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NUMBER 10

Students for Choice lose e-mail

by Benjamin Rubinstein, 2L
Law Weekly

The board of Law Students for Choice (LSfC) has announced that the group will be losing their law center email address this week. Once Information and Systems Technology (IST) transfers the group's 300-member email list to a new Gmail address, their Lawmail address will be eliminated. The group is already barred from receiving school funding, including funds from the Student Bar Association (SBA), because its views are at odds with those of the Catholic Church. Georgetown University is a Jesuit Institution and tends to adopt policies that are in line with its Catholic and Jesuit heritage.

The group is not allowed to use the university's name in any way, which, according to both the LSfC board and Dana Onorato, Director of Student Affairs, is why the email is now being eliminated. According to board members, however, the

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Midterm elections paint Capitol Hill blue

by Sunil Varghese, 3L
Law Weekly

Left-leaning students finally know what it feels like to be winners after last week's midterm elections put Democrats in control of both the House and Senate. As of Friday, Democrats secured 230 seats in the House and 51 seats in the Senate (including two independents who are expected to caucus with Democrats). Eight House races are too close to call, and two House contests are headed for runoffs.

Law Center students participated in all aspects of the election process, putting particular emphasis on keeping abreast of current news developments during class and celebrating/mourning the Democrats' victory Tuesday night.

Georgetown Law Democrats, in particular, made substantive contributions to their party's cause. Prior to Election Day the organization helped direct students to volunteer candidates in local Democratic campaigns, including Jim Webb's Virginia senate race and Ben Cardin's Maryland senate race.

On Election Day, several Law Democrats served as poll monitors, while 20 to 30 worked on the Maryland Democratic Party's election protection hotline. Volunteers operated telephones from early morning to late evening receiving phone calls from voters with



photo by Benjamin Rubinstein, 2L

Members of the Law Democrats watch the results come in at Lucky Bar in Dupont

election problems. A good portion of the phone calls originated from Prince George's County, Baltimore County and Baltimore City - areas with a high percentage of minorities and Democrats. Election issues included: voting locations, information on provisional ballots, reports of fraudulent election literature and complaints of long lines, closed polls and broken electronic poll books. Students entered the more serious problems into a computer system, which sent electronic messages to lawyers (and

their Black Berries) stationed around the state. The lawyers were usually able to take care of the problems on the spot.

According to Law Democrats President Zachary Myers, 2L, the phones rang early and often, but the volunteers, made up of predominantly Law Center students, had fun handling the various calls.

The fun lasted into the night as Law Democrats from Georgetown, George

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Summer tales plentiful at careers event

by Tiphany Miller, 2L
Law Weekly

Over thirty second- and third-year students sat at tables in the third-floor atrium of McDonough last Wednesday afternoon for the Students Helping Students Summer Internship Fair. They were eager to share their past work experience with first-years who are just beginning to consider the myriad options available to them this summer. Students offered advice and anecdotes while answering the numerous questions posed by the milling first-years, who learned more about working in a wide range of fields: government, international law, public defendse, the non-profit sector, law firms, judicial internships and research assistantships. Students also learned about the Law Center's study abroad program, all while snacking on the cookies and brownies provided by OCS and OPICS, which sponsored the event.

Hannah Alejandro, 2L, told



photo by Marika Maris, 3L

Students were out in full force to explain the intricacies of the summer job search to their first-year peers in the McDonough Atrium

inquiring students all about the various benefits of working as a research assistant for a professor, as she had

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Students form lobby group

by Brianne Kennedy
Law Weekly

Since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck, thousands of people from all over the country have volunteered their time and money in an effort to repair the damage done to the Gulf Coast and the lives of its residents.

Countless hearings have been held on Capitol Hill and in statehouses throughout the region to determine what it is that caused the initial response to the disasters, particularly in the case of Hurricane Katrina, to go as badly as it did.

Few people, however, have stopped to think about what caused the damage in the first place, and how addressing it might prevent future

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Basketball Ticket Sales

Stop by McDonough Room 171 to purchase yours today! Tickets will be available for Hoyas Basketball vs. Ball State on Monday, Nov. 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the Verizon Center, starting on Nov. 13. Excellent seats are available. On sale starting Nov. 15, tickets will be available for Hoyas Basketball vs. Oregon on Wednesday, Nov. 29 at 7:30 p.m. at the Verizon Center. Excellent seats are available. Hoyas Basketball tickets are available for every home game. The Office of Student Affairs will be selling tickets to every 2006-2007 home Hoyas Basketball game. All tickets will go on sale at least one week prior to each home game. Stop by McDonough Room 171 for more information.

Ask an Administrator

Ever wonder who does what around here? Who can help replace a lost locker key? Who decides if a class is offered pass/fail? On Wednesdays, from 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m., in the Market Café of McDonough, a different administrator will host a table in the Market Café each week to answer students' questions. Stop by for a cookie and chat. This month, John Stephens, Director of LL.M. Academic Services is scheduled for Nov. 15 and Denise Steeley, Registrar, will be at the Café on Nov. 29.

Drug Policy Conference

Just Say Know! The Students for Sensible Drug Policy International Conference is just around the corner. Hundreds of students from all over the country will be convening at the Law Center for the conference, Nov. 17 through 19. There will be many incredible speakers, including Terry Michael, former press secretary for the Democratic National Committee, Billy Murphy, former judge and renowned criminal defense attorney, Ethan Nadelmann, Drug Policy Alliance and our very own Carmack Waterhouse Professor of Legal Theory Randy Barnett. Please visit ssdp.org/conference for more information.

Georgetown Law Forum Panel

The Student Ambassadors and Georgetown Public Policy Institute invite you to attend "After the Election: What Happened and Where Do We Go From Here?" a Georgetown Law Forum Panel Discussion. Panelists include Professor EJ Dionne, Jr., of the Georgetown Public Policy Institute, who is also a Senior Fellow at the

Brookings Institution and a columnist for the Washington Post, and Tod Lindberg, a Research Fellow at the Hoover Institution and the Editor of the Institute's Policy Review. The panel will be introduced by Judy Feder, Dean of the Public Policy Institute, on Tuesday, Nov. 14, at 6:00 p.m., in McDonough Room 202. The panel is also sponsored by the Office of Admissions and the Law Alumni Office.

Technology and Voting

Thursday afternoon, ACS will have a panel discussion, "Steal this Vote: Counting Your Vote in an Era of Electronic Voting Machines and Billion Dollar Campaigns," featuring Jon Stokes of Ars Technica Magazine (describing how to hack a voting machine), Peter Vickery of Massachusetts Voters for Fair Elections (speaking on public campaign financing) and Professor Spencer Overton of George Washington University (moderating and speaking on Voting Rights). The panel will convene at 4:00 p.m. in McDonough Room 203. Food and drink will be served. Contact georgetownacs@law.georgetown.edu for more information.

Issues in Transgender Law

Join Outlaw for a lunchtime talk on "Transgender Civil Rights," with Lisa Mottet, Law Center alumnus and Legislative Lawyer with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Transgender Civil Rights Project. The talk will take place on Thursday, Nov. 16, from 12:10 to 1:10 p.m. in McDonough Room 140. Learn about current issues in transgender law while eating free pizza! Questions? Contact jpw45@law.georgetown.edu.

Keg on the Quad

JLSA will be hosting Georgetown Law's weekly Keg on the Quad this Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 3:30 p.m. The Keg will be on the Quad, unless the weather requires the Keg to be held in the Sport and Fitness Center. Stop by and enjoy!

Immigration Panel

The Federalist Society presents a panel on "Immigration Law and Policy: What Do We Do with the Twelve Million?" with Keynote Speaker, U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX), the Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship. Other panelists include: Lynden Melmed, Immigration Counsel, Senate Subcommittee on

Four Sudoku puzzles

Fill in the grids so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats.

			6	4	3	2				7				8	
5			2		7	4			9		1	8			5
4	2	9				8					6	4	7		
2	7			4			8		3	1	2	5	8		4
8			5	3				6	8						6
	6			2			5	1	7	2	4	6	9		1
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		2	7		1			8	6		9	2			3
5	3	4	9						3						5

V. EASY #3
EASY #3

												6	1		
4	6	2						5		9					7
3	7					9		2	5	3		4			2
	2			7	3				5		6			3	
	3		4		1		7			2	3	1	5		
			8	2			5		4		2			6	
1	5						2	6	4		5				1
7					9	5		1	9			3			
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MEDIUM #3
HARD #3

Solution on page 11

Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship; Esther Olivarria, Counsel, Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA); Beto Cardenez, General Counsel, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) and Professor Andy Schoenholtz. The panel will take place on Thursday, Nov. 16, at 3:30 p.m. in McDonough Room 201.

Refreshments will be served. Contact edwinswan@gmail.com with questions or for more information.

APALSA Panel

Join APALSA for lunch panel on summer internships, in Hotung 2000, on Thursday, Nov. 16, from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. The panel will feature summer associates at U.S. and International Law firms, public interest interns, judicial interns and research assistants. Food will be provided!

Homelessness Awareness Month

Please participate!
DONATE:
 "Stuff the Turkey" (Until Nov. 22)
 -Donate a dollar! For each \$7 we raise we will donate a Thanksgiving dinner to the homeless!
DISCUSS:
 The "Problem" in Our Backyard: A Panel Discussion (Nov. 16, 5:00 p.m., McDonough Room 164)
 -Join a group of distinguished legal panelists to discuss the benefits, challenges and opportunities of working with the homeless in the legal profession.
VOLUNTEER:
 Help the Homeless Walk (Saturday, Nov. 18)
 - Each walker helps to raise money for the homeless.
 Martha's Table (Saturday, Nov. 18)
 -Volunteer to help make meals from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Email: Jarod at jgt26@law.georgetown.edu for details.

Flu Shots!

The Student Health office will be offering additional flu shots next week for staff, students and faculty. Vaccines will be administered at the following times: Tuesday, Nov. 14, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 15, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Thursday, Nov. 16, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. This is a walk-in clinic, so no appointments will be taken. Student Health is located on the lower level of Gewirz, room L102. Please remember to bring your GoCard. No vaccine can be administered without your GoCard.

Mental Health Rights

Do you care about Mental Health Rights? Curious about how you can use your law degree to make a difference? Georgetown Law Active Minds presents Karen Bower, the Senior Staff Attorney for the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, who will be talking about the Center, her current litigation on campus mental health issues and ways law students can make a positive impact on Mental Health Rights. Join us on Wednesday, Nov. 15 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Hotung 2000.

Dominican ambassador addresses law students

by Emily Camastra, 2L
Law Weekly

The Dominican Republic does more than just supply baseball with an endless supply of phenomenal baseball players. It also, like many other Latin American countries, is in the midst of a new constitutionalism. The Dominican Republic's Ambassador to the United States, Flavio Darío Espinal, spoke at Georgetown Law last Tuesday about this new constitutionalism and his theories about how the different political philosophies of the United States and Latin America have resulted in starkly different adherences to the rule of law.

Espinal spoke of the different pillars of liberal democratic intuitionism embedded in U.S. political philosophy that are completely absent in Latin America. For example, the first pillar, he insisted, was a kind of skepticism about the nature of humankind. Espinal pointed out that Americans based their government on the Montesquieu assertion that if men were angels, there would be no need for government. Latin Americans, on the other hand, do not share in this skepticism. Over time, they have put a lot of trust in their leaders and, as Espinal insinuated, this really hasn't done them a whole lot of good. Also, where Americans are skeptical about too much power residing in the state, Latin Americans have historically not been wary about state power.

Espinal also pointed out a lack

of skepticism for majority power. "In Latin America, when there's a majority, leaders see no reason to pay attention to minorities", Espinal explained. "So governments oscillate between too much power in one person and too much power in majority. There needs to be greater emphasis on pluralism in Latin America."

Another stark difference between the United States and Latin America is the balance struck between order and liberty. Whereas the United States grants certain inalienable liberties, the same cannot be said in Latin America. Espinal pointed out order's supremacy in Latin America with the often-quoted analogy that liberty is like food and order is like oxygen.

"You can go a few days without food," Espinal explained, "but you can only go a few minutes without oxygen".

But perhaps the biggest difference between the U.S. and its Southern neighbors is the level of adherence to the written constitution. In pointing out the frequency with which constitutions are written and rewritten, Espinal explained, "In Latin America, constitutions are nothing more than political declarations or aspirations. They are not truly legal, binding documents."

Espinal sarcastically bragged that the constitution of the Dominican Republic was rewritten more than any other in the world. Students in the LLM program from Venezuela, however, predicted that this record would soon belong to

them.

After identifying the problems, Espinal acknowledged that the major question remaining was how to go about rebuilding the pillars of liberal democratic institutionalism. Espinal's answer: "We need to take the constitution seriously!"

Espinal noted that the current trend in constitutionalism is to write public policies directly into the constitutional text. For example, many Latin American countries are experimenting with provisions like requiring 5 percent of the GDP to go towards education.

The ambassador explained that while these are wonderful aspirations, public policies and so-called "third generation rights" (like the right to work or the right to a clean and safe environment) should not be written into the constitutional text.

"The constitution may not be able to do anything about providing people with work", Espinal explained. "So if we declared a right to work when there was no work, we'd be violating the constitution all the time."

Ambassador Espinal's visit to Georgetown Law was part of the "Breakfast With the Ambassador" series sponsored by CAROLA and the Office of International and Transnational Programs. CAROLA, the Center for the Advancement of the Rule of Law in the Americas, seeks to create an open forum, in which issues concerning rule of law can be discussed, in order to understand the laws and legal system in

the region.

Ambassador Espinal is a distinguished professor of constitutional and public international law, and former dean, at the Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra in Santo Domingo. Holder of a Masters degree in political science from the University of Essex in England and a Ph.D. in government from the University of Virginia, he has written a prize-winning monograph: *Constitutionalism and Political Processes in the Dominican Republic*.

