GOODBYE . . .

To the Class of 1991:

Congratulations on achieving a significant personal and professional goal. You have earned the right to be proud of your educational achievements and to be confident of your future success.

As graduates of George Wythe's Law School, you have a special responsibility to use your talents and skills to improve our society. Never forget that you are members of an ancient and honorable learned profession whose members are trained to be leaders of their communities, their states and their nation.

Good luck and Godspeed.

Most cordially,

[Signature]

Timothy W. Sullivan
Dean

. . . AND HELLO

TO The Class of 1991:

What more can I say: Welcome to the Marshall-Wythe Alumni Association! I look forward to seeing you at our various Dean's receptions throughout the country. Be sure to give Dean Kaplan your current address & job information so I know how to keep in touch. The fall issue of The William & Mary Lawyer (your alumni magazine) will include pictures from your graduation and, we hope, the commencement address by Justice Scalia.

Wishing you ALL the best.

Deborah S. Vick
Associate Dean for Development & Alumni Affairs

ATTENTION GRADUATES AND THEIR FAMILIES!

GRADUATES! Once the ceremony is over you should return to the law school to pick up your diploma.

FAMILIES! (and graduates) There will be an informal reception held on the law school patio after the diploma ceremony for grads, families, friends, and the faculty. ALL ARE WELCOME!

This issue of The Advocate is dedicated to the class of 1991, their families and friends. It is a compilation of thoughts about the past, present and future.

That's all folks . . .

The 1990-91 Advocate Staff (l. to r.)
Stephanie Burke, Laura Gaits, Katherine Cross, Peter Kay, Mukta Srinvasan, Mychal Schults, Steffi Garrett, Michelle Sedgewick, Heather Benjamin, Jeff Crabbill, Mary Ellen West, Wendy Watson, Sean Sell, Jan Brown. (Not pictured: Tamara Maddox, Bobby Cardi, Dave Edwards, Katie Finley, Tom Lotz)

Special kudos to Mukta and Laura for their work in putting this special issue together, and thanks to all those who contributed photos and essays, etc.
YOU NEVER FORGET YOUR FIRST TIME
(OR YOUR FIRST YEAR)

Neal Devins:
This chalk will self destruct in five seconds; "Professor Devins, could you explain those circles one more time?"; If all else fails, ask Harvey; "Weeell, that’s not exactly what I was looking for . . ."
by Mike Flannery

Some people are very smart. Some people are very stupid. Law school won't help you tell one from the other.

In law school, you don't have to shave every morning, I like not having to shave. Shaving bothers my neck.

Shave. Shaving bothers my neck.

Shorts are a good thing. Your legs can breathe when you wear shorts. I have never seen a professor wearing shorts at the law school.

I think I've paid more money to parking services at William and Mary than to any other establishment. They have become rich because of me.

Commemorative tickets bearing my likeness should be issued.

When I leave Marshall-Wythe, I'm quite sure I'll never use the words "hanging file" again. I'm quite sure I never used those words before law school. Hanging files exist in no other place on earth but here. Call the Smithsonian.

What is decorative cabbage? Can you make decorative cabbage salad? What about corned beef and decorative cabbage?

I believe that holly bushes are actually the last remaining link to an era when the law school was a maximum security prison.

Why is there no exit off 1-64 for Pierce's?

What ever happened to the construction worker who was electrocuted before the day before? Hangings exist in no other place on earth but here. Call the Smithsonian.

What is the construction worker who was electrocuted before the day before? Hangings exist in no other place on earth but here. Call the Smithsonian.

Why did you tell one from the other. The construction worker who was electrocuted before the day before? Hangings exist in no other place on earth but here. Call the Smithsonian.

Isn't there a volume knob on the control panel for all those nice T.V.'s in the classrooms?

Why doesn't the law school get cable? Hey, we've got a video store, right? We want HBO.

Shouldn't it be called "Slender Night"?

In what year will that space underneath the moving chalk board fill up with small pieces of chalk?

The bottom line is that questions and observations are of gargantuan importance. I'm sure you'll think of a few more before you leave. Write them down and preserve them. I hereby wish you my space.


Why can't the Environmental Law Society put aluminum can receptacles in every classroom? Supposedly it's too unsightly. So who thinks an overflowing undersized trash can is attractive? Does this make sense?

How many of you have actually prefaced a question with the word "query"? File this with "vis-a-vis", "linkage", "interface", "impacted", and "upscale." Go read Hemingway, you wordy windbags.

Why would you name your town Short Pump? Or Pungo?

What more must the Moot Court do to get credit? Beat the Supreme Court in a foot race! I think the Law Review should lend Moot Court a few credits. They've got plenty of spare credits in the garage.

