

College of William & Mary Law School
William & Mary Law School Scholarship Repository

Student Newspaper (Amicus, Advocate...)

Archives and Law School History

2000

The Amicus Curiae (Vol. 11, Issue 4)

Repository Citation

"The Amicus Curiae (Vol. 11, Issue 4)" (2000). *Student Newspaper (Amicus, Advocate...)*. 352.
<https://scholarship.law.wm.edu/newspapers/352>

Copyright c 2000 by the authors. This article is brought to you by the William & Mary Law School Scholarship Repository.
<https://scholarship.law.wm.edu/newspapers>

The Amicus Curiae

VOLUME XI, ISSUE FOUR

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2000

WILLIAM & MARY SCHOOL OF LAW

Panel of Experts Discusses Central Role Of Electoral College In The American Political System

by Eric Nakano

The electoral college, established by the United States Constitution, has been the subject of much criticism.

Since its founding, there have been over 700 proposed amendments to the Constitution to eliminate the electoral college, the system which allocates to each state a number of electoral votes equivalent to the combined number of senators and congresspersons of that state. The most frequently debated feature of the electoral college is the disparity in the weight given to votes of the largest versus the smallest states.

Wyoming, for example, with three electoral votes, has one vote for every 160,000 citizens, while California, with 54 electoral votes, receives one vote for every 614,000 citizens. This gives a Wyoming citizen's vote 3.8 times more weight than that of a California citizen.

Most recently, the system has come under fire as a result of the close election between George Bush and Al Gore, in which it appears likely that the United States will have elected a president who lost the popular vote but won the electoral college.

On Monday, November 13, the law school hosted a forum asking the question whether the United States should abolish the Electoral College and replace it with a direct election.

The four-member panel hosting the discussion consisted of law professors Dave Douglas, Allan Meese, and Neal Devins, and William & Mary political science professor David Lewis.

Professor Douglas began the forum with a brief history of the Electoral College, as well as an introduction to the challenges

See *Electoral College* p.2



Professor Lewis makes a point with Professor Douglas looking on.

Marshall-Wythe Grad Tackles Nazi Legacy

Ehrlich weighs claims for stolen World War II treasure

by Bob Ford

Recent Law School alum Dr. Charles E. Ehrlich returned on Friday November 10 to speak to students about his work on the adjudication of dormant Swiss bank accounts left over from the Nazi era.

In an event co-sponsored by the Institute of Bill of Rights Law Student Division and the International Law Society, Ehrlich addressed Professor Linda Malone's class with respect to the nature of his position.

Ehrlich works as a Legal Counsel to the Claims Resolution Tribunal in Zurich, Switzerland.

Ehrlich described his work with the Tribunal, along with its history and the legal structure under which it operates.

During the unrest in Europe in the 1930's, Switzerland was considered the safest place in central Europe and thus many people deposited their money and assets there.

With the widespread devastation and millions of deaths brought about by World War II, many of the account holders did not survive to reclaim their deposits after the war.

After the war if someone wanted to claim an account that he had inherited, Swiss banks required copies of the deceased person's will to prove the right to the inheritance, copies of the death certificate, the account number of the deposit, and various other identifying information.

In the aftermath of so much destruction it was difficult for claimants to obtain all of this information. Many people became victims not only of wartime looting but of bureaucratic red tape.

This problem was especially acute for survivors of the Holocaust.

Holocaust claimants such as Jews and Poles had great difficulty providing the records required.

There were no records kept of those killed at Auschwitz or other Nazi concentration camps. Furthermore many of these accounts were closely guarded secrets of families who were hiding their assets from the Nazis.

Further complicating the situation are the famous Swiss secrecy laws that make it a criminal felony to reveal any information contained in the account records. Some sort of intermediary was needed to

gather the necessary information and to evaluate claims.

It is to help sort out that kind of mess that the Tribunal was established, Ehrlich explained.

Bowing to mounting pressure from the United States Senate and others, the Swiss banks finally set about creating an organization to adjudicate the claims of Holocaust survivors and others whose families may have had accounts in Swiss Banks but who have been unable to track them down.

What was created to solve this di-

lemma was the Claims Resolution Tribunal.

The Tribunal is staffed by both Swiss and non-Swiss attorneys and judges.

It grew out of the Independent Committee of Eminent Persons, which is charged with surveying the over 4.1 billion accounts in Swiss banks to find those accounts that have been dormant since May 1945.

The committee, chaired by former Chairman of the Federal Reserve Paul A. Volcker,

See *Belated Justice* on p.4

In this Issue

Sports & Entertainment Law Symposium profiled.....p 4

Brian runs down intramural results.....p 6

Halloween Pics.....p 7

3L Trading Cards.....p 7

Dennis sounds off on the war on drugs.....p 10

Chad has his own damn opinion.....p 11

Electoral College Draws Support From Panel, Criticism From Audience

Role of Electoral College from p.1

that the electoral system has faced since the nation's founding.

According to Douglas, the Electoral College arose from a combination of the founding fathers' suspicion of the ability of a popular vote to select a good leader (especially in light of the poor education and communications of the 18th century that made it difficult for the general population to know the character of the candidates), as well as a compromise between the populous northern states and the less populous southern slave-holding states.

Because the original reasons for the Electoral College no longer exist, Douglas asked the panel members to comment on whether the system has continued validity in modern times.

Professor Meese reframed the issue by pointing out that the notion of "one-person-one-vote" is a relatively new phenomenon, and that the majority rule is preempted or slowed frequently in the United States.

For example, the Bill of Rights is a protection of the individual against majority tyranny, Senate elections are staggered to slow the momentum of the majority, and a supermajority is required to amend the Constitution.

Meese concluded that the Electoral College ensures that the President, who represents all people, must campaign and make concessions to the citizens of many states rather than simply campaigning to the most populous states.

Professor Lewis reiterated this theme, noting states are distinct entities with unique needs, and that the Electoral College enhances the attention paid to these needs in presidential elections.

With that said, Lewis noted that the Electoral College can also de-emphasize the needs of large population centers, leading to a reduction in the attention paid to urban poverty and other issues endemic to these areas.

Professor Devins concluded the panel discussion by pointing out that the Electoral College generally reflects the majority vote, and a disagreement between the majority and the Electoral College has historically shown itself to be a once-in-a-century event.

Devins said that this is hardly a compelling reason to abandon the system. The real question, according to Devins, is whether the notion of state identity has validity today, or whether the suburbanization of America has led to a

homogeneity in which states no longer matter.

Before turning the forum over to questions, the panel concluded that it is unlikely that the Electoral College will be abandoned based on the ability of small states to block such an amendment to the Constitution.

Audience members seemed far more critical of the Electoral College than the panel.

Marshall-Wythe law professor Selassie questioned why states embrace all-or-nothing systems, since such systems can lead to vast discrepancies in the public will and the election outcome.

Devins responded that states can have a proportional system, but it is unlikely that a large state will adopt one unless all the other large states do so as well.

Another question from the audience was why United States's advisors never suggest to fledgling democracies that they establish an electoral college.

In response, the panel offered several theories, ranging from the theory that the United States would probably not establish an electoral college if starting over today, to the fact that the emerging democracies of the world do not have the same

issues of federalism as the United States.

One last debate occurred when a question was asked about the effect of the Electoral College on third parties.

Although several audience members expressed disappointment with the lack of opposition to the Electoral College on the panel, the consensus seemed to be that the system is not likely to change anytime in the foreseeable future.

