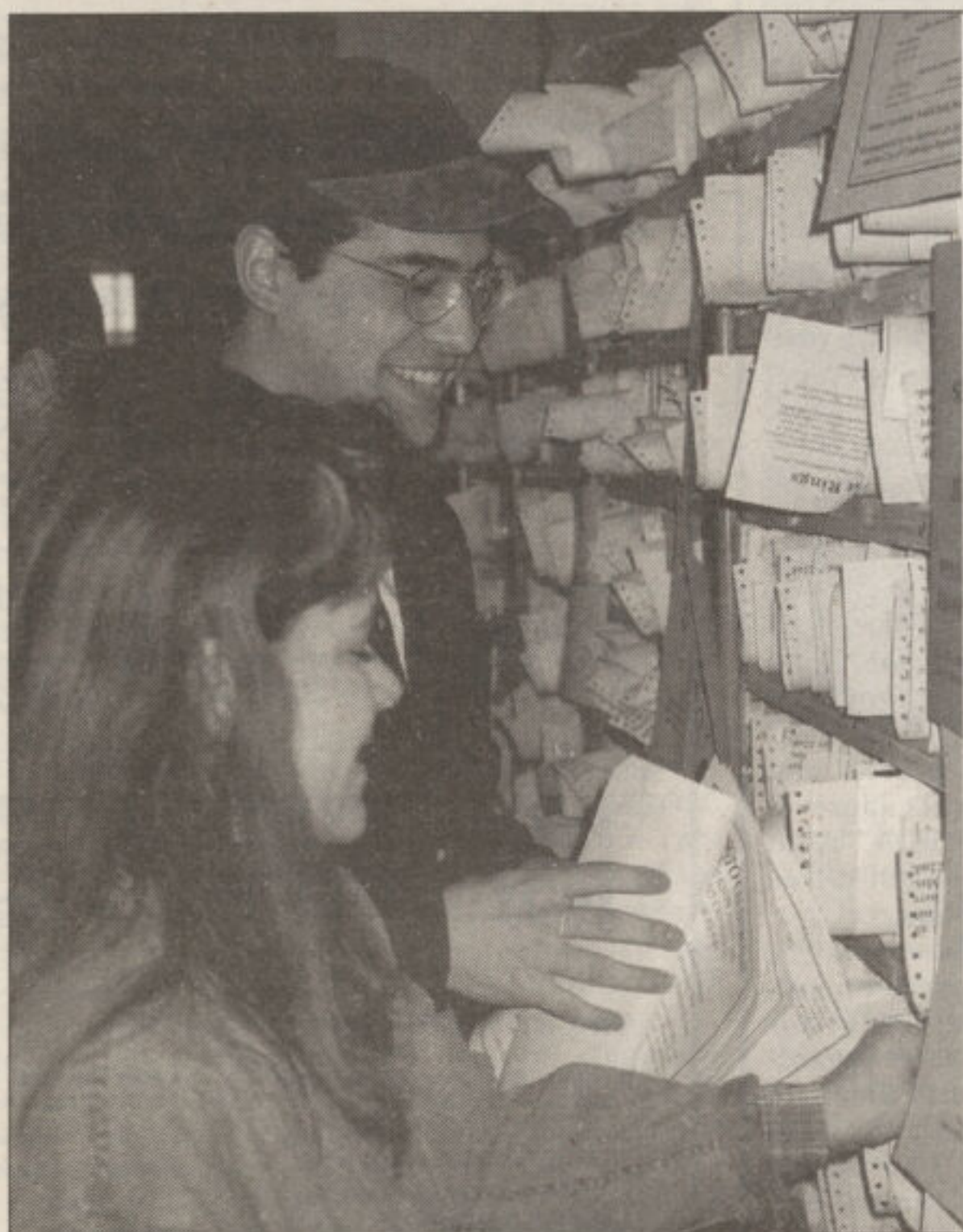
But to some, it signifies a pacification of blacks by a dominant white culture. While most would agree that a perfect world would have no need for a Black History Month, they often disagree on what to do now.

Tanya Greene '95 supports Black History Month but believes the white power structure would prefer it remain just a month competing with other interest-group months, rather than incorporating black history into everyday life.

"This is pluralism at its best," said Greene. "It's about interest groups vying for time. And having a month fits in with the structure."

Greene, who is black, said she cannot envision a change

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Jessica Herrera '95 and Spencer Levy '95 stuff ballot boxes to promote their competing candidacies for LSC president.

## 2L, 3L Grades Ready 1Ls Waiting on Horwitz

By Greg Stohr

Nearly two months after final exams, most grades from upper-level fall courses will be available for student pick-up today.

First-year grades will "probably" be mailed to students next Tuesday, said Associate Registrar Annie Bombard, but they will not be released until every 1L professor has turned in a complete set of grades.

Because a number of profes-

sors have yet to finish grading fall courses, Bombard said, many upper-level students, particularly 3Ls, likely will receive only a partial set of grades today. As of Wednesday, the registrar's office had yet to receive complete grades for Prof. Abram Chayes' International Law class, Prof. Charles Nesson's Evidence class, Associate Dean Frank Sander's Mediation course, and several seminars.



Annie Bombard

please see **GRADES**, page 10

## HLS Wants \$150 Million

By Victoria Kuohung

Those who think the Law School is fine as it is may be in for a surprise.

A \$150 million surprise, to be exact.

HLS is currently conducting the largest fundraising drive ever initiated by an American law school. Begun in 1989 under then-Dean James Vorenberg '51, the Campaign for Harvard Law School plans to raise \$150 million by June 30, 1995, three times more than was raised in the campaign waged by Columbia Law School that set the previous fundraising record.

Money from the effort will address Law School needs in seven major areas over the course of 10 to 20 years: library modernization, faculty expansion, financial aid, research programs, clinical programs, general operating expenses, and

buildings.

So far, the Law School has raised more than \$114 million, putting it right on its original schedule, said Dean for Development Scott Nichols.

"[These objectives] stem from academic goals...not just fundraising for fundraising's sake," he said.

Library renovations costing \$35 million would involve redesigning the entryway, expanding shelf space into the downstairs office wing, improving both air conditioning and climate control to preserve books, and installing new wiring to support computer technology.

Plans also call for increasing the faculty by 12 permanent positions in order to expand the number of subjects taught, internationalize the curriculum, and improve the student-teacher ratio. These improvements would cost \$25 million.

The plan would devote \$30

million toward developing research and clinical programs and \$15 million toward boosting financial aid, especially the Low Income Protection Plan.

Another \$15 million would cover building expenses — of which \$10 million has already been earmarked for constructing the Holmes Field building and purchasing North Hall — and an additional \$30 million would help balance the regular operating budget.

### Unique Set-up

Inspiration for the present campaign came in the late 1980s after former Harvard President Derek Bok '54 encouraged Law School administrators to raise new funds for HLS. At that time, faculty committees for building and library affairs had already been assessing plans for expansion.

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## LSC Candidates Stump for Votes

By April Rockstead

Sure, it's a busy time, but certain of your classmates — even if they don't know you personally — are eager to listen to your concerns, anxious to improve your law school experience and willing to lobby the administration and faculty for you.

The catch?

Your vote, of course. Law School Council election polls will be open Wednesday and Thursday, and as of press time three students — Willie Epps '95, Jessica Herrera '95 and Spencer Levy '95 — declared themselves in the running for the position of LSC president.

Epps, who calls himself "the outside candidate" because he is the only one of the three candidates who has not served as a Law School Council representative, said he and running mates Clarke Camper '95 (vice president) and Tania Dominguez '95 (treasurer) share a wealth of experience in pre-law school student government and a commitment to building on the positive inroads made by this year's council.

"The main reason we're running is to improve the quality of life, and that's not something other teams are stressing," Epps said, noting that his plan targets more LSC-sponsored social events and a stronger LSC role in bringing about faculty diversity and administrative services improvements.

The social prong of Epps'

campaign includes a "pledge to sponsor" a DSAC-hosted TGIF that envisions administrators and faculty rubbing shoulders with students at the Back Bench Pub.

"It happens at other law schools — I don't see why it can't happen here," Epps said of the faculty-student mixer proposal, adding, "We're not promising anything we don't think we can deliver."

A second prong of his platform reflects his belief that LSC "should take more of a leadership role in academic life, particularly in encouraging faculty diversity," Epps said.

"I think [LSC] can be more aggressive on that issue," he said, noting that in the 1991-92 academic year "student government was pretty vocal, and we just want to get back to that stage and try to push an agenda forward."

That strategy could entail asking alumni to join in the campaign for diversity, Epps said.

"If the administration is not moving in a particular direction, we think going to the alumni would be beneficial to the students," he said.

Improving and maintaining administrative services comprises the third prong of Epps' campaign, including keeping the Somerville Shuttle operative and expanding menu selections at the Harkbox Cafe.

Epps is a graduate of Amherst College in western Massachusetts and says his

please see **LSC**, page 2

## 1Ls Stalk Elusive Summer Jobs

By Ray Kahler

While some 1Ls have already accepted offers for summer jobs, others wonder if they will be able to find work at Burger King again this year.

"It's certainly a lot more difficult to even get an interview than I thought," said Jeff Holland '96, who is from the Seattle area. "I'm trying not to take it personally."

Holland, who mailed 150 inquiries to Seattle, Denver, San Francisco, and New York using the computer database "Employer Directory Plus," has not received a single interview offer.

Kerry Hastings '96, on the other hand, got eight interviews in three states and recently accepted an offer in Cincinnati. Hastings mailed over 130 letters to firms in Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, and Chicago.

Hastings, who is from Michigan, typed all of the letters and envelopes himself.

"I think the Midwest is a decent market. It's not as depressed and flooded as the

Coasts," Hastings said, noting that he was most successful in smaller markets.

Alyssa Kennedy '96, who is from California, mailed about 90 letters, mostly to Los Angeles and Washington, DC.

Although Kennedy did not get any interviews in Washington, DC, she interviewed at six firms in Los Angeles and accepted an offer there for the summer.

"Our grades coming out late is a little bit of a disadvantage," said Kennedy, observing that Los Angeles firms seem to prefer students from California schools.

June Thompson, director of career services, said 217 1Ls have signed up for on-campus interviews, which suggests that another 300 1Ls have made other decisions or have accepted job offers, either at private firms or in the public sector.

Thompson said that about 23 employers will be interviewing 1Ls on campus in early March. Most firms send only one interviewer, she said.

Kathleen Reich, an associate

please see **JOBS**, page 3

# "Lambda Woman" Poster Not What It Appears to Be

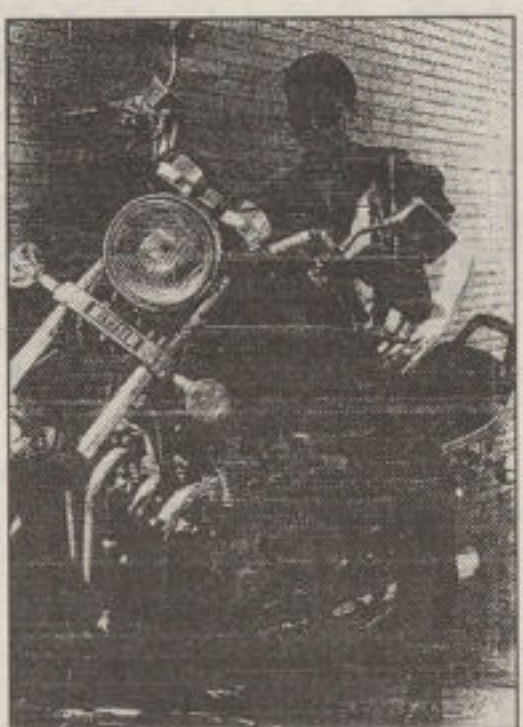
By David S. Clancy

A striking poster which first appeared to some a mean-spirited attack on LAMBDA, Harvard's gay and lesbian student organization, in fact was a consciousness-raising effort by a member of LAMBDA.

The poster appeared in various locations this week in the Law School tunnels. It depicted a leather-clad woman, with a crewcut and dark sunglasses, astride a large Yamaha motorcycle.

The poster bore the caption, "The Real Lambda Woman!" — in reference to an official LAMBDA poster portraying Cosmopolitan cover model Stephanie Seymour as "The Lambda Girl."

