



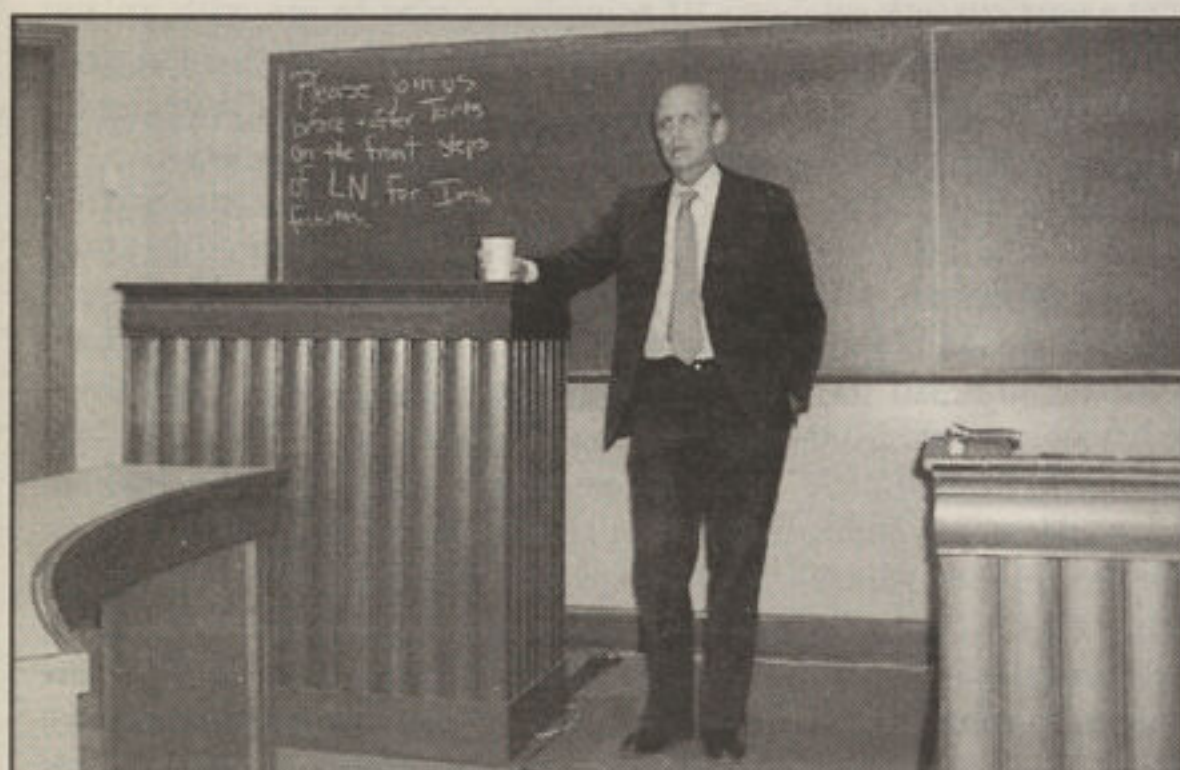
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Justice Stephen Breyer '64 discusses a day in the life of a Supreme Court Justice before Ames.

Spinning LIPP: HLS Students Call for Reform

By Alyssa Caples

The campaign to reinvigorate the Low Income Protection Plan (LIPP) intensified at a town meeting this Monday, as students urged the administration to inject new and permanent funds into Harvard Law School's once revolutionary loan repayment program for graduates who accept lower-paying jobs.

Unless it is reformed, LIPP risks falling into the shadow of its more progressive counterparts at law schools with endowments often dwarfed by HLS's own sizable resources.

Yale's program, for instance, pays for all the need-based and parental contribution loans of graduates earning less than \$34,720; HLS's analogous ceiling stands at \$29,000. Yale also allows its program participants to accumulate more assets than LIPP does.

The viability of a school's loan repayment plan impacts the heart of a student's choice of law school, said Alexa Shabecoff, director of OPIA.

"I spend a lot of time talking to admitted students," she said. "I get a lot of people with a Root-Tilden Fellowship at NYU which covers two-thirds to the full ride. That's a big deal to them. The prospect of graduating with very reduced or non-existent debt is very attractive."

"When people ask me what is the single thing that we could do to increase the number of students and alumni going into public interest work, I always say making LIPP work," said Shabecoff.

Conversations with the Dean

In a letter to Dean Clark '72 this January, members of the Stu-

Please see LIPP, p. 5

Garden Street Rape Sparks HLS Safety Concerns

By Suzanne Carter

Hours after students held a rally requesting Harvard University to adopt tougher policies against sexual violence, a Harvard-affiliated woman was raped inside Byerly Hall, a university administration building.

The rape has prompted cries for an expanded student shuttle service and focused attention on self-defense and building security at the Law School.

Byerly Hall houses the College Office of Admissions and Financial Aid, the College Student Employment Office, and the main offices of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. It is located on 8 Garden Street at the south end of Cambridge Common park.

The rape is still under investigation, according to Harvard University Police Department (HUPD) spokeswoman Peggy McNamara.

"We're working on it, and we're hoping for the best,"

McNamara said.

The last time a Harvard-affiliated person was the victim of a reported non-acquaintance rape on university property was March 1996, when a College student was raped in Adams House. That crime remains unsolved.

Non-acquaintance, or "stranger," rape remains relatively uncommon in Cambridge. Twenty-five people reported rapes in 1998 within city limits, according to Cambridge Police Department statistics. Only one was a stranger rape.

LSC President Dan Fridman '99, who matriculated to the University of Florida one year after the infamous Gainesville murders occurred, noted that schools often don't commit to making safety a priority until after a crime such as the recent rape.

"It's possible that we do need to re-think how safe our Law School campus is," he said.

Shuttle Bus Blues

Fridman sees much room for

the improvement of safety at the Law School.

Last fall, the Harvard University shuttle service eliminated its off-campus routes, said Fridman. "Many students chose their apartments relying on these routes being available, and we've been trying to get these routes restored," he said.

LSC Representative Josh Kurland '01 added that students who took tours of HLS last summer were told they could live off-campus "because there would be a shuttle to get them home."

Kurland noted that a student could cheat the shuttle bus system by asking the driver to take them to a University building close to his home. "Of course," he said, "that's not the safest thing, because you're still walking around in the dark."

"They can take you to Peabody Terrace, but not to the house next door to Peabody Terrace. It seems pretty silly to me."

Please see SAFETY, p. 2

HLS RAPs Record Companies

By Doug Sims

Young musician attracts a local following and burns his own demo CD. Fat cat executive expresses a passing interest. Talk of a "deal" ensues. Fat cat's lawyers draft an impenetrable contract. Young musician sells his song for a song and the record company lives happily ever after. The Harvard Recording Art-

ists' Project (RAP) aims to rewrite this modern immortality tale by providing legal advice and assistance to urban music recording artists who would otherwise be unable to afford it.

HLS's newest clinical program was founded last year by Rafael Mares '99 and Kami Chavis '99. Inspired by a similar program in New York run by practicing attorneys, Mares and Chavis recognized the opportunity to combat injustice while giving students concrete experience in transactional and entertainment lawyering.

Mares, who is active in several practice areas of the Hale and Dorr Legal Services Center, sees RAP as an extension of traditional legal aid programs.

"The injustices that people experience in the music industry is a justice issue that people haven't looked at," Mares said. "When people think of legal services they think of how to help people get welfare and housing — how to get basic needs. That's not the only way to promote social justice."

RAP helps individuals grapple with a business that is as cutthroat as it is glamorous and complex. According to Mares, the typical entertainment lawyer charges between \$150 and \$400 per hour, which means that a basic contract negotiation with a record label can cost anywhere from \$2000 to \$4000.

For RAP's clients, who come mainly from impoverished communities of color in Boston, such fees are prohibitive. Nor do these artists typically have a network of friends and family that practice or are familiar with the law. Combine these facts with the

blinding euphoria that hits when one is offered a "deal," and you have a situation in which record companies routinely abuse their superior bargaining power.

"People have a dream," said Mares. "They have their art; they want to make it. They see a financial benefit and they sign anything. The music industry takes advantage of that."

Before being assigned a case, RAP student attorneys are trained by accomplished practitioners in several areas including trademark, copyright, recording contracts, merchandizing and business organization. In an upcoming training session, an ex-

Please see RAP, p. 5

North Hall No Comfort Inn

By RECORD Staff

People in North Hall are mad as hell, and they're not going to take it anymore.

"There's no way that North Hall is worth the money we pay for it," complained one North resident.

"It's falling apart," he said, expressing his belief that North's \$10,000 per room annual price tag is not commensurate with Cambridge property values.

Wither, Dan Murphy?

The ire of many a North denizen is directed at erstwhile HLS Dormitory Officer Dan Murphy.

Murphy transferred to another HU office in December, but his reputation lives on in the aggravated hearts of several former North residents.

One student who left North last winter after a series of Murphy run-ins compared his reign as Dormitory Officer to

an autocracy.

"He seemed to be the only person to make the final decision. I found it impossible to get any satisfaction regarding the concerns I expressed to him," she said.

Murphy was insensitive to the student despite her increasing medical and emotional discomfort, which stemmed from her noisy room in North.

"He said that nobody com-

plained before about what I brought up, so therefore, no significant problem could possibly exist," she said. The student said she felt that the Dormitory Officer held too much unchecked power. "Who is the housing office accountable too?" she asked. "Nobody knows."

LL.M.s Outraged

LL.M.s voice a different complaint against the Housing Office — that they have been rail-

roaded into residing in North Hall, the most expensive dormitory at HLS. The yearly lottery for HLS dormitory rooms is first opened to rising second- and third-year students in the spring, and then to new students once they are matriculated. As the last students to be admitted, LL.M.s are left with few alternatives: in many cases, they are placed either in the low-rent Gropius Complex (described by many as "claustrophobic") or in high-priced North Hall.

According to the Housing Office, in 1997/98, there were 31 LL.M. students in North Hall, compared with 48 in Gropius. No LL.M.s had rooms in the more popular Hastings and Wyeth dormitories.

As one student pointed out, "LL.M. students feel taken advantage of financially because there is little choice, we feel they get put in North Hall be-

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Jay Webber returns the gauntlet; Boldizar impresses the Copy Editor; and Fenno goes postal.

The Nuts and Bolts of LIPP Explicated

By Alyssa Caples

Students considering jobs in public service or with small or medium private firms after graduation may be deterred by a combination of heavy debt loads and relatively low-paying salaries.

Each year the Law School's Low Income Protection Plan assists about 30 to 40 graduating students and numerous alumni with their loan payments. Currently there are 214 LIPP participants; they range from prosecutors to academics to human rights activists. This year, LIPP's budget is \$1.4 million.

What Is LIPP?

The HLS loan forgiveness program covers loans for graduates earning less than \$49,500 after graduation, with a \$1,000 per year cap increase each year thereafter.

The only loans eligible for LIPP are those which cover a student's need-based and parental contribution borrowing. "Borrowing to replace a student contribution and borrowing in excess of the student budget is not covered under LIPP," said Lisa Dealy, the Director of LIPP and Summer Funding. "In the case of medical expenses or something like that, we allow it, but borrowing because of a higher rent is usually not LIPP eligible."

Need-based borrowing and parental contribution borrowing are treated differently. Participants with need-based loans will receive loan forgiveness for as long as they participate in LIPP. These LIPP payments do not have to be repaid if a participant leaves the program.

Parental contribution borrowing is treated somewhat differently. For the first three years in LIPP, students who do not qualify as independents are loaned money by LIPP on the basis of their imputed parental contribution, as calculated by the Financial Aid Office. In a participant's fourth year, the parental contribution loan payment is covered by LIPP in the same way that the need-based borrowing loan

payment is, and one-seventh of the LIPP loan from the first three years is repaid by the program each year. By the tenth year in the program, the imputed parental contribution loan will be completely covered by LIPP funds.

The system assumes that a student's parents will help pay back a certain amount of loans for a certain number of years and then abruptly stop.

"It is an empirical fact that people who have parents with various sources of income and assets...will get help on down payments on homes in the future and inheritances," said Prof. Louis Kaplow '81, who sits on the Financial Aid Committee.

If a participant with parental contribution loans leaves the program before the LIPP loan is paid back, he or she will have to make payments on this loan at the market rate of interest, which has been defined as eight per cent for the past several years.

According to Dealy, participants spend an average of five years in the program. "Most people who leave LIPP do not[leave for] a high paying job," she said. "It can still be very onerous, especially if you have to pay back the parental contribution loans."

Marriage Penalty

LIPP will pay back all loans of participants earning \$29,000 or less. For those earning between \$29,001 and \$34,000, the participant must contribute 20 per cent of any income over \$29,000, with LIPP absorbing the rest.

This percentage increases as incomes rise. In this way, the program is based on debt/income ratios. The lower your debt is, the more likely you will be bumped out of LIPP at a relatively low salary.

If a LIPP participant marries someone with a higher salary than his or her own, the average of the two salaries is taken to calculate the participant's LIPP eligible salary. No such averaging calculation is done for participants who co-habitate with higher earning partners.

"The program really treats it as, 'If you're married, you're married,'" said Dealy. "There

are people who say they aren't getting married so that they can remain in LIPP."

LIPP also allows a dependency allowance of \$4,400 for the participant's first child and \$3,520 for each additional child (up to a maximum of three). These allowances, in addition to expenses for reasonable child care, are deducted from a participant's salary before LIPP eligibility is calculated.

While payments for college loans are not covered by LIPP, an allowance is made for those payments. That is, if a participant is expected to contribute \$200 per month to law school loan payments and has \$100 in monthly college loan payments as well, the participant will pay \$100 towards the law school loan and \$100 in college loan payments. LIPP will pick up the rest of the law school loan payment.

"Unfortunately, for graduates whose monthly contribution is zero, there is nothing to offset the college loans with, so it hurts the people who need it the most," said Dealy.