THE AMICUS CURIAE

William & Mary School of Law

P. O. Box 8795 Williamsburg, Virginia 23187 (757) 221-3582
"Dedicated to the complete and objective reporting of student news and opinion"

Editor: Bob Ford

News Editor: Pamela S. Jenkins

Features Editors: Katie Riley & Sarah Kinsman

Calendar Editor: Deborah Siegal

Business Editor: Tom Voekler

Copy Editor: Carolyn Jackson

Web-Page Editor: Eric Nakano

Reporters:

Dennis Callahan Josh Herbst

Tim Emry Cameron Lynch

Humes Franklin Jessica Norris

Matt Gernstein John Reed

Andrew Hampton Mike Williams

Audra Hale

Editorial Policy

The letters and opinion pages of *The Amicus* are dedicated to all student opinion regardless of form or content. *The Amicus* reserves the right to edit for spelling and grammar, but not content.

Letters to the Editor may not necessarily reflect the opinion of the newspaper or its staff. All letters to the Editor should be submitted by 5 p.m. on the Thursday prior to publication. *The Amicus* will not print a letter without confirmation of the author's name. We may, however, withhold the name on request. Letters over 500 words may be returned to the writer with a request that the letter be edited for the sake of space.

HELP WANTED!!

The Amicus is now accepting applications for all Editorial Board Positions. Starting in the Spring we will need new editors to replace our graduating staff. All positions are open for applications. If you are at all interested contact the Amicus at 221-3582 or email us at "amicur@wm.edu."

Welcome to law school: Sleep is optional. **Westlaw, a necessity.**

Time is precious,
especially in
law school.

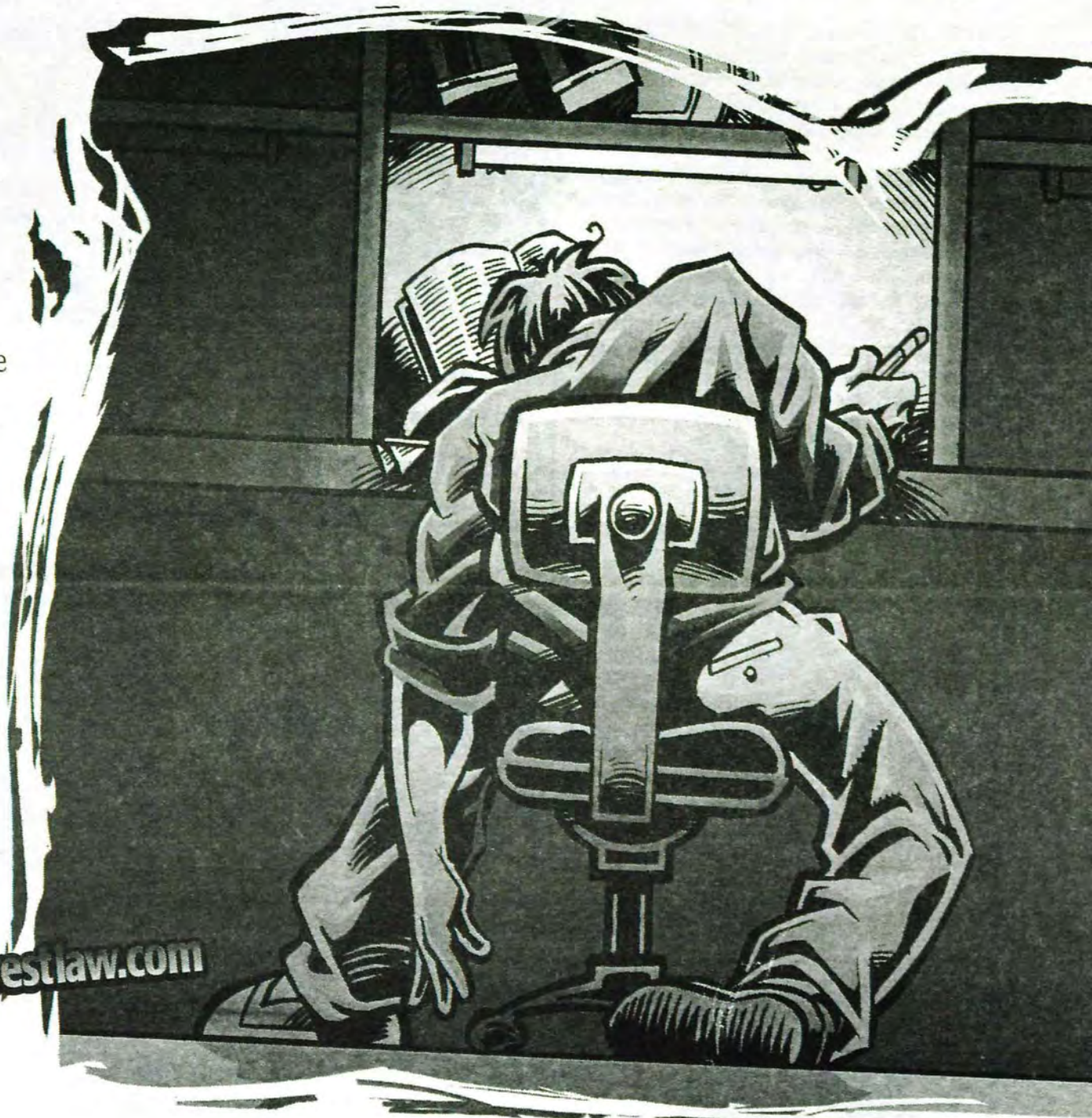
Make the most
of your research time
with Westlaw®.

It's easy to learn,
and a snap to use.

Hey, the quicker
you research,
the more time
you have to sleep.

Access Westlaw at:

lawschool.westlaw.com



Westlaw.

25 Westlaw
YEARS OF e-INNOVATION



Ehrlich Works To Administer Belated Justice To Victims Of Wartime Looting And Post-War Red Tape

Nazi Legacy from p.1

has published two lists of dormant accounts containing several thousand names and account numbers of dormant accounts.

A third list of approximately 25,000 account names is being prepared for release in the near future.

The Tribunal is responsible for evaluating claims made on these accounts.

Ehrlich's office screens the claims to see if the information brought forward by the claimant matches that found in the bank records. Often the only information that is available is that the creator of the account and the present claimant share the same surname.

An extensive set of rules and procedures has been established to govern these claims. If a claim is found to have some merit it is sent to arbitration between the claimant and the bank holding the account.

Sometimes there are multiple claims for the same account.

In those situations Ehrlich and others in his office evaluate the accuracy of the information provided by the claimants as it compares to the information the Legal Counsel has gathered.

If the arbitrator awards some or all of the account to the claimant, the present value of the account is calculated not by how much it presently holds but by how much it

could have been worth.

By adding back any assessed fees over the passed 50 years the 1945 value is calculated and that is then multiplied by 10 to take into account how much the account could have been worth if it had been accessible directly after the war.

Not all claims are granted, however.

If the account holder is thought to have been a Nazi, then the burden for claiming the account is increased.

In that situation the claimant must show that either the person was not a Nazi or that the funds in the account were not looted from Nazi occupied Europe.

Dr. Ehrlich graduated from the William and Mary School of Law in 1999.

He had previously received his Doctorate from the University of Oxford, where he was the Norman Hargreaves-Mawdsley Scholar in the History of Spain. He also holds a Masters Degree from the London School of Economics and a Bachelor's Degree from Harvard.

Gerhardt's Book Highlighted At Symposium

by Katie Riley

The Institute of Bill of Rights Law hosted a symposium on Friday, November 10th on "The Federal Appointments Process."

The symposium was in recognition of William and Mary professor Michael Gerhardt's upcoming new book, *The Federal Appointments Process*.

The symposium featured four distinguished constitutional law professors: Gerhardt, Erwin Chemerinsky of the University of Southern California, Chris Eisgruber from New York University, and David Strauss of the University of Chicago.

