2008

First Annual Innocence Symposium Raises Awareness

By Rob Poggenklas

Exonerees, attorneys, journalists, and politicians converged at the law school to express their unwavering, unanimous support for the wrongfully convicted, as W&M Law’s Students for the Innocence Project and the Black Law Students Association co-sponsored the First Annual Innocence Symposium on Friday, Nov. 14.

“No one really knows about the innocent, the people who are crying for help,” said Marvin Anderson, who was exonerated in 2001 after spending 15 years in prison and four years on parole for a crime he did not commit. “No one really knows about the exonerees, and that’s because the states do not want to admit there’s something wrong.”

An afternoon full of dynamic speakers and an evening of jazz by exoneree Michael Ballard acted with the sailors in raping and killing Michelle Moore-Bosko on July 8, 1997. Clemency petitions, filed in 2005 during the waning days of Gov. Mark Warner’s tenure, remain before Governor Tim Kaine. “For Kaine to join in the proclamation of the Norfolk Four, a quartet of sailors whose lives have been devastated by convictions for a rape and murder they almost certainly did not commit. DNA evidence that the scene matches only Omar Abdul Ballard, who confessed to the crime and is serving two life sentences for it. But despite overwhelming evidence that Ballard acted alone, three of the Norfolk Four remain in prison and the lives of all four have been ruined.

Although four former Virginia attorneys general, dozens of attorneys and retired judges, and most recently, 30 FBI agents, have spoken out on behalf of the Norfolk Four, prosecutors maintain that the Innocence Project, works on innocence cases involving DNA evidence. She said the most common causes of wrongful convictions are mistaken eyewitness identifications; limited, unreliable, or fraudulent science; false confessions; and informants who provide bad information. Akselrod said recent studies show that wrongful convictions comprise between 3 and 5 percent of all convictions in the U.S. “If we were going to be getting on an airplane with a 3 to 5 percent chance of crashing, we’d be concerned,” she said. “And yet, that appears to be where our criminal justice system is.”

The wrongly convicted come from all over the country, Akselrod said, including 10 exonerees in Virginia alone. Margaret Edds, who retired from the Virginian-Pilot last year after 30-plus years in journalism, spoke about the infamous yet ongoing story of the Norfolk Four. Four’s innocence would cement an indictment of the criminal justice system,” Edds said. Still, Edds believes that as the governor enters his final year in office, he may be willing to spend the political capital necessary to free the four sailors. “It’s time for us now to deal with it and clean this up.”

State Senator Henry Marsh helped lead the charge in the General Assembly to pass a DNA exoneration bill in 2001, eliminating the need for executive clemency in some DNA cases. “To me, the idea of an innocent person being in prison for a crime they didn’t commit is unthinkable,” Marsh said. “It’s bad enough being in prison for something you did do.”

Steven Benjamin, a Richmond attorney who serves on the Virginia Board of Forensic Science and the Virginia Indigent Defense Commission, spoke of the wide-scale DNA testing ordered by Gov. Warner in 2005. The former governor ordered that DNA evidence of thousands of Virginia prisoners be tested after

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Greeks and Turks Edge Closer to a Cyprus Solution

By Abby Murchison

On the island of Cyprus, political divisions run deeper than the nation is wide – at least since 1974, when Turkey invaded and scooped up 37% of the land. Almost 40,000 Turkish troops now occupy the country, allegedly to protect Turkish Cypriots therein, but in effect damaging the island's single-nation status.

Speaking at the law school on Nov. 3, Andreas Kakouris, the Ambassador to the U.S. from the Republic of Cyprus, described his country as “forcibly divided” yet ripe for reunification “for its own sake, and for the sake of the global community.”

Situated in the eastern Mediterranean Sea and only slightly larger than Rhode Island, Cyprus acceded to the “mosaic of the European Union” in May 2004, Kakouris said. Pre-1974, Greeks and Turks comingled peacefully on the island. Churches and mosques stood side-by-side, and the ethnicities were virtually indistinguishable. The Turkish invasion displaced many Cypriots, making them refugees in their own country. In 1983, the Turkish Cypriot authorities declared the establishment of the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus," although it is only recognized by Turkey. Trade embargoes have dramatically reduced the standard of living in the north. Previous attempts at reunification have failed, as recently as 2003 when a U.N.-designed peace agreement failed to pass a national referendum.