The new poster was not, however, an attack on the original poster's puta-



tive attempt to associate Seymour's glamorous image with Lambda, but was instead an attempt by Lambda member Linda Wood, LL.M., to show that a variety of images accurately represent homosexuals, said Carlos Vasquez '94, LAMBDA co-chair.

"She wanted to say that the image of the glamorous super model is not what we are," said Vasquez. "This [the motorcycle woman] is not a negative portrayal but one of many gay images."

Wood's poster met with general approval within LAMBDA. "A lot of people thought it was odd and bizarre but neat," said Vasquez.

There was no connection between this poster and last week's Adviser notice regarding defaced posters, which Dean of Students Suzanne Richardson ran in response to reports that Law School Council "Book Exchange" posters had been defaced.

## LSC Elections Soon

continued from LSC, page 1

experience driving a shuttle in college inspired his conviction that the Somerville Shuttle is necessary "no matter what amount of money" it takes because its discontinuance would pose safety hazards to students.

Herrera said her platform includes two overarching goals: streamlining LSC internal efficiency by giving committees more authority "so they don't have to come back and have their ideas swallowed up by the bureaucracy," and working to cut costs and improve services "that hit students in their wallets" such as health services and health insurance, E-mail and computer lab services, and public interest funding.

A Yale graduate whose running mates include Jon Kissane '96 (vice president) and Damon Watson '96 (treasurer), Herrera said she would also like to see a regular accounting of the LSC budget distributed "so that students know how [the council is] spending their money."

"We want to see social events as well, but they aren't the crux of the campaign," Herrera said.

Key to implementing her campaign goals are her theories on council leadership and political savvy, according to Herrera.

"Our whole platform is, 'You gotta listen,'" she said. "If you're busy talking all the time, you're not going to hear what people are saying."

Her ticket also boasts experience negotiating with the Law School and University administrations representing the LSC Facilities and Services Committee by spearheading a drive for dental insurance coverage and organizing a petition for free E-mail services, Herrera said.

"If you're dealing with a University-wide group, it's a good thing to have the Law School administration knowing where you're coming from," Herrera said. "It's a step-by-step process."

"I don't believe in being offensive to the administration," she added. "They may not agree with you, but you can still try."

It's only when "all else fails" that a more adversarial approach is necessary, Herrera said.

Although Herrera said she would

like to see the Somerville Shuttle continued, she is also interested in having the administration explore "alternative measures" such as providing taxi vouchers.

Levy said he and running mate Julie Cromer '96 (vice president) are "running on their records."

His record, Levy said, includes organizing a first HLS blood drive, working on the LSC book sales, coming up with the idea of a pub crawl and coordinating it, and doing "95 percent of the work" to create organizational leadership workshops to provide a forum for communication between individual students and student groups.

Fostering communication between student groups is the first and crucial step to creating effective student government, Levy said, because it yields common ground the LSC can use to present a unified student position to the Law School administration.

"The most important thing of having the title of president is having legitimacy not only with students but also with the faculty and the administration," Levy said. "As students, we don't have a lot of leverage, and we're trying to increase our bargaining power with the administration."

To that end, his broad goals include LSC sponsorship of events to get students together and working to improve facilities.

The previous LSC leadership did not push as hard to achieve improvements for students as he would if elected, Levy added.

"I think I would be much more active than [current President] Enu [Mainigi]," he said. "I think she did a good job for the most part, but I don't think she went far enough. I would be a much stronger advocate."

For example, Levy said he would lean on the administration when they drag on implementing improvements such as wall pads slated to be installed in the Hemenway gym to cushion impact for basketball players.

"Sometimes, we have to say enough is enough," he said.

Levy, a Cornell graduate, said he would also fight "win or lose" to preserve the Somerville Shuttle.

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# Legal Aid Bureau Goes to Mass. High Court

By Louie Lopez

The Harvard Legal Aid Bureau has once again made its mark on the courts of Massachusetts.

Bureau members Soni Mithani '94 and Lisa Baar '94 have argued cases before two of the highest courts in Massachusetts during the past month.

In *Cruz Management Co., Inc. and Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency v. Bernice Thomas*, a case before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, the Bureau defended Thomas, a tenant who had been threatened with eviction in October 1990.

In a trial held that December, former Bureau member Michelle Lang '92 successfully argued that the landlord had breached the implied warranty of habitability. The primary issue on appeal was the calculation of Thomas' damages.

When a tenant successfully pleads a breach of the warranty of habitability, she is normally entitled to the difference between the value of the apartment as warranted and the value of the apartment in the defective condition — which the trial court determined to be zero.

In this case, however, about 85 percent of the tenant's rent was paid by the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency through the Section 8 Housing Subsidy Program.

In calculating the tenant's damages, the trial court refused to include the tenant's housing subsidy in its assessment of the warranted value of the apartment, drastically reducing the overall damages received by the tenant.

On a direct appeal to the Supreme Judicial Court, Mithani argued that the subsidized portion of the rent should be included as part of the warranted value of the tenant's apartment.

Mithani recalled the long hours she

spent writing her briefs and preparing for her oral argument.

"This experience taught me legal tactics and strategies in brief writing and oral advocacy in a manner different from the first-year Ames competition," she said.

Commenting on the experience in general, Mithani added, "In addition to representing an individual client, I feel as though I benefited other low-income tenants who may be in similar situations. This experience has been ten times more meaningful in comparison to my classroom experiences."

Mithani said she joined the Bureau to get a chance to litigate while still in law school.

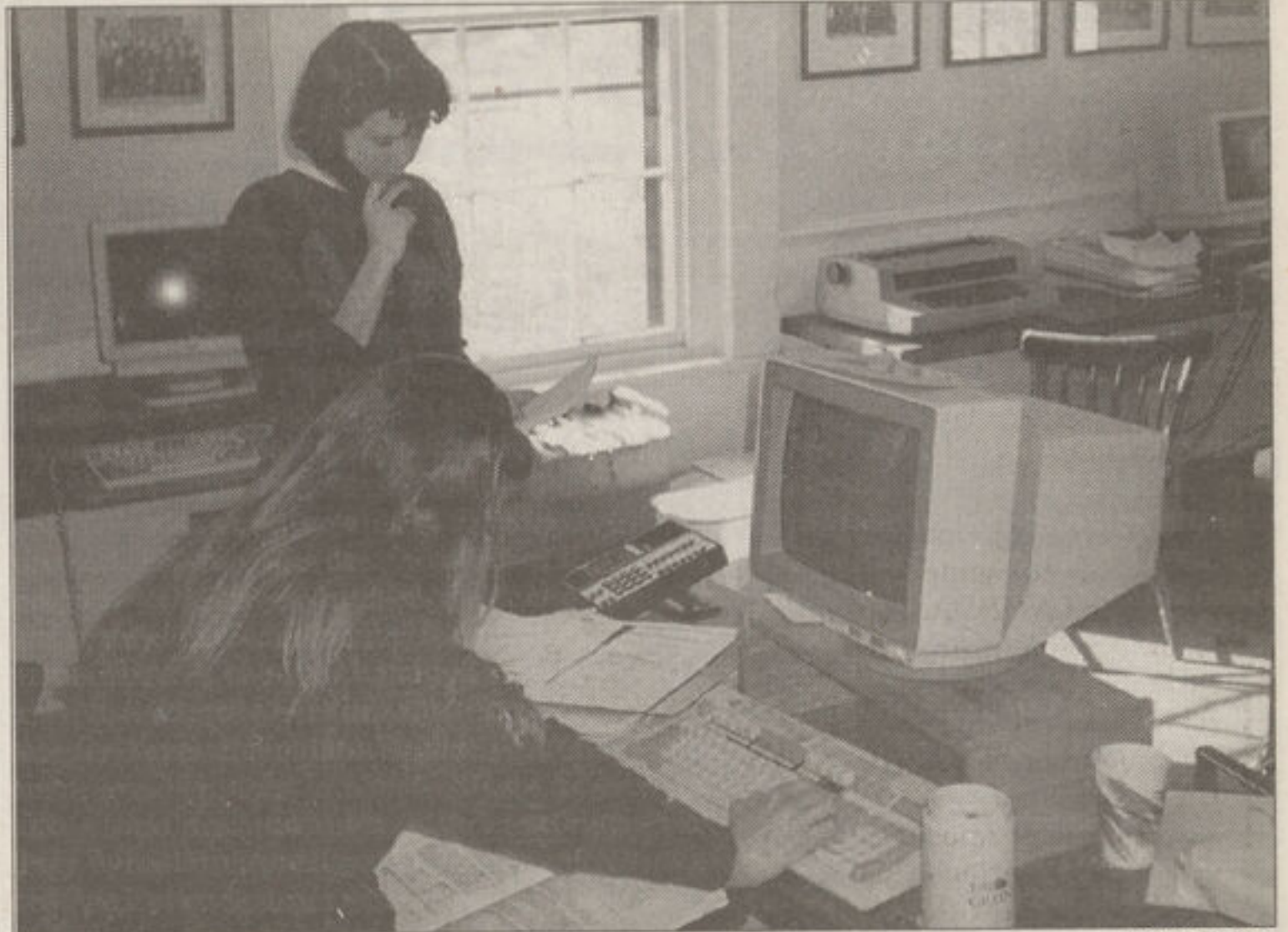
"The Bureau has provided me with more practical legal experience, more than I could have imagined coming into law school," she said. "On a personal level, the Bureau has made my time at HLS very rewarding and meaningful, not just because of the legal experience, but because of the people here at the Bureau."

In *K.D.S. v. Massachusetts Department of Public Welfare*, a case before a Massachusetts appeals court, the issue was whether the plaintiff was entitled Medicaid funding for surgery that was medically prescribed after she had undergone a sex change.

The surgery the plaintiff sought was thyroid cartilage reduction, which reduces the cartilage in the Adam's apple to make it look more feminine.

When the superior court held in the plaintiff's favor, the Department of Public Welfare appealed, alleging that the surgery was solely for cosmetic reasons and not medically necessary.

Before a three-judge panel of the Appeals Court, Baar argued that there was substantial evidence in the record showing that the surgery was medically necessary and therefore must be funded



Life is not all telephones and Bluebooks for Legal Aid students, who argued two appeals this past month.

by Medicaid.

"The judges were really prepared and asked a lot of hard questions, but I was able to answer their questions because of the extensive preparation I had gone through with my supervisor," Baar said.

Comparing this oral argument with first-year Ames, Baar commented, "This experience is different than moot court in that there is an extra level of seriousness when you have a real client and you're arguing before a real court."

Reflecting on her experience, Baar said, "It was exciting and rewarding. The client had definitely been discriminated against simply because of her transsexualism."

"The administrative law judge had ruled against us despite the fact that the

department had not offered any evidence at the initial hearing. I'm hopeful that the appeals court will rule in our favor."

While the majority of the cases handled by the Bureau do not reach the appellate level, newly-elected Bureau President Helen Cantwell '95 said she believes the student-run organization should continue to consider the policy implications of its work.

"We will continue to consider both the micro and macro issues that are part of our cases," Cantwell said. "We get students here who want to put their energy and enthusiasm for the law into action."

"Most of the time, however, our work only affects the lives of our individual clients and our individual training as lawyers."

## 1Ls Confront Summer Job Search

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in the Office of Public Interest Advising, said that at least 25 1Ls have accepted summer public interest jobs and at least 25 more have offers.

Last year, about 160 1Ls took public interest jobs for the summer. Reich predicted that even more 1Ls may take public interest jobs this summer.

Reich estimated that about 300 1Ls applied for summer public interest funding this year. The Student Funded Fellowships program received 105 applications this year, compared with an average of 70 to 80 in past years.

To raise money for summer public interest funding, a group of 1Ls is orga-

nizing an auction on Friday night, March 18, in Ames courtroom. Shannon Liss '96, who has been active in organizing the auction, said about 60 volunteers are helping with the project.

Liss, who accepted a position with the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy in New York, encouraged people to participate in the auction.

"I've been hearing of people getting offers, although it's hard. But people seem to be finding good things to do," said Liss, adding that there will be "many exciting items" at the auction.

Reich said that U.S. attorney offices are very popular with 1Ls, as are public defender posts. She said most 1Ls applied for jobs in Boston, New York,

Washington, DC, and California.