Each speaker commented on Gerhardt's book, but commented more on the current upheaval in the presidential election.

Professor Eisgruber introduced his speech by explaining that he had prepared two sets of remarks in order to comment upon the effect of the new president on possible federal appointments, but with no election resolution did not know which to use.

With no notes, and after a busy two days in residence at Marshall-Wythe, Justice Breyer gave a comical talk about his work as Chief Counsel to the Judiciary Committee, and then his nominations to the First Circuit and the Supreme Court. Breyer was not even interviewed by the White House when he was nominated to the Supreme Court and actually heard about President Clinton's decision on television.

Professor Gerhardt was the last to speak, and gave an historical overview of four instances in American history in which the Electoral College and/or federal appointments were difficult and gave some suggestions for political compromise which might resolve the current election crisis such as trading electoral votes in return for political patronage.

Sports Law Experts Come From Across The Country To Speak At Marshall-Wythe Symposium

by Mike Williams

The William and Mary Sports and Entertainment Law Society is holding its third annual Sports Law Symposium on Saturday, November 18.

According to SELS President Carla Palmer, the theme of this year's symposium is the evolving role of the sports lawyer in the twenty-first century.

The event will feature several nationally recognized speakers in the areas of sports agency, sports event management, dispute resolution, and sports law generally.

William Strickland will speak on "The Challenges of Sports Agency". Strickland has been a sports agent for over fifteen years and is now President and CEO of Strickland & Ashe Management. He has represented top athletes including Chris Weber and has been named to The Sporting News "Top 100 Most Powerful People in Sports". Strickland earned an MBA from UCLA and a JD from Georgetown, and he frequently writes and lectures on sports law and marketing.

Sports endorsement deals will be the subject of a session with Herb Hecht and Robert Bindeman. Bindeman is vice president of Neostar Sports & Entertainment, a "boutique firm" that represents athletes such as Dan Marino and the Broncos' Gus Frerotte.

A native of Washington, DC, Bindeman has been involved with many aspects of sports management over his ten-year career.

Herb Hecht is a graduate of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law who has spoken at the Sports Law Symposium in the past. As a sports agent and partner with Capital Sports Ventures, his clients currently include golfers on the PGA and LPGA tours.

Vernon Inge and David Maraghy will be speaking on "The Role of the Sports Lawyer in Sports Event Management and Dispute Resolution".

Inge is experienced in various aspects of sports law, including litigation, arbitration, and matters involving the Major League Baseball Players' Association and the National Football League Players' Association. He currently works for LeClair Ryan in Richmond, and is an adjunct assistant professor at the University of Richmond School of Law.

Maraghy, from Sports Management International, also has a background in planning and facilitating sporting events.

Mason Ashe, COO and general counsel for Strickland and Ashe Management, will give a lecture entitled "The Convergence of Sports and Entertainment: Athletes In The 'Biz'". Ashe is a co-founder of Strickland and Ashe

Management and has negotiated endorsement contracts for some of the most famous players in the NBA, CBA, and the NFL.

Daryl S. Taylor and Ellen Zavian will give a lecture on "Getting Into the Industry", and Jeffrey Phelan will speak on sports and the Internet.

Taylor is an associate with the firm of Bean, Kinney, and Korman. Zavian, a former NFL and Olympic agent, currently teaches sports and entertainment law at George Washington University and American University School of Law. Phelan is President of 100PercentSports.com.

Symposia from years past have featured sports and entertainment law, and Palmer explained the decision to concentrate exclusively on sports.

"We decided to have a sports law symposium to help enhance the learning experience for law students who are currently enrolled in the Sports Law class at the law school and provide them an opportunity to explore a career in the field with professionals who work in the industry," she said.

"It was also scheduled in the fall as a separate symposium to give individualized attention to legal issues that specifically relate to the sports industry."

There Are Plenty of Other Countries ...

By Brian Miller

I'm not a political man. I am passionate about being Independent, which probably makes it impossible to call me political in any American sense of the word. But, I feel oddly obligated to voice a thought or two on the political system in this country and the processes and outcomes it produces. After the last *Amicus* issue, and a lifetime of growing up in America in the latter part of the 20th Century with reasonably intelligent acquaintances, I am struck by the anger and apathy and perhaps misunderstandings that many people have about our system of electing leaders. Here are my thoughts on the two most frustrating complaints I hear regarding American politics. (Excluding a third, soon to be added to the list; "It's Friday, November 10th and we're still days away from naming our next president?")

Frequently heard complaints:

1. "The candidates are interchangeable/ There's absolutely no difference in their platforms."

Yes, it is important that citizen electors have a meaningful choice amongst candidates, and that many different viewpoints are expressed on the collective political agenda. But, if you believe in evolution, there's a far less cynical way of viewing the similar positions recent candidates have taken on the *major* issues. Examine the details and you can still find canyons between the parties, at all levels. (Watch *Roe v. Wade* if you think I'm fibbing.) Shouldn't our political discourse and general common experiences work to weed out those ideas that have been previously proven wrong, and that have been inefficient, unjust, or just not in the best interest of the American people? If you wanted radically differing candidates (as some people seem to insist are necessary for "good" democracy), I would be happy to run on a platform centered on abolishing

the 14th Amendment, or perhaps instigating new Amendments calling for the outlawing of inter-racial marriage or for advocating total repeal of the child labor laws. But it would seem to me that the absence of any of these types of platforms in contemporary politics comes not as a result of conscientious bias and exclusion of these ideas, but rather because these ideas have been circulated in public discourse in years gone by, and their faults were readily discovered. The failure of these ideas to become the dominant mindset of the people tends to lead me to believe that other, better alternatives were discovered, and that these alternatives became the ideas of choice for most forward thinking people (politician or otherwise).

In a more plausible illustration, the Democratic Party as of late (even to this neutral observer) has seemed to usurp a good deal of economic policy that once used to be within the sole realm of conservative Republicans. Many of the "new" Democrats, including, in my opinion, President-elect (?) Gore, have changed their thinking on large, governmentally-run programs of social welfare and private administrative regulation, all former linchpins of traditional Democrats. Our astounding economy of the last decade came as a direct result of a Democratic President, working alongside, and at times in opposition to, a Republican Congress, both of whom sought to reduce the size, role, and burden of government from the levels it had reached following its vast expansion after the Great Depression and World War II. Many British similarly complain of their Labor Party becoming so Thatcher-ish in the 90's in regard to their economic policies. But so long as things are better than they were 10, 20, or 50 years ago (and I will fight for the assertion that many things are significantly better), "so what" if the candidates seem similar on both sides. So long as there is a large enough consensus on the prudence of a given social or economic path or policy, we should not demand

radically differing candidates all in the name of having an "easier" choice on election day.

2. "It doesn't matter anyway/Nothing is going to change one way or the other regardless of who I vote for, or if I even vote or not."

As to the latter complaint, I merely point out the fact that, as of the time of my writing this, there are 379 votes separating our two potential presidents out of 6 million votes cast.

As to the more general apathy whine (or the revolutionary call to arms, depending on your view), I ask, "Why is your urging of radical change, seemingly every year, necessarily a good thing for my country?" Again, I am not blind to the numerous problems we face as a country. I've had close personal experience with the unbelievable carnage that hard drugs can impose on individuals and communities, I am troubled by the widening of the gap between rich and poor and its ramifications, and I often wonder whether we caught on to this whole "environment" thing a few decades too late. But, is a drastic change always the best answer?

