



Students pursuing public interest go the low-tech route.

Interviewing Season Fans Student Anxiety

By Steve V. Scali

Despite a thriving legal market for private firm work and the reputation of Harvard Law School among legal employers, Harvard law students — particularly 2Ls — still approach the fall interviewing season with a healthy amount of trepidation, said Sally Donahue, director of Office of Career Services (OCS).

"I'm terrified of going into on-

campus interviews and ending up the only jobless 2L next summer," said a Law School student who wished to remain anonymous. "This place is so mired in competition and envy that rejection by one's peers is the worst thing possible."

"Many 2Ls are also unsure about what to do after graduating," said Donahue. "Three-Ls, on the other hand, have usually

Please see OCS, p. 3.

Alums to Celebrate 45 Years of Women at HLS Reno '63 to be Honored at Reunion

By Jane Ohgami

To commemorate the 45th anniversary of the first HLS class to admit women, the Harvard Law School Association (HLSA) will hold Celebration 45, a reunion and conference, on November 13-15. The conference will feature a series of speakers including U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg '56-58, Prof. Lani Guinier, and U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno '63.

At this year's celebration, Dean Clark '72 will present General Reno with the Celebration Award for exemplifying "the highest standards of character and integrity."

The award is sponsored by the Alumnae Committee and is intended to recognize "women who have made an outstanding contribution to the legal profession or, more generally, the public welfare." It is presented every five years and all women who hold a law degree are eligible, although it is usually awarded to an HLS alumna. Past recipients include Justice Ginsburg and former Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder '64.

The focus of this year's celebration will be on women's professional strategies and new

models of practice. The program will explore this theme in a variety of contexts from careers in legal education and government to the entrepreneurial path of law and business.

The three-day conference will commence with Friday's welcoming session, titled Mothers and Fathers, Daughter and Sons: A Celebration of Two Generations of Harvard Lawyers.

The reunion/conference in honor of the first HLS class to include women has grown with each passing, according to HLSA Spokeswoman Donna Chiozzi.

"The first one was Celebration 25, to honor 25 years of women students. There are more women students now, but it's not only a product of there being more women," she said, adding that there is more interest in general. "Clearly, 35 was bigger than 25 and 40 was even bigger. We're hoping for several hundred."

While the events may be of particular interest to females, Chiozzi said that the HLSA is publicizing the event to the entire Law School community.

"It is open to everyone, subject only to space limitations," Chiozzi said. "All students should think this is something worthy of attending."

Professors' Reaction to Attendance Policy Mixed

At Least Two Profs Will Enforce Policy Without Telling Students

By Dmitri Evseev and
Klaus Hamm

Just because Prof. Frank Michelman '60 voted for Harvard Law School's controversial new attendance policy doesn't mean he's going to enforce it.

"I can't imagine myself doing that," he said.

Apparently Michelman is not alone in his reluctance.

Passed last spring by 78 percent of the faculty, the new policy is designed to crack down on poor attendance by allowing professors to drop habitually truant students without a written warning. Not surprisingly, the elimination of the written notice requirement sparked student outrage. Last February's vote led to student protests and demands for the resignations of the student representatives who did not oppose the policy initiative.

But now that fall has arrived and feelings have cooled, it is up to individual faculty members to

decide if they will actually enforce the policy they so overwhelmingly approved six months ago. And if Michelman's sentiment is any guide, it appears many may not.

"I do not feel an obligation to the administrative board to police an attendance policy," he said.

Michelman voted for the policy because he wanted the school to make a statement: class attendance is important, rather than "a detail." But before dropping someone from one of his classes, he said he would always want to hear the student's side.

So what does this mean for students? The impact of the new policy appears minor, but don't book your tickets to Malibu just yet. Certain professors who refused to identify themselves to the RECORD informed us that they planned to police their classes for nonattendance. Two anonymous survey respondents promised to enforce an attendance policy without telling their

students about it.

In a sampling conducted by the RECORD, only six out of eleven professors indicated that they would not enforce an attendance policy.

Nevertheless, none of the professors willing to speak to the RECORD offered a full-fledged endorsement of the policy. Prof. Andrew Kaufman '54, for instance, stated that he supported the new attendance initiative but would continue to enforce the attendance policy he has used in the past. In an information sheet regularly distributed to students enrolled in his Legal Profession course, he has stated for the last several years: "Failure to attend may result in a warning from me, after which continued failure to attend will result in being dropped from the course." Kaufman did not change the warning this fall; in fact, he states it's been years since he's had to enforce it.

Please see POLICY, p. 3.

Residents Refuse to Use Defective Dorm Elevator

By Francesco Barbera

One of two elevators in North Hall has failed to meet established safety standards. According to a citation posted in the elevator by the Massachusetts Department of Public Safety, the elevator does not comply with "all safety regulations established for the use of elevators in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

The violations, however do not pose an imminent threat to resident safety. "The citation does not mean that the elevator is unsafe. It just means there's work to be done," noted Frank Moore, who as chief elevator inspector at University Operations Services (UOS) is responsible for the smooth operation of every elevator on the Harvard campus.

According to Moore, in June

the elevator was subjected to what is referred to in industry parlance as a "full-load weight test." Under this procedure, the elevator is loaded up with the maximum weight permissible under law and sent up to various floors. If the elevator fails to stop "level" to a floor, it poses a "tripping hazard," resulting in citation.

"The North Hall elevator stopped at five inches from level, but only four inches is allowed, so we got written up," said Moore.

The elevator failed on other grounds as well: "They want us to relocate a pipe in the machine room," added Moore. "They say it could be a tripping hazard, which it is not. They also want us to repair the egg-crate ceiling that may have a piece missing."

Nonetheless, Law School students have been left in the dark

regarding the nature of the violations. Since noticing the conspicuously posted citation, students have reacted in ways ranging from moral indignation to cautious skepticism.

"Seeing that sign up — I don't ride it on principle," protested Kwame Cain '01.

"I have no problem with the elevator because I don't take it. It failed inspection," commented another North Hall resident.

"I've never been in an elevator that's failed inspection be-

Please see ELEVATOR, p. 5.

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Suzanne Debuts Her
Music Column 7

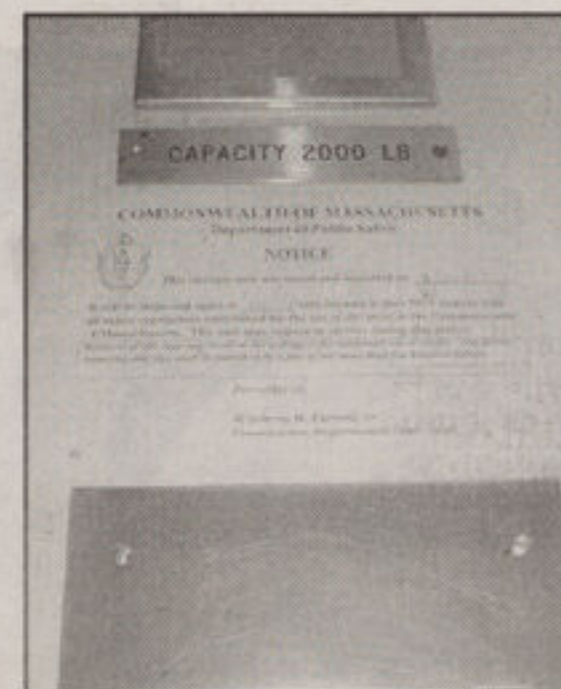
Schlanger Takes on
Mass-holes 10

Boldizar Waxes
Poetic 11

Also:
Liz Falk, Spike, and the
irrepressible Fenno.



