



HLS campus undergoes cosmetic surgery

Singer to students: structural overhaul designed to improve quality of student life

by Doug Sims

From the folks that brought you those narcolepsy-inducing club chairs in Langdell — even more infrastructure improvements have been made at the Law School this summer, and more are on the way.

Since students departed from campus last Spring, HLS completed considerable renovations in the Gropius Complex, Austin Hall and the Langdell classrooms.

Professor Joseph Singer, Chair of the Infrastructure and Resources Committee, said the "major focus [of the renovations] is to improve student lives." Among the completed changes:

Langdell Classrooms

In Langdell South, the orientation of the room has been changed to be similar to the popular Pound 101. Now there are 10 fewer feet between the professor area and the seat of the farthest student. The floor angle is less severe, lessening the Roman amphitheater effect, improving communication between students and making the atmo-

sphere generally more intimate.

Acoustic materials were placed on the walls and other places, with the intention of absorbing sound in some spots and reflecting it in others. Lowered ceilings made from harder materials should reduce the echo effect which often impeded voice recognition. Also, the chairs and desks were replaced. Chairs are now adjustable with an eye towards helping students type more comfortably. Each workspace now contains an electrical outlet and a LAN connection. The latter will not be functional until appropriate software is developed and a policy is formulated about under what circumstances students should be able to surf the web during class. The rooms also benefit from a new audio-visual system, which permits professors to employ snappy Powerpoint presentations as well as to play CDs and videotapes.

Austin Hall

The tunnel under Austin will be completely revamped; highlights will include computer stations and new rest rooms.

Architects and engineers con-

tinue to study possible changes to Austin North, designed by famed architect Henry Hudson Richardson. That classroom presents special challenges due to its concrete floors and high windows. A leveling of the floors in this room would have doubled the cost of the entire project, since it would require structural rather than superficial changes. Singer, however, underscored HLS's commitment to ameliorate acoustics in Austin North, even if that means installing microphones and speakers at every desk. To improve visuals,

Please see CHANGES, p. 3



Photo by Kim Isbell

The class of '02 arrives

by Francesco Barbera

Quietly lurking in the hallowed halls of Ames and Story halls are jugglers and ball-room dancers, Peace Corp volunteers and CORO Fellows, geo-hydrologists and epidemiologists, British Barristers and Midwestern cowboys: they are the Harvard

Law School Class of 2002.

This year's 556 1Ls hail from 11 nations, 46 states and the District of Columbia. They have lived and worked in Rwanda and Vietnam, in the jungles of Northern Thailand and the refugee camps of Malaysia. They hail from Albania, Canada, Colombia, Korea, China, Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong and New

Zealand. There are Truman Scholars and journalists, a doctor and an officer of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Law School Demographics

Additional statistics reveal some notable features of the new law school class. Nearly 45 per cent of the class graduated from just ten undergraduate schools. Harvard College is by far the most highly represented, with 77 of its graduates making the leap across Cambridge Street. Yale is the runner-up, offering 34 of its graduates to the Crimson. Honorable mentions go to Duke (28), Stanford (21) and Princeton (19).

Coastal states represent a huge portion of the entering class. Eighty-five students, more than 15 per cent of the class, come from the Empire State alone. California, the next most popular state, gives us 80 sun-swathed students. Runners-up in this category include: New

Please see 2002, p. 6

Students connect firms to HLS

3L entrepreneurs seek to replace paper flyers with e-mails

by Justin Herdman

At HLS, the fall semester traditionally clutters student lives with a variety of Hark box appeals. After any particularly massive influx of flyers, pamphlets, and administrative memorandums, the floor of Harkness Commons can begin to resemble the leaf-strewn streets of autumnal Cambridge.

Signs of a different method of recruitment are beginning to appear, however. The trend towards electronic notification and away from costly, time-consuming paper wars has already been registered by the HLS community.

Free Willkie

On Monday, students logging onto their e-mail accounts were welcomed with an invitation to a reception hosted by the law firm Willkie, Farr & Gallagher. A disclaimer at the end of the message attributed the electronic invitation to Recruiting Event Services (RES). The disclaimer informed students that if they no longer wished to receive event information from RES, they should reply to the message and type "cancel" in the subject field.

Sally Donahue, Director of the Office of Career Services (OCS), responded to RECORD inquiries about the origin of the e-mail

message. "We get lots of requests from law firms to [publicize events] and always turn them down," said Donahue.

According to Donahue, OCS will not provide firms with student names or addresses. "We don't even stuff boxes," Donahue said.

This gap in communications between firms and students led to the creation of RES. Founded last year by Jonathan Grossman '00 and Trevor Jones '00, RES was the product of the two students' summer experience at law firms. Speaking with recruiting coordinators helped the two identify the difficulties faced by firms in the hiring process.

It's not Stove Top

Grossman explained that most of these problems stemmed from the firms' lack of direct connections to the student body. For instance, Grossman cited a firm's past *faux pas* as the type of incident that RES helps its clients to avoid. The firm in question had scheduled a recruiting event on the same evening as the Public Interest Auction. RES's services help to remedy these incidents, as well as providing more mundane assistance in the form of Hark box-stuffing and the aforementioned electronic relays.

"Where there's a need, there's a business," said Grossman.

RES currently entertains a cli-

ent list of 6 or 8 firms, with most based in New York. Neither of the firms which employed Grossman or Jones is a client of RES. Grossman and Jones charge the firms at customized rates, depending upon the services rendered, the firm's budget and specific needs, and on the number of hours required for the job.

RES, meet ITS

The recent e-mails by RES, however, pose controversial questions regarding the use of HLS's network resources. The user agreement distributed by Information Technology Services (ITS) is signed by all users of the network. The agreement expressly forbids the use of "...computer or network resources for commercial purposes without authorization."

According to Grossman, RES received no such authorization. "We didn't perceive [RES] as needing permission. We understood that ITS policy is to prohibit solicitation using ITS resources, and we haven't used ITS resources," he said.

Grossman explained that RES sent the message from an external account set up on Prodigy. "From that perspective," said Grossman, "we weren't using the Harvard system."

Conceding that RES at least "nominally" used law school facilities, Grossman insisted that providing students with the op-

tion of ceasing the e-mails was a proper way to counteract complaints. As of Tuesday, RES had received 15 to 20 replies asking to be removed from the business' mailing list.

Grossman defined the e-mail as a "reminder" that may be helpful to many students who are overwhelmed by the number of important events at this time of year. "I realize that some people complain about junk e-mail, and that's why we're particularly responsive," said Grossman.

Grossman also emphasized the involvement of OCS in the decision to found RES. "OCS is in the loop," said Grossman, "What we're doing is providing services for firms registered with OCS."

RES analogizes the sending of e-mail messages to the passing of paper notifications. Just as some students concerned about recycling choose not to receive handouts, Grossman suggests that those students who are bothered by electronic reminders simply respond to RES' disclaimer.

The recent round of e-mail invitations may be merely the first step, as Grossman admits. "It's a function of the market. If one firm does a cocktail party, every [firm] does one."

ITS Director Jane Sulkin did not respond to RECORD inquiries concerning RES.

p.7...Fenno finally gets out of her shell...pp.8&10...The Buzz returns from summer hiatus with juicy gossip and loads of other thrilling entertainment stuff...p.9...Suzanne previews the hot new music releases coming out in the cool Fall season...p.10...Steve shares his deepest and darkest memories of 1L-dom

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Briefs

Hay '88 denounces 2d Amdt. ruling

Prof. Bruce Hay '88 joined 51 other legal scholars in an *amicus curiae* brief denouncing a ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Sam Cummings, which held that the Second Amendment gives individuals, not just organized militias, the right to bear arms.

The brief, filed with the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals last month, criticizes Cummings's ruling as calling into question any attempt at upholding gun control laws. Instead, the brief's author, David Yassky, a Brooklyn Law School professor, argues that the Second Amendment should be read as attempting to "preserve organized, state-based militias," rather than granting individuals the right to keep and bear arms.

Cummings's ruling came in a case in which Timothy Joe Emerson of San Angelo, Texas was convicted under a law prohibiting someone from owning a gun while under a restraining order after Emerson allegedly brandished a handgun in front of his wife and her daughter.

Warren blasts proposed bankruptcy law

Prof. Elizabeth Warren recently came out against a bill scheduled to be taken up by the Senate this week which would reduce consumer protection in federal bankruptcy law, giving lenders the ability to pressure for repayment after families have declared bankruptcy.

Warren, an adviser to the National Bankruptcy Review Commission, wrote an opinion piece in the *Christian Science Monitor* last week calling federal bankruptcy law "the new women's issue" and urging the Senate to defeat the bill.