I, myself, am never persuaded by the Republicans annual tax-cut war call. Death and taxes...we know the rest. They will always be here. With that in mind, as I look to the future, I would prefer roughly knowing what my percent due is going to be down the road, than living though above four years of vastly increased net income followed by an equally vast, if not greater, reduction in my personal wealth when a Democratic government assumes office and possibly decides to crank out a few more administrative agencies. Sure, I would love a reduction in my tax burden. We all would. But I would rather have 1 or 2% reductions every year spread out over 7 or 8 consecutive administrations (under both parties), than a one-time windfall of 20 to 30%, all in the name of "change" brought on by a sweeping reform by a radically new

alternative. This is also, incidentally, the reason why I run from the Libertarians, who pledge an immediate and complete end to all taxes in America. Weighing the harm to social stability and economic growth against the personal "wealth" I would attain, it seems an easy choice against radical tax breaks.

Outside of economics, my concerns remain the same. I assume those crying for radical, "meaningful" change in every election would be content with mandatory conscription in the armed forces, the right to life/choice decision being rendered and altered every four years, or a government-led initiative to redistribute wealth and land at any cost and by any means. One of the above changes from the current system would end some people's concerns with the possible decay in our military, while one would please seemingly one half of the population in any given election cycle, and one may put an end to the widening gap in incomes, but each (I hope) bears fairly easily discernible problems all their own. And I promise you, that last one would only happen alongside a tremendous loss of life. Me, personally, ... I'll stick with candidates and political systems that adopt the rational, reasoned, and time-tested methods for issuing of public policy in America while, most importantly, simultaneously keeping an eye out for innovative new ways to effectively address the numerous problems we do face. Solutions are good, and change is often good. But again, from an evolutionary standpoint, solutions which solve problems, however incrementally, should be preferred to solutions that cause three new problems for every one problem solved. Change is positive, and often needed, but I wish some of us would stop and ask ourselves from time to time whether the change that we think we want, and that we attempt to advocate for in public, would undue so many of the gains and advances that we have fought so hard to obtain, that the change would ultimately result in an overall loss to America as a whole.

Flavor in Your Ear

By Tim Emry

This month, we take a look at the new offering from the original southern players: Outkast.

Outkast
Stankonia
*** (out of 5)

Outkast is attempting the unenviable task of trying to follow up their legendary *Aquemini* with an equally flavorful offering. While they have produced a worthy album, it lacks any consistent flow and ultimately fails its listeners. It does have some outstanding offerings, and yet also

has several songs that we could do without. The album has a ton of guest spots, and most of the artists fit in well with Outkast's sound and do not detract from the album.

The album starts off on a high with "Gasoline Dreams," wane tempo, heavy metal-like rap with Khujo from the ultra-conscious Goodie Mob. Next, "So Fresh, So Clean" is a catchy, yet annoying, song with no real redeeming value. The song would fit better in a commercial for "Irish Spring" soap.

"Ms. Jackson," the second single off the album is a true classic, giving us a glimpse into the heady-but-cool rap that Outkast has shown us on previous al-

bums. It's a song about the recognition of a failed relationship and the consequences which result from such failure. "Spaghetti Junction" is a smooth track in which Andre and Big Boi show how well they can flow and blend into each other's sound; a very well made song.

The overly sexual "I'll Call Before I Come," would be better suited on a Luke Campbell album and really detracts from the disc. However, the duo quickly rebounds with the most thrilling song on the album, "B.O.B. (Bombs Over Baghdad)." This is the single that dropped long before the album and left us waiting for more. It is an intense song, full of powerful imagery, and has a catchy hook. The next song,

"Xplosion," featuring B-Real, is a bit disappointing and not very memorable.

"We Luv Deez Hoez" is a catchy song, but again, falls in the realm of "stank," (one of their goals of the appropriately titled album), but the song just isn't intriguing. "Humble Mumble" is a very solid, laid back track reminiscent of earlier Outkast hits. The outstanding guest spot by baby-momma Erykah Badu makes the song that much better.

The last portion of the album really seems to drag on, minus the one exception of "Slum Beautiful," featuring Cee-Lo of Goodie Mob, who shows that Outkast still

See Flavor on 6

Charlie's Angels Flies Right to the Funny Bone!

By Jessica Norris and Audra Hale

Cast of Characters

The "Angels":

Dylan: Drew Barrymore

Natalie: Cameron Diaz

Alex: Lucy Liu

Their Bosses:

Bosley: Bill Murray

Charlie (voice): John Forsythe

Their Boyfriends:

Tom Green

Luke Wilson

Matt LeBlanc (from "Friends")

Etc.:

Kidnaped Software Mogul: Sam

Rockwell

Creepy Thin Man: Crispin Glover

(HELLO McFLY?!?!?)

Ready for some foxy ladies wearing

next to nothing while kicking and yelling? No, it's not *Fall From Grace*, it's *Charlie's Angels*! It's girl power extraordinaire in this comedy/action adventure flick. Prepare to disengage brain and engage aimless pleasure centers.

JN: Whew, *Charlie's Angels* really packs a punch!! ... and some kicks, judo chops, etc. Having never been a huge fan of the TV series, and remembering next to nothing about it, I still really enjoyed this movie. It is very well done, with plenty of light-hearted moments and belly laughs to offset the general rock 'em sock 'em theme. Although it's difficult to imagine Drew Barrymore, Cameron Diaz and Lucy Liu as unstoppable "superagents," each does a terrific job in her respective role. One fault I found with the movie is the plethora of skintight outfits, which make the gals' fancy kicks and punches seemingly impossible!

AH: Though the three lovely ladies seem a little slow on the uptake to be

"superagents," they are fun to watch. The soundtrack is so dead-on, you'll spend half the movie turning to your friends and saying, "Hey, I love this song!" The best part of the movie may be the costumes. Quick changes from little boy's underoos to full body black latex to geisha costumes keep the laughs coming, and allow the Angels to take full advantage of the power of the visual full frontal assault.

JN: At various points during the movie, the gals all have boyfriends, played by Tom Green, Luke Wilson and Matt LeBlanc. Although they are good for some weak laughs, the "relationship angle" is, in my humble opinion, the weakest part of the movie. Each Angel has to go through relationship woes, which really detract from the plot. The one exception to this is Natalie's (Cameron's) flirtation with a bartender (played by Luke Wilson). They go out on a date, and the flighty Angel takes the "Soul Train" stage for a funky little dance. She looks (literally) like a fish out of water, which makes for a hilarious scene.

Later on, while Natalie is kicking the crap out of some random bad guy/gal, her new guy calls on her cell phone, which results in some humorous moments.

AH: The boyfriends of the Angels have the imprint of Ms. Barrymore, who co-produced this movie as well as co-starring in it. She is marrying Tom Green (that is going to be one CRAZY household), and Luke Wilson appeared with her in *Home Fries*. I don't know where Matt LeBlanc came in.

You don't get to see women full-on pummeling people in movies very often. Generally, movie women's weapons of choice seem to be throwing shoes or something. These ladies can kick, and they do, with panache. The bad "guys" get in on the act too. An evil villain-woman spits out, after a male henchman fails to thwart one of the Angels ("Never send a man to do a woman's job!") before roaring out to take care of them herself. This movie is really fun, and I give it two flying V-kicks up (see the Drew Barrymore tied to a chair scene)!

Charlie's Angels is lots of fun, and certainly worth a look. So drop the books and head to the nearest theater. You won't regret it.

Rant Review

JN: If you're anything like me, you've spent a great deal of time glued to election updates rather than enduring bad movies. As such, I have no movie-related rants for this issue. Rather than subjecting you to my views on the Democrats' shameful attempts to steal the election, I'm providing you with a list of humorous web sites. We can all use a laugh, so punch a few ballots and enjoy....

www.dovewinds.com/dubya

www.algoredance.com

www.bushdance.com

Flavor

Continued from 5

knows how to talk about important issues. However, "Red Velvet," "Gangsta Sh*t," and "Stankonia" all leave something to be desired. While the title track has a true, 70's synthetic feel, it is not very original.