Inviting from the outside, these elevators are a tort waiting to happen.



RECORD photo/Ben Lehrer

Flashback

18 Years Ago
in the RECORD

HARVARD LAW RECORD

America's Oldest Law School Newspaper

VOL. 71, NO. 2

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SEPTEMBER 26, 1980

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

PHOTO ESSAY

Job Hunting: Law School Style

Newton B. White, Jr



Getting Dressed:

The most important part of the interview process is dressing properly. Note how our interviewee has followed all the rules of formal dress: His loosely fitting coat is a light, cheerful color, and the checks on his bow-tie and shirt harmonize beautifully.



Rendering The Resume:

The first real contact between an interviewee and his prospective employer is the resume — a one page summary of the relevant aspects of the student's entire life. Many people suggest that a simple statement of one's Law School GPA is sufficient.



The Interview Proper:

During the question and answer period, a student has twenty minutes to justify his existence, find out about the firm's pension plan, polish the interviewer's shoes, and explain his low grade in Civil Procedure. During the interview it is important to project an "assertive yet obsequious" personality.

Flyouts:

The purpose of the on-campus interview is to obtain a flyout request. A flyout is a chance to take an all expense paid mini-vacation during the mid-semester doldrums. Many people recommend interviews with California firms, because transcontinental flights will often include a movie. Note that the interviewee in this case is trying to save an otherwise unsuccessful interview with a small bribe. This practice is not encouraged by the Placement Office.



Ending It All:

If all of your interviews have been unmitigated failures, ritualistic suicide may be the only face-saving way out of the situation. The influence of the "Shogun" mini-series is evident in this student's choice of methods. It is key to note that this final step in the interview process should not be undertaken until after receiving all of your rejections.

Ending The Interview:

It is important to end the interview on a positive note. Even if the interview has not gone particularly well, a pleasant good-bye can save the day. In truly desperate cases, a more direct appeal to the interviewer's sense of mercy may be required.



Keep Things in Perspective, Advises OCS

Continued from OCS, p. 1

had two summers of work experience; many are clear as to their future plans, and have definite offers before the school year starts."

Donahue attributes much of the anxiety to the compressed and hectic schedule students face when they return to school in the fall.

"Because we start school late — second week in September — there are only one to two weeks between school starting and interview sign-ups," said Donahue. Interviews begin this coming Monday.

In addition to starting classes, students have to figure out journal commitments, other extra-curriculars, and

transition from the summer to academic year, she said.

Anxiety leads many second-year students to sign up for an excessive number of interviews. There is no defined number of firms to which 2Ls "should" apply, said Donahue, but she did offer 2Ls some historical data for purposes of comparison. In 1995, 2Ls averaged 22 interviews each; in 1996, 24; in 1997, 22. The respective figures for 3Ls were ten, 11, and nine.

Past years show that almost all 2Ls and slightly more than half the 3Ls participate in on-campus interviews. Statistics on the number of 3Ls who have a definite job offer at this time have yet to be calculated. The final information will be released in May 1999.

There's Something About Grades

The importance of grades in employer decisions seems to be an open question, creating anxiety in many students.

"I'm concerned about grades," said Christine Richardson '00. "Firm brochures tend to say things like 'top third of the class, top ten percent of the class,' but that's the clearest understanding I have as to what role grades play." Richardson also pointed to rampant rumors of automatic grade cut-offs.

"The concern that without high grades they can't find a good job will paralyze students," Donahue said.

"Employers cannot pre-screen candidates, so Career Services doesn't ask about grade cutoffs or their practices," she continued. "Our perspective, here at Career Services, is that we are all talented personally and professionally."

"If Career Services were to initiate this conversation, they would be condoning those kinds of cutoffs. It would work against Harvard Law School to possibly increase competitiveness and anxiety."

Anxiety Out of Proportion with Market

"The job market is extremely strong at this time," said Donahue. "It's not dissimilar to what it was like in late 1980s. Students seeking summer and permanent jobs, particularly with the Harvard name, have many opportunities to research and approach firms, decide what they want to do, what part of the country they're interested in."

The strong trend in hiring is expected to last. "Firms are expanding opportunities, but may be moving more cautiously in the light of the downturn in the early

1990s," said Donahue.

"Objectively speaking, almost everyone gets a job," she said. "The Harvard name opens up doors." For the summer of 1997, OCS was not aware of any 1L who could not find a job.

Public Interest Prospects Not as Rosy

The search for full-time public interest work, however, continues to be a more competitive market than the hunt for firm work.

"The real world does not operate like on-campus interviewing," said C.A. Webb, associate at the Office of Public Interest Advising.

"There's nowhere else that employers come to you for jobs," she said, referring to the throng of private employers that rush the Law School each year for on-campus interviews.

"In the real world, you send out cover letters and resumes and you make it happen. That's what the public interest market is like," she said. "Three-Ls wanting to go directly into public interest work usually have to be resourceful, self-motivated and sure about what they want. The lower pay also discourages some graduates from pursuing public interest work."

Summer jobs in public interest are more abundant, and with the availability of funding, are a popular option for 1Ls.

According to Donahue, 70 out of 551 then-rising 2Ls held government/public interest positions in summer 1997, as opposed to 20 engaged in academic activities, 13 in business jobs, 87 in legal services, and 326 in law firms.

"There are probably worse places to be going to school if you're looking for a summer job," said Lars Johnson '01, who isn't worried.

Professors Reluctant to Mandate Attendance

Continued from POLICY, p. 1

Similarly, Prof. John Coates has chosen a different approach to cracking down on nonattendance. He calculates class participation into the final grade, and nonattending students obviously cannot participate.

Of course, faculty that didn't vote for the new policy probably will not enforce it either. Prof. Richard Fallon never has considered class attendance a problem, never raised the issue in class, and never took any action to sanction students who do not show up for class. He considers law students adults and thinks faculty should not treat students "as though they are naughty little chil-

dren and [professors] are telling them what to do."

Fallon's reservations about the attendance policy were partly fueled by the overwhelming student opposition to it, a fact many thought was discounted in the decision-making process. On the other hand, Fallon thinks class attendance is important because "everybody here is supposed to be contributing to everybody else's education."

Similarly, according to the survey, most professors consider class attendance and participation a crucial element of the Harvard Law experience. It remains unclear, however, how this belief relates to enforcing or even voting for the new policy.

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Complaints Prompt Investigation

Continued from *ELEVATOR*, p. 1

fore," said Seth Stevelman '01. "It must have failed for a reason."

The citation is the latest in a notorious string of elevator problems in North Hall. According to Dan Murphy, an Operations Officer with Law School Building Operations (LSBO), the number of complaints received from North Hall residents last year led them to investigate the problems. "We had both elevators hung up for a while," Murphy explained. "The door control on each floor needed replacing, and it took almost a month to do that job."