According to Warren, women in financial difficulty will be harmed by the bill's proposal to allow credit card debt to survive bankruptcy, forcing financially strapped women to face ever-increasing fees and interest payments after filing for bankruptcy, and forcing women who have child support and alimony judgments against former husbands to compete for scarce financial resources against credit card companies.

1L chronicles life at HLS via Internet

As further proof of what Scott Turow and Richard Kahlenberg already knew, *Slate* has become the latest to capitalize on the country's fascination with Harvard Law School. In four "Diary" columns last week, Bruce Gottlieb '02 shared his experiences during his first week of law school with the Internet magazine's readers.

When asked to comment on his unique extra-curricular activity, Gottlieb said: "Rumors that McKinsey & Co. is ghostwriting my diaries are greatly exaggerated. I'm allowed to edit the final drafts for both spelling and grammar."

Gottlieb, a former *Slate* staff writer, has given his readers a glimpse at an insider's view of the first week of law school, complete with Socratic professors, questions about the definition of *assumpsit*, Prof. Bruce Hay's reputation for student friendliness, and 1L Bar Review.

Gottlieb has also written for *Seattle Weekly* and *The New Republic*. In two weeks, Gottlieb will have a piece published in the *New York Times* magazine.

His articles can be found in the archives of the "Diary" section of *Slate* magazine <<http://www.slate.com>>.

Minow named to Kosovo commission

Prof. Martha Minow has been named to an independent international commission to study the course of events during NATO's bombing campaign against Serb forces in and around Kosovo last spring.

The commission, headed by South African Constitutional Court Judge Richard Goldstone, has the task of studying the bombing campaign and providing recommendations on the war, to be presented to United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan next September. Funding for the commission will come from the Swedish government. Sweden is not a member of NATO.

Dershowitz releases new novel

Ever prolific, Prof. Alan Dershowitz has released a new novel. Titled *Just Revenge*, the novel tells the story of an elderly Holocaust survivor who seeks revenge on the man responsible for killing his family. Unable to murder the Nazi by conventional means, the Holocaust survivor chooses instead to literally talk his adversary to death, convincing the "victim" to commit suicide. The subsequent prosecution and trial explore the questions of justice and ethical revenge for the victims of genocide.

The book resurrects Dershowitz's literary alter-ego: Harvard Law School professor Abe Ringel. The character is a criminal defense lawyer of Jewish ethnicity, "rugged good looks," and a cynical yet ultimately affectionate view of the justice system. Ringel chooses to defend the "murderer," by putting the victim and, consequently, all those responsible for the Holocaust on trial.

Just Revenge also brings to light Dershowitz's own dramatic connection to the Holocaust. The novel's cover features a photograph of the author's family members who died in the Holocaust.

Alum gets nod from Attorney General

The prospects of Christine Arguello '80 rising to a seat on the bench for the U.S. District Court for Colorado were recently bolstered by the addition of an important endorsement. Arguello, who currently serves as Colorado's Deputy Attorney General for State Services, was recommended for the job by her boss, Colorado Attorney General Ken Salazar.

The seat has been in question since May, as Sen. Wayne Allard (R-CO) has threatened the use of his home-state veto power to block the ascension of federal Magistrate Judge Patricia Coan to the seat. Allard had submitted a list of five acceptable candidates to President Clinton, one of whom was Arguello.

Arguello, who was the first female Hispanic from Colorado to gain admittance to HLS, has also received the support of Denver mayor Wellington Webb. After graduating from HLS, Arguello became a litigation partner at Holland & Hart and has taught at Kansas University Law School.

Ethernet installed in Langdell, but not turned on

Continued from *CHANGES*, p. 1

the desks will be reorganized to open up lines of sight to the blackboard.

Committee Working Overtime

The changes represent the fruits of much study and debate by the Infrastructure and Resources Committee. Singer remarked that there were approximately 17 different options for outlet placement in Langdell. The top-mounted position ultimately chosen maximizes space for

laptops while minimizing cord-tripping opportunities. Unfortunately, this configuration exposes the plugs to possible coffee spillage and may well increase activity levels. A plan allegedly floated by an unnamed Torts professor to install signs saying "Coffee consumed at your own risk" was unanimously rejected as overkill. Instead, an innocuous assumption of risk clause was added to students' registration agreement.

Next summer, Austin renovations will continue. All the clinical offices will be

revamped and a floor will be added containing 25-30 carrels for clinical program use. Distance learning technology will be added to the Morgan Courtroom, permitting real-time interaction between HLS and other schools. Morgan will also get movable workspaces, allowing it to serve a variety of purposes. A stairway will be added and a new elevator will make the entire building wheel-chair accessible from the tunnels. In addition, Austin will be furnished with all the technology recently installed in the Langdell class-

rooms, including the Ames Moot Courtroom.

Singer stressed that changes will only merit the term "improvements" if conditions actually get better. The Committee is therefore eager to hear students' comments, Singer said.

Student responses elicited by the RECORD have been remarkably positive. "I think it's a lot more comfortable and functional," said Morgan Ricks '01.

The prospect of extending the current Langdell decor has also met with high student approval. "Hopefully, professors will be able to incorporate the new technology into their curriculum. The renovations are a good step toward using all the resources available here at HLS," said Jonathan Freimann '01.

Next week: *Whither Hemenway? Or Stairmasters in the HLS Coop? And Will HLS be Evacuated to Allston?*

Darby & Darby

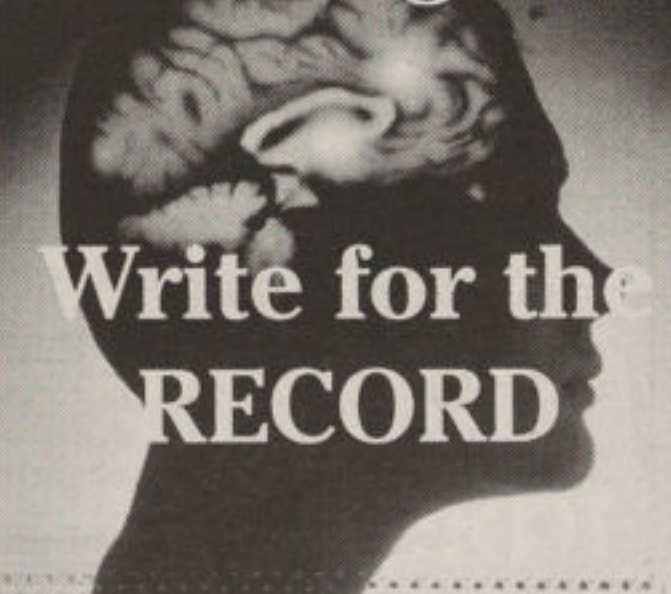
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Of receptions and hotel suites

There's always a palpable atmosphere of anxiety each year around this time. No, it's not the 1Ls sweating out their first couple of weeks of the Socratic Method. It's the 2Ls and 3Ls trying to navigate their way through the system to find a summer job with one of the hundreds of firms that descend on campus during October like locusts.

Before even returning to campus from summer jobs, 3Ls were already receiving invitations to fajita dinners with Dechert Price & Rhoads. One and a half weeks into classes, enough flyers and multi-page, glossy brochures have been stuffed into 2L and 3L Harkboxes to kill a small forest; even the pages of the Adviser and the RECORD have been taken over with ads for firm dinners and happy hours.

With this deluge of paper competing for our attention, two students have decided to help give firms a leg up on the competition... for a fee. These two 3Ls have decided to sell their access to the student directory, and through it access to their classmates' e-mail addresses.

Although one could argue that this is simply an example of the market economy seeking to fill a void by making it easier for firms to have direct contact with students, this "service" invades people's already overstuffed In boxes. This enterprise also forces firm names into our homes without allowing us to leave the constant reminders of job hunting behind us in the Hark recycling bins.

Perhaps it should be a comforting sign that firms are so desperate for our attention that they would hire these two to spam our accounts. But this firm feeding-frenzy only serves to highlight the gross excesses of the whole recruitment process. The fawning attention and glimpses of the good life manage to ensnare many students who came into HLS a year or two ago vowing never to work for a corporate firm, to pursue a life dedicated to serving the public interest (myself included). Facing ever-mounting debts, students find themselves inevitably drifting towards careers that would have been unthinkable before law school.

So, at the risk of sounding like a hypocrite, let me offer some not-so humble advice to all of you: try not to get caught up in the hype of free hats and free-flowing booze. Take the time to honestly evaluate what you want out of HLS and your career. And if you decide to go the corporate route, bring me back some fajitas.