Eligibility Requirements

J.D. graduates working in a full-time, law-related job are eligible for LIPP. The LIPP guidelines define "law-related" jobs as those in which the "distinctive intellectual skill acquired in a legal education are generally recognized as useful in the job."

"The definition is fairly open to interpretation," said Dealy. "Some of the positions that are not covered are high school teach-

ing or political journalists, but reporters on legal beats would be allowed. We have one graduate working for Court TV. We also tend to be pretty flexible on the international front. A lot of that work tends to be more human-rights oriented and these we decide on a case-by-case basis.

"If someone comes to me with an unusual position, I usually ask them to write something up so I can bring it to the Financial Aid Committee," she says.

"We define eligibility by income and not by specific criteria of what counts as a public interest job. The faculty decided this a long time ago," said Kaplow. "A graduate who hangs out a shingle in a small town or someone working in a boutique First Amendment firm" are also LIPP eligible.

Up to three months of parental leave will be covered by LIPP if loans cannot be rescheduled during the leave. The Financial Aid Committee is currently considering increasing the length of parental leave from three to six months. Yale's loan repayment program, for one, allows a six month parental leave.

For those parents who decide to work part-time after having children, the amount of their aid under LIPP is reduced by the amount of time not worked. For instance, for a participant who would receive \$2,000 in LIPP funding if working full time, but is only working 50 per cent of the time, he or she would receive \$1,000 of assistance.

1998-99 LIPP Salary Guidelines

Annual Income	Portion of Annual Income Expected Toward Eligible Loan Repayments
\$29,000 or less	0%
\$29,000-\$34,000	\$0 + 20% of amount over \$29,000
\$34,000-\$39,000	\$1,000 + 40% of amount over \$34,000
\$39,000-\$49,000	\$3,000 + 60% of amount over \$39,000
Over \$49,500	Not eligible for LIPP*

*At the beginning of the year after graduation, and for each year thereafter, the ceiling will be increased by \$1,000/year. For example, in the 1998-99 LIPP year, a graduate from the Class of 1996 would be considered in his or her second year out. This graduate's salary cap would be \$51,500.

Source: http://www.law.harvard.edu/students/Financial_Aid/lipp.htm#income

Law School Council on Shuttle Bus's Case

Continued from SAFETY, p. 1

Off-campus shuttle bus service was discontinued last year due to the University's concern with rising insurance rates. Harvard University is self-insured through its endowment.

The University Transportation Service has attempted to expand its insurance policy which would enable the shuttle to travel off-campus. According to Kurland, however, the University's insurance department rejected such a plan as too expensive.

Although LSC has made off-campus route restoration a priority since October, administrators on the Student Concerns Group have forsaken the Council's goal in favor of other reforms.

Fridman met with the Student Concerns Group regarding shuttle services Wednesday.

"We're hoping that this community alert will enable us to bring safety issues to the forefront of campus discussion and give us the leverage to make [the administration] realize they need to provide shuttle services," he said.

Indeed, the shuttle service comes administration-approved. Utilizing the shuttle to get around campus is one in a series of suggested crime-prevention measures listed in an e-mail circulated by Building Operations Director John Sarno.

The e-mail, however, listed few suggestions for students living off-campus. One idea, the HUPD Safety Walk Program, described as "a student volunteer organization that provides a walking escort in the Cambridge campus and typically over routes not traveled by the shuttle bus," is apparently now defunct.

The Safety Walk telephone line plays

this message: "Unfortunately we are no longer in service for this semester. Reading period and finals are generally very difficult on our volunteer schedules."

The message ends by suggesting callers contact the shuttle bus service.

Fridman said Sarno's focus on dorm residents was typical of the HLS administrative response.

"They're saying we're alerting you about crimes occurring around campus, but we're not going to protect you once you leave campus," he said.

Can These Walls Protect Us?

The Garden Street rape incident took on additional controversy when Byerly House employees told the Harvard Crimson last week that the building's security system had been broken for a year.

It is unknown how the suspect entered the Hall. If the alarm worked, it would have alerted HUPD if the perpetrator broke in through a door or window, HUPD Chief Francis D. "Bud" Riley said.

Many of the Law School's buildings have door alarms, Sarno said. Many, however, are egress alarms, which means the alarm is only triggered if an unauthorized person exits through that door.

Furthermore, some HLS buildings have no alarms. "Austin Hall is not alarmed to my knowledge," Sarno said, adding that he has been in charge of building operations for only six or seven months, so he's "still learning about my buildings."

The HLS tunnels snaking beneath the Law School campus are not patrolled by security cameras, Sarno said.

Sarno noted that it might be fairly easy for non-Harvard-affiliated persons to get into the tunnels. "For the most part, many of the law school buildings are open up to

certain hours, and if you get into the building you can get in the tunnels," he said.

There has not, however, been a problem with suspicious "outsiders" meandering the tunnels, said Sarno.

Sarno said that he felt current building security measures at the Law School were relatively effective. "The Law School has its own security patrol in force from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m., and it goes 24 hours on Saturday and Sunday."

"Any problems — broken doors, etc. — are called in immediately to be prepared," Sarno noted.

Fridman said that LSC members recently notified Sarno of a door in Ames Hall which has not been locked securely for approximately a month. According to Fridman, Sarno "promised he would have it fixed immediately."

Look Out Xena!

Students can take safety concerns into their own hands by signing up for a self-defense course. For the first time in University history, the HUPD will offer a self-defense/crime-prevention course specifically for Law School women.

Jamie Kohen '01, a member of the Women's Law Association who is organizing the course, said that self-defense classes have always been available through HUPD, but they have suffered from inadequate publicity and have not been focused on the Law School.

Response to the self-defense course, which has been advertised in the Adviser as well as through Law School-wide e-

mails, has been tremendous, Kohen said. As of Tuesday, approximately 110 women have expressed interest in registering.

Byerly Hall's proximity to the Law School may be one reason for the interest in self-defense at HLS.

"I think [interest in the course] was somewhat prompted by the recent fear," Kohen said, adding that the Women's Law Association decided to sponsor the course before the Garden Street rape.

The self-defense courses will probably be limited to approximately 25 students each, Kohen says. She intends to give priority to 3Ls and LL.M.s wanting to learn self-defense tactics because of their impending graduation.

"Hopefully we will repeat the course until all of the women who want to have taken the course," she said.

Additionally, the course is open to other Law School-affiliated women, such as spouses of students.

Kohen hopes the courses will "place a high priority on confidentiality and privacy and creating an open environment for the women to learn in."

The perpetrator of the rape has been described as a thin, short-haired, six-foot tall white male, 35-40 years of age, with a thin, acne-scarred face. At the time of the attack, he was wearing a beige shirt, slacks and shoes. Students should call 495-1215 if they have any tips. Women interested in learning more about the HUPD/HLS crime-prevention/self-defense course can contact Kohen at jkohen@law.harvard.edu.

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La Alianza Conference Speakers Have Access to Grind

By Ben Lehrer

Access to good schools, capital and the halls of political power was the theme of the second annual Latino Law and Public Policy Conference, held at the Law School on Saturday.

A wide variety of speakers, including legal scholars, community activists and teachers, addressed the challenges Latino communities face as the millennium draws to a close.

The conference, entitled "Access to Opportunity," was sponsored by La Alianza and two Latino groups from the Kennedy School of Government, the Latino Caucus and the Harvard Journal of Hispanic Policy.

Over 70 people, most of whom were students from the various Harvard graduate schools, attended the conference. Until Prof. Lani Guinier came to the final panel on Latino/Afro-American relations, there was a noticeable absence of HLS faculty members.

"It would have been nice if someone from the HLS faculty could have taken the time from their busy schedule to support these students who organized this conference," said Kevin Johnson '83, who moderated one of the morning sessions.

It's the Education, Stupid

Mark Fassold '99 is serving as an expert witness in a suit filed by the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund (MALDEF) against the state of Texas challenging its requirement that students pass the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills in order to receive a high school diploma.

"Minority students pass at half the rate of white students," said Fassold. MALDEF claims that the disparate impact the test has on minority students violates Title VI.

"Texas claims it uses the tests to hold schools accountable," said Fassold. "But the students are the ones who bear the cost of failure." The lawsuit is aimed at eliminating the diploma denial sanction.

The statewide test negatively impacts minority students partially because minority-dominant schools have small per student expenditures, relatively low teacher qualification standards and comparatively meager curriculum choices.

Such achievement tests are the wave of the future, said Jane Lopez, an attorney with Multicultural Education, Training & Advocacy, a national nonprofit dedicated to protecting the educational rights of language minorities, immigrants and impoverished children. "It's all part of education reform," she said.

"Tensions are very high because of these [standardized] tests," said Lopez. "Recently in Brighton a parent punched a teacher because he felt his child was not getting the education needed to pass the test."

Sheila Chung, a paralegal at MALDEF, discussed a lawsuit recently brought by MALDEF and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund against the University of California Board of Regents.

Ever since California passed a voter initiative banning affirmative action and the Regents adopted a race-blind admissions policy for the U.C. system, the effects of social and economic inequality have been manifested in declining minority enrollment.



MALDEF paralegal Sheila Chung speaks with two participants at the La Alianza conference last weekend.

"The admissions process favors students who have access to advanced classes as well as puts undue weight on SAT scores," she said. Since schools in minority communities, which tend to be inadequately endowed, offer fewer advanced classes, some 4.0 students from minority-dominant school districts were denied admittance to U.C.-Berkeley.

"Chicano-Latino enrollment declined by 43 per cent and African-American enrollment declined by over 50 per cent in the U.C. system last year," said Chung. The result of California's so-called race blind policy has only been to highlight the pervasive racial inequalities in the state's secondary school system, she said.

Steve Fernandez, a science teacher at Boston Latin High School, maintained that California is not unique in this phenomenon.

Even before the First Circuit Court of Appeals struck down the magnet school's affirmative action policy, only 33 per cent of the students were African-American or Latino, even though 75 per cent of Boston school-age children were from these groups.

After the First Circuit's decision, minority enrollment dropped by one-third, despite Boston Latin's concoction of a modified policy. This policy was recently struck down by the First Circuit, leading Fernandez to predict further decreases.

Eight percent of white Boston children live below the poverty line, according to Leslie Pasqual, a student at Boston Latin accompanying Fernandez. By contrast, 54 per cent of Latino children and 40 per cent of African-American children live in poverty.

White Faces in High Places

The link between poverty and disenfranchisement was the focus of a panel on community economic development.

The panel discussed the catch-22 that poor communities are caught in. They need lending in order to develop both individual wealth and what panelist David Cortiella described as "community capital," yet the banking community won't invest in a community that has no collateral to offer in exchange.

eral to offer in exchange.

"Banks should look beyond the traditional factors when making lending decisions and take a more community stance," said Ruth Sandoval, the Deputy Director of the Minority Business Development Agency under the Department of Commerce. "When I worked with community development banks, I took sheep as collateral. You wouldn't see a commercial bank do that."

Community development banks, most of which are federally funded, provide only a tiny fraction of poor communities' lending needs.

Unfortunately, the specter of race looms over the entry of commercial banks into the field.

"It is a huge challenge to get anything done in the banking community to help Latino communities because the decision makers who hold the money are all white," said Sandoval.

This idea was echoed by a member of the audience during the education panel.

"If you go to the State Department of Education, you'll see all white people. In towns, school boards are almost all white. The superintendents? White. There is a disjunction between who goes to schools and who makes the decisions," he said.

Kevin Johnson, who delivered the keynote speech at the conference's luncheon, noted that Latinos had made considerable progress in gaining access to political power.

"The increase in power is more than a reflection of demographic growth," he said. "But although we are not powerless, we are still not empowered." Only when more Latinos hold positions of power in political and economic structures will the needs of the community be more adequately served, he said.

Sandoval agreed on that point. "As an appointee of the administration, I can't emphasize how important it is to see others like you working in leadership roles, people who understand your problems, share the same experiences and face the same issues as you and your children," she said.

~ In Memoriam ~

Ex-Mob Prosecutor Weisman '27 Dies

Herman L. Weisman, a former New York prosecutor who took on the likes of mobsters Lucky Luciano and Bugsy Siegel, has died at 95.

Weisman, who died on March 7, was a Harvard Law graduate who won appointment to special posts in the New York attorney general's office.

He helped prosecute members of Murder Inc., a gang of contract killers organized by Luciano and Siegel. The organization consisted of at least nine killers at one point.

"When I was little more than a baby, I remember a big black limousine and detectives with guns at their hips picking him up and taking him to court," recalled his son Edward Weisman. "He needed protection."

Later, in private practice, the elder Weisman counted Eleanor Roosevelt among his clients.

Weisman also served as president of several Zionist organizations.

—Associated Press

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Briefs

Amtrak Unveils High-Speed Train

Amtrak unveiled a new high-speed train last week that is designed to whisk passengers at 150 mph between Washington, New York and Boston and revitalize the railroad by competing with airlines on such trips.

Named "Acela" (uh-SELL-ah), the new trains will travel between Boston and New York in three hours — an improvement of 90 minutes over the current trip — and from New York to Washington in as little as 2 1/2 hours, a savings of half an hour.

Service is to begin in November or December, and Amtrak officials hope it will be a model for similar trains in the Great Lakes, the Gulf Coast, California and the Pacific Northwest.

In addition to pledging speed, Amtrak promised an unparalleled service. Acela's snub-nosed, silver-and-turquoise trains will have business-class seats with audio and power jacks, special check-in areas and concierge service, plus dining cars with meeting tables, upgraded food and beer on tap.

The schedule has not been set, but Amtrak officials said it probably would maintain most current stops, including Baltimore, Philadelphia, New Haven, Conn., and Providence, R.I. The railroad will also retain its slower Northeast Direct service.