Apparently, the web of bureaucratic procedure governing elevator maintenance leaves LSBO little choice but to

accept delay and slow response. "When it comes to repairs, we're at the mercy of the installers," Murphy noted. This is because in order to repair a problem, LSBO cannot coordinate the work directly but must first contact Moore at UOS. "Once a problem is detected," explained Moore, "Building Operations becomes my customer. They contact me, and I contract out to [a private firm]."

Moore claims that the bulk of the repair work required to bring the elevator up to snuff has already been done. "Basically, we just need to repair the egg-crate ceiling. Once that's done, we'll contact Public Safety," Moore said. Once Public Safety gives the final okay, "we'll take the citation down ourselves."

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Briefs

HLS Appoints First Environmental Law Fellow

HLS has appointed its first Environmental Law Fellow, Jason Waanders '98, to assist the School in organizing an Environmental Law Program. Waanders will work with Dean Clark '72, faculty, staff, students, and alumni to develop a strategic plan for building one of the nation's preeminent environmental law programs.

Waanders hoped to help correct the current deficit of environmental law courses at HLS.

"My position has been established in order to help the Law School take some concrete steps toward improving the environmental law curriculum here," said Waanders, "with the long term goal of creating an environmental law program on the level of those existing at the nation's other top law schools."

Clark described Waanders' appointment as "part of the Law School's ongoing commitment to become a leader in the area of environmental law."

Waander's fellowship activities include working with the School's administration, alumni, and development office to draft a strategic plan for the development of the environmental law program.

"I'll be working with the School's Office of Public Interest Advising and its Clinical Programs Office to identify and promote environmental jobs," Waanders said. "I'll also be here to help with environmental research projects, cross-registration, and however else I can make myself useful."

Waanders encouraged interested students to contact him.

While a student, Waanders was president of the HLS Environmental Law Society. He spent his summers as a law student working on environmental law issues with the Earth Justice Legal Defense Fund and with the San Diego law firm of Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps. A graduate of Harvard College, Waanders' thesis topic was Environmentalism and National identity in Post-Chernobyl Ukraine and Belarus.

Student Assaulted, Robbed Near Divinity School

A Harvard University graduate student was robbed Wednesday, Sept. 23, by three "short" men on Bryant Street near the Divinity School, said Harvard University Police Department (HUPD) spokesperson Peggy McNamara.

According to the Cambridge Police log, the victim claimed the suspects punched him in the head and took \$120, classifying the crime as unarmed robbery, larceny, and assault and battery.

The suspects remain at large.

Dershowitz Bashed in New York Post Editorial

Prof. Alan Dershowitz has "decided to erase the O.J. stigma by promoting [himself] as a leading Clinton flack," said The New York Post in an editorial last Wednesday.

Stuart Schneiderman, author of the opinion piece, charges Dershowitz "shaved his trademark mustache" and joined the "Clinton cabal" in order to "restore his standing."

"Imagine yourself a distinguished professor at Harvard Law School. Then one day, disregarding the potential damage to your good name, you join the Dream Team," said Schneiderman.

"Instead of arguing appellate cases before the Supreme Court, you find yourself throwing verbal spit balls at Charles Grodin. Your stature has been diminished among your colleagues, and when you appear on television talk shows, you are immediately identified as an O.J. apologist."

"Terror of a mythic alternative has simply boggled [Dershowitz's] mind," he said.

Sears Prize Awarded to Five Students

Harvard Law School has awarded the Joshua Montgomery Sears Jr. Prize to five students for academic achievement. The prizes are awarded annually, one to each of the two students receiving the highest averages in the work of the first and second years, respectively.

John M. Golden '00 and (tied for second) Michael E. Leiter '00 and Janice A. Liu '00 received the prizes for work in the first year. Paul Wayne Decker '99 and Julian W. Poon '99 received the prizes for work in the second year.

The School established the Sears Prize in 1912 with support from Sarah C. Sears in memory of her son, Joshua Montgomery Sears, Jr. '04.

African American Judges Make Headway in White 'Social Club'

U.S. District Judge Anna Diggs Taylor says the old-boys network dies hard even on the federal bench.

"I think for some of my white colleagues, the federal court is still sort of a social club and black judges and female judges have too often been isolated," Taylor said.

The nation's black federal judges met at a Wayne State University conference last Friday to address these issues. Attendees included: Constance Baker Motley, the nation's first black woman judge; Los Angeles attorney Johnnie Cochran; National Public Radio commentator Nina Totenberg; Prof. Charles Ogletree '78; and Harvard University professor A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr.

"Ronald Reagan made 54 appointments in the Sixth Circuit in eight years and didn't appoint a single African American. There wasn't a single qualified African American?" said senior Sixth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Damon Keith.

"In 1993, President Clinton opened the spigot to appointing black judges and finally made real headway in the integration of the federal judiciary," said Judge Nathaniel Jones, who has taken senior status on the U.S. Court of Appeals and served as NAACP general counsel from 1969-1979.

Including senior or semi-retired judges and magistrates, 145 African Americans currently sit on the entire federal bench. There are 81 active African Americans, or 10.5 percent, on the Circuit, District, International Trade and Supreme Courts.

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FOUNDED IN 1946

Our Academic Environment

One day sometime in the future, when 1Ls have gotten over the first hump of the Law School learning curve, when 2Ls have their job prospects settled, and 3Ls awaken from their stupor and realize their paper is due in a week, do yourself a favor and take a second to consider the quality of the product being provided to us by the Law School.

Of course, there's the pedigree. In theory, the end — a prestigious job — is justified by the means — a rigorous and thorough education. In practice, it is entirely conceivable and often tempting to put in minimal effort and still achieve the same result. This suggests that the high-powered firms, many of which are chock full of HLS alums, rely on reputation more than reality.

Nonetheless, the mercantilist atmosphere particularly prevalent during interview season should not fool us into thinking that the administration views HLS as a gilded trade school. It does care about the state of legal education here. Sometimes this care manifests itself in strange ways, such as last year's institution of the attendance policy. Other times it manifests itself in ways that have a positive effect on the educational atmosphere, such as the recent appointment of the Law School's first Environmental Law Fellow.

The attendance policy has been much maligned in the pages of the RECORD, and rightfully so. It is a misguided attempt to stimulate classroom participation by ramming it down students' throats, and fails to address or even acknowledge what the roots are of the alleged attendance problem in the first place.

The virtues of an Environmental Law Fellow may not be immediately obvious, but a glance at this year's course offerings — the most paltry collection of environmental courses in years, and pitiful compared to other top-ranked law schools — shows why this is a step in the right direction. Harvard's total lack of any environmental curriculum is appalling for a school that considers itself a leader rather than a follower.

For years now, the administration has claimed that it is committed to developing a solid environmental curriculum. Unfortunately, this commitment had not translated into any concrete action until the creation of this position. Let us hope that the administration is not just talking the talk but will actually take further steps to fill this and other gaps in the curriculum. And let us hope that the students remember the substantive steps taken — or not taken — to improve the school's academic life in the years down the line when they're hitting us up for donations.

—Ben Lehrer

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

—First Amendment, U.S. Constitution

Rude Awakening

By Elizabeth Falk '00
RECORD Columnist

DID I GET THAT JOB?

