2009


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BLSA Named National Chapter of the Year

By Jamilah LeCruise

For the first time in William and Mary’s history, the W.C. Jefferson Chapter of the Black Law Students Association won the National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA) Chapter of the Year Award, making it the best in the nation.

The competition took place at the 41st Annual National NBLSA Conference in Irvine, California, March 18-22. Celebrating another first, in February the chapter won the Mid-Atlantic (MABLSA) Region of the Year Award which was a prerequisite for competing at the national level.

ILS Tamar Jones, Danchai Mekadenaumpong, and Jamilah LeCruise attended the conference as delegates in order vote on national initiatives, participate in leadership workshops, and elect the new executive board for the 2009-2010 academic year. During this past year, Chris Ray (2L) served as the president Latoya Asia (3L) and newly elected president Myron McClees (2L) attended.

In competing against the winning chapters from the Southern, Midwestern, Western, Northeastern, and Rocky Mountain Region, the W.C. Jefferson chapter was judged on several criteria. Community service, academic and IL support, political awareness, college student outreach, professional events, and social programs were all areas in which the chapter was judged. Furthermore, the chapter received points for an interview with Latoya Asia and a scrapbook created by chapter members.

The chapter was praised for its diversity of programs which included a Thanksgiving basket competition with legal firms, its work with the LSAC Minority Recruitment program, an exam workshop for ILS, election protection training, the 21st Annual Law Day for prospective students, business card drives, and student-faculty mixers.

Last year’s winner was the Harvard Law chapter of BLSA, a school with a one million dollar endowment specifically given to the organization.

Outgoing president Latoya Asia and incoming president Myron McClees accepted the award on behalf of the chapter at an awards gala on Saturday evening.

Jennifer Bacon also accepted the Award for the Most Improved Region. In her capacity as MABLSA chair, she oversaw the progress of 28 chapters in the Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and Washington, D.C. area.

The chapter has recently elected a new executive board for the 2009-2010 year and they are already thinking ahead to next March. “We can only go up from here. We plan to make as many improvements as possible and will continue to meet the needs of our chapter and community,” said Myron McClees.

Election Law Symposium Addresses Rise in Election Litigation

By Abby Murchison

The rate of election law litigation has more than doubled nationwide since the Bush v. Gore recount in 2000, and more of that litigation is being fought in federal courts, according to a study by Richard Hasen of Loyola Law School. On March 20, a panel of election experts offered insight into this phenomenon as part of W&M’s third annual Election Law Symposium on “Campaigning in the Courts: The Rise of Election Litigation.” The panelists included Robert Bauer, Benjamin Ginsberg, Terry Nelson, and Susan Swecker.

Panelist and political operative - Terry Nelson remembered that before 2000, election lawyers did little more than “offer general tips and legal advice to campaigns during what was a sleepy weekend before an election.” By contrast, election lawyers today exhibit “almost obsessive concern for how laws might affect campaigns; and they do so months in advance,” Nelson said.

“Lawyers now doggedly analyze possible legal issues in each state, and they prepare briefs to file at a moment’s notice...It’s like a policy of “No Lawyer Left Behind” on Election Day,” Nelson quipped.

Panelist Robert Bauer, who served as general counsel for Barack Obama’s presidential campaign, attributed the rise in election litigation to a tension between democratic and republican voting concerns — and the legislature’s inability to reach a consensus. “One of the reasons courts have been thrust into the role of resolving election disputes is because the other branches of government have had difficulty coming to terms with the divide between the democratic party’s concern for protecting access to the vote, and the republican party’s concern for protecting the integrity of the election process by minimizing fraud,” Bauer said. “The political parties are stuck in fundamental disagreement about how to improve the voting process, so they must look for recourse in the non-partisan courts,” Bauer said. In adjudicating election disputes, however, Bauer warned that courts “need to resist looking drawn into a political storm.”

While the panelists expressed confidence in the legitimacy of judicial resolutions of election disputes, they noted how litigation can undermine the voting process. Pre-election litigation detracts from the candidate’s main mission, Bauer commented: “A political campaign is not well served by having an enormous amount

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Dean Search Ends On Home Front