"It's not too late to apply [for public interest work]," Reich said. "I've seen a lot of March 15 deadlines."

That's good news for Karen Johnson '96 and others who had interviews but haven't received any offers.

"It's sad and depressing," she said.

Johnson, who is from West Virginia, sent 50 letters to Pittsburgh, West Virginia, and Washington, DC, and got three interviews. Four other firms wanted her grades before they would give her an interview, Johnson said, and none planned to make offers before March 1.

"I don't want to be panhandling and quoting *Penney v. Neff* in New York this summer," Johnson said.

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# BRIEFS



## Tribe, Fried Speak Against Amendment

Professors Laurence Tribe '66 and Charles Fried have joined forces, along with 15 other constitutional law experts, to oppose the balanced budget amendment presently before Congress. Tribe and Fried were among several legal scholars who submitted a joint letter to Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-W.V.) in opposition to the amendment.

The letter stated that, despite their differing opinions about the nation's budget, the scholars "share the conviction that the [amendment]... is a serious mistake." The proposed amendment "would be unenforceable," "would inappropriately involve the judiciary in... fiscal and budgetary policy," and "would deprive the Congress and the President of needed flexibility," the letter stated. The proposal would, according to the letter, also "permanently bias decisions against spending of social programs" and "seriously distort the balance between federal, state and private institutions." The letter may be used to buttress Clinton administration arguments against the proposal.

On Wednesday, Professor Fried testified before the Senate Appropriation Committee. In an interview with the RECORD regarding the amendment's likely success, Fried said, "I think the amendment has more momentum than something this bad should have."

## Blood Drive On Wednesday

In a continuing effort to plan additional activities, the Law School Counsel is sponsoring a blood drive on Wednesday, February 23. The drive will take place in the Ropes-Gray Room of Pound Hall from 10-4 PM. Sign-up continues today in the Hark from 11-1 PM.

According to Law School President Enu Mainigi '94, student response has exceeded expectations and the event promises to be a success. For questions or additional information, contact Spencer Levy at 492-1807.

## 3L Vegas Night Gala on Tap Thursday

The 1994 Class Committee and class marshals are sponsoring "Vegas Night with the Profs" in the Ropes-Gray Room of Pound Hall next Thursday. In Vegas fashion, the night will include hors d'oeuvres, a bar, a live band, and Vegas-style games.

Most notably, several unnamed members of the faculty have promised to attend the event. Instead of dealing grades, professors will be dealing cards and spinning roulette wheels. Said Kevin Kakareka '94, "The professors should feel right at home. After all, grades are distributed as randomly as the roulette wheel anyhow." Added Shea Moxon '94, "I am hoping to finally meet Elvis."

Vegas Night is just one of many activities the Class Committee has organized for 3Ls during their final semester. Other events include a wine-tasting party, class day at Fenway Park, and class T-shirts.

## Cupid's Arrows Inspire Streakers

Instead of the traditional flowers and candy, five Harvard undergraduates opted for the bare essentials on Valentine's Day. Wearing only reindeer masks and antlers, five risque co-eds streaked through Mather and Leverett dining halls during the dinner hours shouting messages of love to unsuspecting students.

The streakers, three male and two female, intended to spread their Valentine's Day cheer throughout all 12 of the University's dining halls. However, Harvard police intercepted the troupe and mercifully sent them home.

Identifying himself only as "Undermoose," one streaker said, "The idea was just to spread Valentine cheer and joy across campus." Added Julie Su '94, "The Law School should take note. I might actually try the Hark food if folks ate it naked. Maybe."

— From *The Harvard Crimson*

## NYU Law School Exam Snafu

Exam problems are not unique to Harvard Law School. On December 23 three sections of 1Ls at New York University Law School were scheduled to take Civil Procedure exams at 1:00 PM. However, early notices to students indicated that the exam was called for 1:30 PM. The result was that many students arrived late.

Proctors responded in different manners. Some students were allotted extra time while others were not. In response, the law school has given affected students the option to take the course on a pass-fail basis.

## North Hall Vandalized

A student reported that the front door of North Hall was shattered on February 11. Harvard University Police do not know how the glass was broken, and no suspects were identified or arrested. Authorities ask that all vandalism incidents be reported promptly to campus police at 495-1212.

## Byse Recovering from Illness

Prof. Emeritus Clark Byse reports he is "feeling better" after a brief stay in Brigham and Women's Hospital for treatment for pneumonia. Well-wishers may reach him at Clark House at Fox Hill Village, 30 Longwood Dr., Westwood, MA 02090.

# The Bathetic Fallacy

*The Ditches of Edison County*  
By Billy Frolic  
New York: Penguin  
105 pp. \$7.00 / paper



By Mike Fischer '95

Book Review Editor

THE *New York Times Book Review* asked a number of writers last December to come up with a gift they would present another writer, living or dead. By far the best was Robert Plunket's generous gift to all novelists: A Robert James Waller doll, complete with a box of pins. "I've had mine for over a year now," Plunket confessed, "and believe me, it does help."

I certainly sympathize with Plunket. Waller's first hoax masking as a novel, *The Bridges of Madison County*, spent close to a year hogging the top spot on every best seller list. Last fall, it finally gave way, humbled by Waller's second novel, *Slow Waltz in Cedar Bend*. I can't tell you if the follow-up is also a hoax — my reviewing colleagues certainly seem to think so — because I refuse to read it, let alone buy it.

Instead, I shelled out less than half the money for what I'll wager is a much better book: Billy Frolic's hilarious Waller parody, *The Ditches of Edison County*. If Plunket had read it, he could have skipped the dolls and pins and given his novelist friends something to laugh about.

Instead of Waller's hero Robert Kincaid, freelance photographer and self-styled "last cowboy," Frolic presents us with Ronald Concave, a drunken, illiterate wanna-be freelance photographer who forgets to take off the lens cap and

styles himself, all too appropriately, the last spaceman. Francesca Johnson, lonely Iowa farm wife with "flickering memories of her girlhood dreams," makes her appearance in *Ditches* as the incomparable Pancetta Jackson, whose flickering recognition that Concave is a loser is engulfed by her hopes for a hop in the sack.

She eventually gets her wish, but not before *Bridges'* pretentious references to Yeats and Warren give way to Ronald and Pancetta arguing over who knows more Dr. Seuss rhymes. Or before Kincaid's Camel smokes become Concave's camel animal crackers and Kincaid's special way with dogs produces a great scene in which Concave flosses Pancetta's dog, Yak. Best of all, Kincaid's pursuit of Madison County's "legendary covered bridges," around which the entire plot of Waller's novel revolves, deflates, in Frolic's masterful hands, to Concave's pursuit of Edison County's "legendary

ditches," and, in particular, of the famous Sonnuvaditch, "splendid in its mundanity."

Periodically, Frolic, a.k.a. "Ronald Richard Roberts," mocks Waller's introductory chapter, intervening to confess how he came to write this novel and sharing some of the difficulties he encounters along the way. "Between you and me," he admits half way through his tale, "I'm praying that something happens, story-wise, pretty soon." Later, in a chapter entitled "Another Totally Unnecessary Note from the Author," Roberts worries that his "word count is currently about as low as Concave's brain-cell count. So perhaps a few more verbal volleys, some more extraneous sex and a meaningless philosophical exchange or two are exactly what is needed."

You get the idea. Or maybe, if you haven't read *Bridges*, you don't. There must, after all, still be a few American adults (kids would never fall for such a fraud) who have not read it. If you're one of them, reader, Frolic's parody poses a genuine dilemma. On the one hand, it is vintage slapstick — some of the best I've read in a long time — and therefore could make for a rollicking study break. But like all slapstick, it is also extremely dependent on context: If you haven't read *Bridges*, you simply won't get a lot of the jokes. And I'd be violating my fiduciary duty as a reviewer by telling you to read *Bridges*.

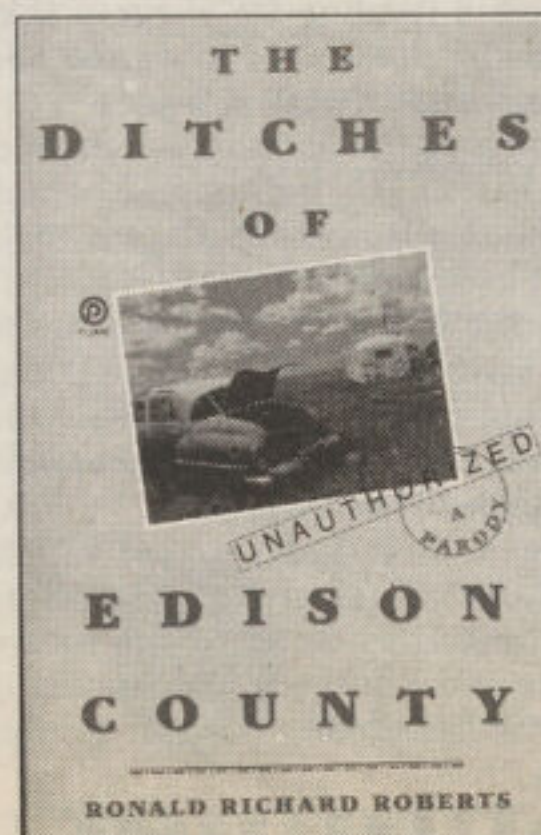
Then again, maybe this way of posing the dilemma exaggerates the problem. Pop romance, like everything else in the age of mechanical reproduction, can be mass produced: Indeed, it wouldn't be too much of a stretch to insist that if you've read one romance, you've read them all, making a parody of one a parody of the whole genre. They all have no-brainer plots and impossible fantasies, served up to an audience for whom too much of life resembles the grocery check-out lines where most of them are bought in the first place. And despite chic postmodern invocations of Lyotard designed to prove that a cereal box makes for great literature with a revolutionary subtext, most of these romances, in Dave Rosenberg's immortal words, are crap.

What distinguishes Waller's trash is its literary pretensions: You probably won't find it in the check-out line where it belongs, but you'll certainly find it at the Harvard Book Store. Such a lack of modesty almost begs for a parody — a form devoted to exposing the gap between reality and its pretentious perversions.

I value Frolic's particular exposure not only because it is uproariously funny, but because its insistence that there is a gaping chasm between Waller's world and the real world does the latter a tremendous service. Its parodic form notwithstanding, *Ditches* paradoxically takes love, romance, and relationships far more seriously than does the novel, which has sold so well because it claimed to have something to say about all three.

In fact, as *Ditches* makes all too clear, *Bridges* has nothing to say about relationships at all. Instead, it asks them to bear an impossibly heavy burden, sustaining and satisfying our each and every escapist fantasy while obliterating the diapers and the dishes, the chores and the commutes, which are also part of the stuff that a relationship inevitably shares.

The Victorian essayist John Ruskin coined the term pathetic fallacy to describe a similar phenomenon — the way in which we invest natural objects with human feelings, thereby falsifying nature and cheapening what is human. Waller's work does the pathetic fallacy one better, turning human beings into objects by investing them with bathetic — cheaply or grossly sentimental — feelings that purport to be natural. Frolic's parody, conversely, places this bathetic fallacy in the ditch where it belongs, giving it the comic burial that is



# Sports Roundup

By Bill O'Dowd '94

RECORD Columnist

**V**ALENTINE'S Day has come and gone again without any sign from Cupid in Hemenway. But, elsewhere in the sports world, love is in the air:

Although arrows were in short supply, bricks were omnipresent in the NBA All-Star game, won by the East. Scottie Pippen, who loves the fact that Michael Jordan has retired, won MVP honors.

You've heard of the "Thrilla in Manila" and Burt v. Loni, but they both take backseats to the Battle of the Johns (Chaney vs. Calipari). The best action of the Temple-UMass showdown occurred at the post-game press conference when John Chaney, head coach of Temple, charged UMass coach John Calipari. Although neither party is ready to challenge Holyfield, this Thursday's rematch promises to be entertaining. (How far have we come when

passed to Jason on the break.