Discussing the upcoming interview season with a fellow 2L recently, I remarked that I was concerned about securing a job with the particular firm I wanted. He laughed and told me jokingly not to worry about my grades.

"Just put on a short skirt and smile a lot. You'll be fine."

"What do you mean?" I semi-innocently asked.

"Well, you just have that kind of personality that's going to do well. No worries."

Hmmm. "That kind" of personality? Should this have surprised me? After all, I had been told before that I was "outgoing" and I have worn a short skirt or two in my day. Of course, he was kidding. Or was he? There was no way he could have known that a simple joke could prompt a disturbing, ambiguous memory that has returned to me with each anticipated interview.

My sophomore year of college, I landed my first legal job with an interview that consisted of a five-minute conversation over bagels. A paid legal internship was not easy to find as a college sophomore, and I left the bagel shop completely psyched. "Wow, this interviewing stuff is easy," I thought.

It seemed even more incredible when I was told that the office had never hired an undergraduate before, especially at the same salary as the legal interns were being paid. In retrospect, I naively passed off the knowing looks the female attorneys gave one other when they inquired how I had obtained the job, and chalked up the director's hugs as fatherly appreciation.

It wasn't until I went back senior year to pick up a law school recommendation from the director that reality bit.

"You know, it was a pleasure to write your recommendation," he said. "I hired you because you were good looking. I hadn't expected the bonus that you would do great work for us as well." Slipping his hands underneath the back of my T-shirt, he began to massage my shoulders.

"So, what are you doing for the rest of the afternoon?" he asked.

"Actually, I have an appointment that's at, ah, in ten minutes."

"Well, I think you are too stressed out. Why don't you cancel all of your appointments and lay down on that nice rug in my office so I can give you the full treatment?"

I made some feeble excuse and got up.

"Oh well," he smiled, planting a kiss on my lips. "Some other time."

The thing I most remember about that experience is driving home after throwing the recommendation in a nearby trash can, desperately trying to think back to that interview. Was I flirtatious? Giggly? Damn it, what in the hell was I wearing? Khakis and a blue button down, I finally remembered.

It couldn't have been my fault.

❖ ❖ ❖

In a June 29, 1998 *Time* article about the "death" of feminism, Ginia Bellafante credits Camile Paglia's 1990 book *Sexual Personae* with "catapulting feminism beyond an ideology of victimization...It is female sexuality, she said, that is humanity's greatest force...relish sexual power, she told women, but don't go to frat parties expecting men to be saints."

"Did you want the job or not?" Paglia seems to be asking.

"Well, you got it...you got to accept the disadvantages along with the advantages."

Immediately, I want to discredit this argument, since I know I never intended to use my "wiley feminine ways" to get the job. We all know that sexual harassment is not the woman's fault.

But if this is true, why will I spend time getting dolled up for these interviews? Why do I wear short skirts? Am I subconsciously utilizing what Paglia suggests? Is it really to my advantage to do so?

I thought I could escape this moral reckoning by arming myself with a degree from Harvard. I naively expected that credentials would circumvent all else. My rude awakening came last year, during a cocktail party conversation with a fairly inebriated, Harvard-educated partner:

PARTNER: You know, you're very tall.

ME: Yes, I know. [Said as a joke:] I feel very out of place at this law school. I think there is a bias against tall women.

PARTNER: Oh no, tall women are great.

ME: Really?

PARTNER: Oh yeah. You get a tall woman, some whips and chains, a little S&M going...wow! [Smiles]

Once word spread around the party that this ridiculous event had occurred, the recruiting coordinator tracked me down and apologized profusely. "I'm so sorry, we've had lots of problems with him in the past."

When I asked why this "track record" hadn't forced his exclusion from recruiting events, she shook her head. "He's a bigwig, and he insists on coming to the Harvard parties."

One has to wonder how much sexual innuendo circulates through the minds of any firm's partners. White males, undeniably, are still the power center of every firm and will be the majority of the individuals I speak to next month. I'm not sure what in the hell any firm expects to learn about me in 20 minutes, but it's obvious that appearance is a consideration in "getting the job."

While both male and female students will take pains to look their best, no man here will ever understand the morning dilemma of women trying to escape Paglia's double-edged sword by navigating the fine line between sending the "professionally feminine" versus the "wrong" message. Skirt too short? Too long? Heels too high?

And how to act in an interview? Forget the age-old advice of "just be yourself": I've learned that even in khakis and a button down, "myself" must be an invitation for harassment.

Is that true? Underneath it all, were these incidents at all my fault? Do I, by wearing a suit skirt and full make-up, inadvertently invite my own demise? Is my personality to blame when I am not taken seriously? At what line does Paglia's "feminine advantage" turn destructive? And more important, is it my responsibility to police that line, or an interviewer's job to ensure sex doesn't carry any weight in hiring decisions?



Her Indie World

By Suzanne Carter '00
RECORD Columnist

COURTNEY GETS IMPERSONAL, LIZ GETS GOOD

Hole
Celebrity Skin
David Geffen Company, 1998

The first thing one notices about "Celebrity Skin" is its cover. Apparently frontwoman Courtney Love has stopped raiding Sharon Stone's closet and reverted to the old "Shampoo? Who needs shampoo when you're as fabulous as I am?" look. If I can't go to Hollywood and be the girl with most cake, she seems to be telling us, then I'll go slumming in the music industry again.

The second thing one notices about "Celebrity Skin" is that Love has taken liner note space to thank "Miss Joan Crawford" and "Milos Forman and the Czech Repub-

lic." Gee, Courtney, won't Bette Davis and the Republic of Slovakia feel left out?

The album's dedication might provide one with a bit of hope, however: "This record is dedicated to all the stolen water of Los Angeles and to anyone who ever drowned." The dedication promises us self-revelation. Love is notoriously interested in astrology and she herself is a Cancer, a water sign; she seems to imply that her soul was stolen by her recent ventures into Hollywood stardom.

However, "Celebrity Skin" is one of the least personal albums in recent memory.

And ironically so, considering Hole's last album, 1994's "Live Through This," which became one of the decade's best because it captured the sound of a strong

but victimized woman splaying her guts out to a four-track. Love may have become a superstar because her husband, Nirvana's Kurt Cobain, blew his brains out, but she deserved to become a superstar because she pioneered the angry young woman confessionalism that's so prominent today.

Smashing Pumpkin Billy Corgan's self-defined role as "svengali" is behind "Celebrity Skin's" problems. The five tracks Corgan co-wrote (the album's weakest) sound like Pumpkins throwaways.

The Corgan co-penned "Hit So Hard," sounds awfully similar to anything off "Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness," disc one (take your pick). Meanwhile, another Corgan contribution, "Malibu," seems to have come straight off the Go-Gos' "Beauty and the Beat." "We're all watching you/Oh, baby, fly away to Malibu," Love sings. Or is it philosophizes?

There are some worthwhile moments on "Celebrity Skin," though. The poppy retro sound works on some of the tracks, most notably the sing-along joy "Awful," with its "swing low, sweet cherry/it's so awful" refrain. And "Reasons to Be Beautiful" stands up next to the self-hating rage of "Live Through This."

Similarly, "Playing Your Song" includes the album's only palpable references to Cobain, and it's also one of the few times you can, to paraphrase a certain Walt Whitman aficionado, feel Love's pain. "Hey you, you're just a cripple now/They sell for millions now/They sold you out/And oh, I had to tell them you were gone/I had to tell them they were wrong/And now they're playing your song."