By Robert Bauer

When Taylor Reveley was appointed President of the College of William & Mary, Marshall-Wythe began its search for a new permanent dean. Interviewing over 100 applicants, the Dean Search Committee narrowed its list down to six finalists; these six were professors and current and former deans from a variety of schools, including our own, and each spoke at the law school earlier this semester. The Marshall-Wythe Press covered each of these presentations in our previous two issues with the goal that students would be better informed about the search and give their informed opinion to the Dean Search Committee for their recommendation to President Reveley. On March 20th the decision was reached, and it is our pleasure to extend congratulations to Davison Douglas on his selection to be the next dean of the law school. At the same time, we would also like to thank Interim Dean Butler for her hard work this past year and to the Dean Search Committee for all their efforts in making the selection process as comprehensive as possible. Many students have had the great experience of learning Constitutional Law from Douglas, and many more enjoyed his very popular Race & Legal History seminar. Sadly, the duties of being the new dean mean that this seminar and a second one, Law & Religion, will not be offered this coming semester. Although students will miss being able to speak with him after class on a variety of issues that he always took the time to carefully explain, the law school is gaining the leadership of a man who truly loves the school, cares about its students, and believes in the citizen-lawyer ideal.

Douglas is one who knows firsthand about the challenges the law school is facing while also understanding its unique heritage and community and the strength that those things can provide. As other schools scramble to deal with the economic situation and seem willing to do anything in order to move up one or two spots in the rankings, he knows from his experience rowing crew at Princeton that you have to “run your own race” to come out ahead. By keeping a strong focus on teaching, continuing to attract top-quality faculty and students, nurturing and expanding programs such as the Institute of Bill of Rights Law and Center for Legal & Court Technology, and strengthening alumni relations, Douglas sees a way forward that will not only help us rise in the rankings but retain our essential character.

Connecting with the ABA:
An Interview with Thomas Ryerson

By Mairaed Blue

Recently I had the opportunity to sit down and speak with newly appointed American Bar Association (ABA) Representative Thomas Ryerson (2L). Tom spoke about his passion for the ABA and his desire to see more students involved in such a useful organization. The following questions and answers are excerpts from that conversation.

Mairaed (M): Tom, what is the ABA and why should it be significant to Marshall Wythe Law Students?

Tom (T): The ABA is the premier national, professional lawyers organization for law students. Annual meetings provide an opportunity for members to network with students from other ABA-accredited universities and practicing attorneys. The ABA also awards student organizations for outstanding yearly achievement. Many of our student groups deserve such recognition.

M: What does the ABA do for me as a William and Mary Law student?

T: The ABA is all about getting a head start. Through its monthly magazine and supplemental email messages, the ABA informs and invites students to all Continuing Legal Education (CLE) opportunities as well as other topical presentations. These forums provide a great opportunity for students to network with attorneys already out there living the dream. Given the current economy, it couldn’t hurt to have a few more business cards stashed away from potential employers. Who knows? The ABA might help you find your next job.

M: How Can I Get Involved?

T: The first step is to become a member of the American Bar Association. Students can apply online or in the law school lobby during one of my “tablet”

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Women's Law Society Celebrates History at Marshall-Wythe

By Maggie Brunner

The Women's Law Society (WLS) organized a week-long milieu of activities to celebrate Women's History Month on March 16-20. The new group hosted a free yoga class, sponsored a "bra review" at the Spot, and invited several speakers to campus to discuss legal issues affecting women today in America.

WLS was established last semester with the aim of bringing attention to women's law issues. The group focuses not only on substantive issues of law affecting women, but also seeks to provide a support network for William & Mary students and women in the legal profession. WLS is bipartisan and open to all students regardless of gender.

WLS president Becky Roman (2L) believed that hosting a week of activities to honor Women's History Month was the best method to establish the new organization's presence on campus. "We wanted to be sure to include a variety of activities, so that as many students as possible could participate and learn about the organization," said Roman. For example, WLS members tabled in the law school lobby with information on the women's rights movement in America, while collecting toiletries for a center for victims of domestic violence in Williamsburg.

Perhaps the most thought-provoking event of the week was a panel on Tuesday, March 17 on the balance of family life and a legal career. The panel consisted of Professor Jayne Barnard, a former partner at Jenner & Block; Geneva Perry, a Legal Skills senior partner and attorney at Jones, Blechman, Woltz & Kelly; and Laura Barhydt, an attorney at the U.S. Department of Transportation. Each woman shared her personal experiences trying to have a fulfilling personal life throughout the various stages of her career.

The discussion touched on controversial topics like the existence of a glass ceiling in the legal profession, whether women are pushed into "pink-collar" legal jobs, and whether networks specifically designed for women in the firm culture are a help or hindrance to their participants. The panel acknowledged that many women in the legal profession tend to gravitate towards lower-paying jobs rather than working in traditional firms, like non-profit work and in-house counsels, in exchange for a reduction in hours. The panel, however, emphasized that these choices were personal decisions for each woman (or man) to make.

