W&M Journals Fall Behind Schedule

By Sutton Snook

“After several months, we sent issue 2 to the printer today!”, exclaimed a memo dated February 2 from Editor-in-Chief of The Law Review Sara Gottovi, and Managing Editor Cristin Zeiler. With only two and a half months left in the academic year, only one of the four journals has published an issue. The Law Review published one issue in December and Environmental Law and Policy Review publishes this week. Although it is common practice for law journals across the country to publish mainly in the Spring semester, most of the journals at M-W have fallen behind. Only the Journal of Women and the Law remains on schedule, publishing its only issue of the year this Spring.

The Bill of Rights Journal expects to publish twice this year, with the first publication to be soon, according to Editor-in-Chief Rod Ingram. “Unfortunately, we fell behind in our Winter issue,” said Ingram. “But we are on track for our Summer issue.” Ingram added that the board is being especially careful to keep the Summer issue on schedule. He stated that next year the journal will publish three issues, but was not able to do so this year because the Board re-worked the Bill of Rights Symposium.

Ingram commended his Managing Editors Perth and Coheno for their work in making sure the work was evenly distributed to the Journal staff. Unfortunately, because of computer problems, the Winter issue fell behind schedule. The issue is now waiting on two authors, one who wrote partially in Russian, and another whose article was very long. “We haven’t gone to press yet, but we’re almost there,” stated Ingram. Ingram added that it was unfortunate that the Board had to shift a lot of work usually done in the Fall semester to the Spring semester.

The Summer issue, however, recently added an article and the board sent a memo to staff members asking for eight volunteers to do an extra sub-check. The memo, signed by Benko, promised volunteers that they would be excused from the team-read process at the end of the semester and that their work would be considered should they consider running for a board position. The memo added that “the author’s acceptance of our offer cannot be described as timely, but for various reasons we will be including the article in our next [Summer] issue.”

Editor of the Law Review Gottovi commented that the Law Review is only “somewhat” behind schedule, even though the Law Review has published only one issue this academic year. Gottovi stated that the second issue has gone to press and will arrive in two weeks, after Spring Break. The first issue was published in the middle of December. Last year, the first issue was published on November 29. The second issue last year was published on March 11. Gottovi added that while the Law Review is behind schedule now, the new timetable will place the review back on schedule by the last issue, which will be published in June. “We have a great incentive to finish on time because this year’s board can’t leave until June.”

National Trial Team Holds Finals; Goes National

By Danielle Berry

Competitions have dominated the month of February for the members of the National Trial Team, both new and old. The two week selection process for the 1997-1998 Trial Team ended on Tuesday, February 18, when Windley Hofer and Kevin Muhlendorf squared off in Courtroom 21 for the tournament finals. Judge Thomas Hoover presided over the championship round, ultimately naming Hofer as the victor. This year’s tournament problem placed the privileged son of a local Congressman on trial for the armed robbery of his father’s presump tive rival in the next election.

As 2Ls prepared to compete for a place on the bar, many of the Trial Team’s 3L members prepared their own cases for regional and national competitions. Mary Binkowski, Cynthia Cutler, and Dave King travelled to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on February 12 to compete in the Allegheny County Moot Court Competition. Binkowski and Cutler argued the case which involved a personal injury action. As a result of their advocacy, their client (played by King) was found zero percent negligent. M-W’s team defeated the team from the University of Michigan.

On the national level, Mike Friedman, Steve Grocik, Tim Hughes, and Dave Smith represented the Trial Team at the National Trial Competition in Alexandria, Virginia. Attracting teams from 17 law schools, this competition revolved around a criminal prosecution for conspiracy to obtain a controlled substance. W&M’s four representatives divided See TRIAL TEAM on 6

Former Solicitor General Presents Inside Look at Supreme Court Advocacy

By Paul Walker

On February 20, former Solicitor General Drew S. Days, III, Raskin Professor of Law at Yale Law School, delivered the Spring semester’s Masters of Advocacy Lecture at the law school.

Days spoke on “The Pleasures and Perils of a Repeat Player: The Solicitor General in Supreme Court Advocacy.”

The Masters of Advocacy Lecture Series was established last year to honor the long tradition of moot courts held at the College of William & Mary. The lecture was held the day before the 1997 edition of the William B. Spong Invitational Tournament began.

Days personally argued 17 cases before the Supreme Court during his time as Solicitor General (1993-96) and supervised the government’s role in hundreds of others. Some of the more significant cases argued by Days were Yarborough v. Boles (in volving federal set-asides), the congressional term limits case, and numerous legislative redistricting cases.

As a speaker, Days was softer-spoken than one would expect of someone who made a living facing down the likes of Scalia, Rehnquist, Breyer, and, of course, the ever-feared Justice Thomas. Yet, from the beginning of his speech, Days captivated his audience with numerous anecdotes about his family and work.

In the style of a consummate story-teller, Days presented the history and background of the position of Solicitor General, including some of the little known facts about the position. For instance, the Solicitor General is the only high level Department of Justice official who is required to “be learned in the law” (finally, answers about the Reagan Justice Department!).

The Solicitor General makes 99 percent of the decisions regarding which cases the government will appeal to the Court. In addition, as the unofficial dean of the Supreme Court bar, the Solicitor General is also responsible for such tasks as organizing memorials when current or former members of the Court die. See LECTURE on 4

Inside

Moot Court Budget Cut
Beach Week in Jeopardy
Ambrosio Speaks, Again
Free Jelly Beans
The King and His Court
The Nauk’s Facelift

Windy Hofer and Kevin Muhlendorf with Juvenile Court Judge Thomas Hoover, who judged the National Trial Team Finals.
From the Editor’s Desk . . .

The Student Bar Association recently received its funding for the next academic year. This allocation has fallen under intense scrutiny, from both the Student Assembly and the law school community. The Student Assembly expressed its intention to cut off two academically oriented law school organizations at some point in the future. In addition, several members of the current SBA Executive Board have stated that they oppose the allocation of student funds to Beach Week. While both groups have several valid points, they are both wrong in their conclusions.

The Finance Committee recently cut the funding for the SBA, specifying that the Moot Court Bar and the National Trial Team are cut $2000 and $1700, respectively. The Committee argued that because the two teams are academically oriented, they should not be funded through the student activity fees, which are generally reserved for wholly extra-curricular activities. What they failed to consider is that most of the law school activities have some relation to the law, making most academic in nature. For example, the Military Law Society studies the relationship between the law and the military, and specializes in the Military Code of Justice. The Environmental Law Society studies environmental issues in the law. Finally, the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association studies Virginia trial practice and holds a tournament every year. These are all academically oriented, and must be funded through the Student Bar Association, as it would be impossible to support them through funds allocated from the administration.

The College has chosen to fund most of the journals through the Publications Council, an arm of the Student Assembly. Because of their nature, it is impossible for the journals to solicit advertisements to publish as part of each volume. Consequently, they are entirely dependent upon the funding given them through the Council. This funding does come from the student activity fees, but is taken into account when the College allocates a general budget to the law school. If the Finance Committee wishes to remove funding from any academic student activity, then the College must make up the difference through the general budget. It has not been suggested to remove funding from the journals, but it is possible if the Finance Committee logic is taken to its natural conclusion.

Although it is true that the law school receives a larger share of the student activities fees than its students pay, running a law school is more expensive per student than running an undergraduate campus. The law school, in order to maintain its reputation within the legal community, must publish several journals, with each journal publishing several times per year. The law school must have a Moot Court Team and a National Trial Team, and be represented at the respective tournaments around the country.

It is also important to note that the Finance Committee of the Student Assembly has undertaken to micromanage the law school. This unacceptable attempt must not be allowed to continue. At first, the Committee allocated funds to specific groups, effectively denying the SBA’s role in the budget process. The main campus Finance Committee is in no position to understand the budget of the law school, as it simply doesn’t know the needs of each organization. While one organization may need extra funds one year to purchase a computer, it certainly would not have a need to maintain that budget the following year. Another organization may need those funds for a specific project or event. The Finance Committee could not know of these specific needs. The SBA is the only organization capable of allocating the funds in the most judicious manner possible.

After discussing the issue with SBA President Shaun Rose and Treasurer Tim Morrison, the Finance Committee recanted and allowed the SBA discretion in the allocation of funds. The Committee did, however, convey its intent to eliminate the funding from the National Trial Team and the Moot Court Bar in the long run. Their point that these mostly academic organizations should not be funded by student funds is valid, as the teams would be much better off with a stable source of funding from the administration, rather See EDITORIAL on 15.

I would like to express my gratitude to all of you for electing me your new SBA President. I hope that I can fulfill the expectations placed upon me as President of the Student Bar Association in some way, but may need to give this information to the new members of the Executive Board. I have met with most of them already, and they all seem willing and anxious to get the SBA off and rolling on a good start toward accomplishing some of the objectives that we had in mind when we ran for office. Our first meeting as a new Board will be Tuesday, March 4, at 6:30 p.m. (room TBA), during which the new Board will be sworn in by Chief Justice Sciortino (3L). As always, SBA meetings are open to everyone and your attendance will be welcome.

Starting Monday, March 3, I will begin accepting the applications of those who are interested in serving on committees for the upcoming year. A complete list of the committees and their functions will be placed on reserve in the library for anyone interested in serving the SBA in some way, but may not be quite sure about what the individual committees do. Committee applications will be available on the SBA office door and will be due on Friday, March 7, at 9:00 a.m. in Frank Sabia’s (2L) hanging file or the SBA hanging file. I will appoint chairs to the committees during Spring Break and hopefully have the committees in place by the end of March.