-Kimberley Isbell

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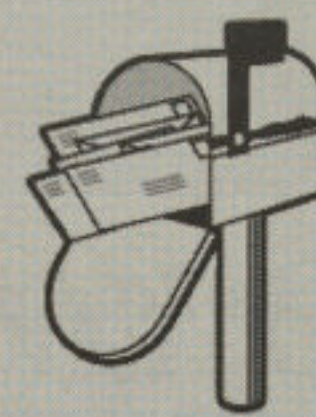
• Letters •

Hygiene fetish goes too far

Dear Tooth-Flaunters:

I was shocked and dismayed by your put down of oral hygiene at the Montrose Spa. Will the rarefied air that surrounds the Harvard jowls like a halo be soured by contact with the imperfect? Do you fear cooties? As a devotee and a near proselytizer for the exquisite joys of flossing, I yield to no one in my commitment to good mouth care, and yet woe to him/her who flaunts it lest further investigation yield less than honey scented breath.

Peter Rosenblum
September 14, 1999



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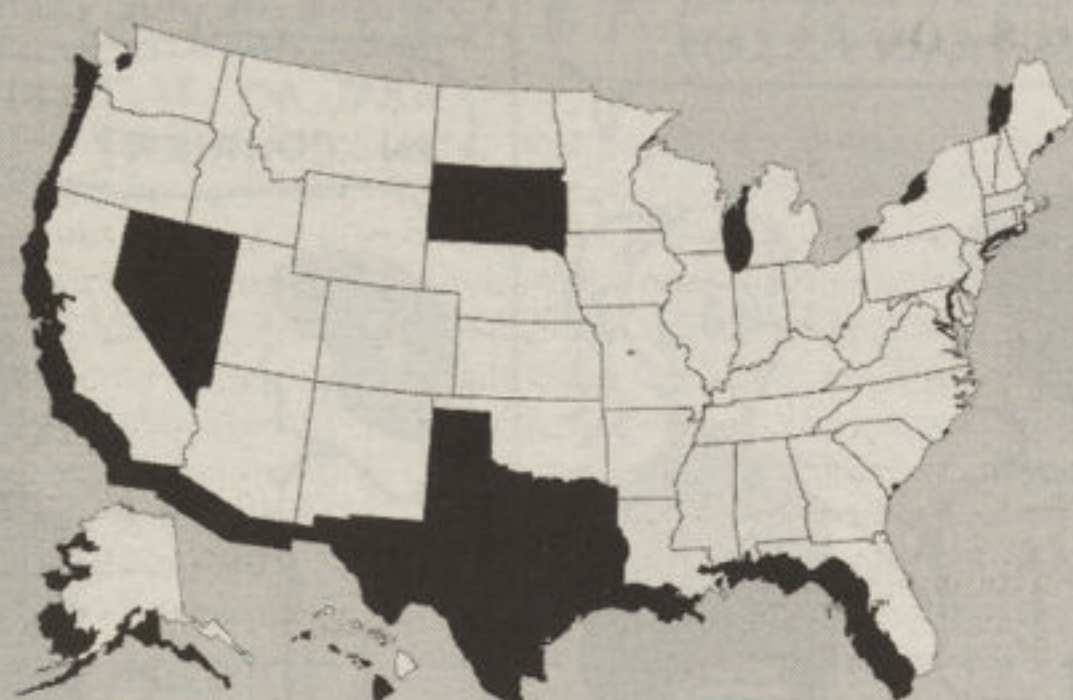
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Remember: If we enjoy putting our paper together just half as much as our readers enjoy reading it, we enjoy it twice as much as them.

Correction

In the September 10, 1999 edition of the RECORD, an article in the Briefs section misspelled Professor Laurence Tribe's name, and incorrectly stated that he recently came out with the second edition to his well-known treatise on Constitutional Law. The newest version is, in fact, the third edition. The RECORD regrets these errors.

Across the Wire



News from the South, West, and Mid-West

Killer executed 21 years after shooting

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — Nearly 21 years after he arrived on Texas' death row, convicted murderer William Prince Davis was executed Tuesday evening for gunning down the manager of a Houston ice cream company during a robbery.

But his final thoughts were of the Dallas Cowboys.

At the end of a lengthy statement in which he expressed love for his family and friends, he looked at the warden and said, "Oh, I'd like to say in closing, What about those Cowboys!"

It's not the first time an inmate on the death row gurney mentioned his fondness for the Dallas football team. Earl Behringer, executed June 11, 1997, thanked the Cowboys for "giving me a lot of enjoyment these past years."

Davis said he was not the same person who committed the crime.

"You see dying before you a different man," he said, and later said of his victims' family, "I'm sorry for the pain and misery I caused them by my actions."

Davis had similar thoughts for his own relatives, saying he hoped to "see you on the other side."

"I'm so thankful I've lived as long as I have," he said, adding he planned to donate his body to science.

In his final moments, Davis took a deep

breath, gasped several times and lost consciousness. He was pronounced dead at 6:19 p.m., seven minutes after the flow of lethal drugs began.

Davis, 42, has spent half his life on death row, where only 10 of the 462 condemned inmates have logged more time.

He was the 24th killer to be executed in the state this year and the third this month. Another is set to die next week.

The seventh-grade dropout from Harris County was convicted of fatally shooting Richard Lang, 60, on the evening of June 2, 1978.

Several drivers were in the company offices turning over the day's receipts to Lang when Davis showed up, according to court records.

As Lang approached Davis, he was shot once in the chest with a .32-caliber pistol. The gunman then ordered the drivers against the wall and fled with \$712 and a shotgun taken from the office.

"He walked in, pulled a robbery and shot the guy," Ken Sparks, who prosecuted the case, recalled. "He gave a written confession, so the trial was primarily over the question of life or death and not really an issue of guilty or not."

Davis contended he thought the victim was coming after him.

"I had to shoot the man," he told police.

"He was going to take the gun away from me."

Three drivers identified Davis as the gunman. Testimony showed that five days after the shooting, he returned to commit a burglary at the same ice cream company.

A jury convicted Davis of capital murder in a one-day trial.

"I never heard anything over the years" about Davis' execution, Sparks said. "I'd always kind of wondered."

While it takes an average of about 10 years before convicted killers in Texas are executed, Davis' case languished in the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals for 81/2 years before his initial appeal was denied in September 1989.

"As a citizen, I'm outraged it takes this long," Sparks said. "You ought to get a fair trial, a fair appeal. If it's upheld, punishment ought to be carried out."

Lang was murdered six months after Davis got out of prison, where he served

21/2 years for burglary and aggravated robbery committed when he was 17. In one of the robberies, Davis held a hostage at gunpoint as police tried to apprehend him. In another of the robberies, his weapon was a butcher knife.

In punishment testimony, jurors also learned of an extensive criminal record that began when Davis was 10 and stealing bicycles. By age 12, he was sent to a juvenile detention home for a year and was returned there twice by the time he was 15, when he received 18 months in a state reform school at Gatesville.

When arrested for the Lang murder, Davis told authorities that since age 12, he had spent only about a year and a half outside custody and had committed more than 20 violent felonies.

Davis' attorneys, trying to keep him off death row, argued unsuccessfully that his earlier crimes were the result of youthful immaturity.

Bobbitt on probation

FALLON, Nev. (AP) — John Wayne Bobbitt dodged a jail sentence Tuesday and was put on probation for his part in a scheme to steal clothes from a store.

Bobbitt, 32, and five co-defendants had pleaded guilty to attempted grand larceny and other charges in a plea bargain. An estimated \$140,000 was stolen from a store that since has closed.

Judge Archie Blake put Bobbitt on probation for five years and ordered him to pay \$5,000 restitution.

Bobbitt said he didn't know the clothing had been stolen.

"My goal is to stay away from trouble,"

Bobbitt said after his sentencing in Fallon, about 60 miles east of Reno.

Bobbitt made headlines in 1993 when his then-wife, Lorena, cut off his penis at their apartment in Manassas, Va. She drove off in a fury and tossed the severed organ out the car window. It later was reattached.

Lorena argued she'd been the victim of an abusive husband and was found innocent by reason of insanity.

Bobbitt said Tuesday he hasn't spoken to her since. "The last thing I said to her was 'I want a divorce,'" he said.

He now lives in Niagara Falls, N.Y.

New strip-search policy

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A policy of sending Sioux Falls curfew violators to shower while their clothing is searched has been partially reversed.

The Minnehaha County Commission on Tuesday decided that teens brought to the Juvenile Detention Center for minor offenses will stay in a holding area until their parents pick them up.