The Greek and Turkish Cypriots need to negotiate toward their own solution, Kakouris said, "in a process supported by the global community, but not parachuted in.”

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Commentary

50 Things We Are Thankful For At W&M Law

By Jamark Woolike

1) Playing Wii in Study Room J
2) The voice of President W. Taylor Reveley III
3) Ping pong in the secret game room while listening to T-Wayne
4) William Van Alstyn's wardrobe, generally
5) Donald Tortorice's monograms
6) Wawa's proximity
7) Motion sensor lights in library bathroom
8) Student-Pancake-House Ratio
9) WCWM 90.9FM
10) Professors who make pop culture references on exams
11) Criticizing movie portrayals of law school for their inaccuracies
12) Saying "I'll put it in your hanging file" without giggling
13) The guy who sings "Get Low" at the Ho House every weekend
14) Making verbs out of various administrators' last names
15) Acting out "From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler" in the library
16) The hair of President W. Taylor Reveley III
17) Jim Heller's emails
18) Java City's attempts at being organic
19) Acting like a high-roller at PSF casino night
20) gutenberg.campus.wm.edu
21) The art in Study Room A
22) Requesting Boyz II Men at FFG
23) The ACS Blog
24) Mug Night
25) Learned Hand jokes
26) Penal code jokes
27) Referring to the "Restatement" without having any idea what you're talking about
28) Davison Douglas's "stache
29) The infamous "crack/poor" speech
30) ELS Bake Sales
31) Rearranging the library furniture configuration
32) Combining Learned Hand and penal code jokes
33) Louis Vuitton roller-backpacks
34) Throwing things at IM referees
35) Naming IM teams (e.g. "Wythe Men Can't Jump" and "Moot Sport")
36) The Library Film Collection featuring The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou
37) Donald Tortorice's Holiday Parties
38) Figuring out Sudoku puzzles on the person's computer who sits in front of you
39) Setting your laptop's wallpaper to the cardozo pic of the person who sits behind you
40) People who quote cases in their Facebook profiles
41) Laura Heymann's Annual Tort Poetry Contest
42) The Batting Cages at the first sight of Spring
43) SBA election week cupcakes
44) AKS as Mr. Marshall-Wythe
45) Fliers on the Front Doors
46) Seeing historical re-enactors at RadioShack
47) Free candy in Office of Career Services
49) Opportunity
50) We, the people

The Marshall-Wythe Press

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Country First

By Robert Bauer

Over the past eight years, we've seen President Bush treated shamefully by his ideological opponents, with the treatment of Senator McCain and Governor Palin being similarly vile recently. Terms like "Chimpy," "idiot," and "Bush Hitler" have been lobbed at our president, while "progressives" made fun of the teeth McCain had kicked out by the North Vietnamese and Palin's son being mentally retarded. It would be easy to throw a similar hissy fit and mock President-elect Obama, but that's not something I'm going to do during the next (hopefully only) four years. Obama will be our president, and I will treat him with the dignity that befits his office. Country First: the level of political discourse in America has gotten so hateful and divisive that it's time for de-escalation. This will not be Barack Obama bringing our country together, but rather the basic decency of most Americans rejecting the scorched-earth partisanship shown by both sides since the 1990s.

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Business

The Blues of the Big Three Automakers

By Matthew Myer

After the passage of the $700 billion bailout package, another long-running saga is coming to the fore: It is the shaky financial condition of the “Big Three” U.S. automakers.

As of October 1, General Motors (GM) and Ford had managed to lose $57.5 billion and $23.9 billion in the last eighteen and thirty months, respectively. Chrysler, owned by private equity firm Cerberus Capital Management, does not release its financial data, but is believed to have lost $1.6 billion in 2007. Such an amount would be stunning because Cerberus paid $7.4 billion for an 80 percent stake in the firm in August of that year. Extrapolating these figures, Chrysler’s estimated market worth at that time would have been $9.24 billion. A $1.6 billion loss would represent 17% of that amount.