Also starting Monday, applications for positions on next year’s Honor Council will be available on the SBA office door. Applications for the Honor Council will be due Wednesday, March 5, at 11:00 a.m. in Frank Sabia’s (2L) hanging file. I will appoint Council members, in consultation with the Associate Justice positions will be filled by the end of March. Interviews for the Associate Justice positions will be held on March 20. Interviews for the Associate Justice positions will be held on March 20.

I also would like to congratulate all the new members of the editorial boards of the various law reviews and journals, and all the new student leaders elected in the other law school organizations. Liz Jackson has requested that I put together a master calendar (of sorts) of all the various functions of law school organizations for the upcoming year (for example: Dinner Dance Auction, Fall From Grace, etc.). I need to give this information to her by March 7, so I would appreciate the leaders of the various organizations giving this information to me by March 5, so that I may compile it and submit it to her. Only a general date, such as the month in which the event normally occurs, need be given. I appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

After Spring Break, I will be posting office hours during which I will be available to listen to student concerns, complaints, issues, etc. I would appreciate suggestions on convenient times when students, especially 1LS and 2LS, would be available to stop by the SBA office. Once again, thank you for electing me, and I promise to serve you well in the upcoming year.

Have a great (and much deserved) Spring Break! 
Sincerely,
Frank T. Sabia
SBA President

An Open Letter to the Law School Community
From SBA President Frank Sabia

The Amicus Curiae
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Editorial Policy
The letters and opinion pages of the Amicus Curiae are dedicated to all student opinion regardless of form or content. We reserve the right to edit for spelling and grammar, but not content.

Letters to the Editor are not intended to reflect the opinion of the newspaper or its staff. All letters to the Editor should be submitted by 5 p.m. on the Wednesday prior to publication. We cannot print a letter without confirmation of the sender’s name. We may, however, withhold the name on request. Letters over 500 words may be returned to the writer with a request that they be edited for the sake of space.

An Open Letter to the Law School Community From SBA President Frank Sabia

Monday, March 3, 1997

I would like to express my gratitude to all of you for electing me your new SBA President. I hope that I can fulfill the expectations placed upon me as President of the Student Bar Association in some way, but may need to give this information to the new members of the Executive Board. I have met with most of them already, and they all seem willing and anxious to get the SBA off and rolling on a good start toward accomplishing some of the objectives that we had in mind when we ran for office. Our first meeting as a new Board will be Tuesday, March 4, at 6:30 p.m. (room TBA), during which the new Board will be sworn in by Chief Justice Sciortino (3L). As always, SBA meetings are open to everyone and your attendance will be welcome.

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Have a great (and much deserved) Spring Break!
Sincerely,
Frank T. Sabia
SBA President

Editor’s Note: Frank Sabia officially assumed the Office of President on March 1, as mandated in the SBA Constitution. The official swearing-in ceremony for newly elected members of the SBA Executive Board will be held on March 4, at 6:30 p.m.

Watch for the SBA Report Card on this year’s SBA Executive Board, coming out in the next issue of the Amicus Curiae.

Did outgoing President Shaun Rose live up to his campaign promises?
Student Assembly Cuts Funding For Moot Court and National Trial Team

By Sutton Snoek

Last week the Student Assembly cut the budgets for the Moot Court Bar and the National Trial Team by thousands of dollars. The Finance Committee of the Assembly felt that the two organizations were academically oriented and thus not well suited for allocation of funds from the Student Activity budget.

"Originally the Finance Committee planned to allocate specific amounts to specific law school organizations," said Shaun Rose (3L), outgoing SBA President. "So Tim [Morrison (3L), SBA Treasurer] and I went and argued to them that by doing so, they destroy a main function of the SBA."

Rose also argued that the SBA is in a better position to understand the needs of law school organizations. The Finance Committee expressed concern that two organizations consumed large portions of the SBA budget, and consequently severed those two organizations and cut their funding significantly.

Another concern of the Finance Committee was the number of participants of the two teams. They felt it was unfair to spend thousand of dollars on only approximately 65 students. What the Committee did not consider was the number that apply and take part in the competitions to join, the help to the reputation of the school that the teams provide, as well as the fact that neither team can afford to support any more members.

Moot Court was cut by $2000. "I was shocked and disappointed because Moot Court does a lot for the school," stated incoming Chief Justice Maqui Parkerson (2L). This forces the Moot Court to look elsewhere for funding, such as to the Alumni Association or the law school administration.

The National Trial Team faced a similar cut — $1700. While Moot Court receives some funding from alternative activities during Beach Week, should fund something which open to any activity with the Student Assembly.

Beach Week Funding Inspires First Year Flap

By Danielle Berry

The traditional caravan of M-W students to the sands of Nags Head after the Spring exam period may be in jeopardy as a result of the recent repayment by first-year members of the SBA Executive Board. The objection levied against Beach Week lies in the belief that the event attracts only a minority of upperclassmen, although the student activity fund of everyone help to comprise the fund used to undertake the activities.

Every year, the SBA allocates between $500 and $700 of its budget to subsidize several of the activities during Beach Week. These funds are used to sponsor the time-honored "Beach Week Olympics," as well as to provide funding for bands and Karaoke during some of the Bar Reviews during the week. Any money the SBA designates for Beach Week is applied to events open to all present on the venture, and are used to defer the costs (such as housing or food) incurred by any individual or specific group of people.

Funding for Beach Week almost became nonexistent this year as the third-year members of the Executive Board vocally opposed the proposal. Primarily, the IL Representatives questioned whether the SBA should fund an event which only 3Ls and 2Ls will attend. As a result of the position taken by the first-year representatives, the $750 allocated for Beach Week this year passed the Executive Board by a narrow margin, with only five members voting in favor of it.

The basis for the first year's complaint lay in their belief that their class' attendance at the event effectively is foreclosed by the Moot Court write-on competition. No conflict existed until several years ago when the Law Review changed the timing of its competition from Spring Break to the week following Spring exam when it is currently held.

"This is a tradition and it's open to everyone," said incoming SBA President Frank Sabia (2L). "If the first-years are complaining that they can't get involved, they should complain to the Law Review because Beach Week has been going on forever and the Law Review just changed its policy a few years ago."

When asked about the emerging controversy, outgoing SBA President Shaun Rose (3L) controversially claims that the SBA should not fund events allegedly open only to certain groups or classes. Noting that Beach Week attendance is not restricted only to 3Ls or 2Ls, for that matter, Rose mentioned that the SBA had paid for a First Year Social during the Fall semester, open only to 1Ls, so that they could become acquainted with their IL representatives.

Meet Master Advocate Drew S. Days, III

By Paul Walker

When one thinks of a lawyer who has argued in front of the Supreme Court seventeen times, one thinks of someone tall, with a strong, loud voice, well-positions to take the repeated abuse delivered by the most arduous judicial panel in the country.

When I picked Drew S. Days up from the Hospitality House, imagine my surprise at seeing a man somewhat shorter than myself and quite soft-spoken. I soon learned the old adage about not judging a book by its cover.

Even without the height or booming voice, Days has a captivating presence about him. I quickly learned that he is an excellent storyteller, quick with an anecdote or response to every question — whether on the law or his personal life.

Days spent his early youth in Florida where the schools were still racially segregated and blacks rode in the back of the bus. Later, his family moved to New York where a neighbor of the family was Victor Rabinowitz, a famous labor lawyer. Days decided early on that he was interested in becoming a lawyer, with the goal of working for the NAACP. During his time in Yale Law School, Days spent a summer in Georgia as part of the "Second Wave" of civil rights workers.

Following graduation and rejection by the NAACP because of "lack of experience," Days ended up at a small labor law firm in Chicago, where he met Martin Luther King, Jr. Days did eventually work for the NAACP as an associate counsel for the Legal Defense Fund in New York. Along the way he served a stint in Honduras with the Peace Corps.

Days is married and has two daughters, one in her second year at Yale Medical School and the other a junior at NYU.

When asked about the current state of race relations in the United States, Days expressed his view that the Nation has taken two steps forward and a large step back. Between the Carter and Clinton administrations, "We lost a lot of ground in a lot of time," according to Days.

He went on to say, "I am struck by how damaging the 12 years between Carter and Clinton were in terms of advancing relationships between the races." Days attributed this damage to the breakdown in the bipartisan consensus that existed for forty years before the Reagan administration.

When asked about possible turnover in the current Supreme Court, Days downplayed rumors of Chief Justice Rehnquist's departure, saying "My sense is all the justices like what they're doing." When I asked him about the possibility of there ever being a "Justice Days," he dismissed the suggestion out of hand, but when pressed admitted, "I would find it hard to reject such an invitation."

Days stated that he didn't quite know what to make of Kenneth Starr's sudden resignation, indicating that he would have made much more sense for Starr to go back to private practice, especially given the bidding war for Starr's services when he left the Solicitor General's office.

Awards such as these may be less frequent in the future if both Moot Court and Trial Team budgets undergo the severe cuts proposed by the Student Assembly.
Law Watch

| Monday, March 3, 1997 | THE AMicus CURiae |

**Publish or Perish: Journals Behind Schedule**

**JOURNALS from 1**

all five issues are published, stated Gotovi.

Gotovi blamed falling behind on the third issue on one author who added substantial amounts to his article. The third issue will be published in May. The fourth issue will be published in May.

Many second-year law students on Law Review complained that they have been asked to an extra sub-check this semester. Gotovi responded that no second-year has been asked to any extra work for this volume, but added that the second-year board has asked the second-year students to do an extra sub-check. Next year's Editor-in-Chief Darren McCarty confirmed that this is true, but defended his action by saying that this is nothing unusual. Last year, the second-years were asked to do an extra sub-check in the Spring. He said he understood why students were angry, as Gotovi had told new members that they would only be required to perform five sub-checks. He felt this was slightly misleading because five sub-checks are needed for each volume.