It's in these moments of self-exposure that "Celebrity Skin" rises above its Corgan-derivative shell. Perhaps Love would be best served by striking out svengali-less. I don't doubt that she's capable of being the girl with the most cake. Maybe she should consider starting from scratch with her own recipe next time. Grade: B-

Liz Phair
whitechocolatespaceegg
Matador, 1998

I could ask you to forget her notorious debut, "Exile in Guyville." I could ask you to erase from memory her Lilith-induced smile on the cover of *Entertainment Weekly*, right there with Sarah, Paula, Natalie and Missy in a big ol' group hug. I could tell you to abandon your doubts that she's been softened by matrimonial motherhood.

But you wouldn't do that, would you? And it's not necessary, because all you've got to do is listen to the music. The music is what makes "whitechocolatespaceegg" Liz Phair's best album — better than the underrated, "Supernova"-generating

"Whip-Smart," better than the overrated, controversial "Exile."

Phair was never a great vocalist, but the ordinariness of Phair's voice is part of her appeal. This is a real person, voicing what many of us think but don't say. In this way, Phair is a less stridently political Ani DiFranco.

In this respect, one of the album's most disarming tracks is "Johnny Feelgood," in which Phair takes on the voice of a woman coming to terms with her feelings toward her abuser: "He's got diamonds on the bed of his thumbnails and I/never realized I was so dirty and dry/Till he knocked me down, started dragging me around."

The work isn't gynocentric, though. Phair adopts a male voice for several of the songs, and many address universal concerns. The infectious "Uncle Alvarez," for instance, speaks about the fear of leaving a legacy of mediocrity. "Better just to shake it off/As you write your résumé," Phair seemingly those of us among the masses who've been swarming OCS this month.

Mom Phair's music hasn't softened. In the wonderful track "Go On Ahead," Phair writes about marriage with her characteristic disarming honesty as she tells her husband, "you hold me and I can't feel you/We hurt but we smile/I promise I'll make it back when the summer has warmed me awhile."

The pure joys of Phair's hooky guitars and stick-to-the-pan melodies keep the album worthy even when the lyrics fail. The highest compliment to this famously literate songwriter's new album is that you don't have to listen to the lyrics to appreciate it. Tracks like the Motown-induced single "Polyester Bride" work so well that they could be instrumentals and not lose any of their punch.

"I want to be cool, tall, vulnerable and luscious," Phair croons on one of the album's lush standouts, the aptly titled "Perfect World." Personally, I wouldn't mind being tiny, brash, wry, and articulate — but then again, there's only one Liz Phair. Grade: A.

I should take a paragraph to explain my column's title. "Her Indie World" is derived from a song by one of the best singer-songwriters on earth, Salem native and Harvard Square busker Mary Lou Lord. "His Indie World," a piece concerning Lord's relationship with the aforementioned Cobain, appears on her self-titled debut on the KRS label.

At Dusan's insistence, next week's installment will feature our dueling reviews of Maybelline abuser P.J. Harvey's latest. Dusan tells me that I should listen to the disc at least ten times before judging it. I'll expect a migraine to hit by round four.



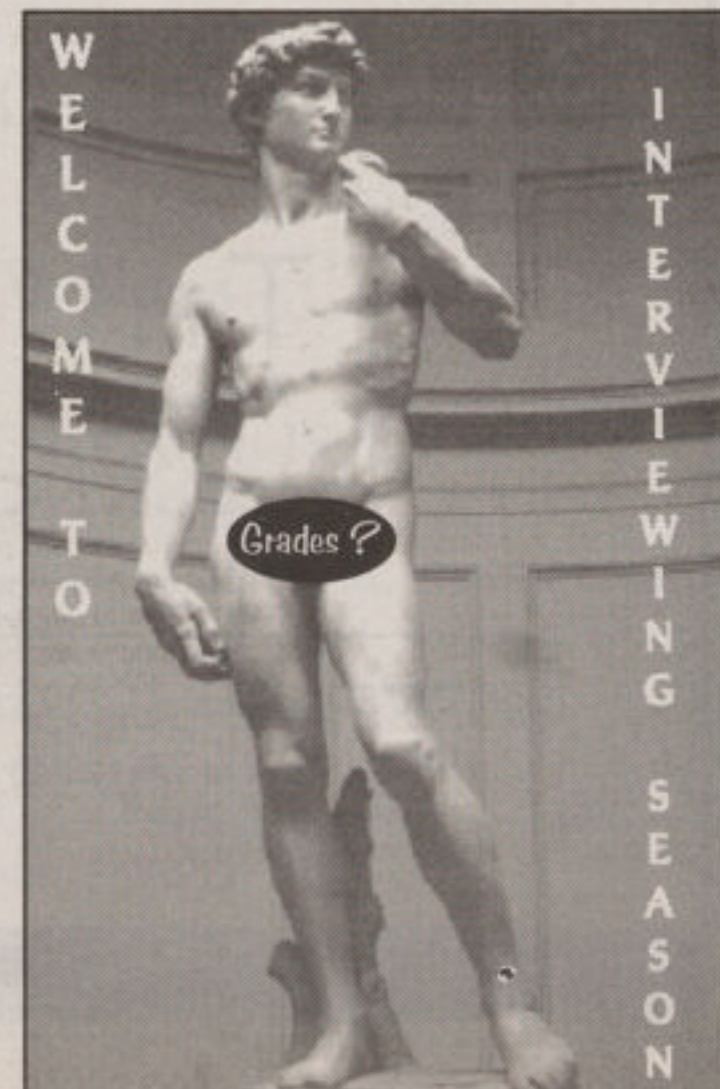
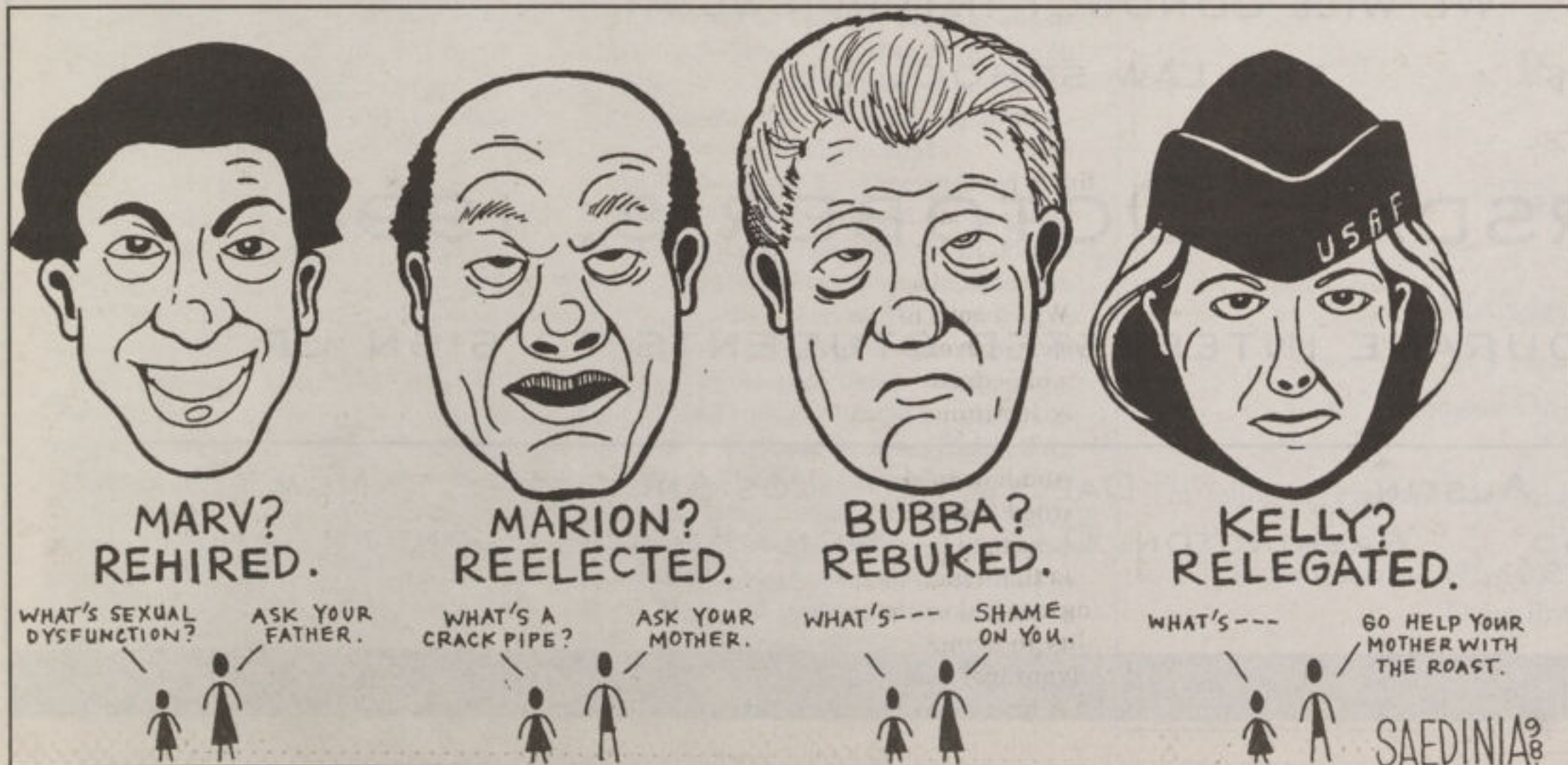
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Reel to Reel