On September 30, President Bush signed into law a $25 billion loan package for the Big Three. It was intended to facilitate their retreating for the production of new, more fuel-efficient models. Throughout October, the automakers lobbied to expedite disbursement of the loans. Mid-month, the news broke that GM, having previously sold a 51% stake in their GMAC financing arm to Cerberus in 2006, was in talks with them to turn over the remaining 49% in exchange for most of Cerberus’s stake in Chrysler. But the deal—like so many of these days—was conditioned on $10 billion of federal government backing. And this sum was in addition to the $25 billion loan package. In an ominous portent at the close of the month, Daimler AG, the German automaker and parent of Chrysler from 1998 to 2007, wrote down their remaining 19.9% stake in the firm to zero.

On November 6, the chief executive officers of GM, Ford, and Chrysler, as well as the president of the United Auto Workers union, met with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in Washington. They came to ask for an additional $25 billion in loans, this time to finance required payments to healthcare trust funds set up for employees. A $15 billion payment is due to those funds in 2010; another is due in 2012. Separately, Chrysler owes $7 billion, due in 2013, to a consortium of five big banks, and $2 billion to its owners Cerberus and Daimler.

What has caused these automakers’ massive losses? The beginning of the “credit crunch” in late 2007? Many factors could be cited: strong foreign competition, product quality and styling lapses, shifts in consumer demand brought about by high gas prices, and strangling union-negotiated healthcare and pension benefits. But there are two interesting types of marketing strategy blunders that the firms have made.

The first blunder has been poor brand management. GM’s use of line extensions to “leveraged” its Saturn brand from inexpensive cars with dent-resistant plastic door panels to value-priced “upscale” cars, and the Oldsmobile brand from senior-oriented cars to “Youngmobiles” through the “Not Your Father’s Oldsmobile” campaign, backfired. They only confused customers. So has the downstream movement of Hummer from an exclusive, “cache” brand to an over-played, ubiquitous brand. The H2 SUT, H3T, H3x, and H3 ALPHA? Huh? And furthermore, so has the cross-branding of vehicles in the Chevy-GMC, Chevy-Pontiac, Chevy-Geo, and Buick-Pontiac lines. All of these examples have come from GM, but the Ford-Mercury, Ford-Lincoln, Ford-Mazda, Chrysler-Dodge, Chrysler-Plymouth, and Chrysler-Town & Country crossovers have been similar mistakes.

The second blunder has been a lack of corporate focus. As illustrated by Ford, the midmarket Big Three have been dabbling in “cache markets,” taking time and money away from their core businesses. In March, Ford, to raise cash, sold the Land Rover and Jaguar brands to India’s Tata Motors Ltd. They succeeded in netting $1.7 billion from the deal, but only after having paid $2.5 billion for Jaguar in 1989 and $2.7 billion for Land Rover in 2000. In the nineteen years Ford owned it, the Jaguar unit never made a profit. Not only did Ford lose $3.5 billion of its combined investment (before adjusting for inflation) through the sale, but it operated the unit at a loss for nineteen years to do so.

Current projections show GM running out of cash in the first quarter of 2009. Ford and Chrysler are similarly situated. On the other hand, last week Toyota revised its earnings guidelines for the year to reflect, after eight straight years of profit increases, a 63% decrease in profits. Nevertheless, a profit is a profit. Instead of becoming involved in running the Big Three by purchasing preferred stock and making loans, perhaps the wisest thing for the government to do would be to let the market take its course. After all, any assets or market share made available by a bankruptcy could be assumed—profitably—by a company like Toyota.

From Page 1

A 2004 DNA sampling of 31 pieces of evidence exonerated two more of Virginia’s inmates. Benjamin said that the odds that two of the 31 random samples would result in exonerations were “absolutely staggering.”

Still, Benjamin said, three years after the testing was ordered, only 34 more samples have reportedly been tested, and the $1.4 million budgeted for the wide-scale testing is gone. Speaking for himself and only himself, Benjamin suggested that the private lab contracted to do the testing and the Virginia Board of Forensic Science share the blame for a project that has stalled without much public explanation. “We do not trust things that are done in secret,” he said. “If you are acting as if you have something to hide, then you must have something to hide. We have got to return to the accurate and reliable determination of the truth. We should not be afraid of the truth.”

Concluding the day of speakers was Bernie Henderson, a senior deputy in the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. He explained Virginia’s policies on executive clemency, which derive from the English common law and can change depending on who sits in the governor’s office.