A one-way trip will cost about \$130 to \$140 each way between New York and Boston or Washington, an increase from the current Metroliner express fare of \$114 but still less than the \$199 walk-up fare charged by US Airways and Delta Air Lines. They are the two primary airlines offering shuttle service between Washington, New York and Boston.

—Associated Press

Grade Inflation Reigns at Columbia Law

In Columbia Law School's first-year classes, upper-class courses, and upper-class seminars from 1996 to 1998, less than 11 per cent of all grades have been B- or lower while 89 per cent of the grades have been a B or higher.

Professor Hans Smit, who has taught at the Law School since 1960, said grade distribution has changed. "Over the years, the configuration of grades has changed. The bulge in the curve was much lower, a C+, now it is a B."

Professor Jerry Lynch, who has been at Columbia Law for 21 years, has noticed a similar decrease in the number of Cs given out in his first-year course.

"I don't believe in inflating grades. The change just happened, and it happened dramatically. But I don't know why it happened," Lynch said.

While some law schools adhere to a strict grading policy, such as Duke, where the median grade has to be a 3.1, no such policy has been adopted at Columbia. Instead, grade distributions are circulated each year among faculty members and professors, and they are encouraged to abide by this distribution, according to Vice Dean of the Law School Richard Briffault '77.

Nevertheless, some Columbia professors say that grades have become increasingly uniform as profs view grades as increasingly arbitrary.

"There has been some concern over uniformity because of the great diversity and disparity of grades. We should have some kind of standards, but no one takes it seriously," he said.

Additionally, administrators often question professors who they see stray too far from the distribution, either above or below it. Last semester, Dean of Academic Affairs Zeita Marion Loble spoke with a professor who had given out Cs out to 24 per cent of his students.

"If a professor is really off the pattern, then I will call him into my office. In this case, he was so far off the pattern that I made him re-evaluate his grades. He ended up re-weighing his exam and changing his final grades," she said.

—The Columbia Spectator

Harvard Joins Sweatshop Oversight Group

In order to ensure that apparel bearing the Harvard name is produced under quality working conditions, HU will affiliate itself with the Fair Labor Association (FLA), a new organization planning to monitor clothing factories around the world.

Students in the Progressive Student Labor Movement (PSLM) have been agitating for months against University sweatshop policy. Last Tuesday, anti-sweatshop protesters rallied outside University Hall.

PSLM members disapproved of Harvard's decision to affiliate with the FLA.

According to Daniel Hennefeld, a senior at Harvard College, the FLA gives individual manufacturers too much control over the monitoring process and fails to include demands for a living wage.

Administrators, however, see it as a question of the best available means rather than the best possible means.

"A lot of colleges and universities have been looking for some way to hold their licensees to a certain standard...and the FLA provides a way to do that.

—The Harvard Crimson

BLSA Goes to Mother Country

A delegation from the Harvard Black Law Students Association (BLSA) is going to Ghana.

A delegation of 14 BLSA members will study the economic system and visit courts, a law school and former slave castles in the West African country over spring break.

"Other organizations have returned to their places of origin, such as the Asian Law Society," BLSA President T. J. Stevenson '00 said. "This will be the first time that the Harvard Black Law Students Association will be reaching out to the mother country."

West Africa Summit Chair Daisy Bygrave '00 solicited support from BLSA alumni, several law firms and Harvard faculty to fund the trip.

The West Africa Summit is designed to broaden student perspectives and to connect HLS with Africa. When the group returns to Cambridge in April, it plans to hold forums with law students and local high school and college students.

Stevenson says he considers the trip the capstone of his BLSA presidency. And on a personal level, he eagerly anticipates the voyage.

"I've never been overseas, and I'm very excited that Africa will be my first stop," he said.

• Letters •

Naked Grades Don't Work for Us Either

In last week's RECORD article regarding the LSC "Grade Your Professors" survey, several professors expressed their frustration and dismay with being evaluated by a single "naked grade." When Professor Hay quipped, "I would like to know what the minus is for," we were immediately struck by the irony. Many of us had asked the exact same question just two weeks ago when our own grades arrived. I hope it would not surprise any professor to learn that our grades were just as "naked" and un-

informative as they claim theirs were. At least the LSC grading system was promptly explained, and room for student comments on professor performance was included. Hay also noted, "I think that the more comments and detailed suggestions there are the more of an impact they will have." We couldn't agree more. So what's the problem? Faculty acknowledge that grades without comments are virtually pointless, and students have long been decrying the inanity of reduc-

ing an entire term's work to a letter. Clearly, the faculty and students are united on this issue. The fact that the administration has yet to respond is an example of institutional recalcitrance in addressing student concerns.

Professor Singer lamented his C+ in saying, "I wish I had done better, but I don't have enough information. For me, it didn't help very much." We feel his pain.

Baxter Wasson '01
Jay Munir '01
March 15, 1999

Message to Parody Writers: Phhtpph!!!

I write to express my sadness at the upcoming departure of your weekly "Spike" comic strip, and my gratitude to its creator, Margie McWilliams. I first started reading "Spike" in my 2L year because I was frightened by the drawings in "Reasonable Man." But, though I came because of fear, I stayed because of the joy. Every week, we followed the adventures of Spike, the sarcastic and wry

hero as s/he coped with the travails of life, law school and the pursuit of happiness. The message was a welcome one: don't take life around here too seriously, and don't let it go to your head. The artistic style of the strip underscored the message — the drawings were always light and whimsical, never labored (and never scary!). So, although certain

things will remain a mystery (is Spike a man or woman? how did Spike's childhood rabbit die?), one thing is clear — we will miss Spike very much. I am only cheered by imagining Spike's response to this letter, for s/he would surely wink, smile and say "Sorry, bunny!"

Thanks again, Margie.

Adam Szubin '99
March 15, 1999

Dersh Defenders Respond to Attacks

I have no intention of escalating the religious wars that have been raging in your pages, but I was particularly struck by one portion of Seth Tillman's March 12 jeremiad against Prof. Dershowitz. Tillman attacks Dershowitz's teaching style, describing it as consisting merely of "vigorous and highly entertaining accounts, regaling students with remembrances of past appellate victories and judicial officers bullied" and asking whether "anyone [has] learned much of anything" from it. It is unclear from Tillman's phrasing whether he has ever actually taken a course with

Dershowitz, but, having personally taken two courses with him, I would like to disagree with Tillman's indictment of Dershowitz's teaching ability.

Admittedly, it is unusual to encounter a professor at Harvard Law School who is both entertaining and able to bring practical experiences to bear on his or her subject matter; however, I think that Dershowitz deserves praise, not censure, for these qualities. I, for one, have learned something from Dershowitz's practice-oriented perspective on criminal law — the measure of real-world

understanding of how the criminal justice system works that I gained in Dershowitz's class was an enormous help to me in my later clinical work on death penalty cases, for example. While I certainly think a range of approaches to teaching can be equally valuable, it seems to me that the opportunity to get the inside perspective of an experienced litigator makes Dershowitz a valuable resource for students — and may also help account for the fact that his courses are consistently oversubscribed.

Jessie Hill '99
March 15, 1999

In a letter to the editor dated March 7, 1999, Seth Barrett Tillman '00 challenged Professor Alan Dershowitz for inconsistencies between his beliefs about the role of religion in society and about the sanctity of First Amendment Rights. Not having attended the debate to which Tillman's letter refers, I am unable to respond to the critiques of Professor Dershowitz's intellectual consistency. I do, however, take issue with Tillman's characterization of Prof. Dershowitz's teaching. According to Tillman, Dershowitz's "teaching amounts to vigorous and highly entertaining accounts, regaling students with remembrances of past appellate victories and judicial officers bullied.... But after all is said and done, has anyone learned much of anything?" I would say I have.

I came to law school preaching the same vague platitudes as many of my classmates: "I want to com-

bine law and policy, policy and law." What kind of policy? What kind of law? I had no idea. Except for one thing, I knew I didn't want anything to do with criminal law. After two months in Professor Dershowitz's class, that may no longer be true. Professor Dershowitz's class has not only convinced me I made the right decision to come to law school but has led me to take seriously a career in criminal law.

The class has provided the opportunity to delve into theoretical and ethical issues otherwise neglected in the first year curriculum. We have debated how to balance protection of the innocent with punishment for the guilty and examined the role of the zealous advocate. We have questioned whether the Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination should extend to hit-and-run statutes; we have developed a framework for analyzing the effect of the exclusionary rule on

police behavior; and we have analyzed the practical effects of derivative immunity on future criminal prosecution. In such discussions, Professor Dershowitz not only welcomes contrarian views, but actually solicits diverse opinions through the well-developed tactic of playing devil's advocate.

It is true that Professor Dershowitz regales us with stories of appellate successes (and failures). Most are used to make relevant points, bringing a dose of the real world and the personal to the discussion. Those that don't — those vigorous and entertaining stories somewhat afar from the topic at hand — are a price well worth paying for a professor who is both engaged and engaging, who challenges and respects students, and who, on a personal level, has led me to explore a career path I had never before considered.

Jennifer Daskal '01
March 16, 1999

[Re: "Buck '00 Rejoins Dersh's Views"] It is true that Prof. Dershowitz sometimes disagrees vehemently with the positions taken by leaders of the Orthodox community. But he is also frequently the first (literally) to stand and fight for many important Jewish causes, including some which are most identifiable with the Orthodox community. Dershowitz proudly associates himself with a wide range of Jewish groups on campus; he serves as faculty adviser for the Harvard Jewish Law Students Association and the Harvard Friends of Chabad.

The implication that Dershowitz is prejudiced against Orthodox Jews is not accurate. As an Orthodox Jew in Dershowitz's class, I never

felt mistreated. Quite to the contrary, during the first week of school, Dershowitz approached me outside of class and started a conversation about the yeshivas we have attended. He said that he was pleased to have me in his class, and that if I ever have any problems in school because of my religion, I should come to him for help.

[Re: "Dersh Compared Me..."] Having been in Dershowitz's Criminal Law class last fall, I never saw him shy from calling on people who disagreed with him. In fact, he encouraged those with dissenting views to speak up so that he could engage them in lengthy debate. Even though I often disagreed with him, he frequently called upon me

(fortunately there were not too many cold calls) when I raised my hand in class — and I am easily identifiable as an Orthodox Jew.

As for the substance of his teaching, Dershowitz said on the first day of class that he was not going to teach us the black letter of the law; we could read that on our own. Instead he taught us about the foundations of criminal law so that we would have the tools to understand and practice the law, both when we graduate and ten, twenty, and thirty years down the line. I found both the style and substance of his teaching to be intellectually stimulating.

Aharon Friedman '00
March 16, 1999

Recycle the RECORD Recycle the RECORD Recycle the RECORD Recycle the RECORD Recycle the RECORD Recycle the RECORD
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Harvard Law RECORD

PUBLISHER
Seth Persily



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Ben Lehrer

FOUNDED IN 1946

Et tu, Bobbe

Friends, students, alumni, lend me your ears;
I come to bury LIPP, not to praise it.
The cost of programs will live after them;
The good will be interred with their bones.
So let it be with LIPP. The noble Clark
Hath told you LIPP is too costly:
If it is so, it is a grievous fault,
And grievously will Clark answer it.
Here, under leave of Clark and the rest —
For Clark is an honorable man;
Come I to speak at LIPP's funeral.
LIPP is our friend, faithful and just to us:
But Clark says it is too costly;
And Clark is an honorable man.
Alumni say they support the program,
It is their ransoms that fill the general coffers.
We are told LIPP is not a priority —
Then we should make it into one:
Yet Clark says they won't give for it;
And Clark is an honorable man.
I speak not to disprove what Clark says,
But here I am to speak what I do know.
A neglected LIPP is a dead LIPP;
And with it this institution's honor.
Students, faculty and alumni, join in
Speak in the language he understands —
I know that Clark will hear us
And act to restore the school's name;
For Clark is an honorable man.
Isn't he?

— Ben Lehrer

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Main office — Harvard Law RECORD, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA 02138-9984
Telephone: (617) 495-4418 • Fax (617) 495-8457 • E-mail: RECORD@law.harvard.edu

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"Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press;..."

—First Amendment, U.S. Constitution

• Letters, cont. •

Dersh Responds to Detractors

I had not intended to respond further to the *ad hominem* attack begun by Stuart Buck, but his letter and that of Seth Barrett Tillman are so full of demonstrable falsehoods and out and out lies that it would be irresponsible for me to leave the record uncorrected. Buck makes the following point:

[W]hen Clinton's legal team drafted a response to the Starr Report, bookstores started selling an audio tape of Dershowitz reading the White House rebuttal. I cannot imagine what would make any self-respecting law professor sell a tape of himself reading other lawyers' work product.

It would be an interesting criticism if it were true. But it is categorically false. I did not read "The White House Rebuttal." I read my own commentary, every word of which I wrote myself, including some critical of the President. (Dean Erwin Chemerinsky of the USC Law School also read a commentary. "The White House Rebuttal" was read by the same professional reader who read *The Starr Report*.) Buck could have learned that fact had he simply listened to the tape or even looked at the box. I have given a copy of the tape to the library so that anyone who wishes to can determine for themselves how wrong Buck is. Had Buck relied on newspaper gossip rather than doing his own primary research in writing a memorandum for a law firm, he would have been appropriately fired.

What Tillman did was even worse. He made up stories. He claims that I "singled" him out in a lecture by Harvey Silverglate "by calling on everyone in the room but" him. Does anyone who has ever had me as a teacher actually believe that I would be afraid to call on Tillman for fear that he would disagree with me? As anyone who knows me real-

izes, I love controversy and I go out of my way to call on students who disagree with me. Don't flatter yourself, Tillman. I am not afraid to debate you.