(Personally, this reporter was confused as to whether Jason was cutting to the basket or having a seizure!) Regardless, Jason took it strong to the hole and was fouled. Poor Jason. He had never been to the line before. The other boys played a cruel joke on the unknowing Jason, telling him to stand about two feet behind the true free throw line. But Jason, our hero, had the last laugh. Pure at heart and filled with determination, Jason muttered "I think I can, I think I can, I think I can." And against astronomical odds (Vegas would not cover it), Jason sank both free throws, his eyes tightly shut. Mobbed by stunned teammates, Jason raised his fist in the air and shouted, "I'm going to Disney World."

When play resumed, "Too Wright" led by four points, 15-9. What happened next is inexplicable. Having witnessed the success of Jason (two made free throws in the same game!), all other players on the court began running madly about, lacking direction and purpose. "Below the Rim" inbounced the ball under their basket. Although difficult to see through the haze of flying bodies, apparently "Too Wright" stole the ball. It is at this point that Theo "Chattanooga Choo" Chuang made a play that will live in infamy. Theo stole the ball back and drove hard to the basket. Splitting two defensemen, Theo powered in a lay-up from the left side. Unfortunately, Theo had sunk the ball into the wrong basket! Immediately renamed Theo "Wrong Way" Chuang, he was pulled from the game by his teammates. The score now 17-9, it would only have been poetic if "Below the Rim" could have lost by a single basket. With over 15 minutes to play, anything seemed possible as Kaplan's boys began playing tenacious defense. Alas, the rally fell short and the game ended 17-11. Until next time.

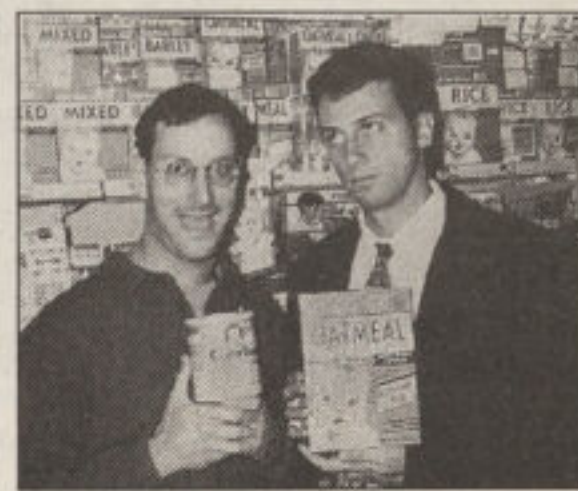
Upset of the Week: Paul "Kraft's Cheese And" Marazita's aptly named "We're Not Role Models" defeated the heavily touted Chicano Bulls in an important B League Game. Scott Frederick "The Great" had this to say, in yet another exclusive interview granted to this reporter: "I don't know if it's an upset. All I know is I can't believe how much bigger the basket looks when you don't drink beforehand." And this coming from the man who vowed to never let school, love or basketball interfere with his daily ritual of three Bloody Marys (and two Screwdrivers, and four Buds, and ...)

Games of the Week: A-League — "Emite Romeno" v. "Two-L" on Friday at 9:45, in a battle for first place; B-League — "Mo Knows" v. "The Rest of the World" on Wednesday at 8:45 (begging the deep philosophical question of what part of the world does Mo not know?).



## FOOD - O - RAMA

# The Blue Room: Eat Here!



By Ted Cohen '95 & Jonathan Goldstein '95

It's hard to find **The Blue Room**. Though the address is One Kendall Square, the restaurant is a solid quarter-mile walk from the Kendall Square T-Stop, a walk that takes you through a desolate, post-industrial landscape of abandoned factories, ugly new hotels, parking lots, and real live train tracks. Once you find the right address, you still have to search for that pesky Blue Room, which is in the basement, toward the rear of the sprawling office-and-retail complex.

But please, please, find your way to the Blue Room. After slogging through this godawful winter on stale Saltines, tunafish, and expired bottles of Prego spaghetti sauce (when was the last time you actually got up the energy to go to the supermarket?), you deserve a nice, hot meal. And if you decide to take our advice and have one, have it here.

The Blue Room is one of those rare culinary experiments in which everything works. Operated by the team that brought you the East Coast Grill, its influences are similarly far-flung and heterogeneous. Take, for example, an impeccable appetizer of Smoked Duck (\$7.50): You get a generous leg and thigh — the skin crisp, the flesh moist and juicy — served over a stew of hominy in a molasses-and-jalapeno barbecue sauce, garnished with toasted pumpkin seeds and fried tortilla strips. The play of textures and flavors here is so subtle and complex that you could spend hours trying to figure out how and why it works — but the strength of the dish lies in how damned satisfying it is at gut-level. This is intellectual food that manages to hide its brains behind its sex appeal.

It's evident everywhere: in the short but learned beer list, ranging from the East bloc (Pilsner Urquell), to the West bloc (Sierra Nevada Pale Ale), to down-the-block (Harpoon Stout); in the price-conscious wine list, divided neatly into a solid, thoughtful selection of some twenty-odd wines at \$19, on the one hand, and about as many between \$20 and \$43, on the other; even in the decor of the place. Simultaneously roomy and cozy, the trappings of the Blue Room are the perfect counterpoint to what comes out of its kitchen. One end of the room is a quiet bar, illuminated by — what else — blue lights, which give just the right tint to the stylish shelves of bottles. There is a conscious attempt here to avoid pretension and formality: All the silverware is kept in a pint glass on the table, and wine glasses are deliberately eschewed for modest rock glasses. Service is friendly, fast, and knowledgeable (our waiter passed our little test when we asked him the Latin name for the pepper we were eating).

The menu varies depending on the chef's mood and what is available. Among the more permanent (seasonal) appetizers are a wonderfully rich and bracing Raclette, made with chevre cream, Moroccan Chicken, with a lusty couscous flavored with preserved lemon (\$5.75), and Grilled Quail (\$7.95). The Grilled Vegetable Risotto (\$7.25), the traditionally slow-cooked Italian rice dish, is drier than usual here, but deliciously prepared and chock-full-o'-jewels of the Mediterranean and Southern Italy: oven-dried tomatoes, grilled artichokes, black olives, and grated pecorino romano cheese. Try it with a good stout or a chewy red wine.

One of the best was the kitchen's turn on negimaki, the Japanese dish of thinly-sliced beef wrapped around sautéed leeks or scallions: Here, at the center of the impeccably grilled meat, are caramelized onions. On the side are leaves of grilled radicchio and endive. The fibrous richness of the beef, the sweet slipperiness of the onions, and the bitterness of the charred leaves are simultaneously clean and lingering.

Entrees range from \$13.50 for the Spit-Roasted Half Chicken with a tamarind chipotle glaze, up to \$18.50 for the Sautéed Red Snapper Filet in a Thai mango-green peppercorn sauce. Only one of the specials we sampled, homemade pappardelle with pepper-encrusted red snapper filet in a spicy cream sauce, was uninspired, but only because we'd come to expect so much from the place.

In fact, if there's one rule of thumb at the Blue Room—especially if you're watching your budget—it would be to stick to the grilled items. Grilling is the kitchen's signature, and while you're bound to be happy with whatever you get, you'll more likely have a revelatory experience with anything smoked, charred, and crusty. That's what makes the Latin Trio so appealing. At \$15.50, it is an extremely generous sampler of chile-glazed shrimp, chorizo, and spice-rubbed chicken, with all the fixins: black beans, a delicious sweet-and-sour pickled slaw, smoked onions, salsa, tortillas, and a hunk of delicious grilled pineapple.

That said, the kitchen also did a wonderful job with the Chile-Fried Shrimp and Scallops — though, at \$18.25, we expected more than just three of each. The accompanying pickled mango slaw was delicious, though, and the jalapeno tartar sauce, respectable (if not quite hot enough).

Desserts (\$4.95) are right in line with the spirit of the menu — delicious, yet goofy. In particular, the Devil's Food Cake with milk chocolate frosting and warm chocolate sauce is a new wave pastry chef's interpretation of the classic Hostess Cupcake. With its super-dense cake and simple, rich frosting, it evokes happy memories of coming home from school and scarfing down a dozen Suzy-Q's before supper. We can't attest to the quality of the Burnt Orange Cream with Almond Cookies or the Banana Rum Cream Pie, but the Pecan Praline Cheesecake with fruit sauce was tasty, even if it was barely a cheesecake and the sauce a tad saccharin. The house espresso was a perfect finish, bitter and hot, like it was meant to be.

The Blue Room, One Kendall Square, Cambridge. 494-9034. Reservations accepted for parties of five or more (but if you go before 7 p.m. on a weekend, or anytime during the week, you should be o.k.).

**Rating: ★★**

After much soul-searching, we have decided to modify our rating system from a pseudo-Zagat's numerical system to a plagiarized New York Times one. We feel the latter allows for a more accurate evaluation of the overall gestalt of the dining experience. As always, food, atmosphere and service will be taken into account in rating a restaurant. Here's how it works:

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| poor/satisfactory | (no stars) |
| good              | ★          |
| very good         | ★★         |
| excellent         | ★★★        |
| extraordinary     | ★★★★       |

## Mr. sports guy

the players are separating the coaches?) No chocolates or roses are expected.

And, of course, this past week witnessed the sexiest of all American sporting traditions — the annual Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue hit newsstands across the country. SI pronounced its own "Dream Team" of Rachel Hunter, Kathy Ireland, and Elle MacPherson. And they say the average jock is illiterate and insensitive.

OK, sports fans, it is time to stand up and be heard. By now, everyone in this country is fully aware of every detail of the Nancy Kerrigan-Tonya Harding affair. As pseudo-lawyers, what is your opinion: Should Tonya Harding be allowed to represent the United States in this year's Winter Games? Why or why not? The best responses, judged by an elite panel of renowned sports law experts, will be published next week.

Intramural basketball update: We are one week into the season and already this reporter has witnessed astonishing upsets, amazing comebacks, and his personal Play-Of-The-Week. We begin with the story of a courageous young man: Jason "Virtue And" Weiss '94 has not played basketball more than a handful of times in his life, and not once this year. Afflicted with terminal "white man's disease," Jason's days on the court appear numbered. Yet the boys from 2 Wright Street (the big house with all the parties) have taken Jason under their wing. This past week, Jason was given the opportunity of a lifetime — he played serious minutes in a hotly contested B League Game.

Andrew "Whooping" Kaufman's "Too Wright For Their Own Good" was battling Brian "LSAT By" Kaplan's "Below The Rim." It was early in the second half. Jason, unsure of his role, was running madly around the court. (He would later say that "running was my favorite part.") One of his teammates stole the ball and



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## Harvard Law RECORD

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# A Grade Delayed

At the University of Michigan Law School, professors who turn in grades late are fined \$250 for every day beyond the deadline. At Widener University Law School, professors are expected to grade 35 exams a week, and the dean has the authority to dock the pay of those who fail to meet their quota.

Here at HLS, although most students might not know it, we too have a deadline for submitting grades. For the fall upper-level classes, it was January 27. In the absence of any sanction against professors who miss it, that date is flaunted with such regularity it has become more of a midpoint than a deadline. By the time students receive all their grades from the fall, we will be pushing spring. At least a month will have passed since the deadline — two months since students took their finals.

The grade delay has practical significance for students. Many 1Ls no doubt would like to send their grades to potential summer employers. (Admittedly, some would be just as happy if grades never arrived.) Second-year students seeking federal clerkships are missing the opportunity to buttress their applications with their fall grades; they are quickly running out of time to impress judges before the official start of the interviewing season on March 1.

The delay would be excusable, perhaps even welcome, were professors using the time to provide students with meaningful feedback to deepen our understanding of the law. But even students who make the effort to track down their old exams are unlikely to learn anything about their performance. Prof. Nesson's Evidence class aside, the typical graded exam is as devoid of comments as a grade report; many contain nothing but a letter grade scrawled across the front. Most professors do not even compose a memo to provide general feedback. It is no wonder that so many students are convinced that their grades bear no relation to their understanding of the law.

The annual winter grade delay is yet another indication of where students rank on the Law School's list of priorities. HLS holds out exams as indicators of how much students have learned about the law. It tells students and the legal world alike that grades are a valuable and important measure of legal knowledge and insight. But when the time comes to pass those indicators on to the people who need them the most, and to help us learn from our own successes and failures, the Law School performs dismally. The message sent to students is clear: The Law School does not care very much about how much they learn.