Several exonerates and members of the Innocence Clinic at the University of Virginia attended the symposium. Marvin Anderson, whose parents sat in the front row as he spoke, described his experiences both before and after his exoneration. “You try not to focus on where you are, but on where you want to be,” he said. “No one knows exactly what a black hole looks like. But it’s a black hole with no bottom, when you know you did not commit a crime and no one believes you.” Anderson, 44, said that the 2008 presidential election was his first opportunity to vote—26 years after his conviction and seven years after his exoneration. A certified welder and owner of a trucking company, he is attending night classes to become a firefighter, which he has wanted to do since he was a child. “I am living my dream,” Anderson said.
By Cameo Kaisler

The 2008 election set several important milestones: One of the most impressive was the increased engagement of young voters, both locally and nationally. Many students across the country, including Virginia, faced disenfranchisement in this election. If you voted in Williamsburg this year, you were among the first students to do so. We owe a debt of gratitude to students and voters’ rights organizations that waged an extensive campaign for the right to register at our William & Mary addresses. Many students were less fortunate.

Young voters not only fought for their constitutional right to vote in this election, they turned out in record numbers. In 2000, just 40 percent of 18- to 29-year-olds voted. In 2004, that number rose an impressive nine percent, but still fewer than half (49 percent) of eligible young voters turned out. According to Rock the Vote, on November 4, 2008, nearly 55 percent of 18- to 29-year-olds voted. If you believed your vote “didn’t matter,” consider exit polls, which indicated that young voters were instrumental in Barack Obama’s victories in Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. For William & Mary students and young voters generally, this was a landmark election.

Check out W&M’s American Constitution Society’s blog for more on young voters and William & Mary’s campaign for voters’ rights: http://web.wm.edu/so/acss/

By Diana Kaneva

I became a U.S. Citizen three years ago. I was extremely excited, in an over-the-top-happy, Colonel J.L. Chamberlain-inspired, proud-American-spirit kind of way, completely uncharacteristic of my typical cynical self... I walked into the naturalization office pretty much expecting that “the sky will open, the light will come down, celestial choirs will be singing, and everyone will know we should do the right thing and the world will be perfect.” (Thanks, Hilary!) Instead, I found myself in a facility I can only describe as a dreadul DMV, where one picks a ticket from a machine and waits for three hours to have a thirty-second exchange with an angry woman behind the counter... The culmination: a most-disappointing, barely mumbled group oath, presided over by a sleepy official, standing next to a flag that has lost all of its colors. I hadn’t really been able to overcome the disappointment of that day. Until this past November 4th, that is.

I didn’t vote for Barack Obama because of his eloquence. I stand by the policies that align with my own vision of a humanitarian and civilized society. But I would be a darned liar if I said that his eloquence didn’t make a difference. It made a huge difference to me. It reminded me why I chose to be in this country. It gave me back my American dream.

By Ali McGuire

While most of Marshall-Wythe got dolled up for Halloween on October 31st, Elyse Zimmerman and I headed off to Ohio to lend a hand in the GOP’s Get Out The Vote (GOTV) Operation. The Republican GOTV operation - utilizing volunteers to make millions of phone calls and knock on the doors of likely Republican voters in an effort to get them to the polls – was famously successful ’00 and ’04. We were excited. We were energized. Turned out we were wrong. GOTV actually involved days of mind-numbing phone calls, hiking miles through strange neighborhoods to have doors slammed in our faces, and feasting on what Elyse dubbed “Calories for McCain.”

After four days of frantic GOTV efforts in Summit County, our guy McCain pulled a mere 41%. As I sat in a bar in Columbus listening to President-Elect Obama’s victory speech, I couldn’t help but be affected by the excitement around me. The Obama campaign was a fantastic success: the GOP was out-messaged, out-hustled, and dramatically out-funded. Their victory was hard-earned and well-deserved. The GOP has lessons to learn, and we must learn quickly. At the end of a seemingly endless, 21 month presidential campaign, I finally understand what it means to be hoping for change.

By Mary Rude

Back home in Boston, people think of me as pretty politically moderate. But once I moved to Virginia, it didn’t take long for me to suddenly feel like a “raging liberal.” More than once I’ve been shot down or forced to bite my tongue during discussions on controversial issues like gay marriage. I’ve often wondered if I made the right decision by coming to Virginia, a state that, while beautiful, is home to political and social beliefs that differ so radically from my own.