THIS AIN'T NO RAGING BULL

By Jeff Manghill '00
RECORD Columnist

"Ronin" is pretty much everything it sets out to be and nothing more. As a huge Robert DeNiro fan, I was upset that DeNiro was not challenged to match the performances he has undertaken in such films as "Taxi Driver," "Raging Bull," "Deer Hunter," "The Godfather II," and "Goodfellas."

Ronin were Japanese Samurai who were somehow disgraced or whose master was killed and thus had to roam the land as hired guns or robbers so as to get some money. Basically Ronin were the Japanese equivalent of Clint Eastwood in all those Spaghetti Westerns, minus the dead master. Ronin today are ex-governmental spies and such who somehow got kicked off the job. Like a good many things in the movie, the

details about these Ronin are never really explained.

DeNiro is one of five international Ronin who are paid to get some briefcase. This "Pulp Fiction"-ian case is never fully explained and the viewer is left to believe that inside is the secret to Chewbacca's shiny, manageable hair in "Star Wars." The case is possessed in France by some group of people, whose identity is never explained. The group of Ronin must steal the case before the owners sell it to the Russians (why they want it is also never satisfactorily explained). The owner of the case is heavily protected by several bodyguards — none of whom has skill to match Mr. T.*

The movie basically turns into a for-

mulaic chase scene: Ronin chase the case, seemingly get the case, lose the case, repeat. Over a third of the movie is a "Dukes of Hazzard" car chase with Roscoe being the good guy and the Dukes being the bad guys. Of course in this

movie, the owners of the case were not going to donate the proceeds to the Hazzard County Orphanage. The car chases are really cool though. There are some pretty intense scenes down some narrow streets in France where characters go the wrong way on a couple major roads. Although the chase scenes may drag on a little too long, patient viewers do get to see a plethora of El



Guapian Pintos and other cars get totaled something fierce.

The action sequences rival "Heat." There are a lot of nifty explosives and big guns, and a lot of bad guys and innocent people getting sent six-feet-under. The action sequences were

filmed exceptionally well and don't come off as all that unrealistic. DeNiro also did his best John Rambo impression and fixed himself up in a pretty gruesome scene. The movie also had a Katarina Witt cameo, doing, of course, a skating routine.

As an action/chase movie this film delivers. It leaves a lot of questions unanswered, but the movie does not dwell on some story line or message on life. At one

point it tries to sneak one in but quickly moves on. This movie is really about being on the edge of one's seat, just as all the Van Damme flicks are about the triumph of love and spirit over modern day oppression. If you want to sit back and go on a thrill ride of a movie see "Ronin." If inner reflection and great character acting is what you are in the mood for, rent "Anaconda."

*In his autobiography "The Man With the Gold Rules," Mr. T proclaims, "Other than God, there is no greater protector than I."

Spike

By Margie McWilliams



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Of Bulldozers and Butterflies

By Alex Boldizar '99
Staff Columnist

THE WILLY IN THE SILLY

The sun did not shine, the Congress was gray,
So we sat in the House all that furloughed wet day.
I sat there with Monica, we sat there we two,
And I said, "How I wish we had something to do!"

It did not take long,
'ere she showed me her thong
Hoping perhaps, to awaken my prong;
And then something went BUMP!
How that bump made us jump!
We looked!
Then we saw him, he grew like a lump!
We looked!
And we saw him! The President's Stump!

He was shortish. And oldish.
And whitish. And mossy.
And he spoke with a voice
that was sharpish and bossy.
"Hey there Slick Willy!" he said
with plum confidence
"I am the Dong, lord of
subjective commonsense,
I speak for the Privates,
for they have no tongues.
And I'm asking you, sir,
at the top of my lungs,
What is this, this thing
you have made of my consequence?"

"You've become a *das Man*, barely semi-erect
You bootlick the Public, you live as object,
You are far far too weak to have Self or Subject
You are the They, to Them you genuflect;
And They hired you, for it's They you reflect!

The public They built you up brick after brick
And now you've become their Big Cheese yardstick.
Hillary scares you, she lurks in the freezer
But the public, They want you to go in and please her."

"I am the Dong, the last remnant of Subject
And so to the Public, I will always be suspect;
In which part there resides the one *last* heretic.
Free from the Social! Free from the Public!"

So I looked long and hard,
I looked at this Dong,
Who had hidden so long
from my wife Vietcong,
"I won't let you remind me
That I *was* Subject free!
I won't let you remind me
For I *love* public me —
This mirror I see!
If They just would agree
To let me have an employee
Professionally on her knee,
A secret service in dishabille
To service with a green squeegee
Cleared by House security
To cure the President's ennui."

But the mossy misfit said to me
"They'll not give you such an employee —
Perhaps this little interneer!"
Then he said to the little chickadee
"Why sit there like that on this gray furloughed day
I know some good games we could play,
A lot of good tricks. I will show them to you.
Your mom will not mind at all if I do."