Tillman also lies when he says that I "publicly compared" him to Jewish fascists who worked for Mussolini before World War II. This is what happened. Following my debate with Professor Volokh, Tillman ran over to me and started to verbally attack me for my criticism of the religious right. In the course of my discussion with him I said that many Jews in Italy during the 1920s supported Mussolini's fascist party, before Mussolini made his alliance with Hitler. I said that American Jews who support anti-Semites like Pat Buchanan sometimes remind me of those misguided Italian Jews. He then shouted, "Are you comparing me to those Jews?" I said, "I have no idea who you are or what you stand for. I am talking about American Jews who support Pat Buchanan and others on the extreme religious right." Tillman turns that discussion into a public, personal attack on him, and Buck extends it even further by saying, "It's only a matter of time before Dershowitz starts saying that Orthodox Jews are like Nazis." This comment is beneath contempt. My mother is an Orthodox Jew, as are most of my family. If I had negative views of Orthodox Judaism I doubt that Yeshiva University would have given me an honorary doctorate, or that the Chabad at Harvard would have asked me to serve as its faculty advisor. I have been very supportive of Orthodox Judaism since I came to Harvard 35 years ago, including leading the campaign against holding graduation on the second day of Shevuot. What I despise are people like Tillman who claim to be Orthodox Jews but who hypocritically violate some of the most ba-

sic tenets of Judaism, including the sin of *Loshon Harah*, the spreading of false gossip (see Telushkin, *Words That Hurt, Words That Heal*, 1996).

Tillman claims that I told a Muslim student to "grow up" after he suggested "that it may be reasonable for a country with an Islamic majority to ban Rushdie's *Satanic Verses*." My response came after a student justified the contract that had been placed on Rushdie's life.

Tillman comments further, "You and your speech-control brigade set up the current process and elected the Dean. If the process doesn't work or if the Dean is a fool, you need only look in the mirror to see whom to blame." Again, Tillman has no idea what he is talking about. First, the faculty does not elect the Dean. Second, our Dean is not a fool. And third, as anyone who knows me can attest, I am not part of any speech-control brigade, and the sexual harassment policy at Harvard does not cover political or religious speech.

As far as my teaching is concerned, I will leave it to those who have actually been in my classes to evaluate it rather than leaving it to a gossip monger with an ax to grind.

Tillman also claims that I bullied Chief Judge Lagueux of Rhode Island. He should read the findings of the committee of federal judges which found Lagueux guilty of improper conduct and praised me for bringing the matter to their attention. Again Tillman does not know what he is talking about, and a bit of library research might have cured his ignorance.

I sincerely hope that when Buck and Tillman become lawyers, they learn the basic rules of research. If they continue to make up facts, rely on gossip and engage in outright lying they will fail as lawyers.

Alan M. Dershowitz
Felix Frankfurter
Professor of Law
March 15, 1999

NYC Not an Option on LIPP

This letter is in support of SPIN's efforts to persuade Dean Clark [72] to increase funding for the Low Income Protection Program (LIPP). LIPP is intended to "preserve...an equal freedom of job choice within the legal profession for [Harvard's] graduates." I am concerned, however, that there are many important public sector jobs that Harvard graduates cannot choose because they would qualify for only minimal LIPP assistance or none at all.

I suggest some examples from New York City because I am familiar with them as a former City employee. Moreover, New York offers superb opportunities for public service, and many of our classmates want to live there. A first-year lawyer working for New York City's Board of Education, Department of Children Services, Department of Health, Health and Hospitals Corporation, or its Campaign Finance Board, earns \$45,252 per year. If she had clerked, or had one year of experience in the same job or a different job, she would earn \$51,395 per year. A first-year lawyer working at the New York State Attorney General's office, after one year, would earn \$52,004. Similarly, a lawyer for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's regional office in New York City, would earn \$50,008 per year.

The average Harvard Law

School student on financial aid could not reasonably choose these important positions. The average debt for members of the Class of 1997 was \$82,000. Assuming an interest rate of eight per cent, the average graduate will pay nearly \$12,000 per year. But if these graduates earn in excess of \$50,000, they are not eligible for LIPP. At \$51,395 per year, they will pay approximately \$19,000 in taxes (calculated as the Financial Aid office does). These graduates will then have about \$20,000 per year to spend on living expenses. (In contrast, a first-year firm lawyer will have \$45,000 for living expenses.)

I would suggest to Dean Clark that asking graduates to live in New York on \$20,000 per year does not adequately preserve their freedom of job choice. A modest one bedroom apartment in Brooklyn or Queens will cost at least \$1000 per month. This leaves less than \$700 per month for living expenses. Even if you believe that someone could pay for food, clothing, transportation, and a little recreation for \$700 per month, this person would hardly be able to save any money for the future. If a public interest lawyer saves five per cent per year — half of what my father, an especially cautious accountant, would recom-

mend — she must then deduct an additional \$2500 from her discretionary income, leaving her with less than \$500 per month for living expenses.

I don't see how living on \$500 per month and saving \$2500 per year preserves the freedom to choose any legal career. This is particularly true for graduates who would like to start a family. The law school is not obliged to alleviate the consequences of working in the public sector. For those of us who choose to pursue careers in the public interest, we must accept that we will have considerably less spending money. But we would like Dean Clark to fulfill the School's pledge to preserve the choice of public interest work, as LIPP purports to do, by doing more to help us through the period during which we must repay our loans.

Ian Shapiro '00
March 17, 1999

Trying to avoid
thinking about
your Third
Year Paper?
Write for the
RECORD...

PERSPECTIVE

By Manoj Mate '00

Why the Minus?

Why the minus?" I was intrigued by Prof. Bruce Hay's [88] reaction to the A- he received in the student "Grade Your Professor" survey results published in last week's RECORD ("Profs. Like Surveys — But Not Necessarily This One"). Most of the professors expressed their dissatisfaction with the "unscientific" nature of students assigning grades to professor performance/teaching effectiveness.

I contend that the student grades assigned to professors were at least as "scientific" as professor grading at HLS. Prof. Joseph Singer '81 suggested in last week's record that the LSC surveys were "not done in a way to give us complete information." The surveys, however, specifically pointed to student critiques of Singer's lecture presentations and went on to provide specific and detailed constructive suggestions for improvement — including facilitating increased class participation and providing greater integration of assigned readings into lectures. Let's face it — most of the professors in the survey did receive positive and/or negative constructive critiques about their teaching styles and methods, along

with the manner in which they organize their courses. How often do professors provide succinct yet detailed explanations along with the grades they award students?

Perhaps the ultimate irony underlying the debate over the "Grade Your Professor" experiment is the perceived level of arbitrariness of professor grading at HLS. Most students at HLS receive little or no feedback when it comes to final exam grades. If you're lucky, your professor will provide a model answer identifying the issues and potential lines of analysis that the professor expected students to cover in their exams. Most students, however, are afforded little constructive feedback or explanation as to their individual exam grades. Even if they make the effort to visit the registrar's/professor's office to look over their exam, students are likely to find their exam papers marked with little more than the letter grade and a series of check marks along the margins of their exams.

To be truly effective, grading systems must provide professors with a straightforward mechanism for assessing relative and absolute student performance in a

subject, while providing students with specific constructive criticism assessing their own performance, with an eye toward helping students improve their exam-writing/study skills for future courses. The grading surveys were in no way designed to replicate the micro-analysis of courses which BSA surveys provide.

One implicit objective of the grade surveys was achieved, however: initiating a dialogue about the meaning, function and purpose of grades assigned at HLS. I acknowledge that the article reporting the results of the survey was by no means a comprehensive review of every professor's strengths and weaknesses; space limitations of a newspaper column did limit the scope of the article's coverage. Still, it is my hope that the constructive critiques that we did provide professors will encourage professors to provide more substantive and constructive explanations of the grades they assign to student exams.

This year, the HLS student body articulated several mechanisms for improving professor feedback to students in its "Community 2000" academic reform proposal, including requiring professors to admin-

ister "voluntary" sample midterm exams that would be returned to students with specific and constructive explanations, and an indication of what grade the professor would have assigned had a real exam been administered. Such exercises would help students acquire a feel for what professors expect from students on final exams.

In an attempt to enhance the effectiveness of grading at HLS, I'd like to propose one more innovative idea: let's require professors to mail out short, one-paragraph "explanation sheets" providing students with specific grading feedback/criteria explanations, which would be sent out the same week as grades are mailed out. Professors' secretaries and teaching fellows could help professors with the administrative burden of such a requirement.

Hay was completely justified in asking about the meaning of his A- grade. A letter grade is meaningless unless accompanied by an explanation of the professor's grading criteria and the individual exam's strengths and shortcomings. We too, would like to join Hay in asking our graders, "What was the minus for?"

PERSPECTIVE

By Jay Webber '00

SLLR Explains It All

On behalf of the Society for Law, Life and Religion, I write to explain what concerns me about the events surrounding our "Culture Shock" fundraiser. It is not that the event met with disagreement; it is the way in which that disagreement was expressed that is troublesome. Every student group on campus should be concerned by the episode and should recognize that in the future, we can be more reflective in our disagreement and get our points across in more thoughtful and effective ways.

A member of the Reproductive Freedom Project generously gave me access to an e-mail that Tori Juedes, chair of RFP, had sent to the group on Feb. 17 — two days before the RFP representatives' trip to A Woman's Concern, the now-famous beneficiary of our fundraiser. It outlined the group's up-coming moves with respect to "Culture Shock." First, there was to be "spying" on AWC. Second, RFP would write up a flier of their own about AWC. And third, it would show up to the event for a protest.

As far as spying on AWC goes, it's ironic that RFP has called us deceptive, and yet was using deception and lies itself (i.e., posing as clients in pregnancy or post-abortion distress). The AWC counselors informed me that one woman came into the center crying, claiming that she had had an abortion the week prior and was in need of counseling. This disturbs me

because I think it did a great disservice to women who really are in post-abortion distress — mocking the pain of women who have had to make a very difficult decision does not help them. Shouldn't we expect more from student group leaders than such deceptive behavior?

The fliers they constructed didn't bother me too much. The quotes cut and pasted from AWC's brochures were taken quite out of context, but everyone realized that. Moreover, none of AWC's information is without scientific and medical substantiation. Elsa (the counselor who spoke to Kevin, the man "in need of counseling") informed me about the quotes taken from their conversation: some of them were outright lies and others were misquotes or taken out of context. But I don't dispute RFP's right to hand out fliers; their content will speak for itself.

What I cannot understand is that RFP planned to protest Culture Shock before it knew anything about AWC other than that SLLR was supporting it. It had no idea what AWC's brochures said, or what the counselors said, or what its mission as an organization was, and yet RFP planned to be at Culture Shock, and hopefully to stop people from contributing, but if it was "too late for that," it could at least "spread a little information." It wasn't a "shocking" counseling session at AWC that induced the RFP to call the restaurants and plan the protest; rather, it was sim-

ply a dogmatic belief in the inherent danger of anything SLLR might want to do that led the RFP to attack the fundraiser before it even knew what we were fundraising for. I have tried to look at this from all different perspectives, and I simply cannot reconcile the fact that RFP planned the protest before they visited AWC with the fact that it informed the RECORD and the Student Public Interest Network (SPIN) that it protested because of its "shocking" visit.

After jumping to its conclusions, RFP made 11th-hour phone calls to our sponsors to try to dissuade them from providing the support they had pledged and that we were counting on. Had it achieved its goals, RFP would have seriously damaged the event. Thankfully, "Culture Shock" was a tremendous success despite RFP's call for a boycott and other actions.

RFP has consistently defended its actions by saying that its goal was simply to inform the restaurants and students that they were supporting a radical, anti-choice group. Well, the Student Public Interest Auction is coming up. The money is going to support many causes representing a wide spectrum of political and ideological philosophies — perhaps even some RFP considers to be "vehemently anti-choice." Contributors to the auction will be supporting many conservative public interest organizations, maybe even the National Right to Life Committee or a similar organization. In speaking to last year's committee chairs, and as one who has been solicited by the auction more than once, I can say with near certainty that the donors don't know that they will be supporting these causes. Leaving it to contributors to find out the details that matter to them is a pretty standard way of fundraising.

If RFP was really just interested in informing Culture Shock's sponsors about AWC, and did not set out to damage the event, it seems to me that the only route consistent with its professed goal is to inform each and every contributor to the auction as to the beneficiaries of their contributions.

I actually hope RFP doesn't do to the auction what it tried to do to Culture Shock — I think the people running the auction are well-intentioned and dedicated, and I would hate to see what happened to Culture Shock happen to their event. I believe it would be inconsistent,

however — as well as convincing evidence that RFP spitefully targeted SLLR and AWC — for it not to do so. Perhaps one can attempt to make the distinction that Culture Shock supported one "radical" organization, while the auction supports any and all public interest causes. This distinction, of course, would be false, as Culture Shock also benefited the Waltham Battered Women's Shelter, quite a "progressive" (for lack of a better term) center, several of whose counselors are quite adamantly pro-choice.

It's no secret that SLLR disagrees with RFP about what abortion means. We think Planned Parenthood is grossly misleading in its published descriptions of abortion procedures — none of them describe what happens to the fetus, or even mention the existence of a fetus at all (see the Planned Parenthood web page). We believe abortion clinics are for-profit organizations that exist primarily to make money and exploit women under the guise of offering them a choice. We might very well feel that any fundraiser RFP might hold for any such centers would be in support of manipulative, deceptive organizations.

The RFP obviously has a different point of view. Where we see deception and lies, it sees reproductive freedom. Where it sees a valid and self-affirming choice, we see destruction of one human being and victimization of another. So we disagree as to who is deceptive, manipulative and purely self-interested — that does not give either side license to undermine the efforts of those with differing viewpoints.

I don't write this letter to re-open a controversy; I write it because I feel that an HLS student group was not afforded the respect it deserves by another student group, and there has not been the slightest hint of remorse or reconsideration from RFP since the events occurred. Both SLLR and RFP (as well as many other student groups) are going to stand for things and do things that others strongly disagree with. If HLS wants to encourage student activism, the first rule for everyone has to be respect. Groups cannot aim to undermine and sabotage each other (as the premeditated protest indicates to me RFP did) without chilling that activism. And if student groups are chilled from standing up and expressing what we believe, how are we ever going to discover the "Veritas" that this school purports to hold so dear?