They still will have to empty their pockets, however, said center Director Jim Banbury.

And if their parents don't come within two hours, the youths will have to shower and be searched.

County leaders agreed last week to review the search policy.

For the past few months, police have taken teen suspects to the center for even minor offenses. It frees officers to pursue more serious criminal cases, authorities said.

The search policy was implemented to make the center safer, Banbury said, and the youths are never touched during searches.

He said a third of the teens brought to the center have weapons or drugs.



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ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEWS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5

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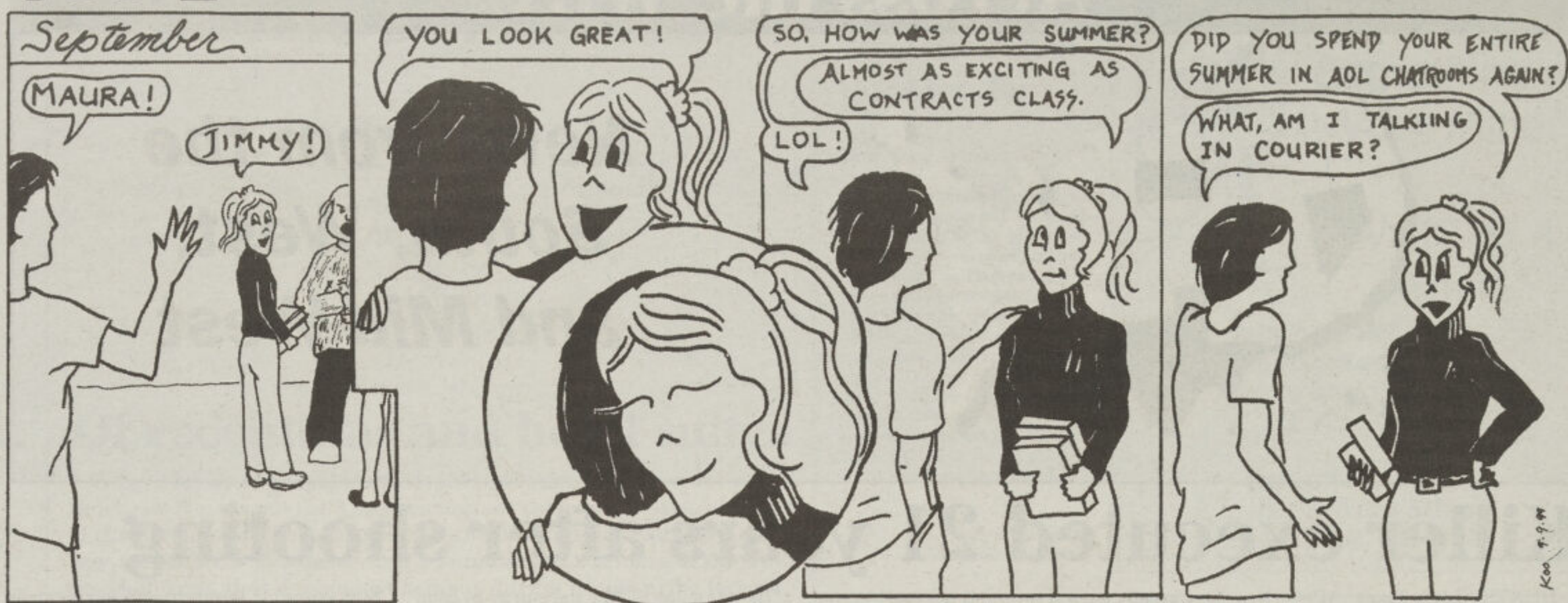
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Soldiers, cowboys, and quiet scholars

Continued from 2002, p. 1

Jersey (33), Massachusetts (33) and Texas (32).

Increase in female students

Forty-seven percent of 1Ls are women, a substantial increase from last year's 42 per cent.

"The jump to 47 per cent was a big one for us. Women have never represented more than 45 per cent of the class. We're very pleased with that result," said Joyce Curll, HLS Dean of Admissions.

Curll attributes the jump to a higher percentage of women applicants, acceptan-

ces and enrollments, as well as to recently implemented improvements in the admissions process. For instance, "Admitted Applicants Day" was expanded to two days this year and featured increased participation among faculty members and students. "I think that's a large part of the reason we did well with women," said Curll.

Road to diversity still long

Total minority enrollment figures for the Class of 2002 actually represent a slight decline from last year's entering class, despite widespread student activism last year concerning the lack of diversity on campus. Twenty-five per cent of

entering 1Ls are minorities, compared to 25.4 per cent of 1998's entering class.

African-American representation increased to 10 per cent of the entering class, up from about 8 per cent last year. Asian/South Asian student enrollment declined to 10 per cent from 12 per cent in 1998. Latino enrollment remained static at 4 per cent, while the number of entering Native Americans increased from three to five.

While emphasizing that the Law School has made "great strides" in minority recruitment and enrollment, Curll acknowledged that much work remains to be done.

"I would have liked to have seen more

Latino students," she said.

"We worked hard with minority groups on campus at encouraging minorities to apply and enroll," stated Curll. "We stepped up our efforts to contact them and to give them the information they need to know whether this is the right school for them."

In response to repeated student criticism, Dean Clark last Fall appointed Prof. David Wilkins '80 to the Admissions Committee. Until then, the Committee had no minority representation.

Curll noted that Wilkins's contribution was tremendous. "I thought he was great. He added a truly valuable perspective," she said.

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Cape Pollo

By Jake Zimmerman '00
Staff Columnist

YOU WANT THE TRUTH? YOU CAN'T HANDLE THE TRUTH!

Hey, 1Ls! Welcome to Harvard Law School! Are you enjoying your spacious new quarters in the scenic Gropius Complex? Of course you are. Have you yet enjoyed the delightful taste sensations of the Hark, America's culinary capital? I certainly hope so. Have you already wasted at least one perfectly good day of your life on a completely ridiculous LRA assignment? There's the HLS spirit!

All right, you happy campers, you. It's good to see you all so excited about the thrilling intellectual voyage you're about to embark on. By the way, did you remember your seasick pills? Barfing in Langdell is *gauche*, they tell me. (Of course, they also told me that I was "unfit to be returned to society" back when I was at the Institute. But I showed them. Oh yes, I did!)

But, beware, newbies: your voyage is fraught with terrible danger. Just as your arteries are in constant peril if you so much as walk by the entrance to Three Aces, so too is your entire professional education at risk of being doomed to a hopeless void of existential angst. "What, oh Wise One, is this danger of which you speak?" I hear your cries, little ones, and I will answer. Gather round, pop open a cool, refreshing bottle of Fiji Spring Water, and listen to my sage words.

(Fiji Spring Water, incidentally, is now available at the HarkBox Café, for the low price of only \$19,000, plus the appendage of your choice, plus your immortal soul. I learned this the hard way, just the

other day. I spotted a bottle of water in the fridge, and, needing something quick before class, figured I could handle wasting a buck or so on some water. Little did I realize that this was *Fiji Spring Water*, which is evidently the most scarce and valuable resource on the planet. By the time I realized this, they had already swiped my card, and it was too late. If I advertise the product in every column for the rest of the year, however, SoDexHo may offer to help me qualify for LIPP assistance on the new loan I had to take out to pay for my lousy bottle of water. Fortunately, I'm not bitter about this. That's not my style.)

Anyway, back to that danger. It is the most fearsome peril one can imagine (with the possible exception of being forced to watch Alan Dershowitz dancing naked on a tabletop while singing the Macarena). The terrible threat I must warn you of is this: bad advice. (Yes, really, bad advice. What did you expect, rabid wolves injected with PCP?) Oh, sure, the advice you receive sounds good at the time. It comes from places that seem trustworthy: your BSA leader, the OPIA people, the RECORD, Bruce Hay... you get the idea. So why wouldn't you trust this advice? After all, it comes from people who say they care about you and want you to succeed.

But let's look at the cold, hard facts, which I learned after a cathartic evening spent reading Lyndon LaRouche's pamphlets and smoking kitty-litter cigarettes.

First, the BSA is a mind-control plot, sponsored by the Mexican Knights of Columbus as part of their plan to convince you that legal research is rewarding and that the Queen of England isn't really smuggling drugs across the border in an effort to subvert American Democracy. OPIA is in on the game. Go back and read the RECORD from three years ago — you'll see that Bob Clark actually cut their budget to zero. Where do you think the replacement money came from, hmm? I'll tell you: the Bronfman family in Canada, who have used the profits from their liquor business for years to help brainwash America's youth. And obviously you can't trust the "mainstream" RECORD reporters, because they've never dared to cover this story (mostly because they were threatened with being locked alone in a room with Scott Brewer for 48 hours if they didn't keep mum). So who does that leave you with? Bruce Hay? He's obviously an alien, so you can pretty much do the math on that one yourself.