And I said "whoopie,"
to the cute interneer
and the cute interneer
called her friends, said "whoopie,"
and her friends called Ken Starr
and Ken Starr said "whoopie,"
and he called the public They
and the They said "tisk tisk," and "Ew, ick,
That is all quite sick!
That chick should not lick
the Presidential body that should stick
to the public body politic!"

So I told the They:
"There are no curtains in the Oval Office.
There are no curtains in my private office.
There are no curtains in my dining room.
There is no sex of any kind.
There is no sex in any manner.
There is no sex in any shape.
There is no sex in any form."

And Ken Starr told the They:
"It seems Bill needs an aide-memoire
For there may be sex in a cigar,
There may be sex with an inner thigh,
There may be sex in a pizza-pie,
There may be sex if you gratify
An enumerated area
While singing "Ave Maria!"

The public's not right,
Though They're sure that they are.
And as Freud said
Sometimes, it is just a cigar.



Fenno looked over his résumé one last time and nodded his satisfaction. He was pretty confident that this baby would take him places. Admittedly, the last time Fenno had actually worked for a living was in 1973, when he'd briefly been in charge of tater tot distribution for a Taco John's franchise in Nebraska. (Fenno was still a little angry that they had fired him just because he ate a thousand of the little devils one day on a bet.) But Fenno wasn't worried that this would hurt him. He sensed that firms would appreciate a candidate who'd served in a "management-oriented position with significant emphasis on organization, customer service and product-driven research."

Anyway, this would have to be good enough, because Fenno had no interest in putting in any more time than the bare minimum necessary on this whole employment thing. After all, he was only interviewing with firms located on tropical islands, so that he could best prepare for his upcoming fly-out month. Fenno walked up to the third floor of Pound and prepared to insert his résumé into the appropriate slot. As he did so, a smiling Sally Donahue walked up to him and enthusiastically patted him on the back.

"Did you enjoy the Internet sign-up process?" she asked, oblivious to the look of confusion on Fenno's face. "Did you feel overwhelmed with joy at the exciting technological leaps we've made here at Career Services? Are you speechless and overcome by emotion, knowing how much a career academic bureaucrat like me cares about you, the little people?"

"Internet?" asked Fenno, puzzled. "What's an Internet? Is that the place where they put all the free porn? Why would you want to do interviews there?" In an instant, Donahue's facial features morphed from a proud smile to an enraged grimace. "You mean... YOU DIDN'T ATTEND OUR MANDATORY INFORMATION SESSION?"

"Hell, no," muttered Fenno. "They had free beer under the tent that day. What

the hell kind of priorities do you think I have, woman?"

Donahue screamed, a terrible yell of pure primal frustration. Fenno jumped back in alarm. Down the hall, he heard the sound of a candy jar in the Public Interest office crash to the ground with a sickening thud. When he looked back up, Donahue had regained her composure and was now just staring at him grimly. "Go to the office and get your materials right now," she said. "All the information you need is in them. And don't let me ever catch you flaunting our fiercely efficient bureaucratic system again."

Fenno was puzzled and couldn't help but say what was on his mind. "If all the information I need is inside the packet, then why should I have wasted an hour of my life at your information session?" But Fenno was not to receive an answer, for Donahue had already turned around and stalked off. Fenno shook his head and headed for Hauser.

Two hours later, cursing the day that Jol Silversmith had ever attended Harvard Law School, Fenno left the computer lab with his interview bids finally submitted. But when he strolled back into Pound, everything had changed. The résumé slots were no longer labeled in the same order as before; they now appeared to be marked in Swahili. An explanatory sign was posted nearby. It read: "Monday's deadline, which you thought was Tuesday because it originally was Tuesday, but was actually supposed to be Monday, has now been changed back to Tuesday because everyone thought it was Tuesday even though Tuesday should have been Monday because Monday was the deadline, so Tuesday is now the deadline again."

Fenno shook his head, bewildered. For a moment, he even thought about giving up and trying his luck with OPIA. Fenno quickly pinched himself and headed outside to get some fresh air. As he gulped in the oxygen, he heard another terrible shriek in the distance. Fenno wondered out loud if Sally had just caught another hapless victim. "No," said Suzanne Richardson, who was just leaving the building for her four-hour lunch break. "That's probably just an L.L.M.'s ear-splitting cry of despair as he steps into an open elevator shaft in North Hall and plummets five stories to his death. Happens all the time. Nothing to be concerned about."

Fenno felt much better.

Quote of the Week

"There was a lot of hysteria here, as far as the women go."

— Utah court clerk Teri Ruth, discussing the bat infestation in the Davis Country court house last week.

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Madness With Method

By Darren Schlanger '00
RECORD Columnist

HUG A MASS-HOLE

Boston, more than just home to the twilight platonic exchanges of frat-boy Abercrombie and Fitch replicants, distinguishes itself as a reasonably pleasant city, architecturally quaint to remain accessible to the pedestrian yet sufficiently metropolitan to accommodate diverse cultural and culinary appetites. Indeed, particularly attractive to those recent college

graduates who toiled for years in the relative obscurity of small New England liberal arts colleges that invariably begin with the letter B, Boston recently ranked first in a survey of European tourists that pegged Boston the most polite and friendly city in the United States. We should have kept France as a World War II parting gift.

But this column will set the record straight that Bostonians, a particularly vile genus of the aptly named phylum "Mass-hole," remain the most arbitrarily rude and unequivocally stupid species of urban Americans. Unlike the consistent New York brashness that empowers a visitor with the means to preemptively prepare and respond, the Boston discourtesy, much akin to a meteorological phenomenon, materializes like a mercurial zephyr without ample warning for the unsuspecting victim. A brief driving tour of Boston will confirm this premise.

First destination, any bustling rotary. One might rationally presume that experienced Boston drivers would appreciate the folly of trying to maneuver a rotary with any precision and consequently conform their driving to the normative chaos of the Boston roadway infrastructure. Instead, Mass-holes often race through these circular death-traps each consciously oblivious to the intended destination of fellow travelers. Were this Bostonian tendency to view a rotary as a first-come, first-serve turnstile to a limited Dunkin' Donuts orgy to manifest with any degree of reliability, other drivers could depend on this insufferable disregard for humanity with extra caution. Instead, Mass-holes, like juries adjudicating over the death penalty, administer their aberrant driving skills capriciously to render any proactive defensive driving defenseless. Furthermore, nary a justified broaching of a rotary transpires when a Mass-hole doesn't hurl incomprehensible invectives in that Bostonian vernacular at your appropriate assumption of the right-of-way. On a side-bar, to truly infuriate a zealous Mass-hole who incorrectly believes his destined path to have been interrupted, reply with a smile, wave, and wink, rather than a birdie, shout, or curse: it totally belittles the entirety of their existence instead of gratifying their blood-lust for conflict.

As far as traveling alternatives to the automobile: every attempt to ride a motorcycle amidst the local Mass-hole denizens mirrors Steve McQueen's ill-fated hog ride in the *Great Escape*. Just last week I was the guest of the pavement when a vitriolic townie decided to stage a formal protest to stop signs that impinged

his total freedom of movement. Though I escaped relatively unscathed (I did sus-

tain a concussion whose accompanying stupor caused me to drop all my HLS courses and cross-register exclusively in Swahili Ethnomusicology offerings), the psychological trauma of having to associate with this strain of Bostonian ilk for the next two years on the roads will persist. Ali Bumbayay, Ali Bumbayay!