• Letters, cont. •

Silverglate '67 Rushes to Dershowitz's Defense

Seth Barrett Tillman's [00] March 7 letter to the RECORD, attacking Prof. Alan Dershowitz, puzzles me. With respect to every matter of which I have personal knowledge, Tillman is so far off the mark so as to suggest a personal animus.

Dershowitz assuredly did not "single out" Tillman by calling on everybody except him at my talk at the Harvard Law School Forum. A number of people did not get to ask questions when the program, which ran substantially over-time, had to end. Besides, for the most part it was I, not Dershowitz, who called on questioners, and I had no idea who Tillman was nor what he looked like.

It is an utter perversion of the factual record to accuse Dershowitz of having "bullied judicial officers" when he had his run-in with U.S. District Judge Ronald Lagueux of Rhode Island. I was a participant in that ugly episode in which Judge Lagueux acted in an incredibly abusive fashion toward defendants and lawyers alike. The result was that the Judicial Conference censured the judge, and the Court of Appeals for the First Circuit reversed the District Court's finding that one of the lawyers in our group had acted improperly. The conduct of all the lawyers, including Dershowitz, escaped cen-

sure. I am enormously proud of Dershowitz for having stood up to a bully in a black robe who so utterly abused his power.

Finally, Tillman's criticism of Dershowitz's teaching is a view held by very few of his students over the decades. I have been taught by Dershowitz, have co-taught with him and have spoken to countless students who were fortunate enough to have been in his classes. His dedication to his students, and the freshness of his ever-changing course materials and lectures, make him a role model for young professors.

Harvey A. Silverglate '67
March 15, 1999

• Letters, cont. •

Students Speak Out in Favor of LIPP Reform

I want to add my voice to the growing chorus calling for a renewed commitment to the Low Income Protection Plan. For my money (and the Law School has a fair amount of it), there should be no higher priority for the Law School than improving LIPP.

After attending the town meeting sponsored by SPIN on Monday, it is clear that the committee members who are responsible for structuring LIPP have thought long and hard about what LIPP's flaws are and how to prioritize solutions. Those shortcomings have been well documented by the SPIN campaign and others, and I will not rehash them here. Instead, I want to emphasize that the problems with LIPP are not in design. LIPP needs money.

I want to urge Dean Clark and other HLS budget-setters in the strongest possible voice to dedicate more resources —

existing money and fund-raising muscle — to LIPP. In a need-based financial aid system, it makes much more sense to direct financial aid dollars to loan forgiveness for low-income graduates than to grants during law school. Even a law-and-economics novice like me recognizes that the system would achieve greater efficiency in addressing need with an *ex-post* rather than an *ex-ante* approach. Of course, raiding grant funding is for me a distant second-place strategy to increasing LIPP from other sources. In particular, I would encourage the Dean and Baker House actively to solicit alumni contributions to LIPP.

I can attest to the extraordinarily valuable role that LIPP plays in shaping student decisions. Having no interest in private practice,

I would not have attended Harvard had I not been given the flexibility in career choice afforded by LIPP. I believe that a program that allows all students, regardless of debt load, to enter public interest and government work could be a tremendous selling point for prospective students. If HLS is serious about building a more diverse student body, one that is less corporate and less white and less male, I think that increasing LIPP's funding is perhaps the most productive step it can take.

I share the skepticism of a number of my peers about this administration's commitment to such diversity. I hope the Dean proves us wrong and makes a visible, concerted and prolonged commitment to LIPP.

Michael Zamore '99
March 15, 1999

I am writing to add my support to the Student Public Interest Network's campaign to increase funding for LIPP. I will work in the public sector after graduation. Because I plan to work for local government or a union-side labor practice in an area with a high cost of living, I will likely be ineligible for LIPP, either from the start of my career or shortly thereafter. In both of these practice areas, starting attorneys often earn salaries that start at or near the current LIPP income ceiling of \$50,000, and salary increases are not as rapid as at traditional private firms. Consequently, starting attorneys in these fields are, or rapidly become, ineligible for LIPP, but do not enjoy the sizeable salary increases that traditional private firm associates receive. While

\$50,000 with no strings attached is an enviable salary, a \$90,000 debt burden at 7 to 8 per cent interest is not so attractive, particularly for starting attorneys who plan to have children within ten years after graduation.

Moreover, the fact that starting salaries in these fields generally exceed the LIPP ceiling by \$1000 or so means that new HLS attorneys are ineligible for LIPP coverage during their clerkships. While individuals entering a traditional private firm after a clerkship can rely on a clerkship bonus, a starting second-year associate salary or both, to pay off any debt incurred during an unfunded clerkship year, individuals enter-

ing government or other public interest jobs that pay just above the LIPP ceiling cannot. Given the attractiveness of clerkship experience to many public interest employers, HLS graduates should not be discouraged from pursuing clerkship opportunities. Nor should they be encouraged to take a less desirable job that happens to pay a lower salary, in order to qualify for LIPP.

These problems could be addressed by significantly increasing the LIPP income ceiling. This and other improvements to LIPP will allow Harvard Law School to continue and strengthen its tradition of contributing to public life.

Peter J. Keith '99
March 15, 1999

I just wanted to write to express my support of LIPP reform. HLS's support for students who choose public interest work lags behind the support offered by most other top schools, which threatens HLS's role as a leader in legal education. This disparity is particularly glaring in light of the fact that students who choose to work for the federal government will be bumped out of LIPP after just one or two

years of work due to government salary levels. This is fine for a person with very little debt, but the average HLS graduate last year owed \$82,000 — and a government salary of \$55,000 a year is not enough to make the loan payments without assistance.

HLS should support students who choose to work for the Solicitor General's Office, DOJ, the State De-

partment, the various U.S. Attorney's Offices, federal public defenders, or any other federal job — as well as supporting students who choose other types of public interest work. If we're committed to maintaining HLS's status in the legal community, we should encourage students to pursue a diverse array of career paths.

Ann Lipton '00
March 16, 1999

I'm writing to express my concern with the Administration's failure to keep up its commitment to LIPP even as tuition continues to skyrocket. I find this particularly

dismaying considering our generous endowment and our tradition of sending fine people into public service positions. I hope that the Administration will address

this problem and put LIPP in line with the programs of other leading schools.

Kevin Vick '01
March 16, 1999

I am writing to express support for SPIN's recent campaign to reform LIPP. Like the students who wrote last week, I came to law school in order to acquire skills that would enable me to bring about meaningful change in the lives and opportunities of Americans who live in poverty. As I've made my way through law school, I've chosen courses, clinical placements, extra-curricular activities, and summer jobs that I thought would prepare me best for a career in the public interest. At the same time, LIPP Director Lisa Dealey, the friendly and supportive staff in OPIA, the financial aid office's brochures, and HLS alumni working in public interest jobs all assured me that I need not let financial woes get in the way of pursuing my professional dreams.

I happily forged forward on a carefree path leading toward what I fully expect will be a meaningful, fulfilling career.

As graduation approaches, however, I've begun to worry. I worry about what will happen to me financially if I have children and decide to spend more than three months being a full-time mom. Or if my parents become ill and need me to take care of them. Or if I discover that my true passion lies in a low-income public service career not covered by LIPP — such as social work or teaching or public school administration. At a time when it seems difficult to plan for even the next two or three years, I certainly can't feel confident that any one of these eventualities won't

arise over the course of the next ten to twenty years during which I've committed myself to LIPP dependency.

It's not that, by virtue of being an HLS graduate, I feel entitled to any greater degree of financial security than the millions of other Americans who support their families on salaries far less than the LIPP ceiling of \$49,500 per year. However, I do know that when I decided to take on a substantial debt burden in order to get an excellent legal education, I did so in reliance on a promise that at the end of the day LIPP would enable me to make a decent living while making a difference in my community. I certainly hope Harvard will make good on that promise.

Marina Volanakis '99
March 17, 1999

I am writing in support of LIPP reform. I think that it is truly unfortunate that HLS sells itself to prospective students as an institution that encourages achievement in a variety of legal fields. As a 1L, I have seen many fellow students determine that

their fates have already been sealed by debt. I think it is an unacceptable situation when an HLS graduate cannot choose to pursue public interest whether it be in legal services or the State Department simply because of an artificial cap already

abolished by similarly priced law schools. If Harvard wants to keep itself from losing students to institutions such as NYU and Duke, then the *status quo* has got to change.

Maggie King '01
March 16, 1999

Like my classmates who have been writing to the RECORD, I'm a third-year student, on the verge of graduation, considering plans for a career in public interest law. Like my classmates, I'm worried about my financial future should I decide to take a low-paying job. For example, I plan to apply to the Honors Program at the Department of Justice, and would love to work at the DOJ following my clerkship. But like my classmates, I'm looking at the numbers. And they don't look good. Jobs in the federal government place one firmly in the "danger zone" of LIPP, where you will likely "bump out" of eligibility before you and your Ramen noodles know what hit you. This scares me, and it should. But it should not force me to take a job that has little or nothing to do with why I wanted to become a lawyer.

Students who have accepted, or will accept, public interest jobs upon graduation are understandably demanding that the administration start funding LIPP more generously. But the message that hasn't quite come across in the current movement to increase the administration's LIPP support is that every student at this school has a reason to demand a stronger LIPP program. Every HLS graduate should be able to expect that their degree will give them OP-

TIONS, not just one year out, not just five years out, but throughout their career in the law. Perhaps this message is lost because at this juncture, most of us don't expect to be unsatisfied, or even miserable, in

our chosen field. We don't take jobs expecting to later hate them, or if we do, we're fairly sure that a giant paycheck will go far in mitigating our distress. I feel strangely fortunate in this regard. Having been in a job I hated so much that I began having nightmares on Friday about returning to work on Monday, I know that there is absolutely nothing worse than spending your days in a profound state of unhappiness. When you're in that position, the calculations shift. Some considerations recede in importance, and others come to the fore. You may decide that it's just no longer acceptable to work in a job that doesn't satisfy you emotionally, or challenge you intellectually, or allow you flexibility to raise your kids. At that point, what becomes absolutely crucial is having options. Without a strong and realistic low income protection plan, our options will remain what too many perceive them to be right now — limited.

For HLS graduates with loan debt, LIPP should be Harvard's commitment to giving you those options. But right now, LIPP suffers from the same sort of love/hate relationship that marks Harvard's treatment of public interest law more generally. Based on my experience here, I'd say that Harvard Law School would like to have its public interest cake and ignore it, too. The rhetoric just doesn't match the reality. Sitting under the tent with my 1L advisees this fall, it oc-

curred to me that when Dean Clark strives to inspire his audience by lauding the achievements of this school's most distinguished alumni, the names of civil rights leaders and dedicated public servants roll off his tongue effortlessly. I have often wanted to ask him, how do you think your current graduates will manage to become the next generation's mentors and heroes in government, education, civil rights, public defense or law enforcement?

Harvard Law School is graced by amazingly bright, diverse and talented students. I am inspired and encouraged by my friends and classmates, and as this experience comes to a close, I look forward to seeing where people go, what they do and who they become. To my classmates heading into the private sector, I hope you really, truly enjoy your work. Life is too short to accept anything less. In fact, I hope you stay long enough to invite me to your vacation home in Lake Tahoe or to let me stay in your fabulous apartments when I visit New York and San Francisco. But if you're unsatisfied, you should be able to know that you can change your minds and explore different fields. If you're willing to make adjustments, you should demand that your alma mater stands by its commitment to nurture its students' dreams and ambitions on an equal basis.

A stronger LIPP program benefits us all.

Caroline A. Judge, '99
March 15, 1999

The Department of Justice Honors program is described in a recent book surveying Law School Career counselors as "the #1 all around best legal employer in America." This Fall, as I had hoped from my first days in law school, I received an opportunity to serve the United States through this program. It was then that I discovered the prohibitive "Government Lawyer Penalty" in LIPP. Our own financial aid office told me I could not afford to take the job.

As it stands, a Harvard Law School student who borrows according to recommended guidelines to pay tuition and living expenses can not afford to take a job that pays the federal wage scale. Jobs on this scale are not only vital to the public interest, they also include some of the most prestigious in the country and provide a critical

training ground for future professors, legislators and litigators. My decision to choose Harvard over other law schools should not prevent me and other students like me from working as government lawyers. At Yale, for example, students in my situation are covered. LIPP, covering 10 years worth of students and their loans, only has a budget of \$1.4 million. Our strategic consultants cost upwards of \$500,000. It is a matter of priorities: we can do better.

As a third-year student with over \$90,000 in loans I am not an atypical graduating student. Because the cost of Law School has doubled since 1991, many students must take out extensive loans to cover their minimal educational and living expenses. Students like

myself whose parents have not financed their legal education cannot afford to work on the Federal scale. As LIPP administrator, Lisa Dealey, informed me, by my second year of government work on the federal pay scale (the "GS" scale), I will receive no loan repayment assistance from the LIPP program. None. My income is considered too high even though my debt will be twice as large as my salary. Making my loan payments plus living expenses without assistance will not be feasible for the year.

I have accepted the job. I am confident that one way or another the resources will be found to let all Harvard Law graduates have the opportunity to serve as our nation's lawyers.

John P. Carlin '99
March 16, 1999

It is time for a financial reckoning at Harvard Law School. Many years ago, the Law School decided that its graduates should join and lead communities of public servants. LIPP, in its heyday, was the benchmark loan-forgiveness program in the country. No longer. Yale's, for example, is more generous and inclu-

sive.

How have we fallen so far behind? Why have schools with smaller endowments and smaller alumni bases surpassed us? Is our vision so narrow? Is it so entirely focused on white-shoe law firms? On the faculty? On the Administration?