I arrived fairly late to Paul’s Deli to watch the election returns. Democrats and Republicans were side by side, happily sharing their ideas and conjectures on post-election America. I was standing in line when suddenly a deafening roar of cheers and applause echoed through the room. I hurried over to look at the TV screen; the news had just called Virginia for Obama. I even noticed tears in some people’s eyes. Suddenly I realized that the liberals of Virginia are just as much a part of this state as the “real Virginia,” and for the first time I felt truly proud to be a part of that community and proud of my new state.
It Is So Ordered

By Kate Kruk
Food Critic

On the recommendation of Tom Fitzpatrick (2L) I recently ventured out to Scala Tavenna and Pizzeria, a new dining establishment on Richmond Road. You have almost certainly driven by Scala and not paid it a moment’s notice – the unimpressive façade of the building belies the authentic Mediterranean cuisine within.

After receiving a glowing recommendation, I must admit I was hesitant as I pulled into the parking lot and discovered that Scala shares a space with an arcade and a Belgian Waffle Restaurant. I walked in and found the interior decorated like an austere Olive Garden, and my hesitation turned to grave concern. But then, just as I was thinking of slinking back out the door, Georgina, the owner introduced herself to me and showed us to our table, explaining that the restaurant’s philosophy is to serve their customers authentic food as they would in their own home.

The menu consists of Italian, Greek and Pizza. On the Greek menu, I highly recommend the Spanakopita, which was crisp and clearly made of homemade and not store bought Phyllo, an accomplishment I could write an entire article about. The Dolmades were filled with seasoned beef and a lemon reduction, an unorthodox but delightful combination. Chris Hall and Lindsey Craven (2Ls) both ordered the Lamb Shank as an entrée. They were served pretty much an entire roast Lamb on a plate with lemon potatoes. If you are looking for enough leftovers to last a week, I highly recommend it.

As for Italian food, I had the Fettuccine Alfredo on the recommendation of Georgina. Having travelled extensively in Italy, I can say without hesitation that it was the most authentic Alfredo sauce I have had west of the Atlantic. Brian Spindler (1L) had the Veal Piccata. The veal was perfectly cooked, the capers most refreshing.

Scala Pizzeria and Taverna
1425 Richmond Road
757.229.2583

Meet Me at Wine Night

By Mairead Blue

The SBA, PSF and Grad Student Council are all known to provide ample opportunities for law students to hang loose and have a good time. Every once in a while, though, students take matters into their own hands. Relying on word-of-mouth publicity, these events often end up being some of the most popular, yet low-key traditions of the academic year. Steadiest on this list of ad-hoc gatherings is Wine Night at the Blue Talon. Each Tuesday, the Bistro serves up every bottle of wine on its menu for half the listed price.

Upon entering the restaurant, regulars are easy to spot. These are the people whose lips are already slightly tinged in cabernet red and who are deep in conversation about the latest political event or Onion article. In fact, discussion often determines seating. Want to learn about the diversity of Lodi Zins while secretly stealing a piece of gruyere from his cheese plate? Then Zack DeMeola is the guy to be near. Reds not your thing? Sidel up to Bishop Garrison. A fan of the Riesling, Bishop can rattle off law school vignettes that keep his audience laughing and entertained all night. Prefer a taste of philosophy? Why not ask Armin Zijerdi to expound on the role of nihilism in a 21st century world? Even Professor Hulse of the undergraduate music department makes appearances to discuss life and music with the law students.

Every hour marks a new entry. Tables get pushed together and chair legs scrape against the floor to make room for new visitors. Shouts of “Dimuzio” echo against yellow walls as Matt makes his way to a chair. Inevitably, Mike Nicholas walks in with two just-purchased bottles of the finest reds on the menu. As the crowd weakly opposes such generosity, Tim Polin, 3L, wavers extraordinaire, ignores the feigning voices by popping corks and pouring out another round. Glasses filled with heavy reds and sparkling whites clink above the table to cheer the new man of the hour. 1Ls, who were a little nervous at first to take on such a group, now strongly hold their own, both mocking and engaging their older compatriots. Indeed, Mike Holecck may be giving 2Ls a run for their money with his clear ability to steer conversation towards his end of the table.