"I knew it was time for a change when I couldn't even schedule a pedicure," Professor Barnard lamented on her decision to leave her partner position at a big firm to spend more time with her teenage stepchildren. Professor Barnard encouraged the women in the audience to go with their instincts on how to balance a family life and a career, and to make their own standard for what they needed to keep themselves well-grounded and fulfilled.

The WLS hopes to bring more thought-provoking events to the law school campus in upcoming semesters.

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of legal contention in the air. The more lawyers skirring about the polling locations, the more you deter the people from voting," he said.

In dispatching teams of lawyers to battleground states, Bauer said, the Obama campaign sought to strike a balance between pre-election "skirmishing" and proactive preparedness. For example, after Obama's team identified under-resourced polling stations, the political parties agreed ex ante that the length of a line at a polling station would not be a reason to extend polling hours, an issue which could easily have given rise to fratic and divisive lawsuits on and after Election Day. "When the political parties agree on the interpretation of a rule before Election Day, it keeps them out of courts afterwards," Bauer said.

To panelist Benjamin Ginsburg, partner with the D.C. law firm Patton Boggs, election litigation is most troublesome when it amounts to campaigning in the courts. "Litanization has become a way to 'get out the vote,'" Ginsberg said. "Republicans are obsessed with fraud in the polling place. Democrats are obsessed with issues of intimidation and access. Both sides realize that by raising the issues, they can rally the base."

Election law has become political strategy. Ginsberg observed, as candidates and political parties resort to litigation to bolster their position in a close race.

Ginsberg is currently representing NRM Coleman against Al Franken in the upcoming Minnesota recount. "The American system of elections is flawed," Ginsberg said. "These flaws cropped up in a major way during the Florida recount of 2000. They later cropped up in Washington state, where the number of 'illegal' ballots was greater than the number of votes counted, yet still a candidate was sworn in," Ginsberg said. "These flaws have cropped up even in Minnesota, a place where election officials are elaborately trained with colorful videos about state election law. Still the Franken-Coleman Senate race has been tied up in months of litigation," Ginsberg said. While the judicial system can help resolve disputes arising from our flawed voting system, Ginsberg said, it should not be used for political leverage in a close campaign.

The final panelist was Susan Swecker, who managed Creigh Deeds' 2005 campaign for state Attorney General and was his senior advisor during the infamous recount, in which Deeds lost by 360 votes out of more than 2 million cast. She offered tips: "to avoid recount hell." She emphasized that candidates need to be prepared for and respect the recount process, that "it's actually still part of the campaign." While the lawyers battle out the legal issues, it is important to "preserve the dignity of the candidate in this limbo state," Swecker advised. Despite the stressful recount, the candidate must "maintain his image as a leader" and "strike a careful balance between courtroom time and time at home."

Moderating the panel was Michael Toner, current partner at the D.C. law firm Bryan Cave, former commissioner of the Federal Election Commission, and former chief counsel of the Republican National Committee. At W&M, Toner has taught a one-week course on the presidential public financing system.

"After a period of neglect since the 1965 Voting Rights Act, we're revisiting the dialogue about what it means to have a voice to vote," Toner said. Until there is political consensus about what the right entails, he said, "courts must step in."
Students Propose Business Law Review

By Emily Kirkpatrick

We sit next to you in class. We stand in line with you at Java City. We are your friends, your classmates, and you thought you knew us. But we’ve been working on something really really important that you knew nothing about. Something that you didn’t even know you wanted, but now clearly see you can’t live without. The William & Mary Business Law Review. It sounds good, right? Sounds like something that should have been here all along, something you’d like to have on your resume followed by “Staff Member” or maybe even “Executive Editor.”

We have assembled a proposal that, if approved by the administration, will be presented at the April 9 faculty meeting. It’s looking good so far, but we need all the support we can get. You can help by signing the petitions we’ll be passing around, filling out the comment cards we’ll be handing you, and expressing your support to faculty and administration. We need to prove, among other things, that this journal is something that the students want and support. So, why do you want it and why should you support it? We’ll give you three reasons:

- More Available Journal Positions: As all the 1Ls heard it loud and clear at the Joint Journal Competition meeting, marketability that comes with working on a journal, not to mention the valuable skills that employers need us all to have.
- Good Schools Have Business Law Journals: Stanford, Berkeley, UPenn, UVA, Columbia, NYU, Northwestern, just to name a few. This is an important area of the law and William & Mary should be in the company of these prestigious universities.
- We’re not talking about the “UCC Law Review”: This is not a dry, transactional journal. If you’ve strolled by the library TV recently, or the letters A, I and G mean anything to you, you know that contracts and business and ethics are not only relevant but kind of sexy. These topics will all be fair game for submissions. We’ve done the research and we expect very cool submissions from very smart people – you won’t be bored.