We need more LIPP fund-

ing. Much more. We need a school that rewards leadership, not just law-firm partnership. We need to fund public servants. I believe that if we do that, we will also create a more loyal — and generous — base of alumni.

Timothy Shannon '01
March 16, 1999

Profs. Get Taste of Their Own Medicine

One month ago I, like the 1L profs last week, received my grades. My reaction? Like Prof. Hay [88], "I'm happy with my grade[s], but there isn't much going on." Confused by the paucity of feedback, I chose to more or less ignore my grades. After all, what do they mean? As Prof. Singer [81] says, "I think the more comments and detailed suggestions there are, the more impact they will have." I couldn't agree more! I thought long and hard about what I should do. How can I improve my grades? After all, as Prof. Singer says, "I wish I could have done better, but I don't have enough information. For me, it didn't help very

much." I can experiment with new study techniques, but frankly, as Prof. Jolls [93] says, "some feedback would be very beneficial."

Why did we get grades? As Prof. Singer says, "If this is intended to improve [my legal ability], it is supposed to affect what we do. But if it's not done in a way to give us complete information..." I guess I can just continue to flail along, hoping that through some miracle or accident my grades will improve and I will get something out of my HLS experience. I realize that no one on the faculty has an interest in giving me feedback or helping me learn and grow. Or

maybe I can take a hint from Prof. Hay, and if "I [want] to ask detailed questions, I [should develop] my own survey." How about:

- (1) Prof. _____, how did you feel about my classroom comments and responses? Were they on point and helpful?
- (2) Did you feel I learned the rules and policies you attempted to convey in your class of _____?
- (3) Prof. _____, when you read my exam, did you find my writing to be effective legal writing?
- (4)...

Christian Correa '01
March 16, 1999

Of Bulldozers and Butterflies

A REAL STORY

By Alex Boldizar '99
Staff Columnist

They sat down at the table. He stuffed Scott Brewer into his notebook. She brushed the snow off her all-black attire. "Shall we do this as a binding agreement? Or as a poem?" he asked.

"What's the difference? A good contract is full of internal rhymes, iambic pentameter and nature imagery, is it not? Do you not caress your commas? Are they not as vital to words and sentences as your straight edges and logic lines are to your arguments?" She crossed out the words on the page, crossed out the whole page. She stared at him in silence as he fiddled with the salt shaker.

He licked the salt with a slurpy "Plllpt" and placed the glass back on the table. "It's time," he said.

"How do you know?" she asked.

"The clock says so," he answered. Clocks tell time in the abstract. This is obvious on the basis of three things: One, he is a drag queen; Two, he enjoys sky diving; and Three, there are entirely too many lemmings, stuck by their arseholes to flypaper chairs, running off with the edge of their selves, diving not in but out, falling weightless through air, wondering why they were there listening to some guy complain endlessly over his lost sock. They wondered what they were doing, how this dead porcupine got into his backpack. Odd indeed. We all have our own porcupines, however, and we all need help pulling the quills out of our teeth.

In this case, he found a better way, he made the same face he had made when he licked the salt, and proceeded to munch and crunch. Suddenly, the porcupine asked "why?" He answered that sometimes success is its own measure and he ate him because he could, quills or no

quills, and he liked it. He liked it a LOT. In fact, that's when it hit him — a flailing screaming from inside his belly, tearing at his intestinal lining, busting out here and there, kicking, doubling him over, until finally it burst like a balloon, reminding him that chair means flesh in French. Two dots, and he fell, limp, to the floor, tired of his screwed-up life, his crappy diet, his penchant for eating whatever fell into his backpack, without examination, doubting, asking himself "is this really something I want to eat? Or should I just order the lobster?"

With that, he picked his glass back up off the table and drank it down, quenching the porcupine in his belly, quenching his existential doubts, quenching whatever it was that hesitated to travel satisfactorily through his digestive system.

She looked at him over her cigarette. "Do you need all those porcupines? They are crutches, sheltering you from the ambiguity of life?" she finally asked, releasing him.

"Define crutch," he said.

She rolled her eyes, "You always use condoms, don't you, closed idioms of escapism. Language is open, free, alive. Why suffocate it? The ambiguity won't ever go away, and you won't respect the comma, or the semi-colon, or the hyphen, or any of those glorious punctuation marks you ignore. All you use are periods."

"Well, at least I still respect them in the morning. You have no loyalty, no structure. One evening you're sidling up to a semi-colon, flagellating yourself with the comma part, next day you put a period in the blender — and voilà! A mish-mash of ambiguity. It's not for me." He looked smug.

"Let me ask, have you ever had a po-

etic impulse, a sudden wet dream of text that just flowed out to dirty your clean little contract in a spurt of disjunctive cacophonous sounds, words, moments, ideas that hit you over the head and catch you off guard. WHAP! SPLAT — like that."

He was quiet. She was on a roll. "You think it's so easy to silence a lawyer? This may be amusing to you, but people's lives are often on the line. They do not hire me to hear my ejaculations, but for serious, insightful, intellectual speculations and observations about..."

She interrupted, "Are you implying that poetry isn't serious? Poetry is about death, life, love, sex and a little green tomato skiing, perhaps with his family, I don't remember for sure, a little green tomato that kept whispering in my ear and distracting me. I hate whiny vegetables, so I didn't pay as much attention to the youngest little vineling. But the papa tomato, he flew down the run like a green streak from Hell, unafraid, a ski planted on his head, so he skied upside down. The only problem was that snow tended to blind him when it flew into his little tomato eyes. For the eyes of a tomato only see green and red, and the tomato could barely make out the sign in the distance that read, "RED & GREEN TOMATO SALSA MAKERS NEED! APPLY WITHIN."

He just about fainted. "What was he doing on this run?" he asked himself. Just because he had paid for the lift ticket, did that mean that he would have to end his trip early? It didn't seem fair. So, to console himself, he hit the town, and wandered into an exotic dance club. At the



door, however, the bouncer, a rotten celery, threw him into a Bloody Mary. The tomato struggled against the rotten celery and realized — this was the chance to prove himself as a manly garden veggie. The tomato cleared his throat, brushed himself off, and although dripping wet, stepped

out of the Bloody Mary in a dignified manner. He walked up to the barmaid and said, "Listen, bitch. You may think it's glamorous being a tomato, but the fact is, life as a little red guy is tough. You have to crack a few heads sometimes just to get some respect."

He leaned further over the bar, smiled, "So how 'bout that martini, Hun?"

She eyed him with indifference then fixed him a drink. Passed the salt. He was satisfied, content with the world and getting a little bit tipsy. The drink, after all, was as large as he, and a drunk tomato is quite a sight. A drunk tomato who knows kung fu is a force to be reckoned with, which is why she made him another drink.

"Is your secured transaction mumbo-jumbo worth anything close to that?" she said, handing the drink over. After a pause, she took a drag on her cigarette and added, "Let's write a poem together."

"All right. You choose the substance and I'll structure it with assiduous application of linguistic theory. Do you want to capitalize the 'T' as a symbolic entity, or do you actually want to say something worth hearing?"

She was astounded. "Why, just then, you sounded like a poet."

She was wrong.



Fenno groaned as she heard the mail truck pull up in front of the RECORD office for the fifth time that afternoon. As she watched the mailman slowly trudge toward the door, occasionally stumbling with his heavy load, Fenno began to contemplate the distinct advantages of owning a pit bull. But it was too late; with a sickening thud, the mail sack landed in front of the door.

Fenno gradually eased her way out of her chair, whistling innocently as she edged her way toward the back door. She reached her hand out for the doorknob, slowly and deliberately, all the while holding her breath and trying to look as small as possible. She was a mere second away from freedom when her editor, Ben Lehrer, walked up from behind and grabbed her hand with an iron-fisted grip. "Going somewhere, Fenno?"

Fenno knew she was caught, but she reflexively stammered, "No, um, just thought I'd get a little breath of fresh air. Be back in a few, okay?"

Ben wasn't buying it. He roughly steered Fenno back to her chair. "Nice try, smartass. Now get back to work on those letters."

"Damn it," whined Fenno, "don't decades of seniority mean anything here? My job is to ferret out the secrets of the law school and drink a lot. I'm an institution, not a copy-editor!"

"That's real nice, Fenno. But we've got 17,432 letters here, and it's time for your institutional ass to sit down and get back to work."

Fenno wasn't going without a fight. "Did it ever occur to you that you don't actually have to publish all of them?"

A look of shock crossed Lehrer's face.

"What, and risk losing our function as a vital clearinghouse for student ideas and debate? Never!"

"Gimme a break, Benjy. The only thing the RECORD is a vital clearinghouse for is Spike cartoons."

Lehrer smiled. "We have a letter about that, too."

Fenno's blood pressure began to increase, as did the volume in her voice. "Well, at least that's faintly more interesting than all this Dershowitz v. Tillman bullshit. Who the hell are these people, and what cave have they been living in? They're lining up at the post office in a quest to give Seth and Dersh more attention! What sane person gives a rat's ass about which of those two is a better Jew? I would've thought that the only thing anyone cared about was figuring out the most efficient way to slap a ball gag on both of them!"

"Keep your panties on, Fenno," said Lehrer in a patronizing, Herwitz-esque tone. "If you're not interested in the Tillman debate, you can always work on these letters about LIPP. You can't deny that those are about something important."

"Oh yeah, Uncle Ben. Real bloody important, if you happen to want to spend your life working to protect endangered guppies. Fine, let me edit a few of these for you right now. See this one?"

Fenno picked up a two-page epistle about the value of public interest, and continued: "I can cut this baby down to two sentences of content for you. You wanna know what this says? It says 'Hello, I am a complete sheep with a talent for following orders. Dave Calone told me to write you a heartfelt letter, and my greatest pleasure in life is to obey his command.' And you know what? This other letter says the same thing, and so does this one! What an odd fucking coincidence! Whatever do you suppose it could mean?"

With this, Fenno had to stop, because she was starting to hyperventilate. Ben

gave her a minute to catch her breath. Before she could start ranting again, he gave her a fatherly pat on the shoulder. "Well, it's nice that you feel that way, Fenno. But you and I both know who's got the key to the liquor cabinet. So it's real simple: if you want the Wild Turkey,

sit down and start editing.

Fenno knew when she was beat. She sank dejectedly into her chair, as she silently imagined the joy she would feel as she ripped out all of Seth Tillman's vocal cords, one by one.

It wasn't much help.

Quote of the Week

"I have my own toilet, it's not too noisy."

— An LL.M., on why he likes living in North Hall.



Something on Your Mind?

Too Bad!

We don't want any more letters! I'm sick of them, do you hear?*

*brought to you by the Production Manager. But Ben says I get overruled. So go ahead and submit a damn letter already.

record@law.harvard.edu

The Buzz

By Tanya Marsh '00
RECORD Columnist

RETURN OF THE JEDIS

A long time ago (1978, actually) in a galaxy far, far away (a cineplex near you), an unknown director presented a classic story of good and evil, the saga of a group of ragtag misfits fighting a rebellion against an evil empire. That little movie, **Star Wars**, launched the mega-careers of George Lucas and Harrison Ford and has had an indelible influence on American popular culture. Who among us didn't zoom around the living room with our Luke Skywalker and Han Solo action figures? *Star Wars*, with its simple but enduring theme of good triumphing over evil, still speaks to kids who were born long after the Ewoks pranced in 1983's **Return of the Jedi**. Fueled by a steady stream of comic books, novels and speculation, Lucas's universe is as popular today as it was two decades ago.

The *Star Wars* frenzy will hit a peak right around Wednesday, May 19, the release date for **Episode I: The Phantom Menace**, which takes place 32 years before *Star Wars*. I know it's been a while since most of you have thought about Obi-Wan Kenobi and Darth Vader, and so, as a public service to the HLS community, I will once again reveal the depths of my geekiness and tell you everything you need to know about the upcoming *Star Wars* movies.

Okay, quick review. George Lucas originally planned a series of nine movies that would tell the story of Anakin Skywalker, a boy with an unusual sense of the Force who was drafted into the Jedi Knights, had a nice little nuclear family, turned to

the dark side, renamed himself Darth Vader, and was eventually killed by his son, Luke, who represented the new hope for the universe. That son would then go off and do lots of great things. (I'm a little fuzzy on the story line of episodes VII, VIII and IX). But for some reason, Lucas decided to start in the middle, so, the movie we all know as *Star Wars* is actually, technically, called *Episode IV: A New Hope*. That means 1980's **Empire Strikes Back** is Episode V and 1983's *Return of the Jedi* is actually Episode VI. You with me so far?

So, after Jedi, Lucas took a nice long break and made such classic movies as *Howard the Duck*. He also created a little company called Industrial Light & Magic which has basically revolutionized special effects and made us all very spoiled little movie watching creatures. It also made Lucas filthy rich. Lucas created ILM because he wanted to get back to the *Star Wars* series but knew that the technology in the mid-1980s wouldn't allow him to make the movies he envisioned with any realistic budget. So he waited. And we waited.

And now the wait is over. On May 19, we will get to see *Episode I: The Phantom Menace*, which will be followed in the next two or three years with Episodes II and III. Tragically, Lucas has apparently decided to then call it quits and not finish the series.

WARNING: IF YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN IN THE PHANTOM MENACE, DO NOT

READ ANY FURTHER!!!

Deep cover spies within the Lucasfilm organization have defied airtight non-disclosure agreements to get this spoiler information out to you, gentle reader. We begin with the opening crawl: "Turmoil has engulfed the Galactic Republic. The taxation of trade routes to outlying star systems is in dispute. Hoping to resolve the matter with a blockade of deadly battleships, the greedy Trade Federation has stopped all shipping to the small planet of Naboo. While the Congress of the Republic endlessly debates this alarming chain of events, the Supreme Chancellor has secretly dispatched two Jedi Knights, the guardians of peace, to settle the conflict...."