In due course, signs appear, indicating that the evening has reached its end. Some of the early risers have already offered their goodbyes. Tom Adams is finishing the last of his French press coffee and Kate Kruk and Chris Hall have stepped outside to have one last cigarette before paying their tab. Tim starts passing out checks, subtly encouraging his guests to depart. But some conversations are just too good to end. Couples linger, debates trickle out into the street, and feet that were eager to enter now seem laden with reluctance to leave. Finally, the last person steps outside. Goodbyes are waved, parting challenges for reprisals the next week are made and everyone goes home basking in the warmth of intellectual conversation and memorable times spent with meaningful friends.
Q. I understand that the National Association of Law Placement (NALP) guidelines state that first-year law students can begin sending out job application to summer 2009 employers as of December 1. Does that mean that I should refrain from talking with contacts I have at legal employers until that time as well?
A. No, in fact OCS encourages students to begin getting in touch with contacts as soon as possible to ask for advice on their summer 2009 job search. If you plan to apply for a position at your contacts place of employment on or after December 1, be sure to ask the question “What qualifications and skills does your firm/organization/agency look for in candidates?” Then, be sure to pitch your resume and cover letter accordingly. Most importantly, ask your contact if you can use his/her name as a referral in your cover letter if you plan on applying to his/her employer.

Q. What can I do to move my job search forward over winter break?
A. Winter break is an optimal time to set up meetings (either face to face or by phone) with either contacts you have through your personal network or new contacts you have found through your research on the William & Mary Alumni Directory, your undergraduate institution’s alumni directory or other sources. OCS can provide tips on how to go about setting up these meetings. There are also some excellent handouts in OCS Resources for Students on Blackboard under “Networking.” Additionally, when attending gatherings of family and friends over the holidays, be sure to let everyone know that you are seeking a legal summer 2009 internship.

When friends and family ask “How are you?” be sure to formulate a couple of “talking points” that include your law school experience thus far and what kind of summer internship you are looking for. If you do so, you will find that people will make reference to individuals they know that you should talk to… and there you go… another contact!

Q. I have no idea what I would like to do with my law degree once I graduate. How do I figure out which legal career is the best fit for me?
A. By the time you finish the first year of law school, it's best if you have determined which legal career choices you are most interested in pursuing. Otherwise, it's more difficult to focus your job search. You can spend the summer after your 1L year doing legal work in a setting that is not necessarily related to your post-graduate career goal. However, before you begin your job search for your 2L summer (which, for many of you, will begin almost one year in advance), you need to have narrowed down your career choices. How do you do so?
There are some excellent exercises in the Career Planning Manual (Perspectives in Career Planning section) that will provide you with insight into your interests, skills and values. The results of these exercises can then be matched to certain law careers. There is also a “Making Career Choices” workshop in January 2009 for students who would like assistance in this area. There are several publications in the OCS library that are very helpful as well. Finally, and most importantly, we recommend that students meet with one of the deans in OCS to assist with this decision making process.

Point-Counter Point:

By Ryan Ruzic and Paul Spadafora

Ryan: I am confident the law library is destroying our lives.
Paul: I appreciate the utility of writing this over a pint at the Leafe, but I still don’t see why we couldn’t do this in the library. I had taken over a table and everything.
Ryan: Exactly my point. The library slowly and surely corrupts us, seeping, oozing, into everything we do. Before we even realize, we’re slaves to the library. Mindless zombies marching through its gaping maw, watching helplessly as all that made us interesting, nay, people, is stripped from us.
Paul: Not true. I spend most of the day in the library, and I think I have something that approximates a “life.” (They’re still calling it that these days, right?)
Ryan: Sure, you think that now. But one day, you’ll look in the mirror, and staring back will be a 50-year-old man, his life wasted, his family gone, his job a hellish train ride of relentless banality. Then you’ll realize your very soul is absent.
Paul: I’m at my best when surrounded by the never-ending rows of federal reporters. Nothing breaks the fetters that bind the mind like oppressive walls of endless, endless beige.
Ryan: -Missing! Sold for a fleeting chance at wealth that we’ll never see, never enjoy and never even have a moment to spend. You’ll still be in the freaking library. Face it Paul, the library is a vicious hell pit, a tartarian abyss that consumes the souls of law students, leaving them empty husks.
Paul: (not even listening to Ryan anymore) … don’t let the beige fool you. Those federal reporters are a cornucopia of individuality! For instance, 113 F.2d asked me to cite him as