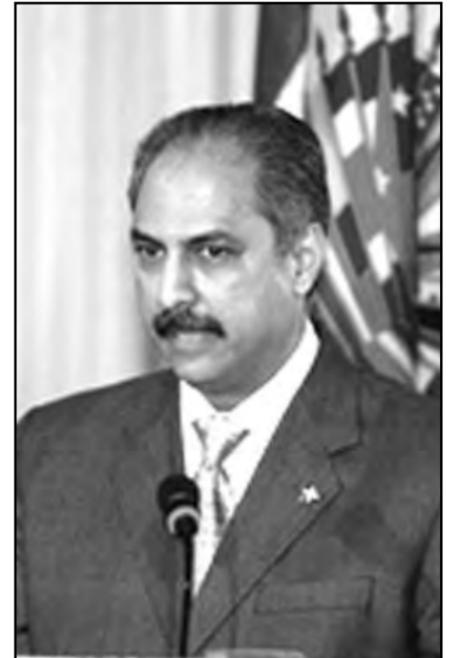


photo courtesy of Dominican American National Roundtable

Ambassador Espinal addressed Georgetown Law students about the state of constitutionalism in Latin America

PAL hosts discussion on two Supreme Court cases

by Sarah Hale, 2L
Law Weekly

Last week the Supreme Court heard *Gonzales vs. Carhart* and *Gonzales vs. Planned Parenthood* - two cases challenging the federal Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003. The Progressive Alliance for Life at Georgetown hosted a discussion on these cases and the law surrounding them last Wednesday. Walter Weber led the discussion. Weber is a senior attorney at the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ). He spoke about the background against which these cases were brought as well as the oral arguments themselves.

Weber spoke about how the dilation and extraction abortion technique (commonly referred to as partial birth abortion) developed. After the foundational abortion decision in *Roe* doctors began using a technique for mid-term abortions known as dilation and evacuation. This procedure involved separating a fetus into components in the uterus and then removing the components. In time, though, some doctors began performing abortions by the slightly different, dilation and extraction method, in which the fetus is removed from the uterus intact, rather than in components.

Weber posed the question to those gathered, "Why would abortionists do this?" Weber then answered his own question by presenting the arguments commonly offered by doctors in support of this abortion method.

The first argument proffered for dilation and extraction abortion is that

it is effective. He claimed that there are no "accidental" live births from dilation and extraction abortions, as sometimes occurred in induction abortions (which were the norm for mid-term abortions before dilation and evacuation or dilation and extraction abortions).

Doctors also support this method of abortion, Weber said, for research purposes. An intact fetus can be studied more easily than one removed from the uterus in components. This research advantage is particularly felt in cases where the fetus was aborted after a diagnosis of mental defect. The doctors can possibly study the intact fetus to determine the nature of the defect and better advise the patient regarding future pregnancies.

Another advantage claimed by doctors that is central to the debate about dilation and extraction abortions is the claim that these types of abortions are safer for patients undergoing the procedure. This argument that dilation and extraction abortions pose fewer risks to patients could be a key factor in the Court's decision about whether to allow the federal Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act to stand.

Having briefly discussed the medical history and reasoning behind the dilation and extraction method of abortion, Weber moved on to explain the legal developments that led to the cases heard before the Supreme Court last week. In the years before the federal ban was passed, several states enacted legislation prohibiting dila-

tion and extraction abortions. These laws were then challenged and several were struck down as unconstitutionally overbroad (the definitions of prohibited behavior in many was said to encompass not only dilation and extraction, but also dilation and evacuation procedures) and also because the bans did not allow for an exception for maternal life or health. In response to these defeats, the federal legislation, enacted in 2003, narrowed the definition of prohibited behavior to an abortion in which the trunk of the fetus, past the navel, is removed intact. This law was challenged and struck down in two cases, appeals were made and the decisions were affirmed in the intermediate appellate courts. Appeals from these intermediate courts were the cases brought to the Supreme Court last week in the form of *Gonzales vs. Carhart* and *Gonzales vs. Planned Parenthood*.

Weber, who listened to the arguments last week from the lawyers' lounge at the Supreme Court, spoke specifically about the claims made by the attorneys and the questions asked by the Justices. The attorneys opposing the ban cited its lack of a maternal health exception and also made claims that the ban was too broad, even with the narrowed definition, and that it is unconstitutionally vague. The Department of Justice, Weber said, argued that Congress, in enacting this ban, was informed by fact finding regarding the necessity (or lack thereof) for a health exception as well as the proper definition of prohibited behav-

ior. The Department argued that the Court should defer to Congress given its superior fact finding capabilities.

As for the Justices, Weber noted that they were all "playing it close to the vest" in their comments and questions to the attorneys. Justice Alito, hearing his first abortion case on the Supreme Court, was entirely silent and Justice Scalia, normally active in oral arguments, made surprisingly few inquiries and comments to the attorneys, Weber noted. The comments that were made by the Justices, Weber added, were almost entirely concerning the health issues and did not at all emphasize the vagueness or overbreadth concerns.

Weber said he expects a decision to be announced in June 2007 and that he anticipates a close decision - possibly a 5-4 or 6-3 split. He also expressed a feeling that the Court, in an effort to build a majority, may be forced into an opinion that actually decides very little. Finding common ground for a majority that includes, for instance, Justices Kennedy and Scalia, might mean that the ground upon which the opinion stands is necessarily narrow.

On Sunday night, PAL hosted another event in McDonough Room 110, where they served pizza, salad and drinks while watching a National Geographic film called *Int the Womb*, which shows images of the fetus as it develops. After the film, the PAL members and other attendees discussed how the details of the film could be used to inform the abortion debate.

Just Praise concert raises student voices and spirits

by Kalah Paisley, 3L
Guest Writer

Last Friday night Just Praise performed their first concert of the year, and the goal of worship was ubiquitous. The twelfth floor of Gewirz was seemingly transformed into a tent meeting complete with loud voices raised in worship, brief testimonials and prayers shared by members of the choir, and a short message and benediction delivered by guest Minister Yorri Berry.

Just Praise Gospel Choir is comprised of eighteen law students with a range of singing and religious experiences but one solid aspect of their lives is common. It is that little "just" - their eagerness to worship God while also ministering to the spiritual needs of the Georgetown Law community.

Drawn to the concert was a pleasing crowd, including notable attendees Public Safety Officer Henderson, Sister Dorinda, and Professor Menkel-Meadow. The audience appeared to enjoy the dynamics of the concert. Few songs went by without notable numbers of the crowd jumping to their feet, clapping and moving to the music.

The concert began with music by the jazz quartet. Duane Gray (drums) and Alvin Kilibrew (bass) were joined by two of Georgetown's own. Leviticus Thomas (piano) is the director of the Georgetown University Gospel Choir and Caleb Griffin (saxophone) is a law student.

Anita Barksdale, 2L, Director of Just Praise, welcomed everyone to the concert and quickly defined the theme of the evening, joking that you may have thought you were coming to support a friend, but you were

actually coming to be ministered to spiritually. Starting quietly, she was soon joined by the choir as they proceeded from the rear of the room and opened with "I Will Bless the Lord" with Shwanda Harris, 3L, as exhorter.

The program consisted of a wide selection of pieces ranging from the energetic melody, "I Never Will/You Brought the Sunshine" to the traditional "Holy, Holy, Holy" sung by the smaller ensemble including sopranos Frances Hartwell, 3L, and Gail Reid, 2L, alto Anita Barksdale, and tenors Shwanda Harris and Richard Ramsay, 3L. The ensemble also provided solos throughout the program.

Another standout performance was by Melissa Gardner, 3L, who provided sign language interpretation for the third song of the evening, "Thank You," and shared words of inspiration during the song, "Imagine Me". Additionally, local artist Patricia Barnes Brookes, who helps Just Praise perfect their craft, shared a beautiful piece that she described as "a hymn of the church". Two current law students also treated the audience to beautiful piano solos. Kyden Creekpau, 3L, performed "My Tribute," and Richard Ramsay, co-director of Just Praise, also shared a piece.

Audience reactions were in solid support of the gospel choir and its beautiful music. When asked after the concert to reflect on the performance, Eamonn Moran, 3L, was not stingy with his praise. "The concert was fabulous! The spirit and passion of the Just Praise singers, coupled with the excited and enthusiastic attendees, provided a warm, upbeat and vibrant setting," he said.

Moran continued, "I really

enjoyed the opportunity to spend time in reflection and prayer, with the Thanksgiving holiday approaching and the semester wrapping up and exams approaching soon after that. It was great that the event was so well attended, and to see many fellow members of the Georgetown Law community support the efforts and hard work of one of our outstanding student organizations here on campus."

The music of the evening transcended denominations, ministering to each in a different way. When

asked whether this was a new experience for her and if she enjoyed it, the new scheduling manager of Student Affairs, Katie Michaels, responded that she enjoyed it very much, adding, "It's the same God, that's the important thing."

No one in attendance could deny this spiritual commitment, and its influence permeated the evening. In an evening of joy and song, Just Praise provided just another demonstration of the hidden talents of the Georgetown Law community.



photo by Sean Byrne, 3L
Students were enthralled with Just Praise's performance on Friday night on the twelfth floor of Gewirz. It left performers and attendees spiritually refreshed.

Choose and lose: student group's e-mail deleted

CHOICE from Page 1

loss of their email address is only the latest in a series of steps taken that, in their eyes, are making it much more difficult to organize on campus. LSfC speakers are often considered "high-profile" by the administration, which means that the group has to request a room for these events at least two weeks in advance of the event. Even for rooms that are requested early, twice recently the group has not received a room assignment until the day, which hampered publicity. This last minute room shuffling, according to the board, has made it difficult to have programming, and as a result the group is doing less this year than last year.

Another restriction faced by LSfC involves tabling: the group is prohibited from using the usual table location in front of the chapel and instead must table near the vending machines in the cafeteria entryway.

This restriction, according to board members, is a result of student complaints about the group being too close to the chapel.

The LSfC board believes that the restrictions on their activity have been spurred by a small and vocal group of students at the Law Center.

Jennifer Marcovitz, 2L, the Secretary of LSfC, noted that "it seems like the drive behind this is other students." Marcovitz thought that the students who were pushing the curbs on LSfC activity "don't want us heard on campus."

However, Onorato denied that the new action was spurred by student complaints, but she acknowledged the potential for such complaints. According to her, the action by the school is happening now because the group is not in line with the Law Center's mission and foundation. She said that the move is meant to harmonize policy at the Law Center with that of the main campus.

LSfC members understand the tension between their group's existence and the roots of the Law Center. "It's not real surprising at a Catholic school that the pro-choice group isn't funded on campus," pointed out Max Farris, 2L, Vice-President of LSfC. However, Farris and other board members wonder why a prohibition on funding need extend to measures that make it difficult for the group to simply hold meetings and host speakers. "We just want recognition and the ability to exist like other student groups," said Marcovitz. In contrast to other student groups, LSfC, according to

its board, has to follow a constantly shifting set of rules. LSfC President Joy Welan, 2L, thought that "the restrictions that LSfC has faced have been increasing incrementally and suddenly, with almost no notice."

LSfC members note, however, that while they are not surprised with the lack of funding of their organization, they are surprised by the extent of the restrictions it faces. "The friends I've talked to didn't realize this would be so extreme when they came to Georgetown," noted Marcovitz. She said of the troubles with the group that "to a certain extent it makes me wonder whether I made the right choice coming here."

The school's strong stance against LSfC is not advertised in admissions materials, something that, according to Marcovitz, means "outsiders would be surprised to know that we have these issues on campus."

Welan feels that the group has a valuable role to play on campus, and that if it were eliminated, "the women of GULC will suffer due to a lack of information about how to access the full range of reproductive health care options to which they are entitled, including birth control and emergency contraception."

Daniel Hughes, 2L, a pro-life

student, noted "I think it's a very tricky situation." However, Hughes emphasized that he thought it was appropriate for LSfC to lose their email address. Hughes said that the moral abhorrence of abortion in the Catholic tradition compels legal prohibition and that "our Catholic, Jesuit university has a moral obligation to stand behind its principles." This, according to Hughes, involves not funding or electronically facilitating LSfC.

Hughes said he thought the administration acted now because "many students have been deeply offended by Law Students for Choice." He did not, however, rule out future cooperation between LSfC and other groups, noting recent efforts at collaboration between that group and Progressive Alliance for Life.

Welan pointed out that she respects the religious and moral convictions of those who oppose LSfC. "However," she noted, "shutting down the debate by refusing to allow people with opposing viewpoints to present them, or making it almost impossible for them to do so, does a disservice to the intellectual climate of our campus. It seems fundamentally unfair to allow one side of the debate to dictate its terms."

SALDF offers food for thought on animal cruelty

by Prashina Gagoomal, 1L
Law Weekly

Last Thursday, the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund (SALDF) and the Environmental Law Society (ELS) sponsored a talk with a clear, resounding message: you are what you eat. About twenty-five students, drawn from a variety of eating habits and political views, attended the event to both learn more about animal rights and enjoy a vegan lunch of empanadas and chocolate chip cookies. Those unfamiliar with the animal welfare movement came to grips with a greater, underlying reality: the effects of what one eats transcend the individual person, reaching the environment and public-at-large.

Paul Shapiro, Director of the Human Society of the United States' Factory Farming Campaign, provided some background on the issue. Throughout his Power-Point presentation entitled "Eating with a Conscience" he stressed that the movement not only encompasses "dog and cat" people, but is also extremely concerned with farm animals, and for good reason.

According to Shapiro, farm animals endure the overwhelming majority of animal suffering, with one billion killed for food every year. Even prior to the slaughter they are confined to "living hell-holes" in the form of gestation crates, veal crates and battery cages. Following a slew of adorable slides featuring playful interactions between domestic and farm animals, he asked the audience, "If dogs and cats can get along with farm animals...why can't we?"