McCarty stated that work on the first issue of the next volume must begin now in order to stay on schedule. He added that this sub-check was a surprise to the Board and they told the staff as soon as possible. "It is impossible to do five issues in a year without starting now," commented McCarty.

The Environmental Law and Policy Review has also fallen behind schedule. According to Managing Editor Dan Summerlin, the original schedule called for three issues, one in the Fall, one in the Winter, and one in the Spring. While the new schedule maintains the number of issues, the schedule has been pushed back to one issue for publication in the Winter, one in Spring, and one in the Summer. Summerlin confirmed that the first issue returned from the printer last Thursday, and it will be published this week. He added that the second issue will go to press this week. Summerlin expressed optimism that the review will be back on schedule soon.

Summerlin commented that the journal remained on schedule and will publish later this Spring. She added that the journal is currently selecting the new board for next year.

**Advice from the Master**

The Journal of Women and the Law. Because the journal is new, it is scheduled to publish only one issue this year. According to Editor-in-Chief Katharine's Coach, the journal remains on schedule and will publish later this Spring.

Editor of the Law Review Sara Gotovi says review is "somewhat" behind. The only journal on schedule is the Journal of Women and the Law. Because the journal is new, it is scheduled to publish only one issue this year. According to Editor-in-Chief Katharine's Coach, the journal remains on schedule and will publish later this Spring. She added that the journal is currently selecting the new board for next year.

**Attention 3Ls:** 69 Days Till Graduation!
News Briefs

The Amicus Curiae
Monday, March 3, 1997

Urbonya and Ward to join William & Mary Law Staff
Kathryn R. Urbonya and Cynthia V. Ward will join the faculty of William and Mary School of Law as Professors of Law, effective July 1, 1997.

Urbonya, whose areas of expertise include civil rights, constitutional law, and criminal procedure, currently is a professor at Georgia State University College of Law. After graduating from the University of North Dakota Law School, where she served as Special Projects Editor of the Law Review and graduated with honors, she completed two judicial clerkships, one with a justice on the North Dakota Supreme Court and another with a federal district court judge in Atlanta. Urbonya has authored more than a dozen scholarly articles and has delivered talks throughout the country on excessive force by law enforcement officials.

A scholar in feminist jurisprudence, Ward is a faculty member at Arizona State University College of Law. She graduated from Yale Law School, where she served as Articles Editor of the Law Review. She has published articles in the Chicago, Columbia, and Northwestern law reviews. Prior to beginning her teaching career, Ward worked for eight years as a journalist and editor.

New National Trial Team Board Announced
Congratulations to the 1997-1998 National Trial Team Board. Windley Höffer is the incoming Chief Counsel; Jenny Warren was selected as Finance Counsel, Aisha Sykes will be Selection Counsel; James Vann is Problem Counsel, and Danielle Berry is Administrative Counsel.

And the Winners Are . . .
Frank Sabia was elected as 1997-1998 SBA President. The other positions are as follows: Quinton Roberts, Vice-President; Judy Sneed, Treasurer; Krista Newkirk, Secretary; Jimmy Robinson, Student Assembly Rep; Nicole Gayle and Angel Lyon, 3L Reps; and Ian Iverson and Ellen McBamette, 2L Reps. The Honor Code referendum was approved with 76 percent of the SBA voting for the referendum. The SBA constitutional amendments also passed.

William and Mary Environmental Law and Policy Review Editorial Board
The William and Mary Environmental Law and Policy Review is proud to announce its new Editorial Board for the 1997-1998 academic year. The new board is as follows: Christopher Wiemken, Editor-in-Chief; Kimberly Welsh, Managing Editor; Kimberly Levine, Student Note Editor; Harrison Blankmeyer, Research Editor; Lisa Bray, Daniel Cody, Jeannette Meacham, Priscilla Muhlenkamp, and Anne Nelson, Articles Editors. Congratulations to all.

New Honor Code Passes on All Campuses
The proposed honor code passed by a large majority on all campuses. The law school passed it overwhelmingly with 84.4 percent voting in favor. Four hundred and three people voted. The undergraduate campus passed the code with an 83 percent majority. President Tim Sullivan has said that he will honor the students' wishes and will implement the new code.

Patton Elected Student Assembly President
Travis Patton was elected last Tuesday as the new Student Assembly President with 771 of the more than 2000 votes cast. Patton based his campaign on increasing student awareness of Assembly activities and was the only candidate to post any signs at the law school. The undergraduate honor council, however, will hold a runoff for rising juniors as one losing candidate's name was misspelled.

Adrien Wing and Joseph Nkusani Deliver Lecture on Current Developments in South Africa
On Friday, February 28, Adrien Wing and Joseph Nkusani delivered a lecture sponsored by the Black Law Students Association on the current developments in South Africa. Professor Adrien Wing is a professor of law at the University of Iowa and lectures regularly for the African Studies Program. Wing has also served as an advisor to the African National Congress Constitutional Committee and the Palestine National Authority on the adoption of their first constitutions. Professor Nkusani teaches at the University of Fort Hare and joined the African National Congress when it was underground. He also was a member of the Umkhonto we Sizwe, the political-military wing.

Law School Republicans Elect New President
Congratulations to Jim Scott (2L) for being elected the new president of the law school Republicans. Jim takes over for Mike Coe (3L). The Amicus looks forward to seeing the insightful crossfires that Jim so often writes. By the way, Jim, the next issue comes out March 31, so have your article in by March 26!
Hughes and Smith Take Trial Team to Nationals

TRIAL TEAM from 1 themselves into two teams of two (Hughes and Smith; Friedman and Grocki) and entered the first round in which teams were randomly paired against each other.

Advancement at the national tournament was based on head-to-head competition, rather than cumulative scoring, which allowed a team to advance only after defeating their opponent in a given round.

Practitioners judged the rounds, commenting on the participants' prosecutorial and defense abilities and strategies. Smith and Hughes made an impressive showing as they defeated UVA and eleven other teams to advance to the national quarterfinals. Hughes described the tournament as "a phenomenal experience...it was fantastic to experience as close as we can to a real trial."

Although he and Smith lost to Howard University in the round of eight, Hughes believes the progress made by both teams marks "a good stride for the National Trial Team."

Hughes also noted that, whereas many law schools employ faculty members and professionals to assist their trial teams in preparing for tournaments, M-W's team has the luxury of neither, as students alone prepare themselves and other team members for competition. "If we made it to the Final 8 without [any assistance beyond Trial Team members], I can only imagine what we could do with faculty help," commented Hughes.

Friedman and Grocki allied to form the other team representing the law school at the national tournament. They faced a Georgetown team which Friedman described as "excellent."

Although the Hoyas had been practicing together for two and a half years and preparing for this competition for several months, Friedman and Grocki forced them to rely on everything they had as the competition came down to one point.

Among three judges scoring the advocates in eight categories, Georgetown's team defeated Friedman and Grocki, 227-226. Friedman said, "It was disappointing not to go on, but gratifying to know we were as good as almost any team in the tournament."

The Trial Team will compete in one final tournament this year, in Savannah, Georgia, during March.

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Interrupted By Legal Skills

Hughes and Smith, March 3, 1997 THE AMICUS CURiae

By Audra Dial & Anne Mayer

On February 18, 1997, the National Trial Team held the championship round of a two-week-long process to select new Trial Team members. Winsley Hofler (2L) and Kevin Muhlendorf (2L) competed in the final round. After an impressive display of litigation skills, the jury, composed of five third-year National Trial Team members, declared Ms. Hofler the winner.

During the deliberations, a Legal Skills Professor interrupted the competition in order to use the McGoathlin Most Courtroom for a brief Client E activity, a client interview via video conferencing. The contestants, spectators, and the presiding judge were forced to move out of the Courtroom. Judge Hoover, taken aback by being removed from his courtroom, handled the situation graciously, suggesting to move the competition elsewhere. The remaining events concluded in Room 119 and included the announcement of the winner and an awards ceremony.

The interruption disrupted the judge's comments concerning the contestant's performance during the trial. Many spectators felt the move diminished the importance of the National Trial Team competition and the accomplishments of the contestants themselves. Ryan Barack (2L), stated, "While Legal Skills may be important, the lack of respect for the National Trial Team was disturbing."

National Trial Team member, Meghan Muldoon (3L), noted, "The participants put a lot of time and effort into preparing for the competition. It was upsetting to see the contestants hustled off into Room 119 for what should have been the highlight of the evening." Tim Hughes, (3L), also a member of the National Trial Team, stated, "This incident undermined the prestige of the tournament."

The Client E activity lasted less than ten minutes, and students participating in the client interview rejoined the National Trial Team finals in time to see the awards ceremony. The ceremony itself lasted only fifteen minutes in Room 119.

Robin Dusek (2L), noted, "It is important to show members of the judiciary proper respect." Judge Hoover was visiting William and Mary School of Law.

By Professor Lederer for comment.

Monday, March 3, 1997 THE AMICUS CURiae
Questions Presented

Chris Ambrosio

Anyone who has taken Legal Skills knows that the “Questions Presented” section is often the most important part of a legal memorandum or brief. Indeed, the Supreme Court requires that the questions presented appear at the very beginning of the brief, even before the table of contents (I think). Thus, a party may attempt to subtly influence the Court through the choice of words used in the question presented, even before the Court has read a single word of the party’s argument. For example, in the recent VMI case, United States v. Virginia, 116 S. Ct. 2264 (1996), the Justice Department might have phrased their questions presented as follows: “Whether VMI should be allowed, through perpetuation of the good ole’ boy mentality, to exclude very capable and deserving women from participating in the hellsish nightmare that is VMI, although God only knows why the women would want to?” VMI might have responded with: “Whether the tyrannical monolith that is the federal government should be allowed to impose its will upon a venerable, gentlemanly institution on behalf of a few uppity chicks?” These are not the actual questions presented, of course, but they’re probably closer to the parties’ modes of thought than the questions presented, which undoubtedly contained a bunch of legal terms of art such as “intermediate scrutiny” and “stul generis.” (I’m not sure either, but I think it means “pompous formulation of an archaic legal rule.”) Either that or it’s a form of venereal disease.