Outkast seems to be the victim of their own success in this album. While the album certainly has some outstanding tracks, its focus on sexual, player, and "stank"-related topics really drags it into the gutter with the likes of Ja Rule and Mystikal and others too numerous to name. With hot releases due from Prodigy of Mobb Deep, Wu-Tang Clan, and a new one from a promising artist, Musiq Soulchild, your money is better spent elsewhere.

Intramurals Updates: Softball Ends While Football Begins

By Brian Miller

I begin with an apology for the lack of Intramurals coverage in the last *Amicus*. Yours truly was a thousand miles away for many, many days, (physically, not cosmically) and thus failed to submit any updates. But rest assured, this will more than make up for it. I also apologize if I ever get any of my facts wrong. I usually hear updates on the go, fourth-hand, and my memory fails from time to time.

It was a mixed bag of tricks for the Law School's athletes over these past few weeks. I begin with the successes.

As a follow-up performance to his Men's B Doubles title, Hyung Kim (3L) brought home his second consecutive Men's B Singles title. Mr. Kim and partner Malcolm Milne's (2L) loss in the first round of the Men's A Doubles tournament was easily avenged with a convincing straight set win by Hyung in the Singles final to the tune of 6-2, 6-1 (if I remember correctly). Congratulations to Mr. Kim on a three-title run during his stay at Marshall-Wythe. It's a feat matched by few.

I will add, however, there's potential for company at the top with the founding of what could be a dynasty of another sort by swinging 1L's. "Get Drunk and Hit Stuff," a team of 1L men and ladies, has put together an impressive streak of their own. It began with a highly improbable, and painful to watch (if you weren't a 1L) sweep of the annual Law School Softball Tournament.

As someone who was on the receiving end of one of their whoopin's in the semi-finals, I tip my hat to you. But, I also add a warning: you will field a competitive team for the UVA National Tournament, you

will have the best weekend of your entire first year by far, and you WILL avenge W&M's loss in the semi-finals last year, but most likely you will not beat any of the 16 teams that UVA fields every year. Also of note: you will not sleep in any meaningful sense of the word that weekend.

The winning ways prevailed again for the 1L's as an all-male version of the team took to IM play. As is highly encouraged by this writer, I'll let the self-penned submission of Mr. Pete Flanigan (1L) tell the glorious tale: "The 1L team of 'Past Our Prime' won the Men's B League Softball Championship. The score was close in the early going and after one inning, 'Past Our Prime' was winning 6-2. Due to defensive lapses and extremely good hitting, the opposing team took the lead by scoring 10 runs in the top of the second. This did not worry 'Past Our Prime' because the team had come back from a deficit in the semi-finals of seven runs.

Lead by the hitting of Alex 'I own four softball bats' Tucci and Tony Mingione (who was suffering from a really nasty ankle sprain), the deficit was quickly reduced. Then the sparkling fielding play of 'Past Our Prime' took over, led by Keanan Loomis and John Moschandreas.

When the final out was made by Charles '10 and 0 with this green visor' Gray, the final score had 'Past Our Prime' winning 21-12. Ace pitcher Ross Fulton recorded two swinging strikeouts and Kelly Armstrong walked.

The speed of the team was squarely on the shoulders of Darren Creasy who scored four times. Pete 'I am not Chuck Knoblauch' Flanigan, John Bean, Jared Wagner, and Dave Browne contributed mightily to the perfect 6-0 season that 'Past Our Prime'

had." Ward Griffin, evidently your contributions were enough to warrant an entirely separate e-mail from Mr. Flanigan, who wanted to make sure you weren't left out of the accolades.

Sadly, this appears to have been the only softball title this year, as my squad of "Public Offenders" failed to repeat "Assault & Battery's" Men's A title of yore. A 2-0 start became a 2-1-1 season overnight, although the tie game did produce the single most entertaining inning I have ever witnessed in base/softball.

A bye in the first round placed us squarely in the path of a Mack-truck team of undergrads who disposed of us in something like 18-5 in the semis. Neither did the 3L's fare much better. The Men's B team bowed out in the first round with an agonizing 19-16 loss (in extra's of all things), with the Co-rec team following suit and bidding a fond farewell with a first round 12-4 thumping.

But the colored leaves and 4 1/2 hours of daylight mean football season has arrived in Williamsburg, and here, things seem to be on the up an up. We begin with the All-Star team of "Inherently Dangerous" (to themselves or others?), a team stacked with X-batters from the college and pop-warner ranks.

While I give the 1L's credit for showing up, the 2 and 3L team of "Dangerous" made off with bragging rights in the "official scrimmage" between the two. A seemingly irreconcilably titled game led to an entirely expected result.

Two more league wins, including a 35-6 wallopp, have "Dangerous" sitting undefeated at the top of the league. (I'm not sure if it's A or B, but I hope it's A with the

See Sports on page 10

These are some scary Halloween Pictures



More Clip 'n' Save Marshall-Wythe Trading Cards! Collect them all!!

With Graduation looming on the horizon the majority of 3L's are focused on obtaining some sort of lawyer type job. However these 3L's are looking to some alternative career paths.



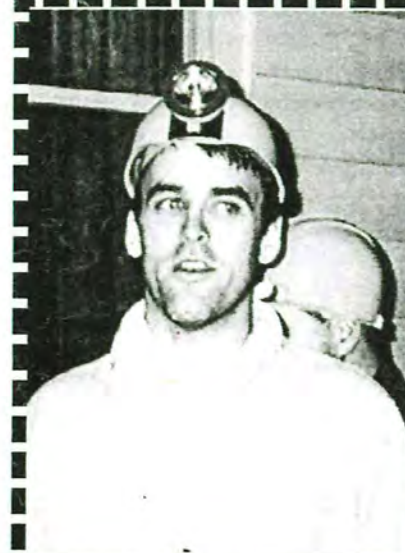
The Mac Daddy



Dancer



Hugh Hefner II



Coal Miner

Calendar of Events

Thursday, November 16, 2000 The Amicus

THE AMICUS CURIAE
Thursday, November 16, 2000

Wednesday Nov 15th

"The Election of 2000"

David Broder will remark on the Election of 2000 in the McGlothlin Courtroom at 1:15 p.m. Professor Mike Gerhardt will moderate the program. The Dean of American Political Reporters will share his insights on this years election mess.

Job Search Savvy: Tapping the Hidden Job Market,

Learn job seeking tips at 1:00 p.m. in room 124. Get the inside scoop on landing your legal dream job- or any job you can get your hands on.

Thursday, Nov 16th

Stress Management Course

Learn how to handle law school stress before you pull out all of you hair and go blind.

Great American Smokeout

Put out your butts and get information on quitting in UC Lobby from 11:00 a.m until 6:00 p.m. Call 221-3631 for info.

Biannual Pottery Sale

Start your holiday shopping at the UC Center with works made by students and professors, after all you gave everyone the William & Mary t-shirt last year.

"Recent Political, Economical and Cultural Developments in Eastern Europe"

Hear Ambassador Caius T. Dragomir of Romania, renowned columnists will lecture at 4:00 p.m. in the Chesapeake Room C at the University Center on his first hand experiences in Eastern Europe.

Bar Review

Don't know where it is yet, but does it really matter?

Friday, November 17th

"Expressions of India"

The Indian Cultural Association will present this program featuring cultural dances, fashion and a dramatic skit at 6p.m in the Chesapeake Rooms at the University Center. Tickets are \$10 before the show and \$12 at the door. Food is catered from Nawab.