Fortunately, the legal situation

regarding animal rights has had marks of success. Shapiro listed a series of recent and pending animal cruelty cases involving jaw-dropping practices like discarding hens and freezing live birds. Significantly, today's animal welfare advocates are continuing the mission of abolitionists who secured the first criminal conviction for animal cruelty in 1866. The movement, however, still faces legal impediments to alleviating the plight of animals.

On the federal level, animal slaughter receives minimal regulation. And though states have criminal cruelty codes for animals, the statutes explicitly carve out exceptions for "standard agricultural practices"- which include the use of gestation crates. Shapiro lamented the influence of the agro-business lobby in politics, calling it a "tragedy."

Sustaining what progress has been made is thus important, especially given the far-reaching effects of an animal diet. As Shapiro underscored, such a diet has led to high levels of health-related complications among the American population. Moreover, eating habits that revolve primarily around meat and eggs negatively impact the environment. The factory farms that make animal products often lack proper sewage and pollution systems and, as a result, release ammonium and nitrogen into lakes and rivers. In response, environmental groups like the Sierra Club and Natural Resources Defense Council have joined the fight against what Shapiro calls "horrible stewards of the environment."

In light of factory farming's deleterious consequences, the audience

faced a pivotal question: what can we do? Shapiro suggested that students use their status as consumers to boycott factory farmers, and adopt the motto "reduce, reuse, and replace." He emphasized that subtracting even one animal-based meal a day could contribute to reducing the "total suffering of animal pain and death."

Additionally, Shapiro noted that law students can use their profession to benefit animals. Highlighting the rarity that "all your clients will be innocent," he advised that they become part of the effort to find ways around the common agricultural practice exception in statutes and to create new laws for animal protection. He noted that the Humane Society of the United States offers internships with a focus on animal rights litigation.

The talk certainly piqued the interest of students in audience, most of whom agreed with Shapiro's platform, but could identify potential counter-arguments to it. Silvia Scandar, 1L said that she was "totally on board" with everything he said, but wondered how factoring animal rights into production might affect the range of human choice. Shapiro himself recognized that animal product prices would undoubtedly go up- and thus restrict people accustomed to purchasing low-cost meat- if factory farmers had to "humanize" their practices. However, he reaffirmed his position that "our choices" should not be the only consideration. David Steib, a member of SALDF's board, pointed out that the animal rights movement also works to protect human choice, particularly by bettering the treatment of factory workers.

Another student identified the stigma attached to animal rights advocates as a potential hindrance to their mission. Though Shapiro admitted that "it is difficult to combat stereotypes," he observed that, as with any social movement, the animal rights movement has a "small minority of radicals" and a "more mainstream" segment. Furthermore, recent developments signal that the animal rights lobby is emerging as a legitimate, identifiable actor in political scene. Last week, for example, voters in Arizona and Michigan passed bans on veal gestation cages and shooting morning doves, respectively.

Animal rights advocacy is enjoying success on the campus front as well. Steib announced that a Sunday brunch with other DC-based animal rights groups would take place at Asylum, a vegan restaurant in Adams Morgan. More strikingly, Bob Barker, the legendary "Price is Right" host and animal rights advocate, recently donated \$1 million to the Law Center to develop an animal law program. The administration has devised some good ideas of how to use the money productively, but is open to students' suggestions.

Overall, Shapiro's talk proved informative rather than dogmatic. Students likely appreciated the absence of gory pictures of animal abuse in his slide-show and welcoming disposition toward diverse viewpoints and eating habits. Still, the lecture had an impact. Those who entered the classroom as having been accustomed to "animal diets," likely re-thought their position as they exited.

Environmental Law Society, wining and dining

by Brian Corcoran, 1L
Law Weekly

The Environmental Law Society (ELS) threw its annual faculty wine and cheese event last Wednesday with a great turnout. About forty to fifty students and faculty members with an interest in environmental law turned out to eat, drink, and get to know each other in the Sports and Fitness Center Lobby.

The ELS exists mostly as a networking and informational organization that provides information on environmental law and sponsors a speakers program, which this year included the recent panel on the Duke Energy case before the Supreme Court. The Society also participates in community events and promotes recycling at the Law Center.

The ELS puts on this event to show students the wide range of professors and courses dealing with environmental law available at the Law Center. Several professors made it to the event, including Lisa Heinzerling, Richard Lazarus, Amanda Leiter, Hope Babcock, Donald Elliott, and John D. Echeverria, the Executive Director of the Georgetown Environmental Law & Policy Institute (GELPI). Others weren't able to stay for much of the night, but put in appearances.

Although the event was mostly an opportunity to socialize, the professors who came on the early side took a moment to introduce themselves to the crowd and briefly describe their research interests. Professor Leiter invited students to come up and talk about any number of topics, especially about her current research on nuclear power.

Professor Heinzerling, who recently wrote the brief for the upcoming Massachusetts vs. EPA case, underscored the importance of the event when she pointed out that "besides my kids' birthday party, this is one the only social events I've accepted recently." She then demonstrated her networking acuity by memorizing the names and environmental interests of nearly every 1L who came her way.

She also talked to several members of Section Three about her spring-semester Government Processes course. She attempts to bring a very practical strain into the otherwise heavily theoretical curriculum, and that promise of practicality seemed to relieve her listeners.

Other professors were similarly excited to be there, interacting with students in a pleasant, low-key environment. Professor Lazarus spoke about the Duke Energy case and dispensed advice to students

interested in pursuing the MPP/JD joint degree from an environmental perspective. Professor Babcock, who runs the Environmental Justice Clinic, also made the rounds, talking to a great number of excited students on a wide range of topics.

The Society served up several excellent bottles of wine and organ-

ic juices, as well as a spread of locally-produced apples, pears and cheeses, including a particularly interesting blueberry cheese. Apparently the food was well-liked, as it disappeared quickly. The atmosphere was relaxed and most people stayed to chat until the very end.



photo by Marika Maris, 3L

Good conversation was served alongside wine and cheese on Wednesday

Nats VP pitches his job

by Margaret Rubin, 1E
Law Weekly

Nobody ever says, "I want to be a lawyer when I grow up." Well maybe some people do, but Washington Nationals Vice President Mike Shapiro was not one of those people. Like a lot of people, Mr. Shapiro had a plan that underwent some reworking, reevaluating, and a reality check that eventually sent him to law school, not to become a lawyer, but with a new plan - to become a sports writer. Why not journalism school? Because someone dropped the hint that law school would open more doors than journalism school while also providing him the necessary writing and analytical tools to become a sports writer. This was a logical variation of his original dream to play baseball after playing at Georgetown as an undergrad. However, it didn't work out when he wasn't drafted, though he did have a short run on an independent team. A true fan of the game and the collegial ball club atmosphere, Shapiro continued to play some semi-professional baseball after law school while working for the government in California and was, through contacts, eventually able to break into the field of his dreams thanks to both his legal and baseball background.

On his first day as the new General Counsel to the San Francisco Giants, waiting for his first lawyerly assignment, a cigar-smoking general manager demanded exactly what he was doing sitting around and, upon hearing of his pitching credentials, ordered him to suit up and pitch for batting practice, which he continued to do on a regular basis while also serving as the Giants' General Counsel.

At an event sponsored by the Georgetown Sports & Entertainment Law Society, Shapiro spoke to students about his experience in sports law and gave recommendations for breaking into a business which is admittedly difficult to break into and difficult to keep a job in. As General Manager for the Giants, Shapiro held a broad range of responsibilities, including working on player and team sponsorship contracts and producing TV broadcasts of games.

When the Giants were sold in 1993, new management brought in their own people to fill the club's positions, which Shapiro said is one of the tough breaks of working in the field. People want your job and when teams change hands, they bring in their own people. He then became Vice President for the Atlanta

Braves and worked with the Atlanta Hawks and Thrashers as well. All his experience in television broadcasting prepared him well for his next position as the VP of Turner Sports, from where he was recruited by Nike to become Tiger Woods's new liaison to Nike.

Shapiro emphasized that Nike became interested in his skills and background because he had worked in so many different aspects of the industry. He had experience in television programming and acquisition and player contracts. Even though he lacked experience directly with golf, his other work in the field made him very appealing to Nike. For a year he worked as what he described as a "brand manager" for Tiger Woods, managing the star's relationship with Nike, until the job ultimately became too taxing on his family life. So he worked for a sports broadcasting company and eventually started his own business representing bidders trying to purchase teams and also helping other start-ups develop business plans. After representing the Lerner family in their successful bid to purchase the Montreal Expos, the Lerner family decided they needed Shapiro around and brought him in to serve as the VP of Business Affairs for the new Washington Nationals.

With the Nationals Shapiro continues to work on drafting contracts as well as covering a good deal of managerial administrative work, which requires a thorough understanding of employment and labor law. He also has a hand in the general operation of RFK Stadium, such as selling tickets and sponsorships and preparing spring training facilities. Working for the Nationals has the added responsibility of building the new stadium and the extensive development work that involves. Additionally, he has a hand in revamping the Minor League system and recruiting international players. The team has a year-round camp and operates two teams in the Dominican Republic. Additionally, the Nats have plans for a similar recruitment program in Korea.

His parting advice for people looking to get into the business was to find an internship, not necessarily with a major league team but maybe with a college or minor league team. He suggested pinpointing a niche aspect of the industry, such as free agency, and developing expert knowledge of that area so that you develop a commodity that has value to the insiders. Get one foot in the door and, like Shapiro, you could spend some days drafting contracts and some day pitching to the pros.

Peers help to find jobs

PEERS from page 1

this past summer for Professor Wendy Williams. As a research assistant, Alejandro was able to hone her legal research and writing skills, get an insight into the actual workings of the Law Center and establish a relationship that will ultimately help when Alejandro prepares to find work, especially if she wishes to obtain a judicial clerkship. Alejandro advised students to start their professor search early, using the resources available at the Law Center, and by researching a particular professor's research interests on the Internet. Students should focus on being as proactive as possible in approaching professors, said Alejandro.

Several students offered advice about their previous public interest internships. Ben Rubinstein, 2L, told students what he enjoyed most about his work with the Teamsters Union in New York City: time in courtrooms and with clients, working in most areas of the city and, of course, the compensation, which, while not extravagant, placed Rubinstein outside of the eligibility requirements for a summer grant from the Equal Justice Foundation. Louise McGauley, 2L, also enjoyed the time she spent in courtrooms at hearings while she worked for the District of Columbia Family Court, with the Counsel for Child Abuse and Neglect. McGauley said that she started her internship looking to see if working as a guardian ad litem suited her professional aspirations, and urged the first-year students she talked with to consider what it is that they are looking to get out of a summer experience. The first-year summer is a great way to get a closer look at specific fields of the law, which are often not covered in the standard first-year curriculum. McGauley also emphasized the importance of the Public Interest Career Fair, held in conjunction with George Washington's law school early each spring, where she first learned about the position she held over the summer. She said that she had decided to participate as a Student Helping other Students because she "had found this event very comforting last year," and wanted to provide similar ease to first-years who may be overwhelmed by the choices they must make.

As the lone student placed in the miscellaneous category, Lauren Muldoon, 2L, worked with the in-house

counsel of the Sallie Mae foundation, a corporation that specializes in student loans and their marketing. Muldoon worked with another Georgetown first-year, who did not participate in the event. While he focused on corporate matters, Muldoon found herself dealing with several of the litigation issues faced by Sallie Mae that summer. Because the company has no junior associates, the attorneys there rely on the summer associates, providing Muldoon a great opportunity to hone her legal skills, doing "good work on big cases." The other lawyers there had all come from large firms, and they offered Muldoon advice and insight into the working of firms, a major benefit during her on-campus interviews in late August. Sallie Mae only takes first-year interns over the summer, but they do provide compensation. Muldoon found this position due to a recommendation from a friend, but she believes that the company posts on the simplicity site maintained by the Law Center.

Kevin Bennett, 2L, was one of several students who spoke about their first-year summer working at a law firm, in his case Hunton & Williams, in McLean, VA. When asked how he ended up with a firm job, Bennett said that he felt luck played a large part. After sending out resumes and cover letters, focused on a geographic area, and his area of interest, IP law, he applied and waited, and, as he said, luckily found the firm, where he will be spending half of his upcoming summer.

Most of the first-year students who attended were pleased with the event. Mary Kogut, 1L, was glad that so many diverse internships were being discussed, and that each student offered not only the advantages but the disadvantages of their positions. She was especially "appreciative of the students coming back, which shows the camaraderie in the Law Center."

This camaraderie was exhibited perhaps best by Ghazaly Imam, 2L, who came to talk to students about his work at the Egyptian Center for Women's Rights in Cairo, despite the painful stomach flu he had recently developed.

The Internship Fair lasted for several hours, with students coming and going depending on their schedules. All who attended and participated seemed to enjoy their experiences, and the first-years came away with more direct insight and knowledge about the whole process involved in obtaining these kinds of work.

Social events keep students busy, from tea to beer



Left photo by Lisa Willis, 2L. Right photo by Marika Maris, 3L.

Students felt the warmth of both tea and friendship at last Monday's Women of Color Collective faculty tea on the twelfth floor of Gewirz (left). Two days later, on Wednesday, the Federalist Society hosted their keg in the McDonough cafeteria, with beer and conversation on the menu (right)



Nationwide gains elate the Democrats

ELECTIONS from page 1

Washington, American and Catholic gathered for a joint election-watching party at Lucky Bar in Dupont Circle. Several Democrats were seen quite hung over Wednesday morning.

Students from the Republican Law Students Association (RLSA) were active as well during the election cycle. RLSA invited representatives from the Republican National Committee to present election law opportunities within the party. During the election, students phone banked, distributed campaign literature and monitored polls. Some law students traveled as far as Ohio and New Jersey to aid their party. Unfortunately, their efforts could not tip the balance of national opinion against the Republican Party.