Next stop, any major highway, parkway, expressway or thoroughfare. Mass-holes embrace the notion that the left lane is a

fast lane rather than a *pass* lane (never accused of excessive intellectual prowess, Bostonians deserve some credit at the very least for their ability to rhyme while erring). Mass-holes feel entitled to the left lane when driving at any speed that exceeds the posted limits. I can only assume that these same people driving 66 MPH on the Mass Pike believe my intermittent flashing brights and tail-gating to be a bizarre ritual symbolizing my laudatory praise for their bold driving techniques. Partly out of rudeness and partly out of sheer stupidity, Mass-holes when finally achieving awareness of their torpid driving routine tend to further slow down, either to teach a lesson or project their repressed penis envy by responding to perceived challenges to their masculinity. Gives new meaning to the term auto-eroticism. On other occasions, Mass-hole denizens of the middle lane, particularly the male variety thinking their manhood challenged by quickly approaching cars, will decide to accelerate to 90 only upon your suddenly



impeding approach from the left lane to pass. Worse yet, Mass-hole state troopers, the Lucy of the Neanderthal Massachusetts hierarchy, fortify these drivers' ridiculous tendencies by pulling over only the ones who speed though drive well and ignoring the incompetent shmucks who clog

the left lane.

Other glaring Mass-holisms: Bars close at 1 a.m., presumably to discourage drunk-driving, yet the T shuts down around midnight. And why 1 a.m. or 2 p.m. on weekends when a crowd of mature and consenting adults makes the informed decision to further drink escapes all coherent reasoning. No beer on Sundays surely makes sense, since all universally agree that football and beer is surpassed only by cigarettes after sex as anathema combinations. A city dominated by such rude and surly Mass-holes can never anticipate substantive changes to the quality of life or the social regard afforded to fellow citizens.

Ah, to be back in Brooklyn.

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Across the Wire



News from the East, West, Mid-West, and Overseas

Bats Terrorize Utah Court

FARMINGTON, Utah (AP) — Two small bats caused pandemonium on the second floor of the Davis County Courthouse, possibly after employees there unknowingly turned the heat up on the animals.

"There was a lot of hysteria here, as far as the women go," said court clerk Teri Ruth.

Ruth said the bats squeezed their way through the heat vent just above her desk, appearing in the courtroom at about 2:30 p.m.

She said the bats swooped and chased court clerks in the office while animal control officers were responding.

"I was scared to death," said Ruth, who feared the bats may have been carrying rabies.

Animal control officers caught one of the bats and that animal was not tested for rabies because there was no human contact.

The other bat is believed to be hiding in the vent.

European Rights Court Condemns Great Britain in Caning Case

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — The European Court of Human Rights condemned Britain Wednesday for laws which allowed a man get away with beating his nine-year-old stepson with a garden cane.

A panel of nine judges at the court based in Strasbourg, France, ruled unanimously that Britain had violated article three of the European Human Rights Convention which states "no one should be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

The decision was hailed by children's rights activists.

"This is a landmark judgment for millions of children in the UK and across Europe," said the British campaign group End Physical Punishment for Children.

Britain's Labour government also welcomed the ruling and said it would "clarify" laws to ensure such cases do not happen again.

"This is a commonsense decision which

I welcome," said Health Minister Paul Boateng. "There is no excuse for such behavior, and it is right and proper to condemn it."

But the leader of the Conservative opposition criticized the judgment as interference in family life.

"We've taken the nanny state too far when we have to have court rulings about what people can do with their own children in their own home on things like this," William Hague told BBC radio.

In a statement, the European court said that in 1993, a doctor discovered bruises

on a child, now aged 14, which indicated the boy had been beaten with a cane, using "considerable force, on more than one occasion."

His stepfather was charged with assault causing actual bodily harm, but acquitted after claiming the beatings were "reasonable punishment," which is a permissible defense under English law for parents charged with assaulting their children.

The European court awarded the child \$16,800 compensation and legal costs of \$33,600.

Mass. Burma Law Under Fire

BOSTON (AP) — Boston state representative Byron Rushing wrote a law in 1996 that forbids the state from contracting with companies that do business with the military government of Burma, also known as Myanmar.

This week, some of the biggest companies and most powerful governments in the world will line up on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean to try to rid Massachusetts of its Burma Law.

On Wednesday, the National Foreign Trade Council argued for striking down the law in U.S. District Court in Boston.

Coincidentally, on the day before, Japan and the European Commission filed a request in Geneva for the World Trade Organization to set up a formal dispute panel to challenge Rushing's law.

It's the first time the World Trade Organization has challenged a state law since the 1994 GATT treaty on international tariffs and trade.

Legal experts say it's the first salvo in an international battle to eliminate local

laws that do everything from promoting minority businesses to banning the purchase of products made from tropical wood.

"Our goal would be to get a decision that would stop these state and local sanctions around the country," said Frank Kittredge, president of the National Foreign Trade Council, a trade group representing 550 major U.S. corporations.

Rushing wrote the Massachusetts Burma Law in response to Aung Sun Suu Kyi, leader of Burma's pro-democracy party. She urged an end to investment in Burma until the military regime negotiates a peaceful transition to representative government.

The NFTC will argue the Massachusetts Burma Law is unconstitutional because it regulates foreign policy, which only the federal government is empowered to do.

"The sanctions have been damaging to U.S. companies for sure, and U.S. workers, and they've lost jobs as a result of them," said Kittredge. "It would be hard to argue that they have, in this case, changed the government of Burma."

Tenth Circuit Hears Oral Arguments in Oklahoma City

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals held video conferences with attorneys in Denver for the first time this week while the judges are in Oklahoma City.

Most divisions heard oral arguments in the federal courthouse. One division will hear cases at the University of Oklahoma today after hearing appeals at Oklahoma City University on Wednesday.

About 150 people crowded into the moot courtroom at OCU's law school while more lined up in the hallway to listen. Cases ranged from a gang-related murder to product liability.

The appellant and the appellee are each given 15 minutes to argue their case. During this time, the judges frequently ask the counsel their interpretations of rulings upon which they based their appeal.

Laughter erupted as one judge told an attorney to catch his breath and go back behind the podium. Smiles later surfaced when another judge defended a trial judge

who perhaps had "a whimsical day, you know, like a bad hair day."

Tim Monsees traveled from Kansas City, Mo., to defend a district judge's ruling in a sexual harassment lawsuit. He said he would rather be in Colorado's Rocky Mountains than the flatlands of Oklahoma.

"I miss the mountains, otherwise it doesn't really make a difference, except for the students," Monsees said. "The anxiety level goes up a bit in front of a large crowd."

The appeals court tries to hear cases in different states within the circuit at least once a session, said spokeswoman Sandie Spring. States in the circuit include, Oklahoma, Kansas, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming.

"When we go on the road, we like to go to law schools and give students a chance to see the court in action," said John C. Porfilio of Colorado, one of the court's veteran judges. "Professors sometimes discuss the cases in advance with their students."

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