Saturday, November 18th

BAR/BRI Property Video

10:00 am Room 120

BAR/BRI Trust and Estates Video

10am Room 124

Sports Law Symposium

Learn how to break into this exciting

and growing field of law. Admission is free for all William and Mary students and presentations begin at 8:30am.

W&M Football:

Take a study break and see William & Mary play Richmond at noon. Society of the Alumni will sponsor a Southern Barbeque before the game and tailgater afterwards.

Reveille/ Gentlemen of the College

If you haven't had enough of a break after the football game, these two accapella groups will present a concert at 6:00 p.m. in the University Center.

Sun November 19st

BAR/BRI Review Video

10:00 am Room 124

Monday, November 20nd

Deadline for early decision public interest and government summer funding for 2Ls.

Applications are in the Applications File Cabinet in OCPP.

Tuesday, November 21st

W&M Women's Basketball:

William & Mary plays Gardner-Webb University at 7p.m. William and Mary Hall

Wednesday, November 22th

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Time for some much needed rest. Don't forget to take your books and outlines home with you!

Thursday, November 23th

THANKSGIVING

Stuff your face with homemade turkey- or just go out for Chinese food. Then sit back and enjoy a day of watching football on TV and trying to stay awake.

Friday, November 24th

And now for the best part of thanksgiving, leftovers.

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Monday, November 25th

Last week of classes!

Oh damn, exams are coming up already. So how do I know that has been going to class every day and will let me copy their notes.

Please submit your entries for the Amicus Events Calendar to Bob Ford (3L), Deborah Siegel (2L), or the Amicus hanging file. Entries may include activities sponsored by law school organizations, main campus or community events.

More Clip 'n' Save Marshall-Wythe Trading Cards! Collect them all!

With Graduation looming on the horizon the majority of 3L's are focused on obtaining some sort of lawyer type job. However these 3L's are looking to some alternative career paths.

Dan Graham

Dan has decided that being a lawyer is far too complicated. Instead he is heading off to West Virginia to become a coal miner upon graduation. "It is an honest career," says Dan. "You get to work with your hands all day and actually accomplish something useful. Besides all that thinking stuff hurts your head after a while so that is why I wear this helmet."

Mark Jackson

Mark has decided to forgo the whole working thing and to just take it easy for the rest of his life. Taking after his idol Hugh Hefner Mark plans to spend his days lounging around in his pajamas smoking a pipe. He also hopes his efforts will attract the attention of Hefner, who may need a successor to carry on his legacy soon. "Hef can't survive on viagra forever," Mark says, "when he needs to step aside I'll be there."

Joe Ligouri

Joe has chosen to pursue a career as a dancer. After dancing in clubs all along the mid-Atlantic region Joe plans to head west this summer to try and fulfill his dream of becoming of Las Vegas showgirl. "First time I saw the movie Showgirls I said to myself 'That's going to be me someday.'" To support him in his pursuit Joe has developed a new hair removal system that has been the subject of several infomercials.

Eric Smith

Eric has decided to work the streets as a hustler after graduation. After having taken over all the action there was on the streets of Williamsburg Eric plans to move on to greener pastures. "Combining the discipline I learned at VMI with my legal education will help me work the streets better," says Eric. "Law school has taught me how to better avoid problems with cops and to set up my ho's as corporate subsidiaries."

The rewards of working **SMARTER**

Win 3-Year law school tuition!

To succeed in law school, you need to work smart. The *lexis.com*SM research system is designed to help you work smarter by rewarding you with relevant information without wasting time.

From September 3 – December 2, 2000, you could win a full three-year tuition reimbursement and more!

Enter Now at www.lexis.com/lawschool

Simply go to the Rewards of Working Smarter banner on the lexis.com/lawschool home page to register for the Promotion. After that, each time you sign on to *lexis.com* for your research projects, you're entered to win! (up to 5 entries per week)

Enter now for your chance to WIN!

Over 3,000 awards available

Full Tuition

Grand Prize:
a full three-year
tuition reimbursement*

Tuition Relief

One \$1,000 tuition
reimbursement prize awarded
every month at your school!

Law Books

One \$100 American Express®
Gift Cheque toward book
reimbursement awarded every
week at your school!

* Up to a maximum of \$90,000. Exact amount will be determined by winner's specific law school tuition rates.

LEXIS-NEXIS Law School Sweepstakes Official Rules. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. You must be 18 years of age or older and a registered law school student to enter. To enter, follow instructions on the entry screen at <http://www.lexis.com/lawschool>. Register to enter by confirming your individual LEXIS-NEXIS identification number, name, law school, status and expected graduation date. You must also confirm your mailing address (no P.O. Boxes) and e-mail address. You only need to register once during the Promotion. Once registered, each time you log on with your LEXIS-NEXIS ID number, you will receive an entry. Only five (5) entries per student per week allowed. A week will be deemed to commence on Sunday at 12:00:01 a.m., Mountain Time, and end on Saturday at 11:59:59 p.m., Mountain Time. *If multiple online entries are received within a one-week period, only the first five entries received will be qualified.* All additional entries will be disregarded. In the event of a dispute, entries will be deemed to have been submitted by the Authorized Account Holder. Authorized Account Holder means the natural person to whom LEXIS-NEXIS Group, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. (Sponsor), has assigned an individual student ID number. Any attempts by an individual to access the site via a bot script or other brute-force attack will result in that IP address becoming ineligible. Sponsor is not responsible for incomplete or incorrect information, garbled transmissions, and telecommunications failures or service interruptions. Sponsor reserves the right to suspend and/or terminate the Sweepstakes, without notice, in whole or in part, in the event of computer, programming and/or system errors, telephone system malfunction or other problems that affect the Sponsor's ability to proceed as intended. By entering this Sweepstakes, entrants agree to be bound by these Official Rules and the decisions of the judges, which shall be final and conclusive on all matters. Sweepstakes starts September 3, 2000 at 12:00:01 a.m., Mountain Time, and ends December 2, 2000 at 11:59:59 p.m., Mountain Time. **PRIZES: GRAND PRIZE (1):** One Grand Prize winner will receive a check in an amount equal to 3 years of full-time student tuition at the annual rate that would have been charged to the winning student as of September 3, 2000 at the law school where the student is enrolled, up to a maximum of \$90,000. Exact amount awarded will be determined by winner's specific law school tuition rates. The number of eligible entries received between September 3, 2000, and December 2, 2000 will determine odds of winning the Grand Prize. (ARV: Maximum of \$90,000) **FIRST PRIZE (501):** One thousand dollars towards law school tuition. Prize will be awarded in the form of a check, payable to each winning student. (ARV: \$1,000) **SECOND PRIZE (2,561):** A \$100 American Express Gift Cheque. (ARV: \$100) The total number of valid entries received each month for the First Prize, and each week for the Second Prize will determine odds of winning any First or Second Prize. **DRAWINGS: Second Prize Drawings:** At each eligible law school, a Second Prize winner will be randomly selected weekly from all eligible entries received that week. You must enter each week to be eligible for each weekly drawing. Second Prize drawings will be held on Tuesdays (on or about 9/12, 9/19, 9/26, 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 10/31, 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28 and 12/5 of the Sweepstakes period). The names of the Second Prize winners are expected to be posted on this Web site on or about the Friday following each drawing. **First Prize Drawings:** At each eligible law school, a First Prize winner will be randomly selected monthly from all eligible entries received for the months of September, October and November. You must enter each month to be eligible for each monthly drawing. First Prize drawings will be held on or about 10/3, 11/7 and 12/5. The names of the First Prize winners are expected to be posted on this Web site on or about the Friday following each drawing, subject to each winner meeting all qualifications and final eligibility criteria. **Grand Prize Drawing:** One Grand Prize will be randomly selected on or about December 3, 2000. The name of the Grand Prize winner is expected to be posted on this Web site within 14 days of being selected, subject to winner meeting all qualifications and final eligibility criteria. Prize drawings or notifications are conducted under the supervision of D.L. Ryan Companies, Ltd., an independent judging organization, or its authorized representative. All winners will be contacted via mail, e-mail and/or telephone. **ELIGIBILITY:** Sweepstakes open to all legal residents of the United States, 18 years of age or older, who are currently enrolled in an eligible law school. An eligible law school is defined as a law school (accredited or non-accredited) that distributes individual LEXIS-NEXIS ID numbers to its students and has a fully executed Subscription Agreement with LEXIS-NEXIS as of 7/25/00. Employees and household family members of Reed Elsevier Inc., D.L. Ryan Companies, Ltd., their parents, subsidiaries, agencies, affiliates and retailers are not eligible. Void in Puerto Rico and where prohibited, taxed or otherwise restricted by law. All federal, state and local laws and regulations apply. Taxes on prizes, if any, are winners' sole responsibility. Prizes are not transferable. All decisions of the judges are final. Grand and First Prize winners are required to complete an Affidavit of Eligibility and Liability/Publicity Release, unless prohibited by law. If affidavits and releases are not returned within 14 days of notification, prize will be forfeited, and an alternate winner will be randomly chosen from among all eligible entries received. No substitution of any prize, except at the Sponsor's sole discretion. Entry constitutes each winner's permission to post winner's name on Web site and to use his/her name, photograph and/or voice recordings for publicity purposes without additional compensation or permission, except where prohibited by law. **WINNERS LIST:** For a complete list of winners, visit this Web site after December 20, 2000. **RELEASE OF LIABILITY:** All entrants release Sponsor, D.L. Ryan Companies, Ltd., and each of their parents, affiliates, subsidiaries, officers, directors, shareholders, agents, employees and all others associated with the development and execution of this Sweepstakes from any and all liability with respect to, or in any way arising from, this Sweepstakes and/or acceptance, use or misuse of the prizes, including liability for personal injury, death, damages or loss. **SPONSOR:** LEXIS-NEXIS Group, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc., 9443 Springboro Pike, Miamisburg, OH 45342. LEXIS and NEXIS are registered trademarks, and *lexis.com* is a service mark of Reed Elsevier Properties, Inc., used under license. © 2000 LEXIS-NEXIS Group. All rights reserved.