"It was a complete rout," commented RLSA President Razeeb Hossain, 3L. "That being said there are a lot of Republicans in the House and Senate who were entrenched in power and had forgone a lot of the principles that got them to Congress in the first place in 1994. The Iraq War and the response to Katrina weakened the party's rhetorical defenses to other criticisms."

Around ten students from the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA) helped conduct the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund's exit poll of Asian American voters. The exit poll is the only non-partisan, multi-lingual survey of its kind; more than 4,600 voters were surveyed across eight states. Law students were posted at polls in the District, Maryland and Virginia, and helped document voting barriers as well.

Re: Islam

Residents of Minneapolis made history by electing the first Muslim to Congress, Democrat Keith Ellison, who will also be Minnesota's first non-white Congressman. Ellison received 56 percent of the votes in the liberal-leaning 5th District of Minnesota. The district has not sent a Republican to Congress since 1962, but Ellison's winning percentage was dramatically lower than past races in the same district. Retiring Rep. Martin Sabo received nearly 70 percent of the vote in 2004. "I was disappointed he didn't get a higher percentage of the vote," commented Pakistani Law Student Association vice-president Zeeshan Hafeez, 2L. Independence Party candidate Tammy Lee received 21 percent of the vote this year.

The newly organized Pakistani Law Student Association held its first event on the night of the election in conjunction with the Muslim Law Student Association. About 25 members of the community met in Gewirz to watch election results, talk politics and engage in dialogue on numerous issues. Representatives from Urdu-language



photo by Benjamin Rubinstein, 2L
Law Democrats staff a voter protection hotline for the Maryland elections

network GEO TV, National Public Radio and Voice of America attended the event, which was also co-sponsored by Pakistani Students Association of Georgetown and the Rising Leaders of the Embassy of Pakistan. Hafeez enthusiastically supported the networking purpose of many culture-based student organizations, but highlighted the higher purpose of increasing political understanding. "It was a nice way to start off the organization by having an event celebrating democracy."

DC Vote?

District residents may also have a chance to celebrate democracy in the wake of the Democrats' victory. According to a *Washington Post* report, Speaker-in-waiting, Rep. Nance Pelosi (D-Cal.) has voiced her support for a measure to expand D.C. Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton's voting rights in the House. While her plan would fall short of allowing Norton to vote on final passage of legislation, it would allow her to vote on changes to legislation being debated on the House floor. This would be a meager upgrade from her present position, which only affords the D.C. Delegate a vote on items in committee.

Pelosi does not support an earlier proposal by Norton that would allow for full voting rights for the District in exchange for an additional congressional seat for Utah. That bill will be reviewed by the President this week, but also depends on whether Utah's Legislature can agree on redrawing its current congressional boundaries to include the new seat. Regardless, the election did well to raise the chances that the nearly 600,000 residents of D.C. will have increased representation in the national assembly.

Lobbying to bring winds of change

LOBBYING from page 1

tragedies even more effectively than fixing FEMA and punishing unscrupulous insurance companies can alone. Until now, that is.

While volunteering in New Orleans last year as part of the Student Hurricane Network, several Law Center students decided that more needed to be done on a basic, preventative level to address the national issue of natural disaster prevention and preparedness, particularly by the federal government. The result was the creation of a national, student-run organization called Law Students for Governmental Accountability (LSGA).

"It was over winter break that some of us started thinking about...what can be done systematically to make sure that this doesn't happen again," recalled LSGA Director Andrew Doss, 2L. Instead of focusing only on the cleanup and restoration of the Gulf Coast, "We said, 'What's the cause here?'" he said.

The causes of the destruction wrought by the hurricanes may actually be more complex than people realize. According to Doss and to LSGA's website, ineffective Congressional oversight, faulty work by the Army Corps of Engineers and even the depletion of the wetlands along the Gulf Coast increased the amount of damage beyond what it would have been even if the strength of the hurricanes had been the same.

Doss goes so far as to say that the government has been making fateful, ineffective decisions related to the ecol-

ogy of the Gulf Coast Region for more than 80 years, and that the last 80 years amounted to "a slow train wreck unfolding."

"This was all preventable," Doss said. "If the country had spent \$40 billion over the last 30 years, this would have been prevented." The economic impact of the hurricanes is estimated to be over \$648 billion within the next ten years.

Accordingly, the goal of LSGA is to lobby members of Congress from all over the country, firstly to sign onto a "Statement of Principles" that it has established, and secondly to support legislation that is likely to be introduced as a direct result, which is the same lobbying strategy Doss says was used to end the Vietnam War.

While the first section of the Statement of Principles addresses restoration of the wetlands along the Gulf Coast, the statement also mentions the need for "addressing the issues of poverty and race, both urban and rural, as exposed in the flooded areas" and for "fostering economic environments that support small businesses and entrepreneurship as a catalyst in helping the most affected in the most affected regions."

One of the most remarkable things about the LSGA is all of the support it has already received from important people and organizations. The Student Hurricane Network, the American Bar Association's Law Student Division, the Center for Progressive Reform, and two

high-profile lobbying firms, Lochridge & Company and Quorvis Communications, LLC, along with both U.S. Senators from Louisiana and several Law Center professors are already involved as sponsors and advisors.

While successfully passing legislation that addresses the group's principles is the ultimate goal for LSGA, its immediate goals are to recruit as many students from across the country as it can to lobby their members of Congress to sign the Statement of Purpose and to support that legislation. Furthermore, LSGA is actively planning a Lobby Day to be held in Washington, DC on March 14 of next year for all of these students to join together and lobby Capitol Hill as a group.

While LSGA is an increasingly national organization, it is Law Center students that have taken the lead in making it effective. Natalia Napoleon, 2L, Jen Toussant, 2L, Eric Charleston, 2L, George Walker, 3L, Ben Rubinstein, 2L, Claudine Wilson, 2L, Drew Hoffman, 2L, Julian Bryant, 2L, Michael Ellis, 1L, and Monisha Cherayil, 2L, all hold leadership positions in the organization ranging from Director of Lobbying to Webmaster.

LSGA is also in the process of gaining 501(c)(4) status, which would allow it to spend donations that it accepts for the purpose of lobbying.

This disaster will happen again somewhere in the country, Doss said, "unless we take this awesome opportunity to do something about it."

Voters pick alums across the country

by Jennifer Gaspar, 1L
Law Weekly

Law Center alumni fared well in last week's elections, with several alumni picking up key offices and others expected to gain leadership positions in the next Congress.

Democrat Jim Webb's narrow victory over Senator George Allen (R-VA) gave Democrats the deciding seat for control of the United States Senate. Webb will join Law Center alumni, Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) (L '69) and Patrick Leahy (D-VT) (L '64) in the new majority. Webb served as Secretary of the Navy in the Reagan administration and has written several military-themed novels since graduating from the Law Center in 1975.

On the House side, Mazie Hirono (D-HI) (L '78) won the open seat vacated by Rep. Ed Case (D-HI). Hirono will join alumni re-elected last week to the House of Representatives including Rep. Michael Castle (R-DE) (L '64), Rep. Mark Kirk (R-IL), Rep. Stephanie Herseth (D-SD) (L '97), Rep. Dan Lungren (R-CA) (L '71), Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) (L '90), Rep. Pete Visclosky (D-IN) (L '82), Rep. Wolf (R-VA) (L '65), Rep. Albert Wynn (D-MD) (L '77).

Several Law Center alumni will likely hold top leadership positions in the 110th Congress. Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD), a 1966 graduate and current House Democratic Whip, will compete against Rep. John Murtha (D-PA) for House Majority Leader. Leahy is currently the ranking Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee and will likely become the next Chair. Rep. John Dingell (D-MI) (L '52) is positioned to chair the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, on which he is currently the ranking Democrat.

Rep. William Jefferson (D-LA), who has been the subject of recent corruption investigations, received an L.L.M. from the Law Center in 1996 while serving as a member of Congress. Although Jefferson received the highest number of votes of the 13 candidates competing for his seat, his 30 percent margin was not enough to avoid a runoff. He will compete against Karen Carter (D-LA) on December 9.

Law Center alumni also competed in elections for state offices around the country. The Democratic governor of New Hampshire, John Lynch (L '83) was elected to a second term by an overwhelming 74 percent. In New York, Republican John Faso (L '79) lost his bid for Governor to Attorney General Eliot Spitzer.

Maryland Lieutenant Governor Michael Steele (L '91), who was unsuccessful in his campaign against Democrat Ben Cardin for the U.S. Senate, is expected to become a top candidate for Chairman of the Republican National Committee.

Georgetown men's basketball wins in sloppy opener

Thomas Leroe-Munoz, 2L
Law Weekly

The Georgetown Men's Basketball team debuted in MCI Center this past Saturday to start their 100th season of basketball. The Hoyas' opponent, the Hartford Hawks, were supposed to be a cannon fodder for the Hoyas, as the Hoyas started the season at number eight nationally, their highest ranking in the AP poll since 1995. Instead, Hartford came out firing and challenged Georgetown all the way down the stretch. In the end, it was the Hoyas triumphed 69-59, despite sloppy play and poor offensive decisions.

Despite owning the area beneath the basket with Roy Hibbert, the Hoyas only managed a few points down in the paint. While size usually is the difference-maker in the paint, Hibbert, who stood a head above the closest Hartford player, went an uncharacteristic 5 for 11 shooting.

The 16 points scored by Hibbert were second only to Jeff Green for Georgetown, who had a game-high 17 points. "They packed it in, and when we got in, it was three-four-five people around our interior guys, and we kicked it out and had open shots," said coach John Thompson III. "We didn't make as many as we want to, but I thought

particularly in the second half we got it into the middle and kicked it back out once it came close."

Hartford was a team that went 13-15 last season and was slated to finish last in the American East Conference. The Hawks looked past all of those potential shortcomings on Saturday, however, and gave Georgetown a run for their money. Hartford started the game with a three point bucket and was hot most of the evening shooting three-point shots. The closeness of the game made it interesting for the 9,600+ fans who turned out for the game, though the predominantly Georgetown crowd would have very much rather had an easy opening victory.

Even though they lacked the low-post play that has become a staple for the Hoyas, Georgetown still managed to dominate on the rebounds, grabbing 39 rebounds to Hartford's 23. "Sometimes, size is just too much to overcome," Hartford coach Dan Leibovitz said. "It's hard to win games when you don't have a consistent low-post threat. You're operating with fool's gold at times, where you're making 3s, making 3s, making 3s, but you haven't established anything solid."

While some would claim that Georgetown was looking past Hartford, perhaps to a National Championship run, coach John

Thompson III disagreed. "I don't think our guys have any illusions of anything. I honestly do not. I think our guys know exactly where we stand. They know that we have to improve," Thompson said. "No. 8 or No. 80 does not enter our consciousness."

And improve the Hoyas had better. Talk of a National Championship won't be dying down anytime soon, but to get there, Georgetown will have to play solid, fundamental basketball, which was not on display on Saturday. Too often, the Hoyas would try to do too much and would turn the ball over, killing scoring runs and allowing Hartford to keep the game close. "You have your goals and aspirations, but you can't look down the road that far," said John Wallace, a member of the junior class that arrived on campus when Thompson did. "A game like this tested us a lot."

How the Hoyas respond to that sort of test will determine just how well they'll do this season. No doubt there will be more tests as the seasons wears on, and they will likely be much more difficult than the Hartford Hawks.

Lackluster performances are something that a team can ill afford in a conference like the Big East, with so many dangerous opponents on the schedule. When UConn

comes to town, this sort of performance cannot be repeated if the Hoyas seek a spot among the nation's elite.

Georgetown will next play Vanderbilt tomorrow, Wednesday, in Nashville, Tennessee. The Vanderbilt Commodores narrowly won their first exhibition game against Northern State, 98-94. After that, the Hoyas will return to the MCI Center on Sunday, November 17th, for a game against Old Dominion, who barely lost to Clemson 74-70 on Sunday, in the Cox Classic Finale.



photo courtesy of Associated Press
Georgetown's Roy Hibbert defends the basket against Hartford's Joe Zeglinski (24) en route to the Hoyas' 69-59 win

Hockey trying to find its place in American sports

Adam Taylor, 1L
Law Weekly

The NFL is halfway done with its season. The World Series is done. The NBA and college basketball are getting into the swing of their seasons. In local terms, the Redskins are mediocre; the Nationals are still building; the Wizards and the Georgetown men's basketball team are looking to build on successful 2005-06 seasons. But something feels missing.

From the Verizon Center, on nights when the Wizards and Hoyas aren't playing there, a call can be heard.

C - A - P - S! Caps! Caps! Caps!!

It may be easy to forget at times, but hockey is still around. It could be said, rather, that hockey is back. A year removed from a cancelled 2004-05 season, the "new" NHL is now well into its second year, and sometimes it can be hard to tell if anybody has noticed.



Photo courtesy of www.frontrowking.com
Washington Capitals hockey is one of the best values for your money in over-priced DC

After a labor dispute between players and owners led to a cancelled season, the NHL returned in 2005-06 with a new set of rules, designed to speed up the game, create more scoring, and win fans back to the sport. The game is faster now, and scoring is definitely up. However, it seems, outside of the diehard fans - the ones who lamented the fact that hockey was gone in the first place - people are not exactly flocking to the hockey rink.

Attendance numbers are the clearest evidence of this. The Chicago Blackhawks, one of the "Original Six" NHL teams, is seeing its lowest attendance in more than a decade. The Detroit Red Wings, a team used to playing in sold out arenas - at home and on the road - has even seen empty seats in their own Joe Louis Arena (granted, many of those empty seats appeared during the Tigers' World Series run).

Washington's NHL team, the Capitals is not immune to low attendance. Although the Verizon Center boasts one of the larger seating capacities in the league at more than 18,000, the Caps are averaging well under 15,000 fans per game. That's good for 25th out of thirty teams. This despite one of the NHL's greatest young talents suiting up for every Caps game.