“Steve” in my memo…
Ryan: Surely the dark gods of ages past marvel at the perfect horror that is the vacuous, stygian life-destruction death engine we call the library!
Paul: You know, like “McCarthy v. Franklin, Steve, 254, 262.”
Ryan: Have you seen the eyes of our fellow students? Those who spend all their time in the library? They have the eyes of dolls: life sapped, personality discarded, essence tortured away unto nothingness.
Paul: Sometimes, I feel that Steve is the only one who really gets me here, you know? He knows my pain. He feels my pain.
Ryan: I swear, were the library closed for but one day, you would find them congregating in the dark woods behind the law school, sacrificing source books to hungry gods. Ia! Ia! Law Library Fhtagn!
Paul: … Not all of them are as
true selling points. Also in Virginia, both the Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General are Republicans, meaning that the usual scenario wherein the Democrat Lieutenant Governor faces off against the Republican Attorney General for Governor won't be the case in 2009. If Terry McAuliffe, former head of the Democratic National Committee, runs for the position as he's indicated he might, the Commonwealth will once again receive major election coverage, especially as very few major offices are in play during such an off-year. Whatever happens, political junkies will be thrilled.

As for the rest of us, I think we deserve a well-earned respite from electioneering until at the earliest, Inauguration Day. That, at least, would be change we can believe in.

Car Pool Ride Board!
Want to car pool home for vacation or to your next interview? Check out http://www.people.wm.edu/site/postenlaw/society.
Add a comment with your name, contact info, destination and dates you want to travel. Or look to see what others have posted and find a friend to ride with.
Brought to you by ELS. Send all questions to info@people.wm.edu

Join ELS and ACS for a Drive-In Movie!
WHAT: The Environmental Law Society and ACS are teaming up to bring you Disney's animated film WALL-E, drive-in style!
WHERE: Wednesday, Nov. 19 at 6:30pm.
WHERE: Law School parking lot.
We'll be projecting the film on a big white sheet, snacking on s'mores, and pondering the future of our planet. Bring a chair or blanket. It may be a drive-in, but it's more fun if you're out of your car.

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From Page 1.
The time is right, Kouris urged. Since partial lifting of north-south travel restrictions in 2003, there have been "13 million incident-free crossings, debunking the myth that reunification will breed conflict." Furthermore, he said, "For the first time in forty years, there are conciliatory leaders on both sides who are committed to a solution."

Despite Turkey's continued push for no less than a two-state solution, authorities in Cyprus are "looking to enter into a marriage, not negotiating what they'll get out of a divorce," Kouris said.

"The whole international community is calling for the two sides to reunite under a single federation, with one sovereignty, one citizenship, and one international personality," Kouris added.

Reunification of Cyprus would have profound global impact, Kouris argued. It would enable Turkey's own accession to the E.U., bringing "Christian and Muslim populations peaceably under one roof." America, Great Britain, and other European nations have an interest in bringing Turkey into the E.U. fold: "Turkey is seen as a secular, Muslim democracy. As part of the European Union, Turkey could help stabilize the bordering Middle East."

As Kouris put it, "Turkey's path toward the European Union runs through Cyprus."

"Cyprus is the E.U.'s lighthouse in the eastern Mediterranean," Kouris observed. "Solution to the Cyprus problem would let the lighthouse beam shine in 360 degrees, guiding American and European efforts in combating terrorism and bringing peace to the Middle East."

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encouraging as Steve. Take Sue, for instance (I think you'd know her as "239 F.2d."). Whenever I pass her, she keeps whispering to me that I'm inadequate as both an attorney and a person. Ryan: Ph'ngugh mglw'na th law library wg'ag nag fitagh! That which is dead can eternal- Paul... Paul your eyes look like they're screaming.

Paul: What?
Ryan: Your eyes... they look like they're screaming.

Paul: Hab-hah, Ryan. You are a funny guy. A. Funny. Guy. I am laughing so hard I am crying!

Ryan: But... but you're not laughing. You're just crying.

Paul: Truly, you slay me! How could these tears be anything but mirthful? Big, mirthful, crocodile tears?