That's right, folks. You can't trust anyone. Anyone except me, that is. Only I have the courage to buck the system. Only I have dared to risk my life to bring you the truth. So the least you can do is follow my advice, you ungrateful little saps. Here, then, are a few modest suggestions for how to *really* make your first year a success:

1. **Stop briefing your cases.** Briefing



cases will not help you on your exams. Neither will study groups, commercial outlines, classroom lectures, or the most popular study aide, crystal meth. In fact, the surprising truth is that only one activity is statistically correlated with success

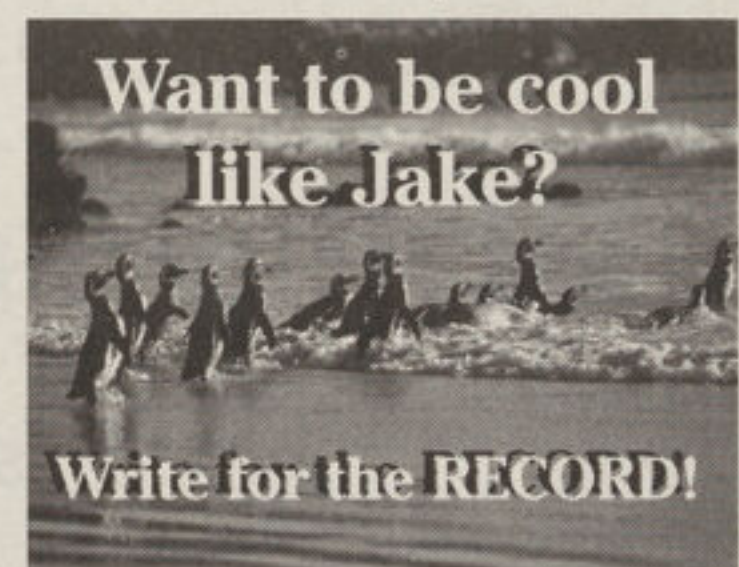
on exams at HLS: llama farming. Make sure to save at least 12 hours a week for llama maintenance; more time will be necessary as exams approach, and when the llamas go into heat.

2. **Drop out of any clubs, activist organizations, and journals that you may have signed up for.** These groups are all designed to get you to spend more time in dense clumps of other law students, which makes it easier for the brain-feeding aliens to get a five-course meal in one sitting. Protect yourself by avoiding contact with all of your peers, and befriend only people you meet in Harvard Square whose hair comes in at least four different vibrant colors.

3. **Learn the sources for good outlines.** They're not where you would expect them to be. Skip the distribution center, Gannett House, and Lincoln's Inn. The best source for good outlines is the guy who runs the Chinese Food Truck. Just ask him for the "jellyfish surprise." He'll know what you mean.

4. **Trust no one other than me.** Well, me and Liz Falk. Liz is a repository of useful information. This is largely because she is very tall. Tall people always know stuff.

5. Finally, above all else, **obey this most crucial piece of advice.** When times are tough, when law school gets you down, when things seem too rough to handle, remember that there's always one place you can turn for support and solace. Just pop open a fresh bottle of *Fiji Spring Water* and wash your cares away in a cool blast of arctic goodness. As the bottle label says, this remarkable beverage "has a soft, refreshing taste enhancing wellness and vitality." Ahhh, delightful Fiji Spring Water. Ask for it by name at an overpriced convenience store near you.



FENNO

Fenno was embarrassed to do it, but she went ahead and turned on the television. After a summer of never-ending "do you know that *dreamy* Justin Deabler?" questions, the last thing Fenno wanted to do was admit that she followed the show. But there was no escaping it. Like a motorist slowing down to look at a particularly grisly accident, Fenno's better instincts were useless to her — she just couldn't stay away from "The Real World."

After what seemed like 90 hours of commercials for acne medicine, the show finally came on. (Fenno wondered, not for the first time, if Jonathan Zittrain tuned in religiously just to watch the ads.) The episode was already halfway over, and so far as Fenno could gather, the basic theme of this week's show was "Justin bitching at everybody." In the space of five minutes, Justin had called his housemates "needy," "pathetic," "insignificant," and "comotose." If Fenno hadn't been paying more attention, she'd have thought Deabler was referring to Art Von Mehren.

After 30 more seconds, the next marathon round of commercials began, and Fenno, feeling much more steady now that she'd gotten her fix, turned off the TV and powered up the computer. Unfortunately, it immediately crashed, overburdened by the electronic weight of 90 e-mails from Trevor Jones and Jonathan Grossman, all inviting her to sell her soul for free food. Annoyed, Fenno thought about calling ITS and complaining to Susan Vik, but then Fenno remembered that Susan Vik had mysteriously disappeared some months ago. Fenno whistled innocently, twiddled her thumbs, and wondered aloud, "now *who* could possibly have been responsible for that?"

In an instant, Fenno's anger was gone, replaced by a barely suppressed giggle at the poetic justice of it all. Fenno, now

doubly juiced, strolled outside to get some fresh air. No sooner did she do so than she ran into Melissa Bailey, who quickly ran up to her and demanded to know if she'd seen the newest episode. Fenno replied with a brisk nod and quickened her stride. But Missy didn't take the hint, and stayed at Fenno's side.

"So you liked it, huh? Betcha didn't know that ever since he's become famous, Justin and I are best friends!"

Fenno had no time for this. "Anything you say, sugar."

"Really, I am! Plus, didya know how *tight* me and Ricky Martin are? He's my little *coco loco*, wink wink, nudge nudge."

Fenno yawned. "Right, and James Pfeffer was the captain of his crew team."

Bailey blinked. "Say what?"

Fenno smirked. "Never mind," she muttered, taking advantage of the moment of confusion to quickly walk in the opposite direction.

No sooner did she do so, however, than she ran into Jessie Lochman, who gave her a cheerful wave. Fenno, doing her best to make small talk, asked if she'd caught last night's episode. In an instant, Jessie's features sunk. "No, Fenno. I live in Hastings."

Fenno nodded with understanding. "Sorry, didn't mean to rub it in. Don't worry, I'm sure you'll get your cable back next year, once they've finished constructing the high-tech new Areeda moving walkway to save strain on professors' knees as they walk between each others' offices. Hey, it says right here in Bobby's letter that this is for your own good. You should be very thankful to all those alumni who made it possible for you to be deprived of cable, thus giving you a leg up in all your classes."

"Oh yeah," muttered Lochman sarcastically, "where would we be without all those vital alumni contributions?"

Fenno smiled. "Damn straight, tiger.

No useless walkway construction. No Joe-Singer-designed classrooms with malfunctioning electronics. No painfully bright magenta paint on the fourth floor of Wyeth. That alumni money sure does make a difference. And, hey, don't forget that they upped your tuition to 25 grand, too. That way, you get to feel like you, the student, are a vital part of the process. It's all very Lani Guinier-esque, ain't it?"

"You'll have to excuse me, Fenno," Jessie mumbled weakly. "Suddenly I'm feeling a little ill."

"Gotcha," said Fenno, who figured it was time to wander back to her underground lair anyway. "You probably ought to go over to Health Services. If you're lucky, maybe you can get them to give you a cough drop."

Quote of the Week

"One-L year really isn't as bad as many actually experience it to be because much of the unpleasantness is in your head."

— Stephen V. Scali, RECORD publisher

Her Indie World

By Suzanne Carter '00

KEEPING ME WAITING



Bliss, the first single from Tori Amos's new album

While for some of us the autumn season means mums and foliage, and for others it's symbolized by promises to attend class every so often, for me it's all about music. Fall is the season for CD releases. (So are Winter, Spring, and Summer, but this is supposed to be a Fall-themed column, so play along, okay?) Following are the discs that I expect to heat up my stereo this semester.

The highlight of the fall will undoubtedly be **Tori Amos's** dazzling "To Venus and Back," which I haven't

heard yet, but I know it will be dazzling just the same. It will include two discs, one of material recorded on her last tour and the other of new studio material (Sep. 21).

The live album bug has finally hit **Natalie Merchant**, whose live performances totally eclipse her mundane solo studio work. "Natalie Merchant Live" will consist of selected songs from a series of Summer 1999 concerts in New York City (Nov. 9).