Alex Ovechkin is the phenom who scored 52 goals as a rookie last season. He led the team and finished third in the league in scoring. The records and honors kept coming. He went on to win the Calder Memorial Trophy as the NHL's rookie of the year. Needless to say, the Capitals

make him the center of attention, both on and off the ice.

On the ice, Ovechkin is the key to the Caps' offense. He leads the team with eleven goals, the most recent of which he scored in a 3-1 win over the New York Rangers Saturday night at the Verizon Center. Naturally, "Ovie" is one of two Capitals on the All-Star ballot, joining veteran ace goalie Olie Kolzig, who was also impressive on Saturday, making 42 saves on the night. The win was the Caps' third in their last four games.

Hanna Chouest, 1L, was at the game and was excited by the Caps' performance. Chouest is originally from Toronto, Ontario, and she has been watching hockey since she was a child. "My brother played hockey when I was really young and I remember being at his games when I was about 4 years old, but then mostly I amused myself by running up and down the aisles playing with a toy car. I started really getting into the NHL in my teens."

Chouest says she enjoys the fast pace and the excitement of the sport, including the "unexplainable bursts of violence, as on display at the Rangers game." During the first period of that game, Caps left wing Donald Brashear, widely known around the league as an enforcer, earned his first fighting penalty of the season after pummeling Rangers winger Colton Orr.

And yet there are still many empty seats at Caps games. Moreover, many people still do not take hockey seriously. Some call it a "niche sport," pointing out that only

a few games this season will be broadcast on network television (NBC), while the only other network carrying games nationally is Versus (formerly Outdoor Life Network, the same channel that covers the Tour de France).

Some have pointed out that even the major sports "establishments" don't always take the sport seriously. A nearly regular feature on ESPN.com's hockey section is the tongue-in-cheek "advice column" for the NHL. The most recent involves hockey columnist Terry Frei's joking suggestion that the league generate popularity by pursuing more television tie-ins, including *Dancing with the Stars* and *Grey's Anatomy*.

Chouest doesn't believe that hockey should remain a smaller sport in the U.S. She says the sport is great for newcomers to the game: "People can pick up the game quickly; it's easy to understand for first timers and is always bound to be exciting." Chouest is also happy about adopting the Capitals as her new home team: "As long as they don't beat the [Toronto Maple] Leafs, I'll cheer the Caps on all the way to the conference finals!"

The Capitals play all of their home games at the Verizon Center in Chinatown. Tickets can be bought for as little as \$10 in advance. Tickets discounted for students can be bought for as low as \$17. This week, they play home games against the Boston Bruins and the defending Stanley Cup champion Carolina Hurricanes.

BCS and other ranking systems explained

Sean Byrne, 3L
Law Weekly

With three weeks left in the regular college football season, now is the time to complain about why your team isn't ranked as highly as it should be. But why should you even care about your team's ranking? Do you even know at which ranking should you focus your whining? Experienced fans, those who are familiar with the BCS system, and all its flaws, can skip down to "The Big Question."

BCS

For better or worse, the most important one-stop-shop for college football fans has to be the BCS rankings. Why? These rankings determine 1) who plays in the national championship game and 2) what teams, apart from the six major conference champions, get to play in the BCS bowls. Note that the six major conferences are the Big East, the ACC, the SEC, the Big 12, the Big 10, and the Pac-10, and the BCS bowls are the FedEx Orange, the Allstate Sugar, the Tostita Fiesta and the Rose Bowl Game.

If your team is not near the top 16 of the BCS standings, then these rankings do not concern you and you may skip down to "The Big Question."

While there are 30 bowl games, the four BCS bowls come with much higher pedigree than the rest, so it's important to know who gets to play in them. Here's how it works.

The #1 and #2 teams in the BCS rankings automatically play in the national championship game (NCG). The winners of the six major conferences automatically get to play in a BCS bowl. Notre Dame, if it finishes in the top eight of the BCS, automatically gets to play in a BCS bowl. The highest-rated of the champions of Conference USA, the Mid-American Conference, the Mountain West Conference, the Sun Belt Conference, and the WAC, if such team is in the top 12 of the BCS or the top 16 and rated higher than a major conference champion, automatically gets to play in a BCS bowl.

If the above provisions do not fill all ten spots (NCG plus four BCS bowls), then the #3 team, if not already in a BCS bowl and from a major conference that is not represented in the NCG, automatically gets to play in a BCS bowl. If the 10 spots are still not filled, then repeat this process for the #4 team.

If there are still spots remaining, then the bowls themselves may pick from remaining teams in the top 14 as long as each team picked has at least nine wins.

A full explanation of the BCS rules may be found at bcsfootball.org/bcsfb/eligibility.

The Big Question

People question which polls the BCS should use and whether it should use more human or more computer polls, but the one question that seems to avoid discussion

yet holds all importance: what are the rankings suppose to measure? Answers to this question fall into two main categories: merit for past performance or predictions of future performance. Only once fans, journalists, coaches and God answer this question can anyone answer questions about whether rankings should consider margin-of-victory or home field advantage. If we assume that the goal of a football team is to win games and that a ranking system is suppose to determine who played the best season, it should not matter if a team loses a game in August or November. It should not matter if the team's wins came by 3 or 30 points. After figuring out a method of adjusting for strength-of-schedule, a ranking system should approach, as closely as possible, the straight winning percentage used by MLB.

In a system like MLB or the NHL, where every team in a league plays every team in the league multiple times, using a team's winning percentage is usually considered a fair indication of how laudable a team's season has been. In Division 1-A football, with over 100 teams and a regular season of no more than 12 games, using straight winning percentage, without considering relative strengths of schedules, fails to strike any reasonable commentator as a fair method for crowning a champion.

No matter what system is used, it should be a transparent system so that the public knows what it takes to become highly-rated, since other than equating with fans' views of fairness, there is no method of picking a better set of football values than any other.

On the other hand, if a ranking system is designed to declare, at that moment, who is the strongest team in the country, then a system could take into consideration whatever it pleases: home field advantage, legacy, current injuries, perceived confidence, even the personal bias of the pollster. Why? Because in the context of predictive rankings we do have a method of determining which system is the best: the rankings that best predict the outcomes of upcoming games. If my rankings system accurately predicts more games than yours, then who cares if I base mine off of team uniforms and yours uses a least-squares of point differential method?



Photo courtesy of bcsfootball.org
The Bowl Championship Series (BCS) is one that is well known, and well loathed by college football fans everywhere

Harsha Rao is better than you

Harsha Rao, 3L
Law Weekly

After reviewing my columns, I realized that I was missing two things: Hate and Arrogance. Thus let me tell you the truth, because I know them better than you ever will - and don't worry, I'll be hating on those who deserve it (like Larry Brown and Ted Haggard). But first, let me tell you some truths about Harsha Rao. I hate the Yankees. I'm that guy who routinely starts six Bears players on his fantasy football team so he only has to root for one NFL team. I still laugh when I hear "Wang." I hate every Midwestern city except for Chicago. And I think a ten minute clip of Samuel L. Jackson's best lines would win an Academy Award. But let me give you some truths that you've overlooked.

Roger Clemens is on the juice, and so is Albert Pujols. Let's be honest: what baseball player, let alone professional athlete, isn't on steroids these days? Now, I'm just going to assume they're using bull testosterone unless they prove they're clean.

Congress cares more about an inquiry into steroids in baseball than an inquiry into mismanagements in Iraq. I'm not passing judgments; just making an observation...

The Heat is done ... but so are the Mavs. One got lucky and one failed to improve. I'll let you pick who is who.

Peyton Manning won't win the Super Bowl this year. They'll win in the regular season and fall short in the playoffs. We've seen this happen before. Nothing's changed, so why is Peyton getting the benefit of the doubt?

The French national soccer team is comprised of all the people they want out of France. It's great that while France is moving towards an ethnocentric philosophy for their country, they're still kind enough to allow those hated North Africans to represent their nation.

Larry Brown's career is one giant hoax. The guy makes a small and temporary improvement before he moves, and people call him a genius. Sorry, Joe Dumars built that championship in Detroit.

Jeff van Gundy is the second-most overrated coach. The guy's built his career on being bald and grabbing Alonzo Mourning's leg.

Randy Moss should have demanded a trade from Oakland. The Raiders are done. Their players are either too old or too young. The only good player in his prime is Moss, who could have moved from the Raider Nation back into relevance. But he chose to just give up and play half-assed, which isn't anything new to him.

Steve Smith is the best receiver in the NFL. You could surround him with an injured Curtis Martin and a dead Johnny Unitas, and Smith would still put up 100-plus yards.

The Yankees won't win it all next year. Unlike their previous championships, this is a team of mercenary free agents with only a few true Yankees. Sorry, you can't win when you pick A-Rod over Scott Brosius, because teammates like Brosius. No

one likes A-Rod, not even his parents.

Dwight Howard is the best basketball player you've never heard of. It's not my fault that you're missing the next Tim Duncan.

Charlie Weis is a good coach...but it's tough to recruit when you play in South Bend.

Tyler Hansbrough was good last year but will be destroyed by the top high school players this year. Smart decision to stay in school for another year.

Barry Zito's going to get paid huge money ... and then people will realize he's only marginally better than Bronson Arroyo.

Rutgers fans: welcome to the bandwagon.

LeBron and D-Wade are good, but the NBA's forgetting about Gilbert Arenas. Sure, he's a little weird, but it's the good weird, not the kind that smokes meth while cheating on his wife with a male prostitute.



photo courtesy of afp.com
The French national team?

The Atlanta Hawks lost a championship run by passing on Chris Paul ... and Pau Gasol

Sure, Theo Epstein won one championship. He's also walked around in a gorilla suit. He hasn't done much else right.

You aren't an elite team when Hartford gives you trouble. Memo to Roy Hibbert: these are the teams you drop 50 on.

I wouldn't trust Artest with a pair of scissors and cardboard because he'd somehow find a way to start a riot. But if Jermaine O'Neal was an actual top dog he could've tamed Artest and won a championship.

Kevin McHale is the worst General Manager in NBA history. The guy was a good player, but that doesn't give him a pass for a decade of inept moves.

I'd pick a weekend with Mark Foley over Ted Haggard, because you know Foley will at least acknowledge you the next day. Haggard would rather forget all those good times you had.

Adam Morrison's going to be a star in the NBA...or in the porn industry. He's got the right mustache for both.

Gary Sheffield has never been a team's savior, and he won't start with the Tigers. But his wife was in a sex tape with another man. That's got to count for something.

Now I know some of ya'll are saying, why should I listen to this kid just 'cause he has a column in the paper. Hey, I could care less if you bother to read this. I mean, Jesus put his good stuff out there and didn't care who took it. But the light was there for those who sought it. That good Jesus stuff's here if you want to read it. Yeah, that's right, I just compared myself to Jesus.

2006 music review

by Jeff Hayes, 2L
Law Weekly

I'm not especially fond of list-making. Sure, rating and ranking in a general sense can be fun - just ask any pop culture junkie - but when it comes down to compiling actual lists, something inside my brain short-circuits. Measuring one piece of art (okay, entertainment) against another is no easy task; listmaking ratchets that difficulty level up to "impossible," at least in my feeble mind.

With that said, here are seven of the best albums of 2006, in no particular order. Consider this less a straightforward best-of-year list than a brief spotlight on a handful of praiseworthy releases.

Exempt from the running, but more than worthy of mention, are the following albums, which I've already covered in earlier columns: the Hold Steady's *Boys & Girls in America*, The Pernice Brothers' *Live a Little*, and Yo La Tengo's stunningly-titled *I Am Not Afraid of You and I Will Beat Your Ass*. These albums are every bit as terrific as the albums below, and still carry the Jeff Hayes Seal of Awesomeness.

Performer: The Pipettes
Album: *We Are the Pipettes*

This retro-chic British trio not only mimics the matching outfits and hand-gesture choreography of early-60s girl groups, but perfectly captures their infectious spirit to boot. Simultaneously channeling the Shangri-Las and the Spice Girls, the Pipettes deliver spry, catchy tunes smothered in handclaps and endless amounts of old-fashioned pep. Plus, the one in the glasses is totally cute.



photo courtesy of luger.se
The Pipettes: the one in the glasses is totally cute!

Performer: Kelley Stoltz
Album: *Below the Branches*

Stoltz brings a rough edge to songs that would sound right at home on an early-70s Paul McCartney album. Charmingly low-budget stabs at Brian Wilson grandeur - such as the pitch-perfect standout "Ever Thought of Coming Back" - sit aside graceful Nick Drake homages to create an album that only sounds better with each successive spin.

Performer: Belle & Sebastian
Album: *The Life Pursuit*

Many seem to prefer the earlier, distinctly less sunny incarnation of Belle and Sebastian, but for my money the band didn't really start firing on all cylinders until 2003's *Dear Catastrophe Waitress*. As a follow-up effort, *The Life Pursuit* still

embraces '70s pop with unapologetic glee and hits equally thrilling high points, yet doesn't quite maintain the same consistency. Even so, there's not a weak song to be found, and "The Blues Are Still Blue" and "White Collar Boy" stand out as among the most infectious tracks of the year.

Performer: M. Ward
Album: *Post-War*

Ward paints on the same sonic canvas as Wilco's *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*, giving classic Americana a witty 21st-century upgrade. From the singalong bravado of "Magic Trick" to the grandiose, Spectroesque cover of Robert Johnson's "To Go Home," *Post-War* manages to sound off-the-cuff and meticulously crafted at the same time, teetering on the edge of singer-songwriter mellowness without ever succumbing to the pitfalls of the genre.