AL2000-1

lexis.comSM
www.lexis.com/lawschool

Relevant information without wasting time.

Loose Fish Props to the Propositions

by Dennis Callahan

I wish de Tocqueville were around to explain the intricacies of our representative democracy to me, but in general it seems that there is a disconnect between legislatively enacted marijuana laws and the will of the people. Nearly 700,000 Americans were arrested for simple possession of marijuana last year and of the more than 2,000,000 people who are incarcerated in federal, state, and local jails, 400,000 of them are nonviolent drug offenders.

It is absurd that a marginal issue like prescription drug benefits for the elderly was thrust to the forefront of the national dialog while our national drug policy did not register.

To make matters worse, recreational drug use is a young person's game, so the lives we are tainting in the War on Drugs will be with us for 40, 50, or 60 more years. My premise is that our nation's drug laws and supporting policies are more severe than the opinions held by the electorate, and I offer a few reasons why that is:

- **Sound bite politics**—The presidential debates offered the candidates a minute or two to expound on such wide-ranging issues as foreign policy, saving social security, and the federal government's role in education.

It is any wonder, then, that a candidate's position on this or that recreational drug scheme is reduced to a binary equation? If one does not support an ever-more draconian drug policy, well, they must be pro-drug.

If a candidate does not support sending billions in military aid to the Amazon Basin to eradicate coca crops, they must be pro-cocaine. If a candidate does not back "three-strikes" legislation, they must want our children to smoke dope.

The big nothing—Perhaps the most puzzling aspect of our harsh drug laws is that their repeal seems to offer something for both liberals and conservatives. For liberals, drug treatment is seen as more humane and effective than incarceration; for conservatives, inmates are tax-dollar gobblers.

For the great mass of people in the middle who have no prevailing ideology, however, we fall back into the sound bite problem. Even with motor-

voter, facilitated mail-in voting procedures, and massive get-out-the-vote campaigns, we barely eked over 50% participation in this year's election.

And I don't hold out any grand illusions about those who did vote—most do not have the inclination to go beyond the sound bites and carefully consider the issues. So, the big nothing goes to the polls barely informed and malleable.

- **The interested group without the interest group**—The Florida election would have been chalked up to Gore election night had 5% of the black men of the state who are disenfranchised drug felons gone to the polls.

This highlights the marginalized and unorganized state of those caught in the maw of the War on Drugs. Those arrested on drug charges and their families have not mobilized around the issue, do not vote in great numbers, and therefore do not have a voice in politics.

How easy it is to be "tough on crime" when the concept exists in the abstract because it is the unseen who suffer the consequences of the policy? How many of us—the educated elite; the policy mavens—know personally as many as 1 of the 2,000,000+?

But, this is an upbeat column, and there are reasons to be more sanguine about changing the world of drug laws through ballot initiatives. On November 7th, Colorado and Nevada joined seven states that have passed medical marijuana laws by referendum since 1996.

Only Hawaii has done so via the state legislature. Voter initiatives in Oregon and Utah scaled back asset forfeiture laws and California's Proposition 36 passed overwhelmingly. Prop. 36 guts the state's "three-strikes" drug law, will keep more than 35,000 drug offenders out of prison, and will save the state almost \$1,000,000,000 this year alone.

Who would have believed the drug war would be scaled back, not by cost conscious politicians in lean times, but by the voters when our economy is chugging along? Is this the will of the people? Well...yes and no.

Two points here: First, medical marijuana is the smoke screen providing a foothold for legalization. The

faces of wasting AIDS and cancer patients are much more sympathetic than that of white punks on dope or dreadlocked Rasta bike couriers burnin' in Dupont Circle.

Second, this will of the people is brought to you by George Soros' billions; the legalizers outspent the zero-tolerance zealots 10-to-1 in California.

The common denominator of these two points is that they grab huge chunks of the electorate, the "big nothing" discussed above.

People who don't think about the ballot initiatives for too long don't get past the false front that is medical marijuana and money buys votes. It's a heck of a way to run a country, but at least the initiative process gives right-thinking billionaires a fighting chance against the drug warriors.

* * * *

A Loose-Fish Extra: I have heard the goings-on in Florida referred to as a "shame," a "tragedy," and

a "banana republic" situation. Let's look at the bright side...this is a great opportunity for America to swallow a much-needed dose of humility. The greatest lesson I learned in the year or so I lived abroad was one of perspective. Contrary to popular opinion, with all our military, economic, and entertainment might, the American system and our culture are still not regarded as the ego ideals of the world.

The foreign media and citizenry are having so much fun with our present imbroglio because it must seem very typical of us to be in such a mess. One does not have to witness too many Americans taking flash photos in museums, carrying on chatty conversations while visiting churches, and complaining when no cheeseburgers grace the menus to expect any higher standard in our political debate or from our cherished leaders.