I have prepared a few other examples of questions presented, although they don’t necessarily address legal topics and quite often vary from the proper format. Also, many of them are rhetorical. By rhetorical, I don’t mean “confusing and wasteful of class time,” which is the normal definition in the law school context. I mean instead “thought-provoking and insightful, offering perspective normally provided by an educated philosopher (or anyone who has consumed at least four or five beers).”

1. If the thermostat was invented in the 1830s, and the current law school building was constructed in 1979, why can’t the physical plant department keep the temperature constant from room to room, even plus or minus thirty degrees? How is it possible that one room could feel like the Han Solo carbon freeze chamber, while the adjacent room feels like the core of the Chernobyl nuclear reactor, circa 1986?
2. What are the chances that Parker Stevenson, Mary Louise Parker, Parker Posey, and Jameson Parker will ever appear in a movie together?
3. If God isn’t a UVA fan, then why is the sky occasionally dark blue and orange (depending on certain atmospheric conditions)?
4. Why would someone put a bumper sticker on her car that says “If you can’t trust me with a choice, can you trust me with a child?”
5. Don’t you think we could come up with a word other than “pianist” to describe someone who plays the piano?
6. Whatever happened to Robert Van Winkle, a.k.a. Vanilla Ice? Did he go back to his old “hood”? Did he return to “the streets”? Is he rollin’ in his five-point-oh, with the rag top down so his hair can blow?
7. If only four out of five dentists surveyed recommend sugarless gum, what does the fifth dentist recommend? Cap’n Crunch? Gobstoppers? Unrefined cane sugar?
8. Why does old poetry have apostrophes all over the place in them, e.g. “the wing’d messenger sail’d o’er the shimmering sea”? Is it to be pretentious? Was it caused by the same spirit that later motivated the creators of Diff’rent Strokes? What percentage of the cast from that show is currently incarcerated?
9. Is Abe Vigoda alive or dead?
10. How about Mikey, the kid from the Life cereal commercials who supposedly suffered internal injuries while eating Pop Rocks and drinking Coke at the same time?
11. At what age is it acceptable for men to begin crossing their legs one knee over the other, sort of like men do thereby abandoning the old ankle-over-the-knee method that seems more masculine?
12. What does “breakin’ offa’ll lil’ som’n-som’n” mean? Does it refer to the process of obtaining a basketball after an opponent’s errant shot and then propelling it down the length of the playing surface with great rapidity, culminating in a forceful thrust of the basketball through an iron ring?
13. Was the Artist Formerly Known as Prince, who wrote Sinead O’Connor’s big hit “Nothing Compares 2 U,” put in charge of naming the abortion pill called “RU-486?” Is this somebody’s idea of a sick license plate gag, or does the name have actual pharmaceutical significance?
14. Why wasn’t the movie She’s the One, by Edward Burns, entitled The Brothers McMullen II: Three Hot Chicks, a Few Irish Guys, and a Whole Lotta Smoking?
15. What’s a “foilie”? Is it different from a fable?
16. What would possess Texas Christian University basketball coach Billy Tubbs to say, when referring to the difficulty of playing road games at the high-altitude schools in the Western Athletic Conference, that “altitude is never a factor, because [basketball] is played indoors”?
17. Is it just me, or is Agent Scully kinda cute?
18. After a person hits a golf shot, why does someone always say “Oh, that’ll play,” regardless of whether the ball lands on the green or takes a ninety-degree turn and sails fifty yards deep into the woods?
19. Do you get a Mulligan every nine holes or every eighteen holes?
20. Are they, like, revising the William & Mary Honor Code, or something?
21. When did Demi (“DEM­ EE”) Moore become Demi (“DEE­ MEE”) Moore? Was it when she started wearing clothes in her movies? Or was it to correspond with Ralph (“RALF”) Fiennes’ decision to become Ralph (“RAEF”) Fiennes? Is there some clause in actors’ contracts that requires them to become unbelievably pretentious the minute they have one hit film?
22. Not to be insensitive or anything, but if Fred Goldman is going to appear on TV every five minutes, can he at least do something about that moustache?
23. Whatever happened to Gary Gygax; the guy who created Dungeons & Dragons? Did he get consumed by a Gelatinous Blob? Did a fifth-level Magic User cast a spell on him?
24. Is it true that Greg Brady and Mrs. Brady were gettin’ busy on the set of The Brady Bunch?
25. Shouldn’t the characters on 90210 be delivering their post-doctoral dissertations by now?
26. Why do NASCAR drivers feel compelled to mention all their sponsors in every interview, no matter what question is posed to them? (E.g., “Tell me, Dale, do you think the United States will take a more active role in foreign affairs now that Madeline Albright is the Secretary of State?” “Well, we been real active in tryin’ to win here at Talladega, and we got the Goodwrench AC Delco-Penzoil-Preparation H-Massengil Disposable Douche-Chewy MonteCarlo Number Three car runnin’ real good.”)
27. Do you think NASCAR driver Dick Trickle’s mother had hoped that her son would call himself Richard?
28. Should I be alarmed by the fact that I can identify, by name, more than two current stock car drivers?
29. Why do people insist on saying “hot enough for ya?” when the temperature is ninety-seven degrees and the humidity is 110 percent?
30. Was it crack or acid that caused Sherry Stringfield to voluntarily quit her role as Dr. Susan Lewis on ER?
31. Shouldn’t the characters on...
Find Free Jellybeans, Vivarin, and Just About Anything Else, All on the World Wide Web

By Alison Rosenstengel

If you're anything like my roommate from Freshman year of college, you like getting mail. When she got her college address, she had to make sure to have every 1-800 number advertised on late night television, because within a week of moving in we were receiving videos from Soloflex, brochures for Encyclopedia Britannica, samples of laundry detergent, and packets of information for everything from life insurance to the Vienna Boys' Choir Commemorative Gold Coin. She was a freebie-addict, and a non-discriminating one at that.

Perhaps it was a good thing that she only had access to a telephone and that industries hadn't taken to the fledding World Wide Web at that point. We could have become a veritable fire hazard under all of the advertisements we received, especially after Soloflex passed her address on to every direct marketing agency on the planet, apparently.

There is the nature of commercialism in America. Companies just want to get you to try their product to get their foot in the door, their name in your head, their direct marketing agency on the planet, apparently.

But as that faced this year, as that faced this year.

Find Free Jellybeans, Vivarin, and Just About Anything Else, All on the World Wide Web

Welcome to the world of alt.consumers.free-stuff.

(If you don't have access to a machine with a Usenet news server, you can reach the messages through a Usenet archiving service called DejaNews, http://www.dejanews.com.) This discriminating group of consumers gather to advise each other of offers of free stuff available via the World Wide Web, 1-800 numbers, and the archaic SASE (self-addressed-stamped envelope). They further categorize the offers in one of three ways:

(1) the pure freebie, meaning that you submit your address, perhaps a survey, via the web or call a toll-free number and you get something of value for free;

(2) offers which require some expense, such as a SASE, S&H, or a free gift with purchase; or

(3) contests. These are people who celebrate Christmas every time they pick up their mail.

In my brief foray into the world of free stuff, I saw offers of all sizes (but mostly small) and the usual caveats about scams and giving out personal information. What happened to my roommate is likely to happen to you if you respond to many of these offers: your name will be on every mailing list that exists. I did, however, find a number of neat offers for free stuff that I found useful and entertaining.

One of the most popular offers which had the alt.consumers.free-stuff gang buzzing was the free jellybeans that Jelly Belly is offering in return for filling out a brief consumer survey in which you pick out your favorite flavors, rate flavors that the company is considering, and suggest flavors you'd like to taste.

They give out only 500 samples per day and they go very quickly, so they've been staggering the times that the offer is available. Keep pointing your browser to http://www.jellybelly.com to get in on the offer.

If you don't think sugar will be enough to keep you awake while you study during finals in April, you might consider sending away now for your free sample of Vivarin (http://mainemail.com/cgi/viv_new_date.pl?dog). All you have to do is send them your address (via a browser which supports forms).

Need antacid? Surgical gloves? A new frisbee with a commercial logo on it? A brochure to tourist sites here in Virginia? Phone cards? Butterbuds? Tea samples? Temporary tattoos? Artificial sweeteners? Vitamins? Stickers? Coupons, coupons, coupons? Check out the newsgroup or hit a search engine with the words "free stuff." Members of this widespread consumerist society maintain links to each other's free stuff pages and you could bounce around all afternoon registering for stuff to pack your mailbox. As usual, be careful what personal information you give out, and to whom you give it. Read the FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) for tips from the "pros" and have fun!

Beach Week Under Fire from First Years

Nothing is planned, there's not much reason to go.

Should the funding be eliminated for next year's Beach Week, it is likely that no individual or group will assume responsibility for organizing the parties or other diversions. If, as a result of such a situation, Beach Week ceases to be fun, people likely will choose not to go in the next year and the tradition eventually will come to an end. "Beach Week is one of the SBA's successes, and that is in danger of being lost," lamented Rose.

Our tradition appears safe for now—but a question remains as to how much longer it may withstand opposition such as that faced this year.

Saba expressed willingness to discuss the issue of Beach Week funding and welcomes comments from the law school community. Although he personally supports continuing the practice of the SBA allocating funds to sponsor Beach Week activities, Saba said, "I would be willing to support a cut in funding if it was the will of the whole law school and not just a few outspoken members of one class."