Performer: Frank Black
Album: *Fast Man / Raider Man*

Black displays the sort of straightforward craftsmanship that's long been out of style with mainstream music critics, and this double-album of trad-rock and alt-country simply hasn't received the accolades it deserves. Nevertheless, *Fast Man* delivers the goods on track after track, with the former Pixies frontman backed by a who's-who of veteran Memphis session musicians. Those disappointed that Black's solo career hasn't sounded much like the Pixies won't find anything here to change their minds, but fans of classic Van Morrison and Rolling Stones records need look no further.

Performer: The Yeah Yeah Yeahs
Album: *Show Your Bones*

Selling out in the best way possible, the Yeah Yeah Yeahs add depth and variety to an already reliable formula. The band seems to have learned from the MTV success of "Maps," with lead singer Karen O. toning down her trademark punky scream in favor of acoustic guitars and radio-ready melodies. The band certainly has the chops to warrant a stab at mainstream success, as this sophomore effort hits all the right notes in making them palatable to a general audience without trading in their unique personality.

Performer: Camera Obscura
Album: *Let's Get Out of This Country*

Dogged by Belle and Sebastian comparisons since their inception, Camera Obscura come into their own on their third effort, one of the prettiest albums of the year. The band flitters between sweeping, technicolor pop (the title track, "Lloyd, I'm Ready to Be Heartbroken") and sparse, lovely odes to loneliness ("Country Mile"), all tethered by Tracyanne Campbell's emotive, lilting vocals.

Top political movies

by Tiphonie Miller, 2L
Law Weekly

The elections are now over, and regardless of whether you were overcome with joy or incredibly disheartened come last Wednesday, you may have found yourself missing the excitement of election night, something akin almost to withdrawal. The cure? A bucket of popcorn and a DVD, of course. Here are four movies sure to rekindle your love of politics, sordid scandals and all.

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (1939)

Yes, it's corny, schmaltzy, idealistic and syrupy, but that is precisely what director Frank Capra does best, and he and star James Stewart are in their element in this optimistic look at Washington politics. Jefferson Smith, a naïve Boy Rangers leader, is selected to fill an empty Senate seat, as Smith is seen as a push-over by the leader of his state's corrupt political machine. Reunited with the state's senior senator (Claude Rains), his childhood hero, Smith soon learns how corrupt and dirty-dealing politics is, especially concerning the use of land in his home state. Smith refuses to give in to political pressure and the implications of scandal, with the help of his assistant, played to perfection by Jean Arthur. Smith's climactic filibuster cannot help but send shivers down the spine of even the most jaded politico.

Election (1999)

So it has nothing to do, facially, with national politics, or even local politics, but director Alexander Payne's smart, witty, dark look at high school politics and drama is worth the rental fee (or the space on your netflix list). Tracy Flick, played deliciously by Reese Witherspoon, is the only candidate for class president, until civic teacher Jim McAllister (Matthew Broderick), bribes school jock Paul Metzler (Chris Klein), partly to democratize the election, partly to satisfy his grudge against Flick. With touches of drama and even broad comedy, but dominated by dark irony, *Election* is a must-see for anyone who has ever experienced the politics of being a teenager.



photo courtesy of mediacircus.net
Reese Witherspoon portrays Tracy Flick in *Election*, a movie about high stakes high school politics

Thank You for Smoking (2005)

The perfect movie for those convinced that Washington politics has become nothing more than the shrill yells of competing lobbyists, *Thank You for Smoking* uses clever writing, sharp direction and the general charisma of its stars to make its points about politics today. Nick Naylor, a role Aaron Eckhart absorbs into his being, has a seemingly impossible job - being the face of Big Tobacco when the deleterious health effects of the product have become part of the public consciousness - while trying to maintain a relationship with his son, the adorable Cameron Bright. Naylor's discussion with his son about ice cream is essential for any aspiring attorney, politician or lobbyist, and the final Congressional show-down between Naylor, who has nothing to lose, and Senator Finistirre (William H. Macy) is a delight. As long as you can tolerate the unnecessary, and unconvincing, love scenes between Naylor and sneaky reporter Katie Holmes, *Thank You for Smoking* is a great movie about more than just politics.



photo courtesy of sbfilmfestival.org
Can you make it past the Katie Holmes love scenes to enjoy *Thank You For Smoking*?

Dr. Strangelove, or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb (1964)

This is director Stanley Kubrick's only comedic masterpiece, and, in my opinion, one of the best comedies ever made. Peter Sellers is, as always, brilliant, as are Slim Pickens and George C. Scott. General Jack Ripper starts a process of nuclear holocaust that a room of politicians and generals frantically stop. Resorting to placating a drunken Russian premier (Peter Bull) and the clearly insane former Nazi genius Dr. Strangelove seem the only options available to the President (both played by Sellers), while British General Mandrake (also played by Sellers), as the only man with access to General Ripper, does his best to learn how to stop the impending doomsday. While the plot suggests very little of the comedic depths plumbed by the film, the satire is clear throughout. Politics mean very little in the dark world portrayed by Kubrick, but the implications underlying the comedy resonate today, maybe even more so than when the film was first released. Regardless of the sobering moral of the piece, the ride to that ending is as enjoyable as one of the film's most memorable scenes, Picken's exuberant ride back down to Earth.

Neumeyer's direct

by Christopher Neumeyer, 3L
Law Weekly

Professor Randy E. Barnett

Why did you come to Georgetown? I came to Georgetown because of the faculty and the students.

Is subpoena season officially open now with the Democratic takeover of Congress? That seems to be the safe money, but the Democrats would not endeavor themselves to the electorate for 2008 if it looks like they are obstructionists and are just going after scalps, as the Republicans did not do themselves any favors by impeaching President Clinton. The wiser heads in the Democratic Party realize that.

Are most lawyers also liars? Lawyers are as honest as people are generally.

What is more important: idealism or realism? I believe in realistic idealism.

Would you rather lose an election by one vote or an embarrassing landslide? If you are going to lose a Supreme Court case, lose it 3-6. If you lose 4-5, you stay up all night wondering what you could've done different, and 0-9 makes it seem real bad. However, if it was one vote in an election, they will keep recounting until there is not a one vote difference.

Would you rather be the dimmest star in the sky or the dullest knife in the drawer? How long did it take you to think this one up? It is neither funny nor serious.



photo courtesy of Randy E. Barnett
Professor Randy E. Barnett

Would you rather be a werewolf or a vampire? Definitely a vampire. Why? Go see a vampire movie.

Would you rather melt in the sun or freeze in the snow? I'm from Chicago, so I would rather freeze in the snow.

How will the Iraq War strategy change given the midterm election results? I don't know.

Do you support the death penalty for Saddam Hussein? I think Americans and Europeans shouldn't be telling the Iraqis how to deal with Saddam Hussein.

If you could have one item of cosmetic surgery, what would it be? I don't have a flippant answer, so there it is.

What is a book or author you recommend? P.J. O'Rourke.

David Carlson, 3L

Why did you come to Georgetown? To be a law student.

Is subpoena season officially open now with the Democratic takeover of Congress? I think there will be tough talk, but nothing big will happen because they still need to work with Bush for two years.



photo courtesy of GULC Facebook
David Carlson, 3L

Are most lawyers also liars? Depends on whether or not you consider intentionally leaving out pertinent information lying.

What is more important: idealism or realism? Both are necessary because in order to survive and function you need realism, but if you don't have ideals to guide you on your path then society self destructs.

Would you rather lose an election by one vote or an embarrassing landslide? At least with one vote I can hold my head high, but a landslide means no one likes your candidacy, so as heart wrenching as one vote loss is, it is better.

Would you rather be the dimmest star in the sky or the dullest knife in the drawer? I'd rather be a star in the sky, at least then you are still hanging out, you are a celestial body. A dull knife just gets shoved aside.

Would you rather be a werewolf or a vampire? Vampires are sexier, werewolves are, well, wolves, and the changing is nasty, whereas a vampire can scope out a hot chick and make her a vampire too and turn her into an eternal dark lover.

Would you rather melt in the sun or freeze in the snow? I hate the cold, I am from California. I'd rather be in the sun any day.

How will the Iraq War strategy change given the midterm election results? I don't see there being a big change, as Congress cannot exert much control over the executive branch in how we fight the war, but domestically there will be a change as Bush is more liberal than most people think, and there will be social changes and programs being enacted.

Do you support the death penalty for Saddam Hussein? My personal feeling is his sons were more horrific, but Saddam was their father and allowed them to do their horrible deeds, I am referring to the sons raping young girls and killing their families, but the genocide thing is persuasive as well.

If you could have one item of cosmetic surgery, what would it be? Probably my ass. It is a little flat, maybe I would curve it out a little, so women would say "Wow, he has a cute butt!" 'cause right now that will never happen.

What is a book or author you recommend? Two novelists I recommend are Michael Crichton, who always addresses current social topics or technological / moral issues that are provocative, and on the other side of the spectrum is Robert Ludlum, who is best known for *The Bourne Identity* series (though those are not his best books). Ludlum always keeps you guessing with his espionage and government plots.

...And she lived happily ever after

by Sarah Hale, 2L
Law Weekly

Last Tuesday was a monumental day in American history. Lives were changed forever as the course of the future was turned. In a stunning display of the American way, the people got exactly what they wanted. Britney Spears put on her snazziest leather boots and kicked Kevin Federline to the curb.

The smart money was never on the Spears-Federline union, but still the announcement was surprisingly shocking. Although I may be the only one to admit it, I'm sure I'm not the only person who read the headline and literally gasped out loud. Perhaps it was the timing that made it so shocking. Just the night before Spears made a surprise visit to David Letterman to show off her new post-baby body and her Posh-inspired bobbed hair. Looking back, that smile she flashed for Letterman's cameras *did* look like the smile of a woman unencumbered by Federline, but still I never would have guessed what was coming just the next day. Hollywood divorces are like that sometimes. One minute they're walking the red carpet, talking about their rock solid romance and the next they're signing the divorce papers and fighting over spousal support.

This divorce wasn't really like the rest, though. Generally after word leaks that divorce papers have been filed the public begins to speculate about what went wrong. The only question with this divorce was, "What took her so long?" This marriage lasted over two years. Two years! That's a really long time. Let me put it in law school terms for you. That's like four semesters of Corporations. Except it's far worse than that, because Corporations doesn't have a pregnant not-quite-ex-girlfriend, and Corporations doesn't make a fool of itself by dancing to "Popozao" on the internet. Four semesters of Corporations is pretty bad, but it's

nothing compared to what Britney Spears endured. She spent two years with Kevin Federline.

Sadly, those years are lost forever, but there are brighter days ahead. Miss Spears, sans the part-time rapper, full-time idiot husband, stands poised to make a comeback of monumental proportions. Britney is back and she is ready to reclaim her spot at the top.

The fear this must strike in the hearts of current popstarlets is already apparent in their reactions to the news. Several days after Spears made her big announcement a reporter asked Lindsay Lohan what she thought of the news. Lohan feigned ignorance (probably not that incredibly difficult for her) and responded, "What... I didn't even know... Britney Spears is like so,... I didn't know, I don't care...", or something similarly incoherent. She didn't know? She doesn't care? Methinks Lindsay doth protest too much. Of course she knew, of course she cares. Lindsay and her kind (see Nicole Richie, Mischa Barton and all of the girls from the O.C. and Laguna Beach) have spent the last two years outshining dim competition (see Vanessa Minillo, MK&A Olsen and the sisters Simpson). They were the brightest lights in a less than brilliant crowd, but they never really had *it*. Britney Spears has *it*; she's always had *it*. She may not be the most talented, and I'll be the first to admit that *Crossroads* wasn't exactly Oscar-worthy, but somehow you just can't stop loving Britney Spears, and that's what *it* is.

So, what's next for Miss Brit? I predict she'll pick up right where she left off. She'll make songs that aren't the best and she'll occasionally wear something ridiculous. She'll sell millions of records and everyone will deny that they bought one. She'll reclaim her spot as the brightest star in the Popstar sky and our favorite Pop princess will live happily ever after.

Sudoku solutions

from page 2

7	1	6	9	6	4	3	2	5
5	3	6	2	8	7	4	1	9
4	2	9	3	1	5	8	6	7
2	7	5	1	4	6	9	8	3
8	9	1	5	7	3	2	4	6
3	6	4	8	2	9	7	5	1
9	8	7	6	5	2	1	3	4
6	4	2	7	3	1	5	9	8
1	5	3	4	9	8	6	7	2

1	7	6	5	3	9	4	8	2
9	4	3	1	2	6	7	6	5
5	2	6	8	4	7	3	1	9
3	6	1	2	9	5	8	7	4
8	9	4	3	7	1	5	2	6
7	5	2	4	8	6	9	3	1
4	1	5	7	6	3	2	9	8
6	8	7	9	5	2	1	4	3
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2	5	9	1	3	4	8	6	7
4	6	6	2	9	7	1	3	5
3	7	1	8	8	5	9	4	2
5	2	4	9	7	3	6	1	8
6	3	8	4	5	1	2	7	9
9	1	7	8	2	6	4	5	3
1	9	5	7	4	8	3	2	6
7	4	2	3	6	9	5	8	1
8	6	3	5	1	2	7	9	4

8	7	4	2	5	6	1	9	3
2	6	1	9	3	8	4	5	7
5	3	9	1	7	4	6	8	2
1	5	8	7	6	9	2	3	4
6	9	2	3	4	1	5	7	8
7	4	3	8	2	5	9	6	1
4	2	6	5	8	7	3	1	9
9	8	5	4	1	3	7	2	6
3	1	7	6	9	2	8	4	5

Universal Law

Scorpio (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)

You will find an unusual use for your cell phone this week.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

A sugary treat will have serious consequences.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

A little well placed blackmail could mean free quesadillas and Diet Coke.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

Your neighbors know you steal their wireless internet. They are planning the ultimate revenge this week.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20)

An interesting stranger will proposition you on Thursday. Take her up on it!