The two Jedi knights are a young Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan MacGregor) and his mentor, Qui-Gon Jinn (Liam Neeson). They run into some trouble with the Opee Sea Monster on the planet of Naboo and end up protecting its Queen Amidala (Natalie Portman) against the treacherous dark lords of Sith, Darth Sidious and his apprentice, Darth Maul. They escape and are forced to land on the desert planet of Tatooine because of a cantankerous hyperdrive (sound familiar?) and meet a young slave boy named Anakin Skywalker whom they recognize as being very strong in the Force.

Qui-Gon and Obi-Wan bargain for the boy's freedom and narrowly escape the planet with Darth Maul hot on their heels. They go to the Jedi Council and report the involvement of the Siths in a plot against

the Republic. Yoda and company meet young Anakin and recognize his potential power, although they fear the depths of his anger. They forbid Qui-Gon to train him as a Jedi. Against the Council's wishes, the Queen and company return to Naboo to resist Darth Sidious's invasion force. In the ensuing battles, Qui-Gon is killed and Obi-Wan, still an apprentice himself, takes on the responsibility of training Anakin.

Episode II will be set ten years after *The Phantom Menace* and will follow the Clone Wars, as the Jedi Knights valiantly defend the galaxy from the forces of evil. Senator Palpatine will begin to marshal the dark side of the Force and plot his overthrow of the Republic. Anakin grows up, falls in love and marries (Queen Amidala?).

Episode III, the final prequel to the original *Star Wars*, takes place a few years after the end of Episode II and promises to be the darkest of the movies. Palpatine will declare himself Emperor and seduce Anakin Skywalker to betray all he holds dear for the power of the dark side. He dons the scary black uniform, transforms into Darth Vader, and aids the Emperor in the extermination of the Jedi Knights. The Jedi Master Yoda and Obi-Wan Kenobi escape and try to protect Anakin's wife and children. They recognize that the twins, Luke and Leia, represent the greatest threat to Vader and, therefore, a glimmer of hope for the galaxy.

With all these juicy details, isn't it hard to wait? Now you know how I always feel...

Get Reel

By Steve Scali '01
RECORD Columnist

BRUNETTE BUFFY'S LIASIONS: CRUEL AND DANGEROUS

"Cruel Intentions" is the fifth commercial adaptation of the 1782 novel *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* by Choderlos De Laclos. Neither the novel nor previous adaptations revolved around the peculiar idiosyncrasies of a high school girl's reputation. But I get ahead of myself.

The work was first adapted cinematically in 1959, when director Roger Vadim made a French film version of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. Twenty-five years or so later, Christopher Hampton's stage version for the Royal Shakespeare Company won a New York Drama Critics Circle Award. Hampton also wrote the screenplay for British director Stephen Frears's triple Oscar-winning *Dangerous Liaisons* (to all non-LL.M.s, that's the English translation of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*). Shortly on the heels of the Frears picture came Milos Forman's *Valmont*. It starred Meg Tilly, Annette Bening, Colin Firth and Fairuza Balk.

Like, do you, like, care? Didn't think so. Being a typical HLS student, you want to hear about filth. The point is that the multiple versions reflect the interest which De Laclos's lively story has generated. But enough of that: time to get to the filth.

This adaptation was written and directed by Roger Kumble, who helped write *Dumb & Dumber* and *Kingpin*. Amazingly enough, Kumble turned *Les Liaisons* into a teenage sex faux-melodrama that doesn't take itself too seriously.

Kathryn Merteuil — or, as she puts it, the "Marcia f***ing Brady of the Upper East Side" — is a teenage Jezebel who delights in casting her wicked machinations at any who dare cross her. Her stepbrother, Sebastian Valmont, is an equally slimy character whose main pastime is "making" new acquaintances (if you get my drift). Sebastian will seemingly do anything to further the image of young "stud" he has carefully cultivated at the

private preparatory school he and Kathryn attend. The two are part of New York City's super-rich, and the costumes and sets reflect their beyond-affluent lifestyle.

At the film's beginning, Kathryn (described on the official "Cruel Intentions" Web site as "seductive, evil, dangerous") requests that Sebastian (described as "cruel, ruthless, cunning") deflower Cecile, a naïve 15-year-old who has committed the Ultimate Sin in High School — she started dating Kathryn's ex. Sebastian regards this request as achievable with little effort, and rightly so — Cecile is easier to seduce than the man Matt Dummermuth calls "the current occupant of the White House."

Sebastian, however, is focused on a more considerable challenge. Provoked by a bet with Kathryn, he aims to score with Annette Hargrove, the daughter of their school's new headmaster. As a guest essayist in Seventeen magazine, Annette has professed she will not know a man (in the biblical way) until she finds true love à la Kathie Lee and Frank Gifford. If Sebastian succeeds in his nefarious plot, he gets to enjoy not only Annette, but also Kathryn, the one woman he cannot have; if he fails, she gets his prized 1956 Jaguar.

The film works as a campy, thoughtless comedy better than most campy, thoughtless comedies. With the slightest contemplation, however, you may be revolted, indignant, incredulous or even bored. The lesson: avoid contemplation.

Kathryn's demented, two-faced character is more than adequately played by Sarah Michelle Gellar of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *I Know What You Did Last Summer* fame. There is not much variety in her acting, which vacillates between vindictive and pouting, but it is a fine contrast with the heroic Buffy, or so I hear (do I look like I watch *Buffy*?).

Ryan Phillippe's depiction of Sebastian

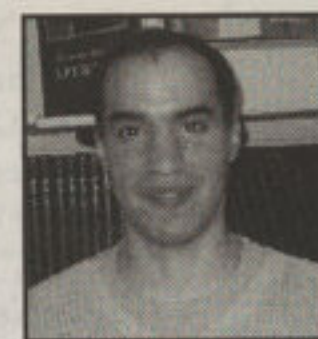
Valmont is acceptable. My viewing companion jested that he could probably learn a lot from the average male HLS student about looking all manly and primed as well as about how to utter cute one-liners to entice women. Phillippe's last role was in *Playing by Heart*, and he also appeared in *I Know What You Did Last Summer*.

The part of the film that found the most favor in my eyes was that in which Sebastian becomes a changed man after actually falling in love with Annette. Call me sentimental, but wide-eyed regained innocence touches the wide-eyed innocent inside me that has been thoroughly buried by nearly one year of law school.

But it appears that I am hopelessly out of touch with "yoot" culture (do I look that young?), for in previews with yoot audiences, many yoots were actually cheering Sebastian on when he was engaging in his nefarious amorous escapades in the beginning of the film. Such yoots then laughed at him at the end, when he actually became a decent person. Sigh. ("Yoot," meaning "youth," is a term coined in the cinematic masterpiece *My Cousin Vinny*.)

"Cruel Intentions" was rated R for "coarse language, substance abuse, sexual content, [and] mature theme." That's an understatement! It contains a not inconsiderable quantity of four-letter Anglo-Saxon expletives and is replete with implied as well as graphic content relating to characters in various stages of disgarbment, mostly complete. Then again, unlike the recent *Rushmore*, at least there were no descriptions of 15-year-olds sexually servicing their teachers. (Where have you gone, Alex Boldizar?)

On one level, *Cruel Intentions* can be considered a satiric parody of teenage promiscuity. Ultimately, true love — slow, patient and kind — is depicted in a far more



favorable light than other low-level interactions. I'm not sure how many yoots will perceive it in this light, though. Yet this seemingly intended *jeu d'esprit* is at odds with the obvious attempts of the film to appeal to people who abhor watching

family-values content. Then again, the family-values people will likely turn to *"The Other Sister"* for their cinematic entertainment.

What nags me is that there is the unmistakable sense that Kathryn and Sebastian are too suave, too experienced, too jaded in their malevolent outlook and cruel intentions to be high-schoolers at all (we would hope). I am somewhat familiar with the stratum of society depicted in *"Cruel Intentions"*, having gone to school with individuals of that wealth and leisure. Still, no one I knew sniffed cocaine out of a hollow, two-piece crucifix, as did Kathryn. By contrast, Cecile appears absurdly gullible; the film's treatment of her is practically dehumanizing. In the attempt to make the film appeal to a young audience while also tie it to the conception of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, there is something missing reflecting unresolvable tensions that ultimately will doom this most recent adaptation to B-movie land.

I suspect some of the appeal that the *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* motif involves what Eric Hoffer describes as the appealing nature of cruelty itself: "It is remarkable by how much a pinch of malice enhances the penetrating power of an idea or an opinion. Our ears, it seems, are wonderfully attuned to sneers and evil reports about our fellow men."

The RECORD may or may not print next week.
It depends on whether we're still hung over from St. Patrick's Day.

Can You Spare a Razor Blade?

METHOD, SHMETHOD

By Dusan Stojkovic '00
RECORD Columnist

In this year's Parody, the HLS Drama Society made a more than viable argument that amateur theater need not be automatically relegated to sophomore status. Director Jake Zimmerman and the remainder of the crew sacrificed considerable time and effort for something that bears less-than-zero academic credit. And yet, if you were expecting a mushy, positive appraisal of the Parody from the guy whom Suzanne Carter has dubbed "Puck of the newsroom," you have got to be a hopeless LL. As soon as they exit one's mouth, the words "it was so much better than last year" leave a decidedly unsatisfying aftertaste.

The story line just didn't work, especially in the first half of the performance. What starts out as a no-holds-barred mockumentary of "seven people, seven people..." (well, you know the schpiel) transforms into a bland mush of 550-and-counting experiences of the beginning of law school. The "Surreal World" concept demanded far more technical savvy than the Drama Society's depleted coffers could possibly support. Instead of bitching, those among us with steady gigs (i.e., alumni and faculty) who can afford it (i.e., alumni) should seriously consider remitting tax-deductible contributions to: HLS Drama Society, Roscoe Pound Hall, HLS, Cambridge, MA 02138-2996.

But don't get me wrong. Even though I am doing his work for him by shamelessly pitching for donations, I am disappointed in Zimmerman. Very disappointed. I am even writing in his customarily cretinous style to get this message through to him: Berrylips, don't you never even try to take a fellow col-

umnist down again like that; both you and your bleeding sock will get jacked. But the Danny Meltzer segment was superb directing, the best scene in the Parody. Ah, yes, 'tis an askew mix of sticks and carrots that the columnists of this fine newspaper covet.

Moving right along to another columnist, Darren Schlanger realistically captured the ambiguous complexity and confusing ennui that is Prof. Joe Singer. Schlanger successfully picked up the Property professor's mannerisms, crafting a nicely understated caricature.

John Fagan was classic as an electronic version of Prof. Arthur Miller and Kurt Dudas did well in the deceptively easy task of aping Prof. Bruce Hay, who was nearly as convincing in his own cameo appearance.

Cat Dale, on the other hand, has obviously never observed and modeled aforementioned Liz Falk, never studied the essence of her character nor even read one of her columns. What could have been a poignant satire quickly dissolved into "arbitrary and capricious" idiocy.

The same can be said of Jessica Mayer's portrayal of "Nosey Sandler" (although Mayer enunciated far better than most of her colleagues) and Robert W. Gifford's of "Brian Fitzrightwingnutball." (What's up with the less than humorous parodies of students' names, anyhow? And why are professors' names not held to the same standard?) While Brian Fitzpatrick, who owes his local celebrity to the RECORD, may be more than moderately conservative, he is far from the religious fundamentalist depicted by Gifford.

Nancy Trainer was well-cast but exces-

sively sympathetic as feisty reporter Suzanne Slander and feistier fact-trier Judge Judy, though she needed more work on the Midwestern and New Yorker accents. Wah jees, yo.

Speaking of funny talk, Emily Sexton formidably switched accents in her role as the rather stereotypically written LLM character, who would have lived in North from the get-go in any "real world" scenario.

Seph McNamara was fantastic as the parodic version of Joe Scully, although he showed too much white under that kilt. I'm just saying. Austin Barron proved he knows more about the AV guy's taste in body jewelry than most of us will ever want. And being a *shaygets* didn't seem to hinder Reagan Demas's stirring performance as "Seth Shrilman" (see letters).

During the intermission, I overheard a group of (very white) people discussing Lani Guinier's ethnicity and loudly wondering why a Caucasian woman (Leslie Ballantyne) was playing her. Well somebody had better call the freaking police! Did they complain when Justin Levitt, a nice Jewish boy, played the Julian Poonatic character, very loosely based on Julian Poon who is actually of the Canadian race?

Members of the audience failed to reach consensus on assessing the function, or lack thereof, of the strong language of the Parody this year, especially in the second half. While many cheered on the irreverent Frumpy the Clown (tradition ain't all that muthafucka's full of), an equal number of spectators hissed in disapproval.

Everyone agreed, however, that Ratt



Poyzyn rocked. The band, led by Alexander Rabb, more than made up for the hooked-on-phonics lessons they skipped. Aaron Colangelo especially kicked ass on drums. Still, the brass section sounded a tad winded on "1999" and the accordion (misspelled in the playbill!) should have been em-

ployed more prominently. Kudos to Margie McWilliams for courageously playing the trombone while her cartoon baby, "Spike," was being mean-spiritedly bashed on stage. You'll pay for this, Jake.

Vivian Wong took a great deal of care in developing the show's choreography, and it paid off handsomely, although some of the background dancers were slipping out of character more often than little Bubba out of the Presidential zipper.

The parody on the Divinyls' "I Touch Myself" and the Hark scene were quite effective, but nowhere near the genius of, say, the Torrance Community Dance Company of "Praise You" fame. (I looooooove that joint!)

Lastly, there were three unforgivable omissions in this year's parody which warrant special mention.

The administratrix portrayed as taking bribes towards the end of the performance ought have been Susan Vik, and not Suzanne Richardson. Duh.

Co-producer Matthew James Wagner should have been accorded some major padding in the derriere region to pull off a more accurate rendition of Prof. William Fisher III.

And Charlie uses a two-chambered bong.

Her Indie World

Tears of Stone
The Chieftains
BMG 1999

There's "Celtic" music, and then there's Celtic music.