HLS should take a lesson from Michigan and Widener — institutions that perhaps do not have the prestigious Harvard name, but schools that nonetheless seem to remember that the primary purpose of a law school should be to teach law. A school that values teaching should not make students wait two months to learn the results of a semester's hard work.

- Stohr

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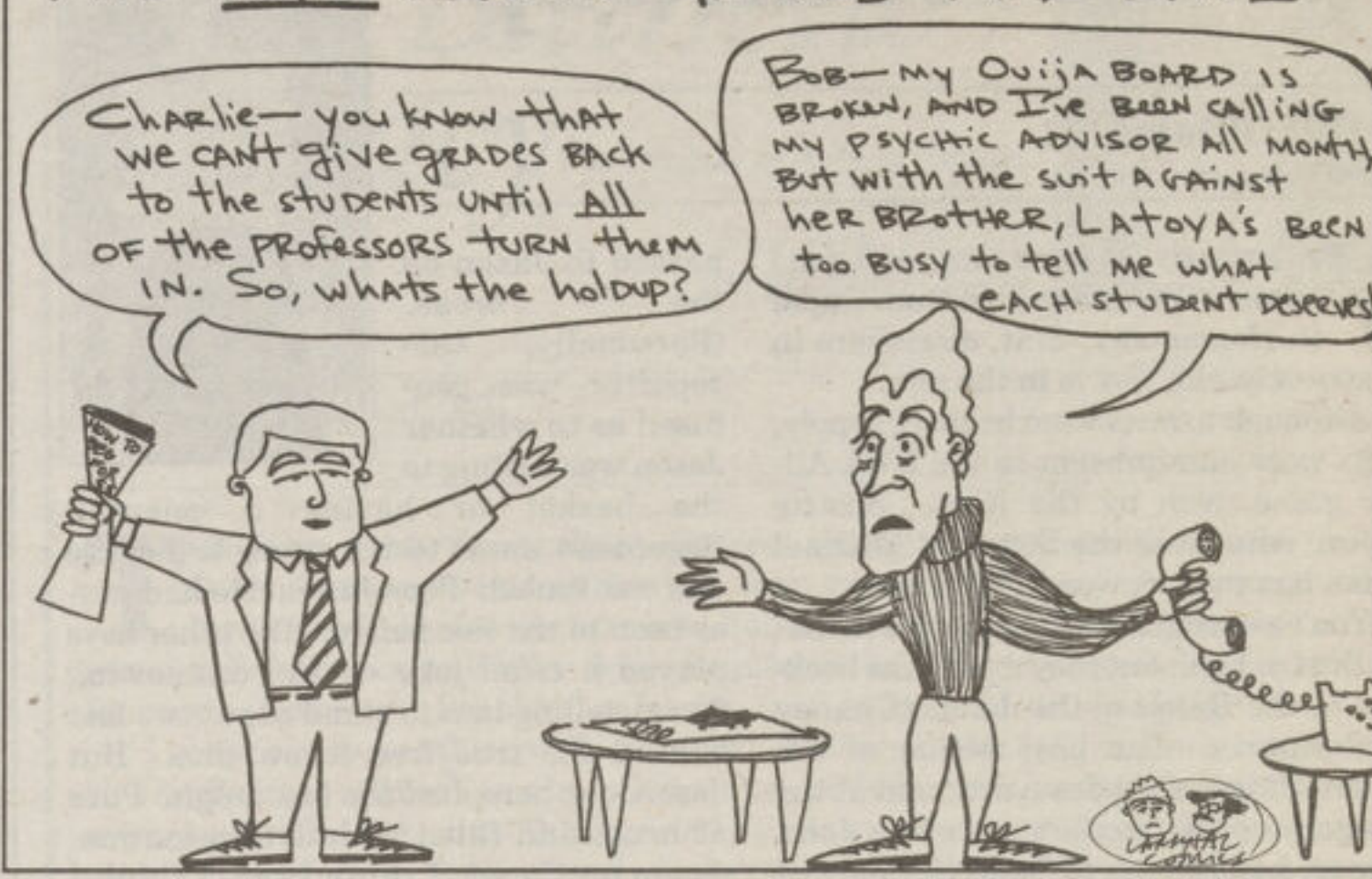
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## THE REAL REASON GRADES ARE LATE



## • Letters •

## Stop the Myths About HLS Men!

For the past two years we HLS men have been assailed by one woman after another in this paper saying that either we can't get it up because we aren't man enough, or we won't get it up because we are intimidated by their fearsome intelligence. Well, Johanna Davis' editorial (RECORD, February 11, 1994) pushed me over the edge.

One myth that needs exploding is that there is no dateable material out there for HLS women. I can't tell you how many times I have listened to a group of women, some of whom I am attracted to, complain to my face that there are no men at HLS. You men know what I'm talking about, so here's a clue for you ladies: OPEN YOUR EYES! Remember that nice guy you sat next to in Crim, or that 3L who gave you those outlines without which you would have failed miserably? Chances are neither was so nice and helpful to you just because of your sparkling personality. Next time, don't just chalk them up as "nice guys" (you know what I mean) — go after them. Still waters often run deep.

Putting aside MacKinnon and Dworkin, what better way for highly educated women to help demolish the patriarchal bounds of society

than by taking the initiative in dating? Besides, asking a man out isn't the equivalent of screaming, "Do me, do me 'til Tax at 8:00!" You can set up a situation of "plausible deniability," which means asking a man out under circumstances which you can construe, in case of emergency, as not really a date.

Another myth is that HLS women are ugly. I, and many of the men I have spoken to, have been happy to find many good-looking women here. What a bonus! After making mad, passionate love to an attractive woman, you can discuss the finer points of literary/social criticism without her assuming the blank stare of a coma victim.

It is also just not true that HLS men are turned off by the intelligence of HLS women and that that's what Lesley and Wellesley colleges are for. The truth is, intelligent HLS women are a real turn-on. They get all your obscure legal jokes, they don't idolize men who spend all their time in the gym, and — seriously — they are among the few women with whom you can have a real relationship. I know I'm mature enough not to be threatened by a woman who is smarter than me, and I have faith that the same is

true of most of the men here.

A final pervasive fallacy is that because we are afraid of HLS women, we men go to the bars and clubs of Boston where the pickings are easier. To this I respond, when was the last time any of you have tried to have any sort of verbal communication, much less relationship, with a hairdresser from Quincy? Reliable sources have told me that they've tried, and that it's next to impossible. Besides, what kind of men do you think women at these places are looking for, anyway? Intellectual, four-eyed HLS workaholics with delusions of making a real difference in this world; or beefy, baseball-cap-wearing dock workers? Give me a break!

What's to be done? I refuse to place the blame solely on the doorstep of either gender. We are all responsible for the Great Repression at HLS. We must all own up to the fact that if we are single and dateless we must either: (1) take the initiative and try harder, (2) lower our standards, which are probably too high and unrealistic to begin with, or (3) stop complaining and shut the hell up.

Patrick O'Connor '95  
February 16, 1994

## Bluebook Reigns Supreme

As the former Bluebook editor and one of the people in charge of ensuring the Law Review's conformity with the Bluebook, I read "Tyranny of the Text: The Bluebook's Unhappy Reign" (RECORD, Feb. 11, 1994) with some interest. The following are the Top 10 Reasons Why the Bluebook (As Opposed to the Maroon Book) is King of the Citation Manuals:

10. It has advanced civilization as we know it. See *Aside, Don't Cry Over Filled Milk: The Neglected Footnote Three to Caroline Products*, 136 U. Pa. L. Rev. 1553, 1558 (1988): "The civilizing influence of citation forms reached its highest point with the development of A Uniform System of Citation ('the Bluebook')."

9. Formalism has its advantages. See, e.g., Mary I. Coombs, *Lowering One's Cites: A (Sort of) Review of the University of Chicago Manual of Legal Citation*, 76 VA. L. Rev. 1099, 1104-05 (1990): "The contrast between the Bluebook and Maroon Book recapitulates a tension existing throughout law: that between rules and standards. . . . [A] . . . regime without any absolute rules can be manipulated far more easily by people with power."

8. It's economical. See James W. Paulsen, *An Uninformed System of Citation*, 105 HARV. L. REV.

1780, 1783 n.20 (1992): "In 1947, The Bluebook sold for 35 cents and wing tips were \$16.95. The Bluebook today costs \$7.50, and the same brand of wing tip shoes is available at the Harvard Coop for \$125. . . . The price of The Bluebook has increased on a per-page basis at only half the rate of wing tip shoes. And, of course, one can always find more uses for pages of an old Bluebook than one can for a pair of old wing tips" (citation omitted).

7. It's useful. See Paulsen, *supra*, at 1793-94: "It is easy to forget that The Bluebook actually serves some very useful purposes. A uniform . . . citation system makes legal writing easier and helps readers to retrieve cited works with a minimum of fuss."

6. It's conducive to technological aids. See Paulsen, *supra*, at 1793-94: "In the computer age, free-form citation may . . . hamper legal research."; cf. Barry D. Bayer & Benjamin H. Cohen, *New Versions of Cite Rite II and Full Authority*, LAW OFF. TECH. REV., Jan. 9, 1992 ("We can understand if Jurisoft decided that the benefits of implementing Maroon Book support . . . was too low to justify the . . . reprogramming required.")

5. It contains extensive treatment of matters of great import. Cf. Arthur Austin, *Footnote Skulduggery and*

*Other Bad Habits*, 44 U. MIAMI L. REV. 1009, 1029 (1990): "Anyone who treats footnoting as trivial 'barking' and an afterthought gesture to the text is not reading or writing legal literature."

4. Bluebooking builds character. See Austin, *supra*, at 1010 n.3: "The discipline of cite checking and of adherence to the complexities of the Bluebook is thought to instill 'nonshirking' habits in young associates — a habit highly valued by mega law firms."

3. A properly Bluebooked footnote can be a thing of beauty. See Austin, *supra*, at 1029 ("In the hands of a master . . . [a footnote] can become a work of art and an instrument of power.") (citation omitted).

2. One citation manual is enough. See Bayer & Cohen, *supra*: "Of course, as with much of the analysis from the 'Chicago' school, not many others really use the Maroon Book."

1. It just is. See Byron D. Cooper, *Anglo-American Legal Citation: Historical Development and Library Implications*, 75 LAW LIBR. J. 3, 21 (1982) (noting that The Bluebook "has been called the 'pioneer' manual, the 'Bible,' the 'final arbiter,' even the 'Kama Sutra' of legal citation" (footnotes omitted)).

Tami Lefko '94  
February 14, 1994

# The Pen I'll Never Lose

By Terri Gerstein '95

Guest Columnist

I finally have a pen that I'm not going to lose.

A client from the Legal Services Center gave it to me in January, as a thank-you for my work on her case. I got all choked up, but at the same time I felt somewhat like a fraud, since I thought I should have done more on her case.

She was of a different opinion though. She told me, "It's been so hard for so long, with no one helping me. I can feel things are going to get better." Her 15-year-old daughter, stripped of her tough-girl stance, smiled shyly.

This touching scene was cut short, though; there was another client waiting in the lobby, and then the Spanish pro-se divorce clinic, and papers to file the next day, and on and on.

Clinical legal education has saved my life, or at least saved my life in the law. Admittedly, it doesn't have the same intense impact on everyone, since we come here with such different backgrounds, values, and goals. Yet clinicals have tremendous educational value for all law students, whether we plan to be corporate lawyers, professors, senators, or public defenders.

The first big lesson is that there are real people involved. We're no longer in the mythical land of Ames, where hypothetical mishaps happen to ill-fated hypothetical people, and the only consequence is an A, a B, or, God forbid, a C on your transcript. You take a clinical and it's the real thing. A tired mother, shushing her restless two-year-old, quietly admits how terribly frightened she is of her husband. A lonely woman, in mid-December, tells of the cold nights she spends shivering in her tiny apartment, since the landlord won't fix the ancient boiler.

In a clinical, you see the impact of the law on individuals, one by one — people with faces, families, jobs, hopes, fears. People you like instantly and people who are incredibly annoying. All of them, people in some kind of crisis, needing legal help. For this reason, clinicals can not only help students become better human beings, but they can also bring a new level of understanding about issues such as access to the legal system, and what pro-

fessional responsibility really means. Clinicals would particularly enlighten would-be policy-makers heading to Washington by giving them insight into how their programs actually become realized.