Aries (March 21 - April 19)

A hat is the answer to many of your problems this week.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

A broken mirror on Saturday will mean bad luck for seven years and bad hair and makeup until you buy a new mirror.

Gemini (May 21 - June 21)

Costume jewelry and sequins will brighten your day on Sunday.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22)

You will meet a man named Earl on Monday. Make nice, he holds the key to your future (and your apartment).

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22)

Wear a jacket on Sunday. You will find more than one use for it throughout the day.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

Tuesday will be held together with little more than scotch tape and sticky tabs.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)

Your streak will continue this week.

horoscopes by Sarah Hale, 2L.

Got Questions? Quotes?

Email Heat on the Hill

laweekly@law.georgetown.edu
Confidentiality guaranteed!

Please Note:

Advice columns are intended for amusement purposes only. Writers' names are fictitious. Some question scenarios are fictitious, and written by members of the Law Weekly staff.

Giving Thanks

With Thanksgiving little more than a week away, it is time to reflect on the year that has been, and give thanks where they are due. What exactly are Georgetown Law Students thankful for this year?

Coffee, Diet Coke, Mt. Dew and all things caffeinated.

Law firm partners who mercifully send out rejections well in advance of the holidays.

Books without footnotes.

Free Westlaw printing, without which we'd be paying by the page for our inability to research concisely.

Outline banks. Who knew future lawyers would be so willing to freely share the fruits of their labor?

Freakishly warm November weather that probably indicates the end of the world is near, but for right now means fun on a Saturday.

An SBA administration that is devoted almost entirely to finding ways to get us more free food and drink.

by a Truly Thankful G-town 2L

The Quotable...

Student: "Saturday night!"

"Saturday night? I'm sorry, I have a life." -- The Quotable Professor Julie O'Sullivan [deciding when to schedule a make up class]

"In the next case, thank God, we just have somebody that drowns." --The Quotable Professor Milton Regan

"Today's the 26th right, all day long?" -- The Quotable Father Robert Drinan

"The Falun Gong is suing the hell out of China." -- The Quotable Professor Barry Carter

Sage Advice for 1Ls

by Ono Youdidn, 1L
Law Weekly

With Thanksgiving break approaching many of you may still be unsure what you should do during this time off. Here are some suggestions...

Calling every person you've ever known who works in the legal profession and explaining to them that, although you haven't spoken to them since you were trying to sell them Thin Mints, you have since entered law school and would greatly appreciate help finding a job this summer. (Just a hint, this isn't going to go well.)

Convincing your family that some lawyers are noble professionals that aren't just in it for the money. Not telling them that you don't plan to be one of those lawyers.

Eating turkey and relaxing! (If you follow this plan, your plan for the week after Thanksgiving will include high levels of both sobbing and cursing turkey.)

Heat on the Hill

The Laws of Love by Logan & Lucy

Dear Logan & Lucy,
I met Mark in 7th grade. He looked like a gopher but there was something so appealing about him. We immediately clicked and he became one of my closest guy friends. Our families were close friends through the school but we were never anything but platonic throughout high school. We stayed close in college. We're both law students at different schools now. Last weekend he came to visit D.C. for a conference and we went out for dinner. All throughout dinner he was cold which was so odd but after a couple drinks and chocolate dessert he told me that he's always had a thing for me. He wants us to start dating. I like him but I don't know if I like him in that way. And what if it doesn't work out? I've always had a problem staying committed in relationships and I'm confused, scared, and yet excited by this development. What do I do?
~Jasmin

Jasmin,
I know exactly how you feel, I actually had the same thing happen to me in college. It turned out wonderfully and he was a great influence in my life for a couple of years. The good things: he knows you perfectly, and he's always a great supporter. The bad things: if you haven't felt anything for him yet, chances are that you won't. Don't get me wrong it is possible for love and attraction to develop. It could just take a spark or be more of a gradual tumble. Take it slow and make sure he knows that you might not be ready for a full-fledged relationship.
Goodluck!
Lucy

Jasmin,
I might not know how you feel, but I do know how your dude feels. He's been friends with you since 7th grade and hasn't made a move? This guy is patient and dependable (perhaps freakishly so) to a degree no guy should be. There is no way any normal guy could wait years to make a move on a girl he really likes. Jasmin, it's really simple guys are like plastic toy trucks - no matter how much you play with them they never quit and continue chugging along. So yes, "tumble" down the hill with this dude and see what happens. If he's truly as patient as he seems, he'll be fine when you reject his ass.
~Logan

Why the war on drugs sends students a bad message

Chris Evans

New leadership in the House and Senate could be good news for students who have lost financial aid for college due to a little-known yet far-reaching federal law. Under a 1998 amendment to the Higher Education Act, students with any drug convictions are automatically stripped of their financial aid, while murderers and rapists remain eligible. So far, nearly 200,000 would-be students have had their academic aspirations derailed by the penalty.

Worse, blocking access to education causes more, not fewer, drug problems. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, high school graduates not enrolled in college are three times more likely to have used heroin and are almost twice as likely to have used cocaine in the past year than those in college.

In contrast, college attendance helps ensure young people will become successful and productive citizens. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, college graduates earn almost twice as much taxable income as those without a college education. College graduates are also far less likely to be a drain on the criminal justice system or to rely on government assistance programs like food stamps or public housing. Denying financial aid to otherwise-qualified applicants costs taxpayers more down the road through lost tax revenue and increased spending on law enforcement and social programs.

Advocates of the penalty say it helps foster safe and productive learning environments by removing

drug users from campus. In reality, college administrators are already able to suspend or expel disruptive students. Educators understand, better than politicians in Washington, D.C., how to appropriately respond to drug use on campus. Most recognize that kicking students out of school is a disservice to the students and society as a whole, but their decision-making power is usurped by this one-size-fits-all penalty.

The penalty's proponents also claim it ensures that taxpayer money goes only to the most deserving students - presumably those who don't use drugs (or don't get caught or convicted). But since there are already minimum GPA standards students must meet to continue receiving aid, the ban only punishes hardworking and determined students who are doing well in their classes.

The aid elimination penalty also has a disproportionate impact on minority students. According to the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, African Americans use drugs at the same rates as Whites, yet they account for 38 percent of all drug arrests and a whopping 59 percent of drug convictions. Such pre-existing disparities in the criminal justice system place African-Americans in far greater jeopardy of being rendered ineligible for financial aid under this law.

Similarly, the aid elimination penalty only affects low-income students, the very group the Higher Education Act is intended to help. Students who are able to afford full tuition are in no danger of losing access to education regardless of their drug use. Politicians such as President Bush, who've acknowl-

edged "youthful indiscretions," would not have been impacted by this law. As such, the penalty perpetuates disparities in access to education according to economic status.

The aid elimination penalty also only affects students who are honest when filling out their financial aid forms. Since federal aid administrators are unable to cross-check the criminal histories of students applying for aid, only those who tell the truth about their past mistakes are rendered ineligible for aid. It is ironic that a law intended to encourage personal responsibility in fact punishes only those who accept responsibility for their actions.

The Higher Education Act could be reauthorized in the coming months. Members of Congress should take this opportunity to repeal the penalty and help those in recovery turn their lives around by receiving an education.

Congress did scale back the penalty earlier this year by granting eligibility to people convicted before they came to college, but tens of thousands are still left without aid because they were convicted while enrolled. Such students are yanked off campus, many of them never returning to finish their degrees. The Department of Education reports that among students who leave four-year colleges before the beginning of their second year, 36 percent don't return within five years, while 50 percent of those leaving two-year institutions don't reenroll within five years.

This partial reform also fails to address the troubling possibility that many eligible students could misunderstand the law and decline to apply even though they would have received aid. Whether the

penalty has a chilling effect on students applying for aid is impossible to determine, but there's no question this complicated set of restrictions does not encourage students to take advantage of the opportunities made possible by higher education assistance.

Ultimately, breaking the cycle of addiction and recidivism benefits everyone and is essential to building a healthy and equitable society. Barriers like the aid elimination penalty make the road to recovery more difficult to travel by perpetuating the stigma and discrimination that prevent many people from seeking sobriety in the first place or moving on to better lives once they achieve it.

Kicking students out of school is not a deterrent to substance abuse and crime; it is a deterrent to recovery and success. As students, educators, special interest groups, and concerned citizens continue to lobby for HEA reform, the aid elimination penalty remains a strong indication that the drug war establishment feels contempt rather than compassion for students who've had problems with drugs.

Student activists and policy experts from around the country will gather at the Law Center this weekend to discuss alternatives to the aid elimination penalty and other drug war excesses. Just Say Know: The 2006 Students for Sensible Drug Policy International Conference will be held at Georgetown University Law Center November 17-19. For more information, visit ssdp.org/conference.

Chris Evans is a 3L and a member of Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SchoolsNotPrisons.com).

EJF auction: University-sponsored alcohol abuse

Daniel Hughes

Let's do some math concerning the recent EJF auction:

There are exactly 376 seats in Hart Auditorium. Twenty kegs were provided for the EJF auction. If each of those kegs held the US standard of 15.5 gallons, then each keg held 164 twelve-ounce servings of beer. That means the twenty kegs contained a total of 3280 servings of beer.

Time for a "hypothetical." If Hart Auditorium was full for the EJF auction (with 376 people in attendance), and everyone drank the same amount of beer, and all of the beer was drunk, each person would have consumed 8.7 drinks. The live auction lasted about three hours. That would make everyone in the auditorium legally drunk (and then some).

"But", you say, "more than 376 people attended the EJF live auction!" Okay, maybe so. Perhaps as many as 100 or 150 more people were there milling around. Let's say that there were 525 people in attendance. If each of those people drank beer in the same proportion and all of the beer was drunk, that makes

6.2 drinks per person over three hours. Again, everyone in the auditorium (barring persons who are both tall and obese) would be legally drunk.

In spite of the fact that EJF provisions the event such that each attendee will be provided enough beer to be more than legally drunk, there is no provision for designated drivers or chauffeuring drunk attendees. Furthermore, the entire event is designed to encourage people to get as drunk as possible, never mind the consequences:

1) An e-mail from EJF was sent out by the SBA to the entire campus celebrating the opportunity to drink twenty kegs and get inebriated.

2) While opening the event, Dean Aleinikoff stated, "You guys have to drink a lot more beer."

3) When I personally discussed the issue briefly with SBA President Beau Finley, his response was that the real problem was that "not enough beer was drunk."

Au contraire, the problem is the opposite, with few provisions made for how to handle the consequences.

The university holds out TIPS training as a solution to many alcohol-related problems. In my experience, TIPS training is close to a joke. I happened to have attended the

special TIPS training session for EJF this semester because I could not attend the earlier general session. At the end of the two and a half hour



photo courtesy of photobucket.com
Does the current EJF auction revolve too heavily around our rotund friends pictured above?

TIPS training session, the instructor read out all of the answers to the questions to make sure that we would all pass. TIPS training hardly amounted to rigorous training for alcohol-induced emergencies.

Given these realities, the live EJF auction is a public health hazard. Several changes need to occur. Among them:

1) No pre-auction e-mail cele-

brating the opportunity to get as drunk as possible should be sent out.

2) Less beer should be ordered.

3) Servers should not be allowed to pour beer in the aisles (This makes a mockery of the school's policy of requiring that both non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages be offered at an event. I can assure you that no one is doing refills in the aisles of water or soda at the EJF auction!).

4) The Dean and the SBA President should refrain from comment or encourage moderate consumption of alcohol, rather than making comments more worthy of *Animal House*.

5) TIPS training should be revamped and expanded.

6) Chauffeur and designated driver provisions should be made for the event.

These steps and others should be taken before a real tragedy occurs. The students of this law school deserve the demonstration of greater responsibility by those in authority.

Daniel Hughes is a 2L and can be reached at dh244@law.georgetown.edu.

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Hicks: more tolerant than you are

Keith Parsons

Harrisonburg is just about as rural and redneck as you can get. There are places that are a little more hillbilly across the mountain in West Virginia, and places that are a little more plantation-esque down in Georgia, but nevertheless, every Jeff Foxworthy joke hits home in Harrisonburg. In my high school the Future Farmers of America was by far the largest student organization. Their "officer team" alone was larger than any other club in the school, and the member-officer ratio was at least three to one. At least half of the students were pure "rednecks" and were referred to as such by the rest of the school. In fact, the school even had to institute a policy against "Big Johnson" t-shirts (if you know what a Big Johnson t-shirt is without Googling it, you might be a redneck). There wasn't a policy against the Confederate Battle Flag because that would have been too hard to enforce and would have meant banning half of the student wardrobe.

The other half of the student wardrobe was, of course, camouflage hunting gear. Students could even get an excused absence every hunting season specifically to go hunting. This was a little unfair because students who did not go hunting were not also allowed an excused absence. Also, it may be worth noting that the school mascot was an officer in the Confederate Army of Virginia during the Civil War.

And yet somehow, with all of this hick-ness, my high school was one of the least racially charged places I have ever spent significant time in. At the end of the day, the rednecks of Rockingham County, with all their Confederate flags, NASCAR caps and hunting rifles in the back of pickup trucks parked in the school parking lot, were more tolerant and racially neutral than most people here at Georgetown.

That isn't to say that the rednecks didn't do things that are traditionally labeled as "intolerant." Your typical spread of Jew/black/towel-head/gay/insert-minority-here jokes were present, but there are several reasons why this doesn't make them actually racially intolerant. First off, the rednecks were equal opportunity mockers. I, as about the most white-bread Christian boy ever, still got heckled by the rednecks almost constantly. Of course this made me a little uncomfortable, but it was high school; discomfort was the name of the game. Furthermore, I never really thought their heckling was mean-spirited, (even when the assholes stole my giant ball of silly putty) they were just general high school jackasses. They were something you are supposed to suck up, deal with and forget about. This same high school attitude was essentially analogous to all of the "racism" and "intolerance" present in the rest of the community. People make jokes; they know the jokes are wrong; it's still funny; nobody really hates anybody.