On a similarly Lilithian (and Liliputian) front, that angry little vegan **Fiona Apple** gets long-winded with "When The Pawn Hits The Conflicts He Thinks Like A King What He Knows Throws The Blows When He Goes To The Fight And He'll Win The Whole Thing 'Fore He Enters The Ring There's No Body To Batter When Your Mind Is Your Might So When You Go Solo, You Hold Your Own Hand And Remember That Depth Is The Greatest Of Heights And If You Know

Where You Stand, Then You Know Where To Land And If You Fall It Won't Matter, 'Cuz You'll Know That You're Right." Yeah she's pretentious, but "Tidal" was one of the most promising debuts of the '90s (Nov. 9).

Post-slacker Adonis **Beck** follows up the stripped-down vibe of "Mutations" and sample-heavy "Odelay" (the album with the cute little doggie on the cover) with "Midnight Vultures," which will feature a song called "Sexxlaws," containing what Dusan calls two of his favorite things (Nov. 16).

Meanwhile, East-coast rapper **Jay-Z** concludes the trilogy that spawned "Hard Knock Life" with "Vol. 3... There Could Only Be One," which I hope will rise above the fact that it features a guest vocal by Mariah Carey (Dec. 28).

Diana Ross's favorite lil' headlight (and those of you who saw the MTV Awards know what I mean), **Lil' Kim**, will release the creatively titled "Notorious K.I.M.,"

which promises to feature a duet between the bodacious Biggie devotee and the even more bodacious '80s diva Grace Slick (Nov. 9).

Speaking of the decade in which Ronald Reagan "officially" lost his mind, two of the greed era's brightest stars are reuniting in "Peace." That's right, Dave Stewart and Annie Lennox, better known as the **Eurythmics**, are back, with not only an album of new material but a reunion tour (Oct. 19).

Perpetually useful **Sting** releases another handful of literary allusion-heavy ballads this month. His friends James Taylor, Stevie Wonder, and the always-welcome (and totally cute) Branford Marsalis guest on "Brand New Day" (Sept. 28).

Counting Crows will come out with their first studio album in three years, "This Desert Life," featuring typically Duritzian-sounding songs like "I Wish I Was a Girl" and "Saint Robinson in His Cadillac Dream" (Nov. 2).

And last but not least, the new **Foo Fighters** album, "There's Nothing Left to Lose," is so titled because, one assumes, Dave Grohl has fired all his band members again. Ah well, he still rivals Beck for alt-rock goofy guy cuteness (Nov. 9).

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The Buzz

By Tanya Marsh '00

DROP YOUR BOOKS AND TURN ON THE TV

Hello friends, and welcome to yet another year of entertainment gossip and analysis that is the Buzz. It's September again, which may mean new notebooks and fall leaves to you, but to me it means that the new television season is on the horizon and the major Oscar contenders are about to be released. Are you ready? Here are a few tidbits to get you started.

Best Summer Movie. I'll bet you are expecting me to say *Blair Witch*. Sorry to disappoint. The best movie this summer, in my informed-yet-humble opinion, is Oliver Parker's version of Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*. The cast, led by Rupert Everett as Arthur Goring, is exceptional. Parker, trained in the theater, gave us a so-so *Othello* in his first cinematic attempt and while that movie demonstrated his inexperience with the medium, *An Ideal Husband* is a fine sophomore effort. The focus is, as it should be, on the language and Everett's droll delivery is perfect. Cate Blanchett as Lady Chiltern and Jeremy Northam as Sir Robert Chiltern give fine performances and Julianne Moore is wonderful as the mysterious and manipulative Mrs. Cheveley. (Anyone else remember when Moore played Frannie Hughes on *As The World Turns*?) My only reservation about the cast is Minnie Driver's portrayal of Sir Robert's sister (and Goring's love interest). She plays the role too wide-eyed, and I just don't buy that the sophisticated and worldly Lord Goring would fall for her.

Everett, one of the few openly gay leading men in Hollywood, is a very gifted actor and a commanding screen presence. That he was cast as the lead in an Oscar Wilde play is no positive proof that he will be allowed to break out of the asexual "gay friend" role he played in *My Best Friend's Wedding*, but I hope that Hollywood is smart enough to realize that Everett has a timeless intelligence and grace that we haven't seen since Cary Grant. It would be a great injustice if he is prevented from fulfilling his destiny as a major movie star.

Best Summer TV Show. Networks normally don't run new episodes during the summer months, although cable networks like USA and HBO keep their own

seasonal schedules. I greatly enjoyed the third season of *La Femme Nikita* (USA network, Sundays at 10 p.m.) and the brash *Sex and the City* (HBO, Sundays at 8 p.m.), but the best show this summer, hands down, was *Oz*. This searing prison drama is populated by selfish, amoral, unsympathetic characters, but the clever Machiavellian plots entice, disgust and captivate. Two of my favorite characters, Chris Keller (Christopher Meloni) and Ryan O'Reilly (Dean Cain) may have uncertain futures in *Oz* because their portrayals have been cast in the new spin-off *Law and Order: Special Victims Unit* (NBC, Mondays at 9 p.m.). I'm happy that both of these rising actors have gotten such a big break, but I dread the loss of their *Oz* characters. Keller's relationship with Tobias Beecher (Lee Tergesen) appears to have run its story arc, but it is hard to believe that there are no more twists in the future. People don't live happily ever after in *Oz*. If *Oz* were Shakespeare, Ryan would be Iago. Question: what happens to Othello when his manipulator is gone? Answer: the audience leaves the theatre.

Still think you can't watch television because you have to study? Okay, *Oz* is homework — anyone studying criminal law needs to watch this show for a violent (and disturbingly realistic) primer on America's maximum security prisons. HBO is reshowing season four from the beginning on Wednesday nights at 10:30 p.m. Check it out.

Starts Today: American Beauty. Kevin Spacey is one of the most talented actors working today. He's also a man of eccentricity and integrity. He worked for the better part of a year in Broadway's *The Iceman Cometh* for scale (for scale!) and was robbed of a Tony Award. Not that I'm bitter. Now he is starring in a dark, quirky comedy as Lester Burnham, a bored suburbanite office drone trapped in a marriage to a Stepford wife (Annette Bening). Burnham rebels against the confines of his stifling existence and turns his attention to a striking teenage friend of his daughter. *American Beauty* is notable for featuring the first nude scene

Spacey has ever filmed. Apparently, Spacey lifts barbells naked. If that won't have them packing the theatres, I don't know what will. *American Beauty* is the cinematic debut of Sam Mendes, best known for directing Nicole Kidman on the London and Broadway stage in *The Blue Room*. The early word on *American*

scheduled to hit theaters on Nov. 12.

For those who haven't heard, in *Dogma*, Ben and Matt play fallen angels whose scheme to re-enter Paradise threatens to destroy the world. Standing in their way is a woman having a crisis of faith (Linda Fiorentino), who is assisted by a winged messenger of God (Alan Rickman), a hith-



Kevin Spacey pumps iron in the forthcoming film *American Beauty*

Beauty is that this film screams Oscar contender. It opens nationwide on Oct. 1, but we lucky residents of Beantown get to see it beginning Sept. 17.

Breaking News: Dogma. Faithful readers of the Buzz may remember that the newest Kevin Smith film, *Dogma*, starring local heroes Ben Affleck and Matt Damon as a pair of gun-toting angels, was dropped by Disney after the movie's subject matter was questioned by religious folks. Harvey and Bob Weinstein, whose studio Miramax is the subsidiary of Disney which developed *Dogma*, bought the completed film and have been shopping it around since April. A few days ago, Lions Gate, the Canadian distributor which released *Affliction* and *Gods and Monsters*, purchased the rights to *Dogma* from the "golden brothers" and the film is

erto unknown trash-talking Thirteenth Apostle (Chris Rock), a heavenly muse (Salma Hayek) and, of course, Jay (Jason Mewes) and Silent Bob (Kevin Smith). And let's not forget a mute Alanis Morissette starring as God.

Religious conservatives, most notably William Donohue of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, have criticized the plot as blasphemous. The Catholic Smith defends his film. "The way my film treats the church is kind of like the girl you really like in the first grade, and you don't know how to express yourself, so you pull her pigtails. It's like that. Affectionately, this film pulls the pigtails of the Catholic Church. My film is irreverent," adds Smith, "but it's not cynical. At the end of the day here, faith saves the world." I'm marking my calendar for Nov. 12.

Where to see all the happening new flicks

By Dusan Stojkovic

Loews Theatres, Harvard Square
10 Church Street, Cambridge 864-4580

By far the closest film theater to campus, Loews offers a good mix of pre-ordained blockbusters and artsy contenders for your box office buck. This local staple's main shortcoming, however, is size, since five screens just cannot cut it in today's world of supersized megaplexes. Also a word of warning to people who like to stick their fingers into boxes located underneath movie theater seats: they may well be rat traps, but that's another story...