For this year, pack your sunscreen.

CROSSW RD® Crossword

Puzzle Created by Richard Silvestri

ACROSS

1. Hauler on the highway
2. Capacitance unit
10. 1987 hit
14. Egg enter
15. Faust's neighbor
16. Football Hall of Fame
17. Jocular
18. Celilo
19. Marmalade ingredient
20. Ligament
21. City on the Brazos
22. Kentucky Derby prize
23. Skewered
24. Fifteenth-century explorer
26. Ross's name
28. Dish all worked up
dad's color constants?
31. Jack Frost's
dog
32. Dick Van Dyke show
33. Outtake
34. Syngap.

DOWN

1. Helen's to the Romans
2. Green head?
3. Dinner reading
4. Smelly product
5. Kind of acid
6. Another kind of acid
7. Called up
8. The Egg
9. Dixi Drop
10. Painted woman
11. Smith's
12. Perhaps
13. Thoroughbred
14. Mop
15. Sadie caddy
16. Winter Palace
17. Proctor
18. Motion (1988 film)
19. The Stooges, e.g.
20. It's stamper's
21. Got all worked up
22. Calor.
23. Inner combinations
24. Mg(0,2)
25. Akerahus
26. Castle site
27. H.S. exam
28. Actress
29. Greene
30. They're often paid
31. Play the ace?
32. Swiss waterway
33. Offshore
34. Sample the sherry
35. Log in
36. Piece of property
37. Secretary of commerce
1937-73
38. Snow's game
39. She was
40. Happy Days
41. Book before
42. Nemanjak
43. Peacecock's
44. Rubbish

http://www.jellybelly.com

http://www.dejanews.com

http://mainemail.com/cgi/viv_new_date.pl?dog
Have you ever noticed how things have a habit of slipping by? Maybe it’s senility setting in, but I’ve managed to miss my last two deadlines for this, weekly outing in print, while also now being informed that we’re half way through the semester. We can’t be, I don’t know anything yet. Then again, now that I think about it, I didn’t know anything at the end of last semester, so I’m actually half a semester ahead of myself. Now that’s not bad for about 30 seconds of thought. I bet you never knew school could be so easy.

I’ve been a couple of other things that have just slipped in around the place, too. The big non-event lately has been the changing of the guard in the SBA. Is it just me or does it seem to like too much of a coincidence that Deng Xiaoping slipped from the scene at exactly the same moment as the SBA? I’m being paranoid, they’re totally different — the world could always see what Deng was up to, while insiders tell me that the SBA often doesn’t know what it’s doing itself.

For example, take one of their more recent votes — did you know that we, the student body, subsidize a beach trip in May to the tune of $750? Sounds like fun to me too, as long as I don’t have to take my shirt off. You’d think me if you knew, unfortunately I can only aspire to James Bond’s physique. The only catch is that many of our poorer mortals aren’t allowed to go, only when we grow up into big people (which is why the SBA does us the favor of not telling us that they’re doing it) — although there isn’t space for lots of the big people to go either. So I hear you cry, who does go? Since I have the bad habit of being too lazy to actually do research for this column, I couldn’t tell you, but I have a funny feeling that quite a few of the people who voted for the subsidy probably do.

Why don’t you assert your rights and ask them? I asked (ok, so I did some research) and the answers I received varied from “I voted against it” to “I can see your point, I think I might have abstained.” It seems to be a little like Jesse Helms, everybody knows who he is but you’ll never meet anybody who voted for him.

I’m not adverse to a fireepay, I don’t even need the excuse of a graduation to be honest, but I’m also a sociable creature and like to give everybody else a chance to come along too — particularly when as much of their money goes into its mine. Of course, if Billsburg were D.C., this would be an official profit making trade mission to promote the use of law students and eighteenth century costume in Nag’s Head. Since we’re not, it strikes one as a little rich. And I’d not one of the new, membership open to all, societies that was told the SBA could only give it $50 because it created itself too late. On a lighter note, did you know we’d elected a new justice for whatever it is that has justices? (If you know what has justices, answer on a postcard and bring it round to Paul’s one night and I’ll buy you a Guinness. If you know what the justices actually do, then you’re obviously an insider and can buy me a Guinness). Well he wasn’t actually elected, he was appointed as somebody that we didn’t elect the first time around — democracy in action. If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again.

Once again, things seem to have worked out as he looks like the perfect chap for the job, but a one inch square notice doesn’t count as notification unless it’s the only thing on the board; that’s the kind of trick a husband pulls on his wife when the credit card bill comes in and he knows there’s an illicit motel room on it (but being a 90s man I know nothing about that, I just heard from a friend).

The proclivity of politicos for appointing one another to things is quite phenomenal, but at the same time it’s relatively harmless as it keeps them away from the rest of us. Would you want to hang out with a middle aged guy who called himself Next? You know you’d have to if he didn’t appoint himself to lots of committees to exonerate himself of things. I’m going to go see if Paul is ever plagued by failed politicians, and if he is, ask him if he wants to sneak off to Fidel’s Havana cigar party instead. But don’t tell the politicians — they might want to subsidize us...

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

This week: The King and His Court . . .
At Your Service: Amicus Restaurant Review

The Thai Room Delivers

By Ian Siminoff

We were going to Richmond to see some band last Thursday at the Flood Zone. The plan, made about an hour before we left, was to go to some Thai food first, because it is, and I quote Tim Hughes, "so nice" to eat. Church, the music man, said the band was good, so I was game. He called the Flood Zone late in the afternoon, and the lady told him that we better hurry because there were only seven or else it would be sold out. Church decided, in his typical laid-back style, that she was just blushing, that she was simply trying to get us to come get tickets for the show. Well, she wasn't bluffing.

We left for the show at 6:40, got down to the Flood Zone at 7:40, after getting pulled over by a cop who didn't give us a ticket because he was a trainee learning how to use radar. As Church pulled up to the Zone, I jumped out to be greeted by a hoard of people milling around the entrance. I finally made it to this big-ass building and said with tremendous confidence "I need two tickets for tonight's show." The guy said, "You can't get tickets..."

Well, I didn't know what the hell that meant, so like a shmoos I said "Why's that?" Some dude from behind me provided the answer in a condescending tone, "Because they're sold out, pal." I responded, "Thanks," kind of pissed off and got in the car. Oh yeah, I knew it. I really didn't care because I was starvin' like Marvin. Man could I eat; we were out all day in the Sunken Gardens and on the Parkway tossing the ball around; you know it was that 80 degree day last week. I built up some appetite, let me tell ya.

Although Church tried to change the topic, I could not get off the food. That didn't help the hunger. Church appeared a little frightened, concerned that if we didn't find the restaurant soon, or somehow we lost on the way there, he might be a little appetizer. No worries, we pulled up to the Thai Room. I started booking for the front door. I was yelling "Oh yeah, mama mia, Thai food, satay here I come, yahoo!"

A minute after I had been seated, Church slowly meandered up to the table. My napkin was on my lap, I was chugging water, and I was ready to rumble. The waiter came up, but he looked kinda doped up and like he hadn't showered in a week (and he had some sore on his lip— it looked like it hurt a bit). I didn't care. "Show me the satay," I yelled at him, pretending to be Jerry Maguire. Show me the satay he did. A large order ($8.25), 8 pieces of curry marinated grilled chicken skewers were rushed to the table in less than 5 minutes, served with peanut dipping sauce, and homemade cucumber salad.

All I can say is "so nice." They served it up "fresh for me." The chicken was hot, tender, and a little peppery, yum. The peanut sauce was a smooth, creamy, peanut-buttery sauce, with a touch of spice from chilies and a hint of oriental from the satay. I whooped those things down, skewer and all—well, not really but I did almost bite a finger off by accident. "Man those were good" Church exclaimed. "Especially that cucumber salad. It got a sweet taste, you know." "Yeah" I said. The cucumbers were marinated in a sweet sauce, served unpeeled, cut into salad-size pieces, alongside the satay.

The main course showed up five minutes later. "Hooah!" I yelled. It was chicken in red curry ($8.95) and ginger shrimp ($10.95). The chicken was served in a sauce of coconut milk, basil, and red chili, a little spicy—served aside a mound of white rice. The sauce was not incredibly thick and rich, but rather smooth, flavorful sauce where you could taste the different wonderful flavors. The ginger shrimp were small, yet succulent, shrimp with the shell still on their tails, simmered in a sauce of fish stock flavored with ginger, and accompanied by caramelized onion and straw mushrooms. Very light and flavorful.

Well, it always works the same in Thai restaurants; not enough food. I was starving after that meal. Church was pretty full, but I was ready to fire it up for another round. So I ordered another satay chicken. The waiter watched in horror as I devoured the appetizer, using the big soup spoon to scoop the remaining peanut sauce left after I dunked the satay chicken chunks in there. Church looked on in disbelief as the episode unfolded.

All I could think about while eating the satay was that dessert tray I had seen on the way in as I ran by it to get to my table. Oh lordy! "How about dessert guys?" the waiter asked. "Oh you better believe it," I responded. I forced Church to get the chocolate ice cream. It is homemade and made "with the finest of Belgian chocolates" the menu said. I ordered the white chocolate bread pudding, served with a warm caramel sauce. It was good, especially with a little coffee alongside it. After we scarfed it down, I rubbed my belly and said "Oh yeah, that was good." We took off after a detour to the AlleyCat for Emmet Swimming, some band; it was pretty funk.

Call them up if you want directions, because I don't know how to get there.

Send Us Letters!

If you have something to say, why not say it in the Amicus? Drop letters in the Amicus hanging file by Thursday, March 27, at noon.