And that is the second point: nobody really hates anybody. Jokes are as far as things go. Nobody is getting strung up or beat up or run out of town on a rail. In fact, the seven minorities in the county get along very well with their supposedly bigoted neighbors. There were maybe two African-Americans in my school, and one Asian (she was a foreign exchange student). Unlike here at Georgetown, however, these kids were all accepted by their peers. They certainly didn't start race-based student associations, and they didn't sit at their own table at lunch. The one guy who was in band sat with his band friends. The other guy who was a jock sat with his jock friends, and so forth.

Furthermore, jokes, although one of the more visible indications of possible bigotry, don't really matter. A joke is a joke. I laugh at white jokes, Christian jokes and lawyer jokes. They are jokes. Part of the humor in a joke is that you know it is a generalization; you know it isn't true, but you know that it embodies

ty-paranoid places I have encountered.

To put it another way, when minorities are small, the minority identity becomes subsumed into individuality (where, in my opinion, it belongs). The African-American kid becomes just like the kid-with-the-large-mole-on-his-nose, and the kid-who-squeaks; unusual, perhaps unique but not seen as particularly different from everybody else.

However, whether or not this is due to a demographic characteristic, the end result is that Harrisonburg is a comparably tolerant place. Another explanation for this phenomenon could be that the economic differences between the residents in Rockingham County are smaller than many other places. Minorities and majority residents may have their differences, but if they both shop at the same discount grocery they will end up having fewer differences than if all the majority people are shopping at Whole Foods, and all the minorities are shopping at Giant.



photo courtesy of Johnsonhut.com

The multi-culturalism committee of Rockingham County, ready to welcome the 16th minority individual to the community

certain social views that you may or may not agree with. If a joke is the most important measure of intolerance, then I'm the most un-tolerated person I know.

Of course, one criticism of this argument is that Rockingham County is not very diverse. It could be said that with less potential victims of intolerance there would always be less intolerance. However, the fact that those potential targets who are in Harrisonburg are comparably well-treated would seem to decry this criticism. Furthermore, the fact that a less diverse place appears to be more tolerant could also be evidence against the favorite liberal mantra that diversity creates tolerance. In fact, diversity may create intolerance. In a group composed of a 97 percent majority and a 3 percent minority, the majority may feel no threat towards the minority, and may treat them as they do everybody else. On the other hand, a 60 percent majority might find a 40 percent minority to be very threatening and increase its hostility and xenophobia. Under this postulate, it's no wonder that Georgetown, with its carefully tailored quotas of people from all races, creeds and religions, is one of the most minori-

Whatever the reason, rural areas need to stop being derided for their intolerance. Anybody who is going to complain about rednecks and hicks being bigots needs to first take a good look at his or her own liberal city lifestyle. More importantly, everybody needs to look beyond jokes and all the other superficial measures of intolerance and bigotry, and instead look to how a certain area actually treats the people that they interact with. In all my years growing up in Harrisonburg, VA, I saw less instances of racial intolerance than in my first week here at Georgetown.

Not that anybody should beat themselves up about being worse than hicks. They have bigger belt buckles than the rest of us also and the world hasn't stopped turning. However, it's about time that rural people got credit for being the unflappable bastions of acceptance that they really are.

Keith Parsons isn't the opinion editor any more, so you can complain to somebody else from now on. However, tearful fan mail may be directed to kdp23@law.georgetown.edu.

A lesson from a teacher to politicians: play nice!

Jane Dimyan-Ehrenfeld

Elections are over and the Democrats have the house and the Senate. But although the campaigns are now behind us, they've left an ugly feel in the air, and rather than look ahead to what the new Congress might do in Iraq or at home, or speculating on the possibility of Cheney breaking ties in the Senate with the aid of his quail hunting gun (transforming the Democrats from the cut-and-run party to the duck-and-cover party), I want to look back and reflect on the nastiness of this campaign season.

The slime was really everywhere this fall. Attacks were personal, below the belt (yeah, I'm talking to you, writers of that anti-Ford-blond-girl-winking-ad), and just plain stupid (the ones that tried to smear a candidate because his staffer had accidentally dialed a wrong number in a hotel room). We were all sick of them almost before they began and yet they dominated the season.

So why do these ads continue, if we all profess to hate them so much? Why don't candidates see them as a liability and stop using them? The answer came to me in the midst of my Con Law reading, which was a pleasant surprise because not many clear thoughts come to me in the midst of my Con Law reading. We've been reading about separation of powers, and the idea that sometimes individual states feel powerless to pass certain laws (hour or minimum wage restrictions, for example) because if the other states do not pass similar laws then the state in question may begin to lose citizens and business to states with less restrictive laws. That's where the federal government can sometimes come in and make uniform national laws that prevent this kind of competitive inaction. I don't need to elaborate - you've all studied this too. But it strikes me that we have here the same situation: no candidate wants to be the first or only one to stop attacking her opponent, and there is no higher authority to regulate the behavior that affects all candidates and who would force them to behave decently.

That's where I come in. I am a former elementary school teacher with eight years of experience under my belt. I have a wide range of conflict resolution strategies at my disposal, I am adept at getting people to be nice to each other and I have learned how to handle the kids who do not play well with others. Who could be better to lead us into a kinder, gentler election season? To give you a taste of my formidable skills in this areas, I'll use some stories from my experience to illustrate three election-related interpersonal skill issues:

1. Name-calling. This is a basic building block of attack politics, as well as being a common problem in the classroom. The following was a particularly memorable example.

Barron was a kid who had a hard time making friends, but was sweet and vulnerable. Therefore, I was quite upset when he came up to me

one day to tell me that some kids had been picking on him and calling him a mean name.

"What were they calling you?" I asked.

He paused.
"They were calling me..." he hesitated, fearful of saying a bad word in front of his teacher. "They were calling me a hobo."

"A what?" I asked.
"A hobo."

My heart sank, even as I suppressed an urge to giggle a bit. The problem was, I knew what the kids had wanted to call him and I had no idea how to go about confronting them about what they said without pointing out their mistake and making the situation even worse. I envisioned conversations:

"What you called Barron was a hobo, which means a person who travels around on trains from place to place. What you were trying to call him was a homo, which is..."

No. That wouldn't work.

I tried to think of something else. "Don't call names" wasn't going to cut it - too generic. Finally, I settled for telling the kids in question that the word they were using did not mean what they thought it did, but that I knew what they were trying to say and they didn't have a right to make anyone feel bad, or use any word like that as an insult. I think it worked; if nothing else there were no more hobo or homo related complaints that year.

The trick, in name-calling situations, is to help the name-callers see how hurtful their words are; how many other, better, ways there are to express their thoughts and how name-calling is just the last resort of those who can think of nothing better to say or have no good ideas of their own. I think with some all-day sessions and intensive counseling, I might just be able to help the candidates to that understanding as well.

2. How to use nice language: Sometimes we call each other names because it's the only thing we can think to say. Sometimes it's because we secretly admire our opponent, or the object of our insults, and we don't know how to show that appropriately. This holds especially true in any case of boy-girl conflicts in the younger grades. I've handled many such conflicts, but none was more striking than my experience with Antonio.

Antonio was a kid with tons of charisma, a level of self-confidence that could have been seen as arrogance if he wasn't in the fourth-grade and also endlessly charming and happy. The girls thought him both "c-uuuute" and "fine," attention which, unfortunately, only emboldened him.

In the springtime, when fourth-graders often turn to thoughts of love, Antonio developed a crush. It may have been simmering for awhile, but it came to my attention the day one of my girls ran in from recess in tears. "Ms. Ehrenfeld, Antonio called me a billy goat! He said I was going to butt him with my horns."

Antonio was not in the least bit contrite.

"But Ms. Ehrenfeld, it's true! She even smells like a billy goat!"

Done with tears, the girl flew into a rage and stomped off to be comfort-

ed by her friends, who clustered and cooed and shot venomous glances at Antonio. Feeling as if Antonio needed some instructions on how to handle his love life, I took him aside for a heart to heart.

"Antonio. Honey. I worry about you. I see you at 17, sitting alone in your room, all your friends out with their girlfriends, and you wondering what you did wrong." This was certainly the opposite of what would happen, but I couldn't resist teasing him a bit. "Let me teach you how to talk to girls."

"Okay," he said dubiously.
"You have to say nice things. Try this: your eyes are as deep as the ocean."

Grudgingly, in a monotone, "Your eyes are as deep as the ocean."

"Great! Now I'll start one, and you finish it. Your skin is like..."

He looked up at me, grin stretched wide. "Frogs?" he said, then hopped up and scampered off to tease the girls some more.

I gave up on Antonio after that for awhile, figuring he had to learn how to talk nicely to girls on his own, and that he'd never learn it from me.

Later in the year, I found that maybe my little lesson had actually stuck, when he handed me a Mother's Day card that read: "Mother's day is a day when mothres get treats from the little childrens special tiny harts. You are the beautiful girl of my life." Antonio, it seemed, had begun to learn how to talk nicely to girls. And if this little fourth-grader could do so, is there any reason to believe that

Democrats and Republicans couldn't learn to do so as well?

3. When in doubt, do not talk about your opponent's mother. This needs little explanation, only that it seems to help, when you have two boys in tears because one has said that the other's mother smells and the other has said that the first boy's mother has big feet, to threaten to bring the mothers in question up to school for a little chat. Suffice it to say I'm not above getting candidates' mothers involved. In fact, sometimes I think that if candidates' mothers were more involved, our elections would be a whole lot nicer.

That's a little taste of what I have to offer this process. I think I've proven conclusively that I have the skills needed to end the name-calling and dirty tricks, and start candidates along a path of kindness and politeness. In the event that I'm not called upon, I do want to say (in all seriousness) that I think it's high time that this country finds a way to help our candidates rise above the ugliness of our elections and aspire to something different and better. If it takes the creation by the major parties of an oversight authority to govern the etiquette of elections, that would be fine. Whatever remedy is chosen, it cannot come too soon.

Jane Dimyan-Ehrenfeld, in the midst of her post-election euphoria, implores the Democrats to be gracious, forward-thinking, and positive (not that they asked her). She can be reached at jde25@law.georgetown.edu.



By Christina Pamies, 1L

Apparently not every evening student has kids

Mark Nabong

In a previous column, I revealed that I do now know all that much about evening students. Apparently, not every section seven student is raising children; for many, their kids have already left home for college. My apologies. I have been told by evening students that they are often the forgotten Georgetown students, as most events, talks, lectures and classes are aimed at the full-time days students.

Why is that? Why do we neglect the evening students so much? They are valued members of the GULC community, and should be accorded respect. In many ways, they are superior to the day students.

1) Evening students have done more in their life than run for Fraternity Treasurer.

I'll like to invite all the day students to look at their resumes. See all the fictional crap you listed under "accomplishments?" Evening students have actual accomplishments there. You interned for *Harper's*? An evening student founded *Atlantic Monthly*. You worked as a paralegal after college? An evening student was a paratrooper during college; he studied during drops. You studied abroad in Europe for a semester? An evening student did, too, except it was called Pangea back then.

2) Evening students know how to cook.

The section seven students have

to know how to cook, because the cafeteria is closed by the time they get here. When your corporations class goes on break, you run down and grab a sandwich; when the evening corporations class goes on break, the law center has transformed into a Mad-Maxian wasteland, where there is no food, the pop machines only have ginger ale and Yoo-hoo, and wild packs of roving Gewirz 1Ls roam the land looking for booze. There is no one to make over-priced chicken fingers, no one to refill the soup tureen and no one to grill panini sandwiches. The evening students have to make their own sandwiches, their own soup, their own Thermoses(TM) full of Jello(TM).



photo courtesy of photobucket.com
\$7 Morlocks are students, too

3) Evening students do not have tawdry flings with other law students.

Maybe it's because they are all married, or maybe it's because they know how stupid it is to become romantically involved with people

with whom you work, but no evening student will date any other law student. It is just as well, because when would they have the time to date, really? There are section seven classes every night of the week and exams on Saturday. That leaves Sunday for dating, which is impossible because that's where football lives. Go Bears.

4) Evening students are less politically irritating.

Everyone has strongly held beliefs, but evening students do not believe in purchasing silk-screened t-shirts displaying those beliefs. In the entire history of Georgetown Law, there has never been an in-class screaming match over a politically-charged topic during an evening class. Not so with day classes; I have never taken an class for an entire semester without discovering what each and every person thinks about the President/School Prayer/Gay Whales at an extraordinarily high volume. I expect the rancor in the day classes to get worse now that there are a whole lot of GOP staffers without jobs.

5) Evening students do not blog about everyone else in class.

All I know is that I read a blog someone posted about a stupid thing I said in class *while I was saying it*. That is not ok. It is also not ok to blog about law school drama in general, even if you disguise people's names. You are not clever enough to hide it, because if you were you would not have started the blog in the first place. I once read a blog from another student who listed people he hated, and the pseudo-

nym he gave people rhymed with their actual names. Someone came up to me after one particularly venomous post and asked, "Did you read that blog last night? Apparently he really hates this guy Narc MaBong."

6) Evening students actually donate money back to Georgetown.

Look around at the major contributions to the GULC, and you'll see that many, many more of them come from evening students than you might expect. I suspect that they donate at a higher rate because the bitterness of law school is spread out over four years instead of three. Perhaps they give back at a higher rate because they see people they entered law school with graduate a year ahead of them and realize everything actually turns out ok a year after law school is over.

These reasons, and more, say to me that we should do better about reaching out to the evening students. Administrators can insure that cafeteria services remain open until after every evening class goes on break. Student groups can make sure that some of their events reach people in section seven. And if you are a full-time day student, introduce yourself to an evening student and offer to baby-sit.

Mark Nabong is finally some other editor's problem. His columns can be found online at chicago-typewriter.blogspot.com.

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