Landmark Kendall Square Cinema
1 Kendall Square, Cambridge 494-9800

My personal favorite, the Landmark perfectly blends the setting of a generic American multiplex with unconventional, un-American flicks made nowhere near Hollywood. But getting there is less fun: from the Kendall Square T-Stop, one has to go through the Marriott Hotel, travel down the railroad tracks, and cross a busy highway... Alternatively, one could go the less adventurous route and just take the shuttle to Cambridge Galleria, which sporadically stops in front of the movie theater. Just ask the driver, and unless you want to be dumped into the Charles,

please leave that "I go to Harvard and I'm wicked-smart" attitude at home.

Brattle Theatre 40 Brattle St, Cambridge 876-6837

A classic art house if there ever was one, presenting mostly crap on a mostly torn screen. The fun part is sorting out from the aforementioned crap the few excellent, earth-moving movies that may change your life forever. Also the place to catch a few oldies but goodies from the classical era of American cinema.

Harvard Film Archive 24 Quincy St, Cambridge 495-4700

Another artsy-fartsy place but with a much better screen, more comfortable seating and really rare reels of cinematic history. Shout out to recent graduate Elizabeth Read; mention her and you'll get a hefty discount on the ticket!

Somerville Theatre 55 Davis Square, Somerville (617) 625-5700

It's more than adequate for the micro-commuter moviegoing crowd, and very nicely priced.

National Amusement (Showcase) Circle Cinema 399 Chestnut Hill Avenue At Cleveland Circle In, Brookline 566-4040

This one's farther out than most HLS-ers will ever want to venture, but it does offer an impressive assortment of elusive foreign films that makes it worth the trip, as do the bragging rights that one's actually been to Brookline!

Loews Theatres Nickelodeon 606 Commonwealth Ave., Behind B.U. College Of Communication, Boston 424-1500

This place is hard to find, consistently shows bad films, the toilets are unspeakably filthy and the popcorn is not edible unless your only source of nourishment is Hark fare. But if there's nothing good on TV, what the hell...

Loews Theatres Fresh Pond 168 Alewife Brook Parkway, Cambridge 661-2900

Adjacent to the Boston metropolitan area's sorriest excuse for a shopping center and across a highway from the area's sorriest excuse for a T-Station, this may be the most physically unappealing of all the theaters listed, but it does offer a fairly good array of films and attractive matinee discounts.

Loews Theatres Cheri 50 Dalton Street, Boston 536-2870

A pleasant theater that draws well-marketed Hollywood films and a trendy

crowd. Situated near the Prudential Center right across the street from the seedy Sheraton, the Cheri is the perfect place for a great after-nooner guilt trip.

Loews Theatres Copley Place 100 Huntington Avenue Box 17, Boston 266-1300

Tickets at this centrally-located cinema (inside the mall right across the street from the Back Bay T/Commuter Rail Station) tend to sell out hours in advance, but not to fret: the mall is filled with distractions likely to empty the audience's wallets, which is really, really good for the economy and keeps the man happy.

Boston Museum Of Science Omni Theatre Eastern End Of Storrow Drive, Boston 723-2500

As far as content was concerned, IMAX movies used to suck out loud, irrespective of the awe-inspiring three dimensionalism. But of late, it seems some one finally got a clue and started writing better scripts and finding original content for these technical gems. Maybe if we started frequenting the Omni more frequently, the medium would develop in an artistically engaging way. Or wait, more probably they'd develop into pimped out money-machines. So forget the Omni, it's far from here and overpriced.

From fox hunts to finals, a 2L reflects

By Stephen V. Scali

Eight-thirty a.m. and my mind was clouded and bleary. And yet, there I was in Property class. Not a morning person, I was ruffled and groggy, in a dingy, poorly lit Austin classroom. Portraits of moribund, pale-faced men stared disinterestedly down on me.

"I've seen that look before in some lawyers," I thought to myself, and wondered whether one day I too would wear that haughty expression. Or was it detachment? Did those dusty legal giants care about people? Isn't that what law is about? Making the world better?

The professor entered quietly and waited for 150 of us to settle nervously into our seats. Then, without further ado, he removed a stuffed fox from a bag, and placed it on the desk in front of him. He lifted his chair onto the lectern, climbed and straddled it, and began simulating the fierce fox hunt that had featured prominently in our first case of the year, *Pierson v. Post*. An ancient tale written in archaic English, the case had been read, though not necessarily understood.

Hey, I thought, this may be kinda fun...

Reality Sets In

When was it that I first suspected I might be stupid? Was it when I got called on the first day and blubbered out some nonsense in response to a simple Torts question? Was one-L year war, or just preparation for war? It seemed confrontational in an "etiquette of ritualized battle" kind of way. Except everyone kept saying that we would get great jobs.

Did all of these people go to expensive

and fancy undergrad schools? Why did they seem to be doing such detailed briefs for each case? I wasn't finding briefs to be that useful. Was it just me, or were they getting more out of the readings? Was I reading enough? How come I seemed to need more sleep than them? What did these people do in their rooms when the doors were closed?

Sleeping was not the escape from consciousness I sought. It was not fitful, and my dreams were filled with swirling and confusing yuckiness. During the daylight hours, I faded off, and lyrics from Alice in Chains went through my head: "Ain't found a way to kill me yet ... oh God, please, won't you let me make it through."

A Measured Perception

Soon, I noticed that HLS is like a high school in many ways. People have their own groups. It's gossipy. People don't seem to like people who think they're God's gift to academics. Gunners. BOOM. *I know, I know! BOOM. Pick me. BOOM. Here I am, and I'm really smart!*

Evenings, I would come home to Hastings Hall and see my relaxed suitemate enjoying the television. He was happy to be at Harvard, content to be average, and seemed to transcend stress and fear with some otherworldly Midwestern stoicism. There were others like him. But the people I was getting to know from my A group began to admit their fears to me. Genuine friendships flourished. Adversity brought us together. The mask of invulnerability borne of academic success is removed for people you trust.

My suitemate and I and most of our friends made time for dating. We spent most of it alone, but still, we made time. You can't study 24/7.

Scott Turow's harrowing portrait of HLS in *One-L* once haunted me, but at length his work began to amuse me; in September, I winced at his descriptions of panic; by winter break, I became convinced that his work was more fiction than fact.

I tentatively joined some extra-curricular activities. Journal work is essential, I found myself believing, so I joined a journal. I joined *Defenders* for practical experience. I joined the *RECORD*. It was hard to make time for non-reading because I was not yet learned in the art of studying, but, somehow, I managed. In the classroom, I began to see the invisible threads of which cases seemed to be woven. Before long, pre-exam holidays were upon us. They were fun. Not! Drowned in a sea of paper and law, I asked my father, "What if I bomb and am a failure?" as we shopped for a typewriter to write my exams. He did not respond.

Prince of Tides

"At the low point, the tide turns." I don't remember if that's from Dale Carnegie or *Reader's Digest*. In any case, cramming 12 hours a day tests a person's resolve. I recognized walking back from a study session in early January through the blinding snow and freezing cold with an equally numbed and bearded friend.

I typed my exams in a warm, well-lit room with nice, Boston-accented senior citizens, one of whom asked me how I did after the first exam. "Fine, thanks," I said with a weary grin as I realized I made it through alive. Heck, it wasn't that bad. By the third exam, my corporeal resources were spent, and I thought I didn't care any more about how I did. But, of course, I cared. I went out somewhere after, but

did not imbibe, and came home to the smell of my suitemate's burnt notes in our fireplace. I have never, ever been so exhausted.

The Sun Also Rises

The sun rose as usual on the day that exam results came. Three letter grades. No big deal. No Cs. Second semester came and went. Fear was replaced by a measure of boredom. I was changed, no longer the scared rookie of only months before. What had I been so afraid of? The new song lyric motif in my head was from some Irish band that sang "whatever's before me is nothing to what I have come through."

Now, I am the same man as one year ago, yet different. My thinking is crisper, I am more logical, can see multiple sides to issues, yet I am not more cynical as I had feared. I can argue better, am less gullible and tougher than before. I metamorphosed into a journal editor and Senior Defender, magically transformed like a character in a video game with enough accumulated points.

I haven't yet met a 1L who wasn't at least a little nervous, but if I did, I would probably wonder why not. A professor friend once told me that first year is like basic training: "They're going to grind you down and build you up again into a lean, mean, thinking machine!"