Another benefit of clinicals is the development of practical legal skills. We learned how to do opening and closing statements, and direct and cross-examinations. We had baptism-by-fire training in negotiation, as we dealt with opposing counsel who were unimpressed with our status as "student attorneys." We discovered the complexities of interviewing clients — how to get the necessary information and develop a relationship of trust, without the client sharing every detail of his life story. Along with intellectual development, law school should involve development of practical legal skills. Clinicals not only enable this development, but also provide a unique opportunity to reflect upon and critique our own performances.

For many students, clinicals also evoke an appreciation of the gravity of our endeavor, and with that appreciation, a newfound intensity about our classroom legal education. During a break in our asylum law training

session, one of my classmates, slightly stunned, commented, "My goal this semester is not to get anyone deported." The seriousness of what we were doing had hit her for the first time.

Last year, like a lot of

HLS students, I was pretty irreverent about The Law, law school, lawyers, the whole affair. It was stacked against the little guy, it was pompous, it was filled with jargon, it was counterintuitive and removed from reality — my litany was ready-on-the-tongue for anyone who would listen.

After working at the Legal Services Center, my irreverence about The Law is gone. In its place, I feel not reverence, but rather a deep sense of urgency. I need to learn this law stuff well. If I don't, the consequences will not just be for my precious career. If I do, I can help people in a very tangible way. I realize that the relation between law school classes and practical legal competence may be tenuous, but I'm not willing to take any chances. I do my schoolwork and I take my classes seriously.

Finally, clinicals give a real-world perspective which enriches our theoretical knowledge, grounding it in reali-

ty. A synergistic relation develops between theory and practice, improving both our legal analysis and our day-to-day lawyering. For example, as 1Ls in civil procedure, we study the concept of notice. Then in practice, the question arises, do you count the weekends when you give the other side notice about a hearing? I can go before the judge and pontificate about the nature of justice all I want, but if I count the weekends, my client's motion for a temporary order for support most likely will not be heard.

We learn about the inefficiencies of the system, and the mountains of paperwork required. A fellow student once commented, "I didn't learn anything today. I went to court to file this complaint and all I did was get sent back and forth from one office to another." To me, her comment contained an internal contradiction. Trying to do what should be a simple task and getting sent back and forth — this is learning!

And if we get confused and get the runaround, what happens to people without counsel, who have to manage the system on their own? Because another real-world lesson of clinical work is that poor people have scarce access to legal resources. We saw how many clients the Legal Services Center had to turn away because of the already existing bursting-at-the-seams caseload. And we saw, on the dockets, how many people were going pro se.

There is no uniform clinical experience, and there is no guarantee that the experience will be wonderful at every moment for every student. Students may get boring cases. They may not be in love with their clients or supervisors. In some cases, students cannot even talk with their clients, except through translators. Students may sometimes feel uncomfortable with the work they are doing. As a feminist, how will I feel representing someone accused of rape or battering? Will I be able to fulfill my obligation to be a zealous advocate?

Yet all of these potential problems are also rich opportunities for learning. The beauty is that through clinicals, we develop intellectually, professionally, and personally at the same time that we are providing much-needed assistance to people in underserved communities. Fortunately, Harvard Law School has (arguably) the best clinical program in the country, with many options to satisfy the broad range of student interests.

Just as a medical student cannot become a doctor without working with patients in a hospital, a law student should not become an attorney without ever having seen a client or set foot in a courtroom.

## My irreverence about The Law is gone.

### • Letters (continued) •

#### Law School Teaching Religion?

I note the trip by Dean Clark and his entourage, including the Development Dean, the Chairman of the HLS Capital Campaign and two professors, seeking and obtaining large donations from the Saudis toward the Islamic Legal Studies pro-

gram to be established at the law school.

As I understand it, Islamic law is based upon the Koran. The Koran is a religious book and teaching. Therefore it seems that the law school has now undertaken the teaching of reli-

gion.

Your cartoon as to where the new mosque should be placed was quite apt.

Irving J. Galpeer '33  
February 8, 1994

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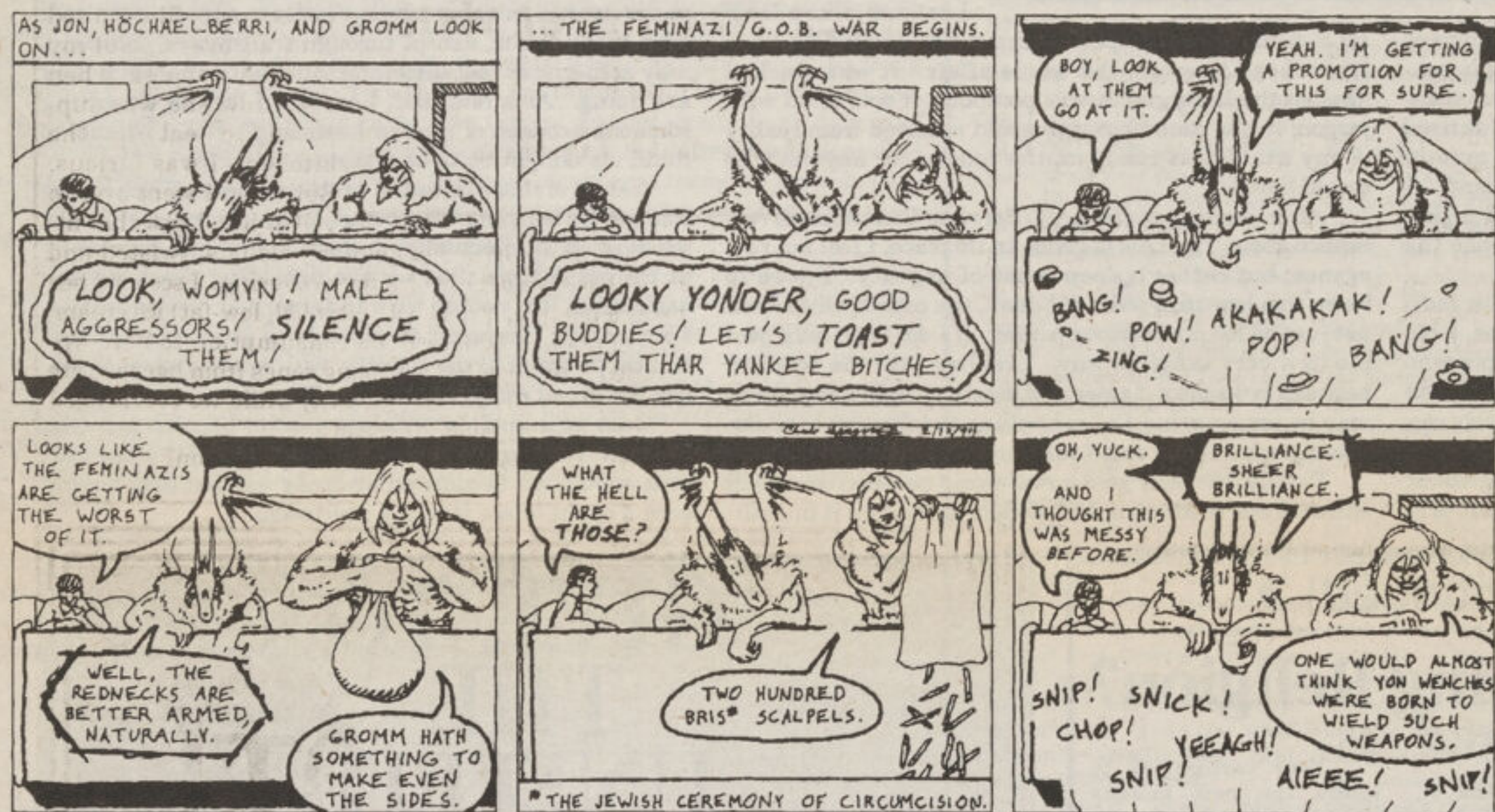
## Liabilities

By Paul Taylor



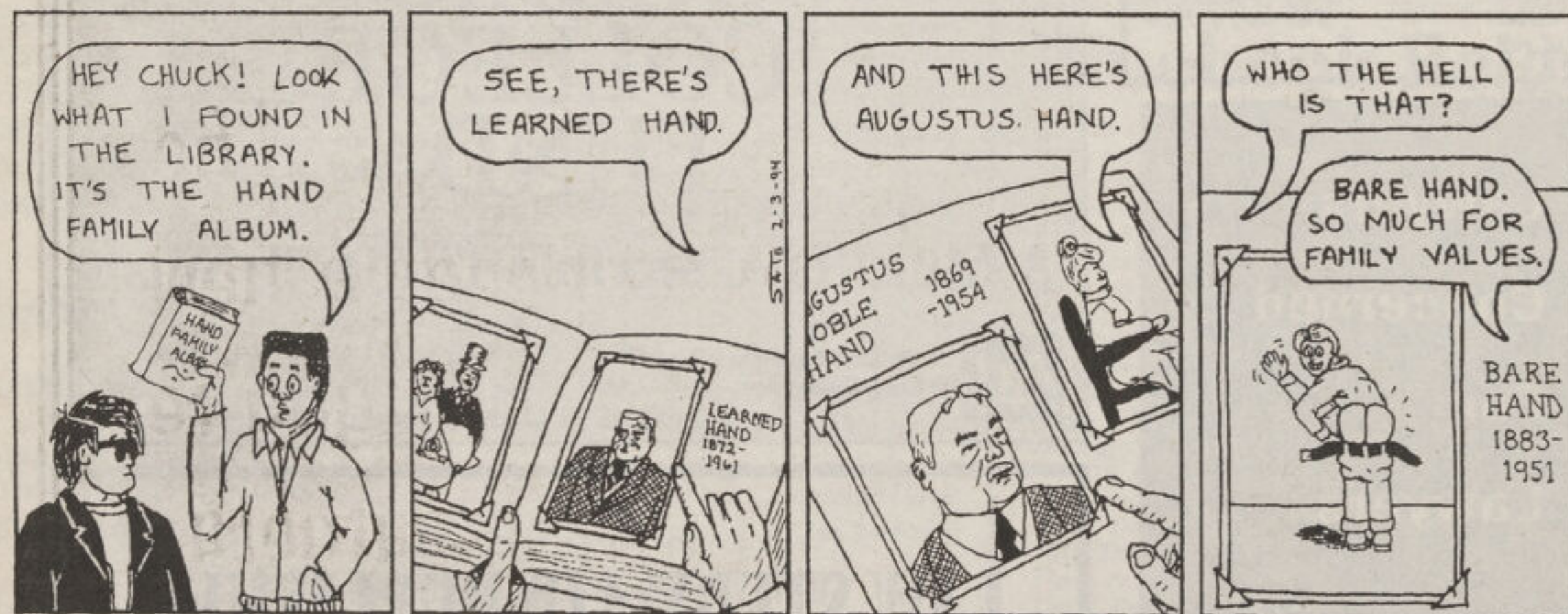
## GROMM: Barbarian at Law

By Chris Spagnoli



## Temporary Insanity

By Sheila Tuller

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## CALENDAR

Stuff to Do  
this Week

by Jeff Bucholtz

No matter how bad things may get here, we HLS students can always take consolation in the fact that we're not in New Haven. This is truer than ever this week as the pit that houses that other school plays host to Garth "Algar" Brooks tonight and tomorrow. If suffering through another Valentine's Day and experiencing the Man Ray fetish ball didn't satisfy the masochist in you, New Haven's just a short trip away.

**Wonderstuff** and **Chapterhouse**, Wed. 2/23, Paradise Rock Club, 351-2526

The 'stuffies have been putting out quality albums of punk/pop for six years now and deserve to be huge. Maybe it's their caustic wit ("Here comes the DJ, pulling up his trousers" from "Radio Ass-Kiss," a jab at commercial radio) that has kept them from the masses, but cynicism should go down easy with law students.

Pegged as part of the British "shoegazing" scene of melancholy, drugged out, feed-back-drenched pretty boys (see also "Ride, My Bloody Valentine"), Chapterhouse's knack for dreamy melodies and lush pop songs elevates them above the pack. Their brand-new "We Are the Beautiful" was honored as Single of the Week in the UK music press and is beginning to cast its spell on this side of the Atlantic.