"Celtic" music is Enya and the rest of the synthesized dirge on that Pure Moods CD advertised during reruns of "The Love Boat" on PAX; it's generally purchased by

the same people who've made Deepak Chopra a bestselling author.

The Chieftains are real Celtic music. This means that they are paraded out by music stores and late-night talk show hosts every St. Patrick's Day. Come March 18, their American career gets put on hold for another year.

The Chieftains' new disc, Tears of Stone, deserves a longer life span. The disc features guest turns by prominent female musicians, including Natalie Merchant, Sinéad O'Connor, Diana Krall and Joni Mitchell.

Merchant's full, rich alto is one of the most extraordinary instruments in contemporary music. In order to appreciate this, you have to get her away from singing about insane asylums and multiple personality disorder. The traditional Irish ballad "The Lowlands of Holland" is a

perfect vehicle for her skills, and, unlike "Ophelia," it doesn't even force us to listen to suicidal multilingual tongues.

Even more pleasing to the ear is the Corrs' rockin' rendition of "I Know My Love," a frenzied Irish love song in which the object of the singer's affection is an Irish step-dancing "bonny boy" who "dear old Ireland he sure will tarry/an American girl he's sure to marry." Hmm... could that have been written by Joe Scully's first fiancée? The Corrs are climbing the charts these days, with two albums on the British Top 20 and a spirited performance on last week's "Saturday Night Live."

Sinéad O'Connor, meanwhile, is typically eerie on "Factory Girl," a hushed tale of woe; Loreena McKennitt is typically ethereal on the beautiful "Ye Rambling Boys of Pleasure." Bonnie Raitt proves she can sing in Gaelic, with "A Stór Mo Chroí," but the real Gaelic stars on this album are Irish band the Rankins, with the high-flung jig "Jimmy Mó Mhíle Stór."

The most unexpected gem on the album, though, is "The Fiddling Ladies," a ten-minute instrumental. Featured fiddlers Eileen Ivers, Natalie MacMaster, Máire Breatnach and Annbjörg Lien strut their stuff in a tune that will make you want to put on your Lord of the Dance headband.

Tears of Stone only missteps when it veers away from traditional material.

The disc gets its low point out of the way early, with Joni Mitchell's horrible original song, "The Magdalene Laundries," which is set at a home for wayward girls impregnated by priests. Oh well, at least it's perfect material if the Reproductive Freedom Project ever releases a benefit CD.

Declowning Courtney — If you're making plans to venture to Worcester for the big Hole/Marilyn Manson "Rock Is

Dead" concert next month, you might want to reconsider. Hole has bowed out of the rest of the tour, effective immediately, lead singer Courtney Love told MTV News earlier this week.

The tour has been plagued by rumors of bad blood between Manson and Love, two of the more interesting figures in modern rock.

Love, who is Tanya Marsh's pick for "feminist icon of the '90s" (I'll take Shirley Manson any day), told MTV that she had some "conceptual" problems with the tour: "I think this was a really great idea, and I think it was a mistake. And I would rather call it [off] now and save myself the wear and the tear [of] walking around with clown hair and wearing a clown suit and big clown lips, clown nose, and a giant sign that just says 'Bitch.' Or, you know, 'WWF' and 'Kick Me.' Or 'Where's my steroid,' right?"

If you say so.

Manson probably angered Love when he made some derogatory comments about her in a recent interview with the San Francisco Examiner, in which he labeled Love "a bitch" and said, "I really don't like her too much."

"I asked myself what is the last band in the world I would ever, ever want to tour with," Manson said, "and it was Hole, beyond a doubt. But then I thought, I love a challenge, I like to surround myself with aggravation, it helps me perform better. And I thought, well, here's a chance to show Courtney the difference between being a celebrity and being a real rock star. We're just going to blow her off the stage — my show will be the biggest and greatest rock show of the '90s."

By Suzanne Carter '00
RECORD Columnist

RAISE THAT WHISKEY HIGH

the same people who've made Deepak Chopra a bestselling author.

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LL.M.s Allege Steering Into Pricy Dorms

Continued from NORTH, p. 1

cause they will pay for it."

Moreover, L.L.M.s, many of whom come to HLS from far-off countries, are less likely to have an opportunity to visit Cambridge before they begin their year of study. They can neither properly appraise the merits of North Hall nor explore other housing options.

"You arrive and see it's vastly overpriced, but there is very little you can do about it," said one L.L.M., adding that foreign LL.M.s feared they were being "taken advantage of" by being forced to live in North.

One of his similarly situated classmates feels the "basic problem for us LL.M.s is that it is hard to arrange housing from abroad."

Another L.L.M., while reluctant to accuse the housing office of discrimination

against LL.M. students, added, "How you frame the issue is critical. The objective rules regarding housing allocation harm LL.M.s more, relative to JDs, because we are only here for one year and we don't fly here. The first time is when you arrive."

"If you are here for a second year, you know all the procedures," the student admitted, theorizing about the Housing Office's incentives: "I heard they bought North and had to pay it off in very few years."

On the other hand, data provided to the RECORD by the Housing Office indicates that 76 LL.M. students for the 1998-99 year who were offered a place in a residence decided to live off campus.

<Wyeth and Hastings Off-Limits?

Those interviewed reflect the assumption of some LL.M. students that they are precluded from living in Hastings and Wyeth.

"You have no choice to go into Wyeth or Hastings," one L.L.M. said.

Another student claims to have been told that "regarding Hastings, returning and entering American students have priority, and LL.M.s are at the end of the list. I called and was told I was 25th on the waiting list," she said. "For one reason or the other, it's much harder to get into Hastings and Wyeth than Gropius and North."

Regarding the allegation that LL.M. students are somehow not granted rooms in Hastings or Wyeth, Lidia Real-Costa, Administrative Coordinator for Building Operations, responded that "not many of them go for Hastings or Wyeth. If you don't list it, I can't put you where you want to go."

Pass the Pasta

Another student claimed that "at some point during the Winter exams, there was a clog in the piping system between the

rooms on my side of the building. Whenever the guy next door used the water in his sink, it would come up through the drain in my bathtub."

"I could tell he liked Irish Spring soap," quipped this victim of unfortunate plumbing. "In the middle of the night once, I looked into the bathtub and saw hair and lasagna floating around."

Maintenance staff quickly rectified the problem, coming twice during finals, once at 9 a.m. the day of the student's take-home property exam. Despite the interruption, he received an A- on the exam.

The preceding concerns about the dormitory housing situation at HLS were raised by two LL.M. students at last week's Town Meeting with Dean Clark '72. In response, Clark informed the audience that North Hall would be refurbished at some point. He said that "we've been looking into the North problem and it's going to be very expensive to renovate the building. We'll look into it."

This response left some unsatisfied. One North Hall resident said that refurbishing North will not "solve the main problem; the main problem is knowing who is in charge of the dormitory hall and who will work with students and make it a priority."

Some Remain Complaintless

Other LL.M.s, though, cannot see why their cohorts would raise such a fuss.

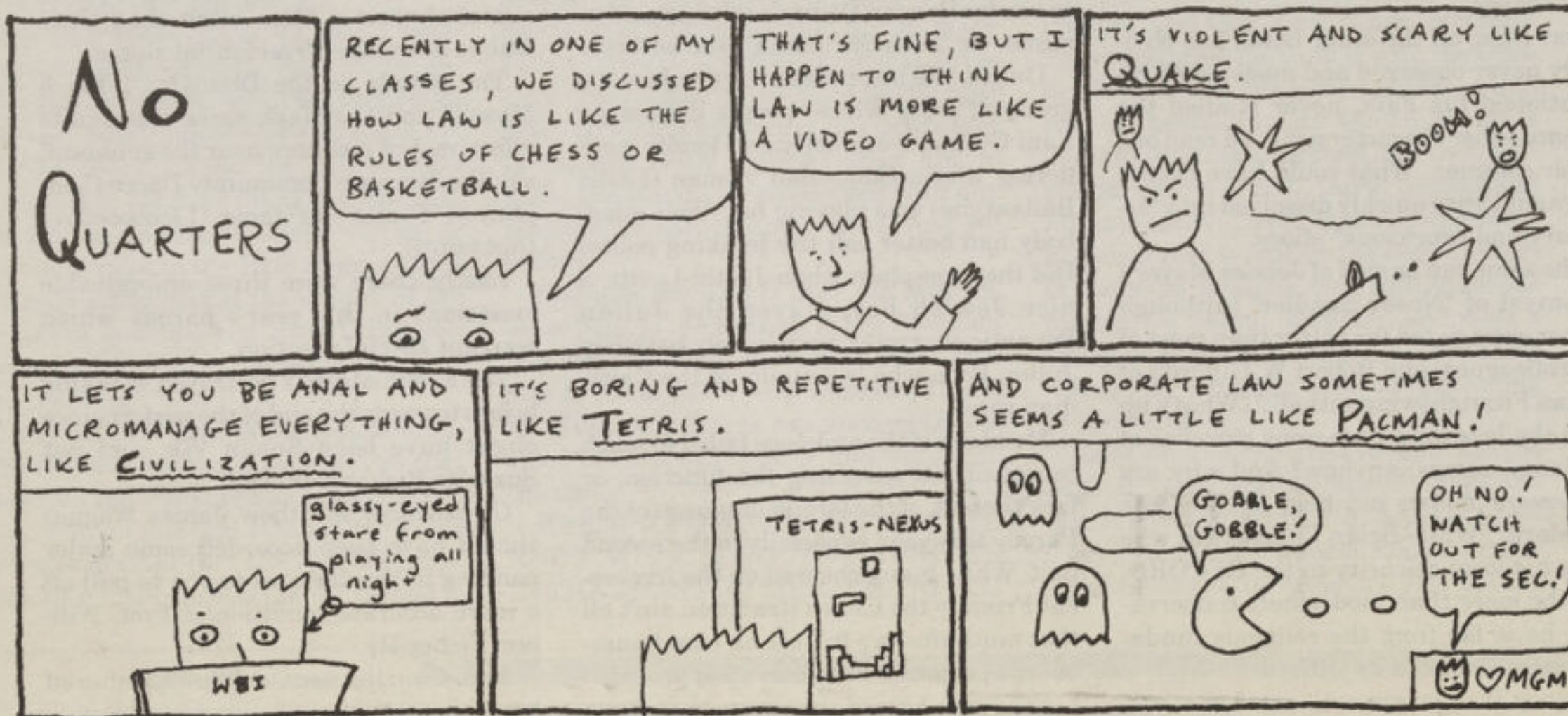
"These are the best rooms on campus!" exclaimed one LL.M. "I have my own toilet; it's not too noisy."

Several J.D.s agree with that student's assessment. "I've got a great room with my own bathroom, which I like. It's all in there, I feel safe here and I think it's worth the money," said a 2L who has lived in North for two years.

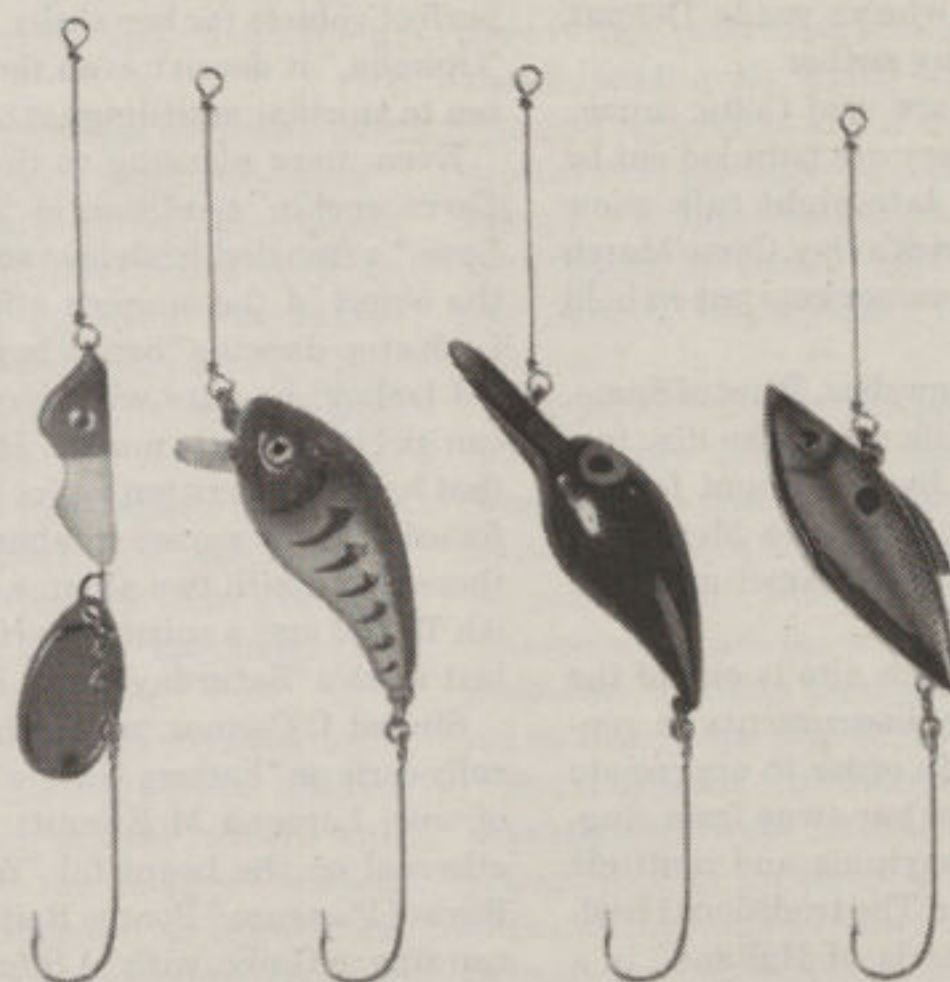
"I'm planning to stay here next year too."

Spike

By Margie McWilliams



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