Very simple, but you have to be susceptible to the molding. That requires fear and uncertainty about what you're going into. One-L year really isn't as bad as many actually experience it to be, because much of the unpleasantness is in your head. You can't really know this without completing the first year at Harvard Law School.

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Boston Film Festival

For a rare glimpse of flicks very likely not to make it to your nearest cineplex, check out the final two days of the Boston Film Festival. All screenings are to be held at the Copley Place theater. Tickets are \$8.50, but if you are a real obscure-movie buff you will indubitably go for the \$75 packet of ten tickets.

Saturday, Sept. 18

"A Slight Case of Murder"
11:30 a.m., 2:15 p.m., 4:30 p.m.

"Tumbleweeds"
Noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:45 p.m., 9:30 p.m.

"The Carriers Are Waiting"
1:30 p.m., 4:15 p.m.

"Deterrence"
12:30 p.m., 2:45 p.m., 5 p.m.

"The War Zone"
12:15 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 4:45 p.m.

"Best Laid Plans"
6:45 p.m., 8:30 p.m.

"Happy, Texas"
7 p.m., 9:45 p.m.

"Joe the King"
7:30 p.m., 10 p.m.

"The Legend of 1900"
7:15 p.m., 10:10 p.m.

"Original Diner Guys"
7:45 p.m., 9:45 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 19

"Original Diner Guys"
11:45 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 5 p.m.

"Happy, Texas"
11:15 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m.

"Best Laid Plans"
Noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m.

"Joe the King"
2:15 p.m., 4:45 p.m.

"The Legend of 1900"
11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m.

"Tumbleweeds"
11 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:15 p.m.

"The Glass Jar"
6:45 p.m., 9 p.m.

"Rose's"
7:45 p.m., 10:10 p.m.

"Wirey Spindell"
7 p.m., 9:45 p.m.

"Starry Night"
7:15 p.m., 10 p.m.

"Bellyfruit"
7:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m.

THE BUZZ guide to TV

by Tanya D. Marsh

The new television season is upon us. Unsure of how to spend the hours from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. each day? What follows is my tentative television schedule.

Monday

Law and Order: Special Victims Unit. This new spin-off of the long-running critical favorite promises to continue the magic formula while adding more depth to the characters who "investigate the crimes" and "prosecute the offenders." Two standouts from *Oz*, Christopher Meloni and Dean Cain, transition to the spin-off, as does Richard Belzer, reprising his conspiracy-minded Det. John Munch character from the canceled *Homicide: Life on the Streets*. Debuts on Sept. 20 on NBC at 9 p.m.

Unfortunately, I can't recommend anything for the 8-9 p.m. or 10-11 p.m. timeslots on Monday nights until *Monday Night Football* is over. Beginning the first week of November, tune back into *NYPD Blue* with Ricky Schroeder and perpetual Emmy winner Dennis Franz. This is one of the best shows on television now and forever. Watch it.

Tuesday

Oh the cruelty! The 8-9 p.m. timeslot belongs to my beloved *Buffy, the Vampire Slayer*, (returning Oct. 5) but NBC and FOX have conspired to put three of my favorite sitcoms in the same hour: *That '70s Show*, *Just Shoot Me*, and *3rd Rock From the Sun*. It's an easy, if regrettable, decision. I'll just have to catch the sitcoms next summer. The 9-10 p.m. timeslot presents the same dilemma. *Buffy's* immortal love, the vampire Angel, debuts in his eponymous series on Oct. 5 on the WB. Tragically, NBC switched the smart and sexy *Will & Grace* from Thursday night

back to Tuesdays at 9 p.m. Again, what's a girl to do? I suppose I'll have to finally get a VCR that records. In the meantime, *Buffy* and *Angel* forever.

Wednesday

Wednesday primetime offers a wealth of new hour-long dramas including: *The West Wing*, starring Martin Sheen as an idealistic President (yeah, right!); *Roswell*, about high schoolers who don't fit in — to the human race; and *Get Real*. Okay, that last one isn't really promising, but the kiddies will like it. I think I'll stick to a trio of old favorites.

At 8 p.m., I'll return to *Dawson's Creek*. During the opening sequence, while Dawson stands in his rowboat and stares pensively into space, my husband Blane loves pretending to throw rocks at the television. Yes, the show's a little overdone, but it's a nice hour of escapist drama. Plus, you get to learn a bunch of new 50-cent words for use on the next exam.

At 9 p.m., I'll tune into UPN for the sole remaining peek into Gene Roddenberry's vision of the future — *Star Trek: Voyager*. I'm disappointed that *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* has come to the end of its seven-year run, especially since it really hit its stride with the war against the Dominion in the final season. *Voyager*, however, is populated by interesting characters and the premise can continue to carry the storylines where no man has gone before.

The original *Law and Order* returns to NBC at 10 p.m. with Jesse L. Martin replacing Benjamin Bratt, Julia Roberts's main squeeze, as a homicide detective. You may remember Martin as Ally McBeal's doctor-boyfriend, but he should be best known for his role as an alien baseball player in the excellent David Duchovny-penned episode of *The X-Files*,

"The Unnatural" and as one of the original cast members of Broadway's *Rent*. Hit series usually don't exist beyond the seven-year contracts signed by the original cast members. *Law and Order* has survived nine seasons and is still going strong. Sam Waterson's district attorney character faces the ethical dilemmas posed in HLS classrooms everyday and it is fascinating to watch them play out in the real legal world (according to Hollywood scriptwriters). Honestly, it is a great show. Tune in and give it a try.

Thursday

Who among us doesn't associate Thursday nights with "Must See TV" and NBC? Unfortunately, the glory days are gone. The loss of *Seinfeld* broke NBC's stranglehold on America's viewing habits and they just haven't been able to find four suitable replacements. If I were a programming guru at NBC (are you guys listening??), I would load Thursday night with *Friends*, *Just Shoot Me*, *Will & Grace*, and *Newsradio*. Of course those idiots canceled *Newsradio*. So fine, I'll substitute *Frasier*. If that was the lineup, I'd actually stay tuned through *ER*, even without George Clooney. The way things are, though, I'll tune into *Friends* at 8 p.m., play on the Internet for a half hour, watch *Frasier* at 9 p.m., take a shower, and then, if I'm still awake, lie in bed and watch *ER*. It ain't pretty, but those are my plans for Thursday nights. Of course I think there might be re-runs of *The X-Files* and *NYPD Blue* on FX...

But wait! I almost forgot the coolest new show of the entire year! Jay Mohr, who played that complete jerk of a sports agent in *Jerry Maguire* and was featured for a while on *Saturday Night Live*, stars in FOX's new series *Action* at 9:30 p.m. Mohr plays a hotshot action movie producer and Ileana Douglas portrays a child star turned prostitute who becomes his girlfriend. This ain't *Seventh Heaven*, folks, but it looks really good. *Action* debuts on Thursday, Sep. 23, so look for a review in an upcoming Buzz.

Friday

I know, what kind of geek stays home and watches television on Friday or Saturday nights? Hello, my name is Tanya. Actually, Chris Carter's adaptation of the comic book *Harsh Realm* is this season's only weekend offering for people older than 12. Yes, I am still extremely bitter at FOX for refusing to cast Nicholas Lea (*The X-Files*' Alexander Krycek) in the lead role, but I am willing to overlook that snub if the show turns out to be a little more cheerful than *Millennium*. Plus, I really like D.B. Sweeney.

Realm's characters interact in a computer game designed by the military-industrial-entertainment complex to play out possible combat scenarios. When the Cold War ended, *Harsh Realm* was intended to be dismantled, but by that time, the game had evolved to such a sophisticated degree that it took on a life of its own. I know, it sounds like a dorky rehash of *War Games*, but I'm hopeful. It debuts Friday, Oct. 8 on FOX at 9 p.m.

Sunday

My Sunday nights belong to FOX. Beginning at 7:30 p.m. with *King of the Hill* and continuing through *The Simpsons* at 8 p.m., *Futurama* at 8:30 p.m., and of course *The X-Files* at 9 p.m., I just turn on the TV, set down the remote and relax with some popcorn. Mulder and Scully don't return until November and then they will only be here for one final season (a tear slowly runs down my cheek) but they will exist forever in my memories and in syndication.

At 10 p.m. I do something really daring. I turn to the USA network. Why, you may ask, when *Pacific Blue* ends at that hour? My silly reader, I am tuning in to watch the coolest chick this side of Sunnydale, *La Femme Nikita*. USA operates on a funky schedule which begins in January and ends in July, so you have to wait a few months to see how Michael and Nikita outfox Operations and Madeline this time.

Okay, now turn off that television set and go study.

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