Don't expect fancy light shows or furious moshing, but the Wonderstuff/Chapterhouse show will be the perfect place to meet that Peter Dinklage or Nina New-Wave you've been craving.

**Cowboy Junkies**, Fri. 2/25, Avalon, 931-2000

Quite possibly the softest band in the world, the Junkies bring their dazed, funeral folk to Boston next Friday. As a friend put it, "I've never seen so many people on stage making so little noise." Margot Timmins' enticing vocals will coax you, ever so gently, deep into a peaceful, hypnotic trance not overly dissimilar from the drooling, vacant stare into oblivion that seems to afflict so many in Con Law.

**Quiet Riot**, Th. 2/24, The Rat, 536-2750

And you thought the big Jacksons reunion in Vegas was cheesy. Word has it, Twisted Sister are opening, but that'd be too good to be true. I called the Rat, though, and it's no joke: Kevin "Werbach" DuBrow and friends are coming to feel our noise at Boston's venerable metal club. Actually, the Rat's been around so long that Quiet Riot probably played there when they were cool. We've come a long way, baby.

# Will the Circle Be Unbroken?

By Debra Dickerson '95

RECORD Columnist



I was a great aunt at 31. I was an aunt at seven (my sister was 18). My brother has been an uncle since he was three. We never thought much of it. In our large, dirt-poor, recently immigrated from the South family, another kid just wasn't much to remark on. My mother is one of eight, and she had six; everyone we knew married young and reproduced until something wore out.

"Family" is an elastic concept for us. Any relative more than about 15 years older than you is "Aunt" or "Uncle" regardless of the actual relationship. "Cousin" if all you know is that you're somehow, some way related. Or even if they're a guest who just showed to eat and mock on women unrelated to them. (I only found out at "Uncle" Walter's funeral that he was really just my (actual) great uncle's best friend who'd moved in with them at some point, for some reason that no one can now recall.) Anyone who is "Uncle, Aunt, or Cousin" is also "Ma'am or Sir." Blood is important to us, but so is respect for our elders and sharing whatever there is to be shared.

Every few years at family gatherings, someone takes a notion to figure out exactly how they're related to someone else. There have actually been times when even our oldest old folk are stumped. But, eventually, someone's great-great grandmother's sister-in-law is wheeled in for consultation and provides the missing link — long-ago-divorce and remarriage, hushed up illegitimacy, or casual adoption.

Coming from this kind of wide open, free-for-all of family ties, I was surprised to find myself bothered by becoming a great aunt. I've never been hung up on my age, but somehow "Great Aunt Debra" conjures images of adult diapers, that lady who falls and can't get up, and ungrateful children who never visit me in the old folks' home. It made me think.

Since then, I've become more aware of my place in the scheme of things. I moved around as much as pos-

sible when I was in the military. My assignment preference sheet said: "Anyplace overseas is better than anyplace stateside." I always knew I paid a price for that lifestyle and now, I think, I've had enough. Or, actually, I think I've had as much as I can get away with. I, Debra Dickerson, am going to settle down after law school. God knows where yet, but deciding to stay put was the hard part.

One reason for the attitudinal evolution is that my sister's kids are growing up without me. Once, home from Korea, I snooped on them play-acting as different family members. To play with me, my niece threw some toys into a paper bag 'suitcase' and pretended to drive to the airport "cuz that's where Aunt Debbie lives." They have no real idea who I am. They think I'm just this weird lady who sends bizarre gifts from strange places and is always going to school. And I don't really know them either.

This Christmas, I was stunned to notice my 15-year-old nephew's hairy legs and goatee. My 13-year-old niece looked so good in her two-piece at the beach this year, I made her wear one of my big, floppy T-shirts. What happened to those bald, light-bulb-headed little drool machines? It's scary how time passes. Before it's too late, I'm going to stake out my place in the family circle. The question is how.

When I was 10, I was fascinated by my (actual) cousin Chuck who was just a few years older. He was so cool, I worshipped the very air he fouled with his malodorous size-14 feet. Everyone did. His mother, my (actual) Aunt Lee, is the youngest of my mother's

siblings and also the coolest. All us kids were totally enamored with her, too. Anyway, one summer, Chuck and I were tossing a basketball around inside their house. I knew it was wrong, but this was a chance to bask in the magnificent Chuck's attention, and I wasn't about to blow it. He threw the ball at me suddenly, I flubbed it, and a glass decanter set on a sideboard crashed to the floor.

I spent the rest of the day crying and praying to die before I could be killed. My Aunt came home and I showed her the shards in the trash can and dutifully waited for the ax to fall. She took one look at my face, scooped me up in a big hug, and gave me ice cream. She even yelled at Chuck, something no one ever did, because she knew I hadn't come up with that brilliant move alone. Twenty-five years later, I still haven't forgotten her generosity and concern.

So when my 7-year-old niece visited, I got my chance. She spilled chili all over one of my Turkish carpets when she knew she was supposed to eat in the kitchen. I was furious. But when I went over to yell at her, I saw that little face, the mirror image of my sister's, twisted and fearful at my anger over a floor covering. I scooped her up in a big hug, got us both (low-cal, low-fat) ice cream, and explained conspicuous consumption to her. We cleaned it up together and sang songs from her favorite movie, *Hans Christen Andersen*, while we rearranged the furniture to hide the stain.

Will she remember? Will she pass it on?

**I've never been hung up on my age, but somehow "Great Aunt Debra" conjures images of adult diapers, that lady who falls and can't get up, and ungrateful children who never visit me in the old folks' home. It made me think.**



Having been turned down as a TA for Dershowitz' undergraduate class (Fenno thought it was called "Thinking about Drinking," and had submitted a personal narrative about the time over Spring Break that he hailed a passing police car, climbed into the back, and said, "Take me to the Hyatt!"), Fenno decided to pursue another resume-padding extracurricular activity.

He applied to the Law School Council for funding a new campus organization: Radio Station WHLS-FM 112.B6. After three cases of Schlitz, the motion passed unanimously and Fenno planned the program.

#### Jingle:

WHLS! All Law, All the Time: The Best Cases from the '50's, '60's, and '70's.

#### The Hot Contest:

Be Dean for the Day!

Wield the ultimate power for one exciting, fun-filled day! Just think...you could...

Be a sycophant in the Middle East! Learn how to beg in nine Aramaic dialects! Attend an alumni fundraiser and put the word "cock" back in cocktail parties! Have your secretary type gibberish about community, diversity, and fairness, xerox it, and distribute two or three copies to all students' hark boxes! Check to ensure no progress has been made on Holmes Field building! And if that's not enough... Smile while stumbling like an idiot on stage during the Spring Play!

#### Top Ten Play List:

10. Electric Avenue by Eddie Grant

#### (Cruel and Unusual Punishment?)

9. Love Potion Number Nine (Pushing the Boundaries of FDA Jurisdiction)

8. Lost in Love by Air Supply (A Case for Justifiable Censorship)  
(tie) Beat It (The Pee Wee Herman Story)

7. Killing Me Softly With Your Song (When Poor Singing Constitutes Spousal Abuse)

6. I Fought the Law, and the Law Won (Dershowitz' Performance in the Mike Tyson Appeal)

5. A Lawyer Named Sue, by Morton Downey Jr. (Yes, This is a Real Song)

4. Mannish Boy (But Found Competent to Stand Trial as an Adult)

3. Lawyers, Guns & Money (Major Topics Covered on the MPRE)

2. I Fight Authority, but Authority Always Wins (Except When Me and a Bunch of My Liberal Friends Sit In at the Dean's Office for 24 Hours and We're Somehow Allowed to Go Out to Pee and Eat and Then Come Back in to Resume the Protest)

1. Lawyers in Love (1L Mating Rituals at the Top of the Kong)

#### The D.J./J.D. Lineup:

3-7 AM: David Rosenberg - "Twenty-four hours a day for law, baby!"

7 AM-12 noon: Charlie Nesson - "Morning Calisthenics are my bag!"

12-5 PM: Rocco Forgione - "I don't have anything else to do!"

5-5:15 PM: Arthur Miller - "5 o'clock—It's Miller Time!"

5:15-10 PM: Fenno - "Heeeeere's Fenno!"

10 PM-3 AM: Professor Andrew Kaufman "Puts you to sleep faster than Sominex!"

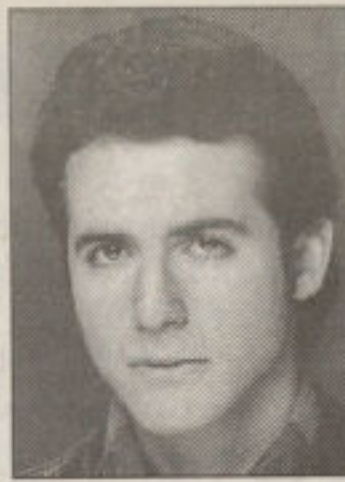
## OH, SHOOT!

Pictures, that is. The RECORD needs a new photo editor. If you're handy with a camera, give us a call at 495-4418, or put a note in Greg Stohr's 2L Hark box.

## TV: Savior of Humanity

By Rob Rader '94

RECORD Columnist



Once, before television, people actually had to read books. How sad.

As for myself, I was raised by TV. I watched it for hours and hours on end. The only day of the week I got up without complaining was Saturday, when I'd wake up at 6:30 AM just to make sure not to miss any quality cartoons like "Captain Caveman." Let's just say I love TV.

And who wouldn't? If you told a guy raised on a desert island that people enjoyed staring at a box with moving pictures on it for 10-15 hours a day, you better believe that Feral Boy would be watching "Nick at Nite" before you could order a premium movie by telephone. Basically, television has become our national religion which, like it or not, is an improvement over past creeds, like the "Protestant Work Ethic" or "For God And Country."

Strangely, however, many people have jumped on the anti-TV bandwagon, blaming TV for everything: crime, lack of morals, halitosis, the Plague, etc. Even illustrious HLS alumni such as Attorney General Janet Reno have become convinced that television is corrupting the morals of our youth. When people read books, they seem to say, no one had these problems. (They're probably right. If Hitler were alive today, he would no doubt have made *Mein Kampf* into a pay-per-view holiday special, complete with lesbians and beauty contests.) Reading a book, they claim, is an activity that enlightens the reader, forcing him or her to engage creatively with the text. On the other hand, as Butt-Head would say, "Books suck."

And Beavis might add, "Yeah. Hanh, hanh, hanh. They're filled with words and things."

Which is true. As usual, Beavis and Butt-Head have cut to the heart of the matter. To paraphrase a great TV writer, Emily Dickinson, "There is no frigate like a TV." Which brings me to the TV show I'm reviewing — "Drive-In Reviews" produced by Comedy Partners on Comedy Central.

"Drive-In Reviews" is an amalgam of the best in Western Civilization. It is Siskel and Ebert meets "Mystery Science Theater 3000" meets Joe Bob Briggs meets "Beavis & Butt-Head." The "premise" is: Two guys sit in chairs and watch gruesome clips from various horror films, making the most inane comments imaginable. Unlike Mystery Science Theater 3000, the comments never allude to "high culture," rather, they remain at the level of Messrs. Beavis and Butt-Head.

**Though worthy alumnae like Janet Reno may want the FCC to fine this show next, I can see nothing wrong with exposing little kids to scenes of ax-wielding mutants who behead babies while two guys shout, "That'll teach you to wet the bed, Junior!"**

Hosted by Tony Fitzpatrick and Buzz Kilman, a recent episode featured three movies: "Dolls," "Parents," and "Mikey." These were not, as you probably know, particularly distinguished movies according to the mainstream critics. At "Drive-In Reviews," however, normal standards don't apply. During one particularly gruesome scene involving a horde of marauding dolls sawing a woman's leg off, Buzz remarked that it was "a moment of cinematic poetry."

"It sho iz!" Tony agreed. Later, when the dolls kill one unattractively attired man, Tony notes, "I'd a stabbed him for the sweater alone!"

Unfortunately, as the previous anecdotes demonstrate, the printed page is insufficient to capture the charm of this show. But isn't that always the case with words? And isn't that the point I was trying to make earlier?