TRADING CARDS: The King and His Court

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Judy Sneed</th>
<th>Krista Newkirk</th>
<th>Quinton Roberts</th>
<th>Frank Sabia</th>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Vice-President</td>
<td>President</td>
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<td>Uniquely suited to the position of Treasurer because of her experience working in the business world, don't be fooled by Judy's serious, yet youthful aura. Judy revealed to the Amicus that she is neither serious nor young. Rather, Judy confirmed the secret to her youthful appearance as one involving chasing pigs and not getting married. There may be a deeper connection, but we're not going to touch it.</td>
<td>Although she ran a low-key campaign for the position of Secretary, Krista promises to take exceptional minutes at every meeting. One of the few people on the planet who has devoted large amounts of time to handing in branding cards. Judy Dakota. Krista plans to use her experience in castolling farm animals to ensure high attendance at SBA meetings. Kind of gives a new meaning to cutting the SBA, huh?</td>
<td>A former Air Force man who proudly served the first-year class this year in the SBA. Quinton makes an unprecidented move up to the big Number Two for next year. He should begin adjusting to that second in command position as he prepares to wed his fiancee — a woman whom interestingly enough, few members of the law school community have actually seen. Just remember, Quinton, as in the military, a hierarchy based on seniority exists at M-W.</td>
<td>The King. The Godfather. El Presidente? Frank proved his mettle at the polls not once, but twice, only to be defeated by Tickie Me Elmo in a huggability contest at the local iHop. — Frank lost points for singing Jailhouse Rock while Elmo giggled. One thing we know for sure, the combination of Frank's Italian heritage and law school experience guarantee that he is the man to make every law student an offer they can't understand.</td>
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Music for the Masses
Leave Secret Samadhi and Freak Show on the Shelves

By Dov Szego

There are some times where you hear a band’s album, and you just feel bad for them. You’ve actually heard them do better. They force rhymes, recycle rhythms and riffs, and you really wish that they’d had the self-respect to just not put the album out. That’s pretty much the case with both of this week’s albums: Live’s Secret Samadhi and Silverchair’s Freak Show.

Live, Secret Samadhi

What the hell is a Samadhi? Bands pretty much have a cycle. They start out, and are not very tight. They put out an album, maybe even a good one, and spend a little time finding themselves. Then they decide they’d like to make some money, so they put out an album designed to make them popular. After doing this, they become “sensitive artists,” and put out some pathetic “sensitive artist” album, where they entertain their fantasies of rock stardom.

Sometimes, a band skips a stage, sometimes a band never puts out a good album at all, sometimes they fail to get popular, and sometimes a band is lucky enough to skip the first step and go straight for the popularity jugular (as it were). Live, however, follows the path perfectly. Mental Dump was a good, hard, interesting album. Throwing Copper was clearly watered down in pursuit of an income, and now Secret Samadhi sounds like the artsy disk in the sequence.

This album actually sucks. I can’t find a single lyric that doesn’t sound cheesy, one rhyme that isn’t forced, a single song plot (or song title) that doesn’t seem to be just obnoxiously contrived, or one rhythm or riff that I haven’t heard before. The chord changes and modulations are even predictable.

For example “Graze.” It’s five and a half minutes long. It opens with breathy lyrics and a slow, steel string chorded riff over a steady bass and drumstick beat. The first stanza’s lyrics go: “People should not be afraid, we came to the Earth to graze. No shortcuts to the face, this means you. A child gives you his shoes.” Then the volume on the instruments picks up. The vocalist (Ed?) actually does that “singing above your range/shrieking thing.” Gak. Puke.

Do yourself a favor and skip this one.

Silverchair, Freak show

Silverchair is one of the bands that skipped the first step in the sequence. Actually, it’s arguable that their first album was the finding themselves one and that it did make them popular, but whatever. This is the rock star one.

Silverchair is sort of a cool concept, though. A bunch of 16 year olds from Australia who play in clubs that would never allow them in if they weren’t playing. Chances are, like all young “artists” (actors count), they’ll burn out, but in the meantime, they’re not a bad band.

They lack the tight, seasoned feeling of “older” bands, especially those in the area that they try to extend into on Freak Show, but as far as going through the motions, they do most of it as well as anyone.

On its second effort, Silverchair seems to betray something of a metal/hardcore bent. At times they sound a lot like a band Helmet, at others, a lot like the death metal band Entombed, but very rarely like the Soundgarden wanna-be’s that seemed to be on Frogstomp. For example, on the song “Freak” which is one of the many singles that was released early, they try the wall of sound approach of hardcore.

They get the parts well enough, but they can’t really put it together the way bands like Pegboy, Helmet, and Earth Crisis do, so what you get is a really hard rock sound. On “Learn to Hate” they try the looser death metal approach of Entombed and countless 80s bands. They get a bit closer to that than the wall of sound. They get the vocals right even.

Lyrically, Silverchair is pathetic. But they’ll get better when they get older (we hope). They force rhymes, they say stupid things, their songs lack musical, lyrical cohesiveness. But still, with the level of talent that they have at the ages that they are, they are fairly impressive. And what can we expect from Australians?

Frogstomp was better, and this is definitely no gem, but some people might find the idea of a really young band sort of cool.

And now I get to bitch.

I went to an unnamed fast food restaurant (we’ll call it Croissant Queen) at about 11:05 this morning, hoping to get some breakfast. For some reason, they had already stopped selling breakfast, though they were offering me the ham and cheese croissants they had left. Ugh.

So I asked for a large salad and a large fries, and a large Dr. Pepper. This should be easy, right?

Let’s pretend it was your job to simply take pre-cut vegetables, mix them together, put them into a box, and close it. How can you mess this up?

They managed. The box wasn’t closed, and the bag slid while I was driving. I looked on the floor of the passenger’s side of my car and saw shredded cheese. I’m here writing, “shut up?” So there was this mass of salad on my floor.

The last thing I want to deal with on a Saturday morning when I have work to do is salad all over my car.

I’m convinced that there are two species of people: those that can, and those that can’t. Those that can’t, can’t. They can’t close a salad box, for example. The rest of us can. We can close the salad box. And we can clean the salad out of our car on a rainy Saturday morning. But, we are in no way related to those of you who can’t...
Calendar of Events

Monday, March 3
Did You Get Your FAFSA Form In? Well, guess what? It's already late if you haven't. They were due last Saturday. Better get on that phone and do some real ass kissing or else its burger and fry land for you.

Tuesday, March 4
William & Mary Concert Series: Want to go to New Orleans for Spring Break? Too bad, you have work to do. But you can get a taste of it when jazz bassists Christian McBride performs in Phi Beta Kappa Hall at 8:00 p.m. Call 221-2674 for ticket information.

Hey, Jude! Not the cool song by that ever so popular British group named after a collection of bugs, but a stirring adaptation of the Thomas Hardy classic: Jude, described as a Victorian romantic comedy, this movie is playing at the DOG Street Theatre at 7:30 p.m.

AIDS' Dark Terrain: An exhibit by Robin Tichane at the Muscarelle Museum through March 9.

An Artistic Friendship in Relief: An exhibit by Will Barnet and Bob Blackburn at the Muscarelle Museum of Art, through March 9.

Moody Sexual Experimentation Guy Talks: Kirk Moody, Visiting Assistant Professor of Biology at W&M will deliver a lecture entitled "Sexual Experimentation: Science and the Construction of Gender." In Washington 201 at 7:30 p.m. Lab goggles recommended. Nuff said.

Wednesday, March 5
Women's Gymnastics: vs. Indiana University (Pa.), 7:00 p.m. Where else would Indiana University be other than Pennsylvania? Chris, can you explain?

Want an "A" in Professor Hardy's Class?: Go see his brother's movie: Jude, a Victorian romantic comedy. 7:30 p.m. at the DOG Street Theatre. OK, so maybe it's not by his brother, but if you're a good lawyer, you should be able to convince anyone of anything.

I'm a Joker, I'm a Smoker: Panel discussion on the legalization of marijuana in University Center tideswater A at 7:00 p.m. "Refreshments" to follow? BYOT: Bring Your Own Twinkies.

Thursday, March 6
Back to the Tri-bar Area: The SBA Social Committee continues its mission to boldly lead the law student where no law student has ever gone before. You guessed it, Bar Review at Paul's this week. $1 off Bud & Bud Light; $.50 off Bud pitchers from 7-9 p.m.

Friday, March 7
Spring Job Fair: Commonwealth Law School Consortium is hosted by William & Mary. Make the students from UVA, Washington & Lee, and Richmond Law feel welcome. Remember: when walking through the fair, wear that FSF t-shirt that says "Will Litigate for Food."

SBA Committee Applications Due: Make a difference in the law school, or at least add a line to your resume. Due at 9:00 a.m. (yes, that is a Friday morning).

Ransom: Not what the Law Review is doing with your note, but the movie with that man who can't get his bare butt off the screen. No, not Brad Pitt, but that geriatric Mel Gibson. 9:15 p.m. at the DOG Street Theatre.

Friday March 7 through Sunday, March 16
Spring Break: Known to 1Ls as a good time to go home and make that obligatory visit to the family, known to 2Ls as a good time to start your reading, and known to 3Ls as, well, pretty much like every other week this semester — a good time to get away. For professors, a good break from all those whiny law students who won't stop asking asinine questions.

Friday, March 14
George Clooney Makes it A Fine Day in Williamsburg: Not that everyday in Williamsburg doesn't make one want to burst into song. One Fine Day arrives at the DOG Street Theatre, starring Dr. Ross and Michelle Pfieffer. 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 15
Memories of Childhood: So I remember... hot chocolate on cold days, naps all the time, and my biggest worry being whether that damn coyote would ever catch the Road Runner. Apparently, the Muscarelle Museum has other ideas, and is showing them in an exhibit curated by Bernice Steinbaum. Ten artists were asked to create ten artworks that tell about their earliest childhood memories.