Did you know that if you look down on the library carrels from above that they're shaped like swastikas?

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by Joan Quigley

When I was in high school, I spent hours trying to come up with a quote for my senior page. This was a Big Deal. Eight and one-half by eleven inches of yearbook space that I had to fill up with pictures and penetratingly world-wise observations. (I never came up with the right picture, but that’s another story.)

I considered and discarded a lot of my favorite Neil Young songs. Too cliche, I suppose. I’m not quite sure how I aspired to such misplaced intellectual grandeur. Let’s face it, I’d just gotten my driver’s license. How much could I possibly have known about the world beyond the driving distance of the family wagon?

Eventually I settled on poetry -- one selection was something unbelievably ambitious by James Russell Lowell that I’d found in a history book while researching a term paper. The other was by a French poet whose work I’d read in eleventh grade.

Four years later, I had to repeat the process. As a graduating college senior, I again faced the task of distilling the essence of my world vision into a few pithy lines. This time, however, I only had a quarter of a page to work with. I’ve often felt this meant that I was growing less insightful with age.

The really ironic thing is that after four years of stimulating intellectual gymnastics, I didn’t look to any of the patron saints of modern western culture. I didn’t even quote Robert Kennedy. Or Andy Warhol. I reached for Dr. Seuss. Sure, I was consistent -- it was poetry after all. To be honest, I think I took a little perverse pleasure in regression, thumbing my nose at the idea that I could find more meaning in a Beckett play than in a children’s book.

Then again, maybe my motives weren’t so ethereal. I just didn’t have as many brain cells as when I was eighteen. I’d spent a lot of time in slippery tile-floored basements sniffing beer from oversized plastic cups. All that education and the single most important thing I learned was to lighten up and have a little fun.

All of this came back to me recently, when I realized that I was graduating again. Actually, I was sitting in the basement of the library trying to get pumped up to write a paper. Not really like a Thursday night chugging corrert, but at least I don’t have the added pressure of coming up with another quote.

But assuming for the sake of argument (see what I’ve learned) that I had to distill the essence of law school in a single quotation, I began to wonder what I’d choose this time around. Just like Neil Young nine years ago, Justice Brennan was an early inside favorite. They both provided soul-stirring inspiration during those critical formative years. Maybe there’s even an analogy between side four of Decade and Justice Brennan’s opinion in Texas v. Johnson. (And it’s not that I hope never to buy the latter on disc.)

But with all due respect to the eloquent former Justice, he probably wouldn’t make it past the final cut. It just seems a little pretentious. That may be hard to believe, I realize, coming from someone who once quoted a French poet.

Then I thought I could be really cryptic and quote my long-time favorite band, R.E.M.. I can never really understand what Michael Stipe is saying. I figured that this would be deeply symbolic of my entire first year, when I left every class knowing not only that the professor had hidden the ball, but that I would never find the key to the storage closet.

Or maybe Woody Allen. I’ve always liked the scene in “Hannah and Her Sisters” when he’s trying to find religion. After tying with the possibility of joining the Hari Krishna, his common sense gets the best of him. He realizes that if he were reincarnated he’d have to sit through the “Ice Capades” again. (Maybe he’d change his mind now that Brian Boitano and Katarina Witt have taken their blades on the road.)

With three years of law school almost under my belt, I’m beginning to understand how he felt. If I were reincarnated, I’d have to re-experience that contracts class when Debbie Ryan couldn’t recite the facts of the Dempsey case and one hundred and nineteen other nervous, sweaty first years stared down at the papers in front of them, praying like hell that they wouldn’t be next. That would be a pretty effective synopsis, but I’d rather not re-live it.

Perhaps I’d get crass and cynical and quote George Bush’s Inaugural Address. “A thousand points of light.” At the time, we thought he was talking about voluntarism, not the night sky over Baghdad.

But that would offend a lot of people. And it would make me seem like I forgot the cardinal principle I gleaned from four years in college. So where does that leave me? The only poetry I’ve read in the past few years is a Hallmark card and my grandmother sent me for Valentine’s Day. My grandmother is an infinitely wise woman. She and my grandfather have been married for sixty years. I love them both very much, but if you knew my grandfather, you’d understand my admiration for my grandmother all the more.

My grandmother isn’t the kind of person who goes around trying to summarize her life in a quotation. If pressed to come up with something, she’d probably say that it’s always better to have a friend than an enemy. Never throw away string (or foil or paper bags for that matter). And keep a little money in the sugar jar. You never know when it will come in handy. It may not be poetry, but at this point, it sure makes a lot of sense.

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