One of the highlights of the show is "The Tony Moment," when Tony Fitzpatrick — a large, bald, tattooed man who resembles Peter Boyle in "Young Frankenstein" — describes how to prevent tall people from sitting in front of you at the movies. First, he says, just hock a big lugie. (I can attest that this always worked for me in high school when I rode the bus.) Then simulate flatulence, he advises. (I know that works on me at family gatherings.) Next, try whispering, "Oh Christ! There's pus coming out of it!" If all else fails, offer the obstructing person's kid a Raisinette with a big smile on your face. Tony guarantees Too-Tall will move away from you at this point.

These are good things to know.

"Drive-In Reviews" is the latest in a series of shows that deconstruct the essence of comedy, the ultimate irony of life, the universe, and everything. Buzz and Tony turn gruesome and unappetizing bad movies into sophomoric high comedy. And sophomoric high comedy is Western Civilization's contribution to world culture, notwithstanding whatever morals William Bennett is currently pushing.

Though worthy alumnae like Janet Reno may want the FCC to fine this show next, I can see nothing wrong with exposing little kids to scenes of ax-wielding mutants who behead babies while two guys shout, "That'll teach you to wet the bed, Junior!" Besides, it's entertaining as hell. And that, ultimately, is what TV is all about. Come to think of it, that's what everything is all about.

Thumb's up. Joe Rob says to check it out.

## Grades Available

continued from GRADES, page 1

Sander '52 has already told students of the delay and provided them with verbal feedback, Bombard said. Both Nesson '63 and Chayes '49 have turned in grades for all the 2Ls in their classes, but some of the 3L grades remain outstanding.

Among the 1L instructors, only Prof. Morton Horwitz '67, the Section II Torts professor, has yet to turn in grades, Bombard said. First-year grades should hit the mail as soon as Horwitz's grade list is complete.

"If it comes in, then they'll go out this week," said Bombard, predicting Tuesday as the most likely mailing date. "If not, I can't let part of the 1Ls go and other parts not go out."

The Law School has established deadlines for professors to submit grades, but the deadlines are not enforced by any sanctions. Fall grades were due on January 27 for upper-level courses and

February 3 for 1L classes. Grades for Winter Term are due next Thursday, but Bombard said she is not optimistic they will be available by then.

Not surprisingly, students were critical of the delay.

"There's absolutely no excuse for grades to be so late," Emily Widmann '95 said. "If we handed in our exams that late, we'd fail."

Angie Mooney '95 agreed. "I think it's ridiculous we have to wait this long," she said.

Second- and third-year students may either pick up their grades in the rooms specified in yesterday's Advisor or request that the registrar's office mail the grades to them. Grades have been mailed to 1Ls for the past several years in an attempt to reduce the tension surrounding first-year grades.

This year's grade-release date was slightly earlier than last year's February 21 release date.

## HLS Capital Campaign

continued from MONEY, page 1

Hall and Griswold.

These initial investigations then jump-started a more comprehensive planning program. To determine the school's needs, Vorenburg assembled various faculty-student groups which reported to the special Long-Range Planning Committee, chaired by Professors Andrew Kaufman '54 and Frank Sander '52.

In a unique arrangement, the planning committee consulted with an outside advisory group of alumni and friends of HLS organized by Vorenburg through the Development Office.

"We knew that...to raise the money we had to convince the alumni that these were promising and worthwhile goals," said Nichols. "They were involved in process right from start...[and] participated as advisors to the internal committees."

Following a year of debate, a fundraising prospectus outlining improvements and their predicted costs was unanimously approved by HLS faculty, and in the spring of 1989 it was ratified by the President and Fellows of Harvard College.

The Law School officially announced its fund drive in 1991. Since then, the former advisory committee has metamorphosed into a seven-person executive committee and a 30-person steering committee, both of which administer the present program.

To raise such a large amount of money, administrators have taken new approaches to fundraising.

"Getting gifts from law firms hadn't been done before," said Dean Clark. "There was a worry about getting people in law firms to act as a group and we've proved that wrong. You can get little teams of volunteers to leverage the whole effort."

Clark added that foreign alumni have also been crucial to the campaign. "A large part of our gifts have been from East Asia and the Middle East, and to a lesser extent from Europe," he said.

HLS has received 42 gifts of \$1 million or more from living alumni, and six gifts of that size from law firms. New funding sources include a \$5 million gift from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

The last major fundraising drive at HLS took place in 1968 and raised \$15 million, which was used to build Pound

"Not just bricks and mortar"

Clark said the fundraising campaign has resulted in "a lot of spin-off benefits" for HLS.

"For example, [this year's] seminar on International Finance is co-taught by Professor Hal Scott and Joseph Flom [48] of Skadden Arps," said Clark. "Flom got involved in the school because of the campaign which led him to participate in the seminar."

But not everything about the drive has been perfect.

"A challenge we face is getting people to raise their sights," Clark said. "Our alumni contribute at a higher percentage rate...[but] we are trying to get people thinking larger than the average contribution."

"We have not done as well getting the mega-gifts that make a campaign easy...[We have] some money from companies and some from foundations. Even when we're talking about companies and foundations, it's almost always through an alumni connection."

Nichols also said that attracting support for the library has been difficult.

"Traditionally libraries are more difficult to raise money for," he said. "People would rather give money to people, [such as] through financial aid."

Some students note the lack of funding earmarked for computing services, a recent focus of campus complaints.

"We're probably one of the few law schools that charge for e-mail and computer services," Jackie Park '95 said. "It makes a difference in how students feel about the school."

Others remain optimistic about the campaign's potential.

"When we raise everybody's sights like this...it will be a tremendous boost for legal education generally," said Sander.

"Ultimately the concern is about people and the law, [with] law reform on one side and our students and their education working together," said Kaufman. "That's animated every aspect of the program."

"It's not a program about bricks and mortar. When we talk about redoing the library, we're talking about bringing it into the 21st century so it's a user-friendly place."

Don't like what you're seeing?

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To submit a letter to the editor, simply put a hard copy and an IBM- or Mac-formatted disk in Greg Stohr's 2L box or in the RECORD drop box in the Hark (near the north exit) by Monday at 5:00 PM.

Letters should be a maximum of 500 words.

# Black History Month

continued from HISTORY, page 1

from the present practice of Black History Month because of whites' negative, or at least complacent, attitudes.

"It is a damn shame that we had not even finished [Hark]-boxing the Black History Month calendars before the trash cans were filled with them," Greene said. She conceded, however, that Black History Month has been somewhat effective, considering that Women's History Month in March and Latino Awareness Month in November are hardly acknowledged by the public.

Robert McBurney '95, who is white, said Black History Month as an institution is good. He agrees that Americans should not need a Black History Month, but thinks the "perfect world" is not coming anytime soon.

"On television [in February], you'll get to see the 'Jesse Owens Story' or 'Roots,'" McBurney said. "Ideally, this stuff would be on all the time, but it isn't. I would hate to have people throw it away because they say, 'it's tokenism.'"

McBurney said the emphasis should not be on the media, but rather on incorporating black history into early education.

"The impact is much greater when you're in the third grade, not when you're 25 years old," he said.

Blacks in particular at HLS have dif-

fering views of how best to recognize and celebrate black history.

Gordon Wright '95 said the month is a time for black people to get themselves together, much like Kwanzaa, a week-long African-American holiday that begins Dec. 26.

"But I don't know why white people would want to celebrate Black History Month. I guess they would if they wanted to become educated," he said.

A graduate of the historically black Hampton University, Wright said he did not really celebrate Black History Month as an undergraduate because black colleges taught him to appreciate the historical contributions of blacks all year.

Greene said many people talk about the necessity of integrating black history into general American history, but they do nothing to induce the change.

Michael

Baratta '95, who is white, said Black History Month is a positive event, but the activities seem to be exclusively designed for blacks.

"I would invite some kind of interchange and discourse between different cultures," he said.

Gilbert said activities during Black History Month serve an important purpose. But echoing others, she said, "Unfortunately, it's only celebrated by blacks, when it should be recognized by everybody."

**Most would agree that a perfect world would have no need for a Black History Month.**

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## Six Degrees Short

By Maddy Fain '94

RECORD Columnist



FOR Ouisa Kittredge (Stockard Channing), the heroine of Fred Schepisi's film *Six Degrees of Separation*, the idea that everyone in the world is bound together with everyone else by only six people is a comforting thought (although personally, I would not feel comforted unless there were at least 100 people between me and Jesse Helms). Knowing that only six degrees separate her from the entire human population gives Ouisa a belief that she has control in an otherwise chaotic world. But the more that Ouisa and the other characters try to take control of that world, the more they find themselves hurled into chaos and randomness.

Ouisa and Flanders (Donald Sutherland) Kittredge are unscrupulous art dealers who run their business out of their plush Manhattan apartment. While in the midst of trying to make a sale with a South African buyer, a young African-American who calls himself Paul (Will Smith, a.k.a. the Fresh Prince) shows up at their door with a stab wound.

Paul tells the Kittredges that he knows their children at Harvard, that he was stabbed in the park and that he has no place else to go. The Kittredges are particularly convinced by Paul's story when he describes their two-sided Kandinsky painting, which portrays chaos and control.

After the Kittredges invite him to stay, Paul tells them that he is

Sidney Poitier's son and that his father is coming to New York to make a film based on the Broadway play *Cats*, in which he promises to get them all a part. The Kittredges and their South African guest are swept up in Paul's story, his brilliance and his impeccable manners. Largely due to Paul, Flanders makes the sale to the South African for \$2 million.

All isn't well that seems to end well, however. Later that night, Ouisa, awakened by moaning, startles Paul and his male lover making passionate love in the guest room. Shocked, Ouisa and Flanders throw Paul and his guest out of the house, lock the door, and try to continue with their lives.

But reality won't comply. After going out to lunch with another couple, they discover that Paul has made several visits using the same story about being stabbed and needing to meet his father, Sidney Poitier. Realizing that Paul must have some connection with their children, they decide to enlist their obnoxious whiny kids in an investigation. Through the search, the Kittredges learn more about Paul and the cons he pulls. Paul, however, does not realize that the Kittredges are even more sophisticated con-artists than he is.

Paul is the whirlwind in this meticulously crafted film. He enters people's lives unexpectedly and changes them in a profound way. Whether Paul changes people for good or ill is uncertain, but his intent is never malicious.

Ouisa is the most affected by Paul — he is the caring child she never had and brings meaning and beauty to her otherwise random life. Flanders, however, is hardly changed by Paul at all. The consequent tension between the two Kittredges is second only to the tension within Ouisa herself: Whether Ouisa gives in to her soul or to her material desires is often the focus of the film, perhaps too much so.

The best part of the film is the dialogue itself, credit for which goes to the ingenious screenplay written by John Guare, also author of the play upon which the film is based. Paul's lines are so beautifully written that they almost seem too good and too intense for film. Indeed, given the heavy focus on dialogue and the small number of scene changes, the story would probably be more enjoyable on stage than on the big screen.

**Paul is not able to rise out of his dangerous predicament. And if he did, what would he aspire to — the lives of materialistic white people?**

Channing was nominated for an Oscar for her role as Ouisa, but were I on the committee I also would have nominated Will Smith. Smith's superb portrayal of Paul demonstrates that he is one the great young actors today, and I expect he will be cast in many more films to come. Conversely, Donald Sutherland is less impressive and less believable as the materialistic, conniving Flanders.

Although the plot was interesting, I was somewhat confused about the film's message and its preoccupation with Ouisa. I wanted to know more about the other characters and especially more about Paul. Given the failure to develop his character more fully, it is hardly surprising that the film also leaves clouds of ambiguity around the issues of race and homosexuality which largely define Paul. Both are important in the film, but its message about either one is somewhat unclear.

Paul longs to be like Ouisa and Flanders, the wealthy people who are everything he is not. He imagines that his salvation lies in being lifted out of his situation by the Kittredges and other rich white people. But what about his own self-empowerment?

Even with his intelligence and his creativity, Paul is not able to rise out of his dangerous predicament. And if he did, what would he aspire to — the lives of materialistic white people? Further, throughout the film, whether Paul is ever more than a tool for white people, both sexually and spiritually, is unclear.

Ultimately, Paul becomes irrelevant except for the incredible wake he leaves behind. It is this lack of certainty and resolution regarding Paul which makes *Six Degrees of Separation* six degrees less of the film it could have been.

**Rating: ★★☆☆**

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