Monday, March 17
St. Patrick's Day: Are you feeling green? Well, you will tomorrow after you attend the International Law Society green beer party at the Lake Matoaka Shelter. In honor of the holiday, we present an A'micus limerick:

There was a young man from Nantucket,
Who came to law school with a bucket.
But after so many days, without any "A's,
He decided to say: *** " it.

(You thought we were going to say it, didn't you — come on, this is a family publication, put the mouse back in the house!)

A Stranger Among Us: Martin G. Golding, Professor of Philosophy and Law at Duke University will visit M-W as a Visiting Fellow from March 17-19. The author of numerous books on Philosophy and Legal Theory, Professor Golding will participate in classes and visit with students in small groups. Bring out your dress clothes, remember your manners, and don't bite for a couple of days.

Tuesday, March 18
Men's Baseball: vs. Norfolk State, Carey Field, 2:00 p.m. Well, we tried to make a joke, but baseball just isn't funny.

Thursday, March 20
Something Breaks Down At Matoaka: Yes, those odors are coming from your fellow law students. It's a Cigar Bash down by the lake. Food and beer provided. 7-9 p.m.

Men's Baseball: vs. Maryland Eastern Shore (not, Virginia, Eastern State — that's our team), Carey Field, 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 22
Faculty and Staff Talent Show: The Black Faculty and Staff Forum presents its fourth annual talent show from 7 to 10 p.m. (you know how they have to go to bed early and all). The show will be held in the University Center Auditorium. For more information, such as whether students can actually attend or whether any of our beloved law professors will be on stage, call 221-2840.

Monday, March 24
Visiting Fellow: Charles Ogletree, Professor of Law at Harvard University will be visiting from March 24 to March 25.

Thursday, March 27
Don't Ask, Don't Tell: OK, do tell — and bring a friend to the Institute of the Bill of Rights Student Symposium. This year's symposium focuses on the military's policies regarding homosexuality among servicemen. Among other featured events, four first year students will participate in a Moot Court argument.

Eat with the Big Cheese: Lunch with President Tim Sullivan. Noon. For reservations, call ext. 1258 or see Gayle Sears in Brafferton 210.

Friday, March 28
Givin' You The Bird: Rockin' Robin plays host to Bar Review tonight. Dancing, drinking, people making fools of themselves (oops, I mean) Karaoke. 7 p.m. until? Tell Me More, Tell Me More?: Grease. Sing along with John Travolta. Actually, please don't! 11:00 p.m. at the DOG Street Theatre.

Saturday, March 29
Men's Baseball: vs. George Mason, Carey Field, 2:00 p.m.

LSIC: Third Annual Children's Fair. Volunteers needed. Keep your calendar open for fun. Contact Nate Green (2L) for more information.

Pink Ladies and Black Leather: Not the outgoing Law Review Editorial Board, but the movie: Grease, 11:00 p.m. at the DOG Street Theatre.

Sunday, March 30
Men's Baseball: vs. George Mason, Carey Field, 2:00 p.m.

Monday, March 31
Another Visiting Fellow: Professor Mitchell Polinsky, of Stanford University, arrives as the semester's last Visiting Fellow. He remains in residence until April 2.
Nothing Wrong with Absolute Power or Donnie Brasco

By Lee Ranieri

Absolute Power

Oh, Hollywood. You've come a long way, baby. Remember when criminals were the bad guys, and presidents were the good guys? Remember how, through the 40s and 50s, a president character in a movie would appear only from behind, as a sign of respect for the office and the men who held it? But of course, we are much more sophisticated now — these are the 90s after all. Now, we show presidents' faces in our movies. We also show them drunk and beating up women. Ike Turner's Pipe Dream, you ask? No, Absolute Power.

I suppose it isn't fair to blame Absolute Power for exploiting the stunning collapse of our culture, though. Besides, Absolute Power is very entertaining, in a miserable sort of way. Clint Eastwood, who directed, produced, and starred in the film — managed to take an otherwise unimaginative and implausible story and turn it into something worth watching.

In a nutshell, Eastwood plays Luther Whittney, an aging thief, who decides to rob a prominent billionaire. During the robbery, the billionaire's wife comes home and Whitney watches as rough sex turns into violence, which turns into murder. After an attempted cover-up, the President's flunkies learn that there was a witness, and try to hunt him down.

All of this is standard fare for political thrillers, and some of the plot twists are too much to swallow. In fact, the basic idea is suspiciously similar to No Way Out, except with a thief instead of a spy. Eastwood, though, saves the movie completely. Not only is his acting superbly fun to watch, he pushes the plot in some interesting ways to make it more engaging than a typical thriller. In particular, the entire subtext of the film revolves around Whittney's relationship with his estranged daughter, to the point that the story starts to follow her for a while, instead of him. Shifting the perspective this way helped to give some depth to the characters, and make them more interesting than I expected.

Of course, the bad guys are almost cardboard cut-outs instead of actual characters, but this can be excused. Given what little he had to work with, Gene Hackman did a decent job as the craven, malicious President. I wish the idea of a corrupt, evil chief executive had been more shocking, but hey — this is the 90s.

Donnie Brasco

Let's you think, like I did, that Al Pacino had pretty much exhausted the mobster genre, Donnie Brasco will show you the error of your ways. Based on a true story, Donnie Brasco is about FBI agent Joe Pistone, who infiltrated a branch of the New York Mafia in the late 70s, under the name Donnie Brasco. Pistone is played by Johnny Depp, who takes another interesting role and does it justice. There's something about Johnny Depp that has Saved By The Bell or "direct-to-video" written all over him, but he keeps putting out serious, respectable work.

Pacino plays Lefty Ruggiero, the mobster who "adopts" Depp into the mob. Ruggiero is practically buried in pathos: he's a low man on the totem pole after almost 40 years in the mob, constantly passed up for "promotions;" he doesn't have any money; his Mafia family doesn't take him seriously; his real family is distant; and, to top it off, he's got cancer. Four decades of loyalty to the mob have gotten him pretty much nowhere. If Willy Loman shot people and cursed a lot, he'd be Lefty Ruggiero.

When Lefty brings "Donnie" into the fold, then, it's more than a business move; he's almost literally adopting Donnie. Donnie gives Lefty what his bosses don't, and what he seems to deserve: some respect, compassion, and companionship. It's the relationship between Depp and Pacino that gives away the fact that Donnie Brasco is not just another Good Fellas. Instead of focusing on the mob, or the undercover infiltration, the film focuses on the characters. In this respect, Donnie Brasco has a lot in common with Absolute Power. Since Donnie Brasco was directed by Mike Newell, who also did Four Weddings and a Funeral, it's no surprise that Lefty and Donnie are the story, and not the Mafia itself.

I think Newell's approach was a good idea, though. While it may not be as thrilling or romanticized as some might expect from a Mafia movie, thrilling and romanticized versions of the mob are cliches that are getting pretty threadbare by now. There's still violence, intrigue, and a lot of cursing, but like every other profession, those are the exceptions to the rule. The rule is long hours of tedium, just getting the same old job done day in and day out. Newell isn't the first director to strip away the pretense from gangsterism (Pulp Fiction comes to mind), but he leaves the characters interesting and engaging.

Despite all of this, Donnie Brasco isn't just My Dinner With Lefty — there's plenty of suspense to go around. Even when Donnie is driving home to New Jersey in the middle of the night to visit his wife (Anne Heche, with another strong performance), you wonder if it's going to be a fatal mistake. And given the fact that Donnie does not convert over to the Mafia, the resolution is inevitable and predictable, but still compelling. It wasn't exactly the pins-and-needles 1970s Mafia thriller it could have been, but Donnie Brasco was still a very entertaining film.

Rating: @@@1/2 (out of four)
Men and Women Hoopsters Finish Out Regular Season

By Kristan Burch

Men's Basketball

After winning five straight games in February, the Tribe lost the last two games of its regular season schedule. The five game run began with victories against Old Dominion, Richmond, and American at home in W&M Hall. This streak continued when W&M defeated George Mason, 89-85, on Feb. 15. With this win, the Tribe avenged its earlier season three point loss to the Patriots in January. By beating GMU, W&M earned a school record for the most CAA victories in a single season and, with this fourth victory in a row, recorded its most ever consecutive Colonial Athletic Association wins.

The Tribe was up by as many as 20 points in the second half, but the squad let its lead dwindle away. During one part of the second half, the Tribe was able to score only on one of its 15 possessions and, in the last ten minutes of play, W&M managed to score just two baskets. It was free throw shooting which held the Tribe in this contest. The Pirates had two technical fouls called against them in the last six minutes of the contest. During this stretch of time, W&M went 17 of 21 from the free throw line.

With less than ten seconds left on the clock, the Tribe led by only two points and the Patriots were forced to foul. Tribe guard Randy Bracy went to the line and sunk both free throws to give the Tribe a 89-85 lead. These two points were the last of Bracy's 28 points for the game.

Guard Terence Jennings hit all four of the free throws generated by the Patriot's technical fouls, and he ended the game with 18 points.

The last game of the winning streak came against James Madison in Harrisonburg, Va., on Feb. 19. The Tribe defeated the Dukes for the second time this season when it handed JMU a 82-74 home loss. The Dukes led by seven points at halftime, but the firepower of Bracy and forward Bobby Fitzgibbons was able to pull the Tribe through to victory. Bracy had 19 points and six assists while Fitzgibbons hit 11 of the 17 shots that he took for 29 points. Six of Fitzgibbons baskets were three pointers.

The winning ways of the Tribe were stifled when it matched up against American on the road on Feb. 22. The Eagles had a 40-39 lead with less than a minute left to play in the first half, and they maintained the lead for the remainder of the contest, recording a 85-67 win. Three games earlier in the season, W&M had defeated American at W&M Hall. With this loss, W&M had a 8-7 record in the CAA which placed a tie for fifth in the conference standings with Virginia Commonwealth University.