Intramural Sports Roundup

Continued from 6

guys on that team.) Also on the gridiron, a 3-0 effort from Adam Doherty's (3L) squad, complete with sights and sounds from someone who witnessed the action firsthand, "The other team failed to show up for the first game and we won 35-0 in game two. Highlights from game 2: Joe Liguori, 3 touchdowns (2 pass, 1 run); Hyung Kim, 2 td receptions; James Beers and Bryce Jewitt with interceptions; Jason Harbour led the team in tackles and was the defensive star of the game; Mark Floyd (at least 4 penalties) is the enforcer of the team. Game 3 highlights: score of 45-6; interception returned for td by Jason Harbour; Joe Liguori, 4 td passes; Tripp Franklin and George Vogel with

one td apiece; and two key receptions from Mike Wise."

And finally, the 2L Men's B flag football team pieced together by IM stalwart Miles Uhlar (2L) was sitting at 1-1 as of press time. I'm guessing they've had another game this week, but I wasn't able to track anyone down with a score or highlights, so I'll keep you posted. As an afterthought, the Co-ed volleyball team forfeited their first playoff game cuz' we only managed to get two players there.

So there you have it, all of the best and brightest from the last few weeks of IM competition. As always, I can't include it if I don't know about it, so please send me any info you've got to btmill@mail.wm.edu

IN MY OWN DAMN OPINION...

By Chad Carder

Well, it is that time of year again. Everyone is switching into exam mode and getting ready to get down to business, so why should I be any different? Let's get down to some serious business about things in our lives and in our law school that actually matter and need to be addressed. I have compiled some concerns that people have expressed to me lately, so let me relate their problems to you.

Journals

Journals. Good idea, bad implementation. I like to compare them to sororities and fraternities of the bygone undergrad days. Initially, they are set up to benefit both the people in them and those that are affiliated with them. But then something goes wrong. An example can be seen in the fact that a great majority of those who are on a journal in this school absolutely hate it. And if that is too strong a term, others feel the journals could be worked in a more efficient way.

The first problem I have is that control of each and every journal is centralized in a few main people. These people have the run of the mill when it comes to the journal, and basically control everything. First years join a journal in order to get experience in legal writing and because it looks great on a resume. Instead, what they get is effectively drafted into a sweatshop environment where they work their asses off to correct the mistakes of 2L's and 3L's, who one would think by now should not be making as many mistakes in their writing as they do. This is all justified by the fact that the 2L's and 3L's had to do the same thing when they were newbies, so it must be okay. Well, the fact of the matter is that if 1L's and even some 2L's had any kind of input into the process other than working for hours on end correcting mistakes of those who are supposedly so much more knowledgeable than they are, these people might have a better attitude towards the work they are doing.

The next problem with journals are that they are impossible to leave. Normally this would not be such a big deal to me, because I would suggest that once you try out you should be obligated. But what about people who have medical conditions that arise and prevent them from being able to do their homework, let alone work for the journal. Well, apparently the administration here does not seem to care.

Instead of letting people in this situation leave the journal, they effectively blackmail them into staying on it, to the detriment of their schoolwork. Sure, they will allow you to drop the journal during the add-drop period, but it just so happens that this period comes before journal selections are even made, so no luck there. Next, they tell you that if you drop they will mark your record with an incomplete. Now, I ask you, is it really right to hold someone who has a medical condition hostage rather than letting them drop in order to focus solely on their schoolwork? This is not the slacker who just does not feel like doing the work. This is someone with a legitimate medical condition. The school administration needs to get its priorities straight on this one, and if someone has a legitimate medical condition the focus should be on enabling to get their schoolwork done, and not worrying about their obligations to a journal.

People that are on journals should be able to have lives outside of it. They should want to tell people about the work they are doing and how much they like it. People try out because they are concerned about the issues that the journal addresses, and ultimately they find that their passion towards these issues is killed by the amount of work that is thrust onto them by their colleagues. This is not right, and it needs to be addressed. Most of those that work on journals are some of the nicest, most responsible, and most admirable people here at the law school. That makes these problems even more perplexing. Perhaps if the people in charge of the journals were more understanding that the people that work on the journal have lives and problems and, in short, are normal people, then things would be much more pleasant in Journalville.

Before people criticize me about what I have written here, please understand every single one of these complaints I have heard from people working on journals. Do not say I haven't a clue as to what I am talking about, as I am not the one making these complaints. These are direct from your colleagues, who are most likely too intimidated or too apathetic about the process to say anything to you at this point. That should say something about the journal atmosphere in and of itself.

Diversity

I would just ask the school to work

on this. I will admit, the first year class this year is better, but the school still needs to do much more to attain a more diverse student body. Maybe it is my background, as I come from a large, diverse undergraduate school, but I tend to think diversity helps a school in the long run. Views that are imported by those of different backgrounds and different cultures should be encouraged in a law school where most of the student body is white and most are from Virginia. How can someone truly understand the hardships others have gone through in their lives if the school insulates its students from these experiences? The more diverse the viewpoints of the students in the school, the better served the entire school and its students are in achieving an optimal education.

Along these lines let me talk about some of the foreign students we have here at the school. A large disservice is being done to these students. These students come to study here, a long ways from home, and most tend to live in the graduate complex. Rather than matching foreign students up with domestic students, the housing committee, for some reason, groups foreign students in apartments with one another. In essence, this promotes the segregation of foreign students, and makes it more difficult for them to meet people here. Not only that, but practical things such as getting to the grocery stores here in town becomes quite a problem as nobody in the apartment has a car. These students, as well as domestic students, would be better served if foreign students were mingled with domestic students in the housing process. Each would be able to learn things from the other and each would learn about a different culture at the same time. It is beyond me why the housing committee feels the need to segregate foreign students from the rest of the graduate population here, but this needs to be addressed and changed.

In short, the school and administration must do a better job of encouraging diversity in the student body, as well as integrating different views and cultural ideals into our law school society. Otherwise no matter what the issue is, we are only focusing and hearing about half of the story. This cheapens and downgrades our educational experience, and works to silence the views and opinions of many who have important and relevant things to say.

Conclusion

Agree with me or not, I could care less. The fact is I just throw these ideas out there to give people something to think about. If we are to have a marketplace of ideas, let me be the supreme vendor. Agreement is not what I am after. Thinking about important issues such as diversity is what I am after. If you can look inside yourself and think that nothing is wrong with the school the way it is now, then more power to you.

However, there are others who will read this and realize maybe their lives are not the only important thing in this world. As law students we tend to get too focused on advancing our own initiatives and achieving our own goals. Perhaps every so often we should take a time out, as individuals, and think about the things that really matter in life. Just take a break long enough to understand getting that job at the firm is not the one thing that truly justifies your existence on this earth. For some of the students here, that job is paramount to anything in life. How do I know this? Because you talk about it all the damn time, and people get sick of it. Your colleagues get sick of it, your friends get sick of it, and I sure as hell get sick of it. Focus on being a well-rounded, thoughtful, and insightful individual, rather than a money-hungry lawyertron programmed to bill so many hours per year. You might like it. The rest of us sure as hell would.

Want to give us your own damn opinion. Drop us a letter or an email and we will print your opinion on any topic, without editing. It is the policy of the Amicus to bring your opinions to public attention unfiltered. However such letters must be signed. We will not print anything without a signature.

We
don't
play
hard
to get.

Law.com...Where Your Law Books Are Always in Stock.

[Home](#) | [Student Store](#) | [Career Center](#) | [Seminars](#) | [Student Resources](#) | [Free Email](#) | [Law Students](#)



At the law.com Student Store, we have over 5,000 titles in stock every day at discounted prices. We ship every order within 24 hours—other online stores make you wait weeks for casebooks and study guides. Plus, if you order over \$100 in materials, we'll ship them to you for free. Visit the law.com Student Store for your casebooks, study guides, software, employment guides, exam preparation materials, and more.

Visit us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at
<http://store.law.com>
or call 800-628-1160