Ryan: Do you need anything? Soda? Blanket?

Paul: Could you get me freedom? From these pulpy, card-catalogued chains that bind me?

Ryan: Paul, are you asking me to kill you?

Paul: Well, I wasn't... but if you've got some free time...?

Ryan: No, Paul, no I'm not going to kill you.

Paul: Aw, Dang.
By Elyse Zimmerman

Originally, Bishop and I had planned on doing an election night play-by-play about each of our experiences for the night, but there seemed to be too many other important ideas to address. As some of you know, I was in Ohio campaigning for the McCain folks...so the final night was bittersweet. Obviously it was difficult, because we had worked very hard and suffered a pretty crushing loss. However, even for us Republicans, it was a proud moment for this country to see Obama accepting the title of President-Elect, as the first African-American to do so.

It was also a very humbling experience to watch Senator McCain accept defeat so graciously and urge the country to come together under Obama and actually affect the change for which we are all so desperate. I truly hope that the message Obama has brought to the electorate will become substantive as he is in office. The promises to bring Republicans and Democrats together, to challenge the status-quo, to turn the economy around, to help the middle class, and to bring a peaceful and graceful exit from Iraq while keeping this country safe from attack; those are challenges that he will face. And I can honestly say that I do want him to meet these.

Too many campaigns are won with false promises, but with generally some experience to back it up. Here a campaign was run entirely on a message of promise, or “hope” as it was branded by the incredibly organized and successful campaign. Therefore, Obama has to deliver, and he must deliver big. So far, his plan seems to be impressive and quick. And even the “liberal elite media” is giving props to President Bush for his administration’s willingness to train and work with Obama and his aides to get them up to speed. My guess is that it is more because President Bush cannot wait to get the hell out of Washington just as much as everyone else cannot wait to get him out, but whatever the source of this efficiency, it looks to be a fairly smooth transition, given the pretty bleak circumstances.

What will be interesting for this Republican girl to see is the inevitable disappointment that many who “believed” in Obama will suffer. Chances are, he will have to govern from the center, and will need to be a moderate leader. As we also saw on Election Day, America is still fairly conservative. California, Florida and Arkansas passed laws that by any definition are still very traditional. And they passed by a fair margin. This proves that America talks a big game on progression, but they might not be willing to act on it quite yet. America is still a nation of baby steps to progression. In order to be an effective leader, Obama will need to slowly hold the hand of the American public as they make these baby steps. Americans pretend to be ready for a giant leap, but they are not. I sense disappointment from the left much more than anger on the right as Obama tries to make these baby steps. And so the struggle continues, which to me does not seem like much of a change.

By Bishop Garrison

I'm not going to give you five hundred words of rhetoric, preaching on the future or hope or change or any other theme pushed forward at the outset of the 21-month-long entanglement that was the Presidential Race. Nor will I spout any claims of victory. I feel that considering the current state of affairs domestically and abroad we are far beyond what I view as superficial speeches and partisan grudges. Now, granted, it can be argued that it is easier for me to speak on "building bridges" and "coming together" because the horse I backed won the race. What I will say to that plan within that administration's platform. Hell, you might just hate the person for any general reasons that are of your own concern. The Constitution gives you every right to those beliefs and choices. With all of that said, however, that individual is still President of the United States.

Please understand, I'm not asking anyone to censor what they say. This isn't the former Soviet Union. I just wonder at times what a person plans to achieve by referring to an individual who holds such a respected position as an idiot, dufus, socialist, terrorist or any other far-reaching moniker that can be utilized as a label for the outgoing or incoming Presidents. If you want to make fun of Socialism, I say head to France. If you don't care for the American political process, why not try out life with our Canadian friends to the north? Though, you'll have to learn French and eat lots of aged cheese, or develop at least an understanding of hockey and referring to individuals as "hoser"; I'm not a fan of either idea. My point: this is America. It's far from perfect socially, politically or otherwise. Eight years and one race haven't begun to change that. But in my heart of hearts I believe that it's the best system in the world and I proudly stand behind its accomplishments and as a representative of it taking responsibility for its failures. By all means, dissent if you want, but let's do it in a meaningful, respectful way. If you feel as though you can't do that because of a race you feel so strongly about, then, my friends, Canada even has a French-Canadian region. If you're lucky, they may be taking applications for residency.