Against American, the leading scorer for the Tribe was Bracy who earned 20 points, five rebounds, and two assists. Four of Bracy's baskets came off three point shots. Jennings added 17 points of his own, hitting seven of the 14 shots that he took. Fitzgibbons scored 14 points, making four three point shots.

The Tribe's last game of the regular season was played against East Carolina University on Feb. 24 at W&M Hall. The Pirates led 34-28 at intermission, and they ended the game with a tight 59-58 victory. The Tribe was behind by six points with less than three and a half minutes on the game clock.

With less than a minute remaining, Fitzgibbons made a layup to give W&M a 56-55 lead. ECU then regained control of the lead after Morris Grooms hit two baskets from the charity line to give the Pirates a 57-56 advantage. Fitzgibbons hit another basket on the next possession to give W&M a 58-57 lead, but ECU immediately responded with a tip-in to take the lead for good. Bracy got off a last-second shot for W&M, but it did not go in. Bracy hit four three-point shots and had a total of 21 points in the game.

With the loss to ECU, the Tribe finished the regular season with an 11-15 overall record, ending 8-8 in the CAA. This conference record earned W&M a No. 5 seed in the CAA Tournament. The Tribe played Virginia Commonwealth in the opening round of the tournament at the Richmond Coliseum on March 1.

Women's Basketball

After winning its first game of February, the Tribe lost four straight contests. The first two losses came on the road against JMU and VCU. On Feb. 14, W&M battled against Richmond at W&M Hall and ended up falling to the Spiders, 95-76. Richmond led by 13 points at halftime and used the second half to extend its lead.

In terms of shooting from the floor, both squads got off almost the same number of shots, and Richmond was 50 percent from the floor with W&M finishing with a 46 percent shooting average. The difference in the game came at the free throw line. The Spiders hit 53 of the 60 free throws that they attempted while the Tribe hit 14 of the 20 attempts they had. W&M was led in scoring by forward Julie Hamiel and guard Nekisa Cooper who had 15 and 17 points respectively.

The Tribe continued its regular season play on Feb. 16 when it faced Old Dominion at W&M Hall. The Monarchs beat W&M by 43 points earlier in the season, and the story in February was no different. In the first contest, the Tribe scored 36 points, and they managed to score that same amount in the second meeting. Yet, ODU extended its margin of victory in the second matchup, coming away with a shortages 96-36 victory.

On Feb. 18, W&M was able to redeem itself. The team scored its second win in the month of February. This victory came against UNC-Wilmingon as the Tribe downed the Seahawks, 68-38, on Senior Night at W&M Hall. W&M has split its two regular season meetings with UNC-W, having fallen at the end of January to the Seahawks in overtime. Hamiel led the Tribe in scoring with 16 points, and she was assisted by forward Bridget Wagner who added nine points and six rebounds. Center Nina McIntyre scored eight points, blocked three shots, and grabbed three rebounds. This was Hamiel, Wagner, and McIntyre's last home game as Tribe players.

The Tribe closed its regular season with two more losses. The first came against George Mason on Feb. 21 when W&M fell, 75-77, to the Patriots. The Tribe was led in scoring by Hamiel who hit 11 of the 14 shots that she took for a total of 25 points. This is the most points that Hamiel has ever scored in one contest for W&M. Cooper added seven points, and guard Julie Sommer had nine.

The second loss came to American, 80-70, on the road Feb. 23. The Tribe led the Eagles by 19 points early in the first half and had a 12 point advantage at halftime. Yet, W&M let its advantage gradually slip away. Hamiel led the Tribe in scoring with 16 points. With this loss, W&M finished the regular season with a 6-19 record overall and a 3-13 standing in the CAA.

The Tribe played in the CAA Tournament play-in game on Feb. 26 against UNC-W. This was the second time that W&M had played the Seahawks in eight days, and the Tribe was able to come away with another win against UNC-W. In the 78-63 win at the Richmond Coliseum, W&M shot 56 percent from the floor. Wagner scored 14 points while Sommer added 13 of her own.

With this win, the Tribe advanced to play ODU on Feb. 27.
Student Assembly Cuts Law School Organizations

FUNDING CUTS from 3 sources, the Trial Team depends upon the SBA budget for its entire funding. The Team has begun an alumni outreach program this year, but the plan is still in its fledgling state and will not provide much income for the next few years. The budget, consequently, has a much larger effect upon the Trial Team than upon Moot Court, whose budget is almost double.

"Its unfortunate because the Team helps the entire school," said Krista Weber (3L). Selection Counsel. "When the Team is doing well all across the country, it is unfortunate to just cut them." Weber noted that the Trial Team already functions without a faculty sponsor, so the cut in funding becomes especially harsh. Weber noted that if the team can do so well without a faculty sponsor, then adding one would greatly enhance their abilities. She worried, however, whether the cut in funding would have the opposite effect.

Both teams are already suffering from previous cuts. The Moot Court Team was forced to decrease the number of its members as they simply did not have the funds to send more people to tournaments, or to support any more members. The Trial Team was forced to not hold a tournament this year because of the lack of funding, and can only afford to rent cars for its members to get to tournaments.

Rose commented that this cut in funding is meant to be a message from the Student Assembly to the law school administration. They felt that because the two activities are academic, the administration should fund them rather than having to depend on student fees. Rose added that this is a direction in which the teams want, and should, to go. He also said that the Finance Committee has conveyed its intent to cut the two programs again next year.

Because of this, the overall budget the law school receives has been cut. Rose pointed out, however, that if one removes Moot Court and the Trial Team from the SBA budget, then what is left has been increased, which looks good for the remaining activities.

Rose commented that although the Finance Committee has severed the two organizations from the SBA budget, the SBA is not precluded from providing extra funds to them. Rose warned that this may be dangerous as the Finance Committee has expressed a genuine interest in helping the team with doing so and this may result in further cuts the following year. "The decision to cut Moot Court and the Trial team was political," said Rose.

Rose and Frank Sall (2L), incoming SBA President, will meet with Dean Krattenmaker this week to discuss alternative funding sources for the two organizations. Other schools support their teams through the administration, and provide significantly higher sums of monies.

Student Bar Association Budget Under Scrutiny

EDITORIAL from 2 than having to cross their fingers every year as the SBA attempts to divide increasingly dwindling funds. It is hard to continue to provide thousands of dollars to two organizations, while other organizations must be continually cut, as the law school forms new organizations in need of funding and as the Finance Committee continues to cut the law school budget.

The best source of funding for these teams would be the administration, but the question looms: Where will the administration find the necessary money? With the law school budget being very tight, Dean Krattenmaker is already pushed to stretch each dollar as far as possible. It is hard to hire new members of the faculty, expand the facilities, and support student organizations with a budget that can barely support what we presently have. Dean Krattenmaker is under enormous pressure to increase our rankings, which have and continue to fall in recent years (check out the new rankings from U.S. News and World Report: we have fallen again), with a shrinking amount of money and more hands stretched outstretched to take a share of it.

If the administration cannot find an alternative source of the funding, the SBA will have no choice but to continue to subsidize the two programs, at least until they can find independent sources themselves. Finding independent funding, however, may be harder than the Finance Committee thinks. The Alumni Association is already stretched far, as our alumni base is smaller than most schools. While our alumni continue to help out, they generously, with a very high percentage donating funds, we can only ask so much of them. They already give a significant amount and have taken upon themselves to raise money to expand the library and to build a new wing. It would be hard now to ask them to give additional monies to help support student organizations. Other sources may be law firm sponsors, but this is rare, and the teams may find themselves hard-pressed to find a firm willing to sponsor a law school team.

The other controversy over the SBA budget comes from outside the law school, but from within. Several 1Ls have complained that the SBA helps fund activities during Beach Week. They argued that, because 1Ls are precluded from participating because of the Law Review write-on competition, the SBA should not provide any funds.

What they fail to realize, however, is that Beach Week has been a tradition for many years, and the write-on competition was only moved to its present time a few years ago. The proper placement of whose disgruntled first years should complain, would be the Law Review, for changing the date, not the SBA.

First, it is important to note that none of these students, who are currently complaining, complained when the SBA sponsored a party exclusively for the first-year class, while the other two classes were not invited. To argue now that it is unfair for the SBA to sponsor and help fund an event in which not everyone can participate is hypocritical at best. If these students do believe this, why did they not complain when the SBA was planning their party? Will they complain next fall when the SBA plans the party for next year's first-year class? Do these same students feel the funding for the National Trial Team and for Moot Court is unfair, as not all students are allowed to participate, but student funds continue to be used for the activities?

They also do not realize that the write-on competition is optional. Students are not required to participate in the competition. While it is true that placing the Law Review on one's resume helps in finding a job at a law firm, Beach Week is a sacrifice that one must make in order to have the opportunity to do so. Law school is all about choices: I may choose to attend Bar Review one Thursday, and risk missing class on Friday morning. I may miss the Tucker Lecture because I have a class, or I may miss my class to attend the lecture. I must choose, and prioritize. So the first-year class. Just because the SBA is sponsoring an activity that one may not have time to attend is no reason to cancel that activity.

Another option for the first-year class is to take the write-on packet to Nags Head. Students are not required to write the comment at school, or even in Williamsburg. The Law Review has a procedure by which a student may send in her comment to the law school, and students have taken advantage of this in the past. There is no reason why 1Ls cannot write from Nags Head. Once again, they may have to sacrifice some activities, but this is a choice that every law student must choose, and prioritize. So the first-year class. Just because the SBA is sponsoring an activity that one may not have time to attend is no reason to cancel that activity.

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