Convinced? Then get into the business of Business Law Review and support us as we suit up and dazzle the journal review committee. Make history – support the William & Mary Business Law Review.

VA Tech Alum Considers W&M Security Policy

By Robert Bauer

On March 24th the Wolf Law Library sponsored a program entitled “Terror on Campus: Security and Privacy After Virginia Tech,” moderated by Professor Marcus and featuring a panel of guest speakers. Many staff and several faculty members were present, although only six students attended. Also in the audience were five relatives of victims of the shootings at Tech, concerned about what actions William & Mary has taken to make campus safer.

The panel, made up of author David Cariens, William & Mary chief of police Donald Challis, Director of Counseling R. Kelly Crane, and Professor Rebecca Hulse discussed the need for preventative measures to prevent such a tragedy from happening here, focusing especially on identification of warning signs. According to Cariens, the administrations at Appalachian School of Law in 2002 and at Virginia Tech in 2007 ignored these warning signs, which included threatening emails, extremely disturbing creative writing papers, and threats raised by staff members that were dismissed as women getting hormonal.

Following these two shootings, William & Mary has aggressively pursued a model that emphasizes community security over individual privacy. Crace detailed how the Counseling Center has moved from an “imminent threat” to “substantial likelihood” standard for deciding when to intervene. If any concern is expressed about a student’s behavior that indicates a possible safety issue, the student is brought in to be assessed. The goal is to “move from a culture of protection to a culture of helping.” Hulse, in turn, noted that there is often a temptation to tip the balance so far toward security that privacy rights are violated and detailed how recent legislation has attempted to provide greater access to mental health records to those in a position to help while also striving to protect student privacy as much as possible.

Ultimately, says Challis, faculty and students are responsible for their own safety. Prevention is an admirable goal, but it isn’t especially helpful once someone acts on his desire to kill. Campus killers are already breaking the law; violating the Code of Conduct is among the least of their worries. As helpful as counseling and detection of early warning signs can be, they’re useless when the killer isn’t a student at the school. Finally, a three-minute response time by police is very impressive, but that’s an awfully long time to be stuck in a room with someone trying to murder you.

As a student at Virginia Tech, I had classes in Norris Hall and lived in the Ambler Johnston dorm where the shootings occurred. Our classrooms at Marshall-Wythe are no more secure, and in some cases much less secure, than those at Tech. As students, we have placed ourselves under the protection of the College, and it is our duty to protect us. If their only solution to the sickeningly increased likelihood of campus violence is to attempt to weed out psychopaths and to arrive to clean up the mess then it’s time to develop a better plan.
Citizen Lawyers, Community Servants: New Orleans Service Trip

Compiled by Rob Poggenklass

With generous support from the law school community and after countless hours of fund-raising, twenty members of the Student Hurricane Network traveled to New Orleans for a spring break service trip earlier this month. This marked the second consecutive year that at least twenty W&M law students made the weeklong trip as part of a nationwide volunteer effort to help restore hope and justice to the Gulf Coast following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in August 2005.

New Orleans remains a city in need. Although some areas of the city, like the French Quarter and Garden District, look as if the storm never touched them, the storm’s effects are still glaringly obvious in places like the Ninth Ward and Gert Town—both predominantly poor, black neighborhoods. Thousands of volunteers have helped the city make visible progress, but a full recovery, if it ever happens, could take decades.

With that in mind, our group of twenty worked with four local organizations over spring break—the City Attorney’s Office, the Louisiana Green Corps, the Louisiana Bucket Brigade, and Desire Street Ministries.

Desire Street Ministries
By Rob Poggenklass

For the ten of us placed at Desire Street, the week could hardly have been more fulfilling. We were assigned to do exterior work at Gloria’s Restaurant, a Gert Town restaurant known throughout the neighborhood as “Home of the One Dollar Breakfast.” Miss Gloria, a kind elderly woman who lived next door, used to sell eggs, grits, sausage and a biscuit all for a dollar because she wanted no one in her community to go hungry. So at 6 a.m. on the corner of Colapissa and Broadway, residents would line up down the street, and not one would go hungry.

Katrina closed the restaurant, and Miss Gloria has not served breakfast in nearly four years. During the week, the ten of us scraped, sanded, hammered, sawed, primed and painted until even Miss Gloria shook her head with disbelief at the changes. By the end of our week, we could see tangible evidence of our presence. Miss Gloria hopes to start selling breakfasts again.

There were bright, energetic, professionals using their talents to navigate the legal quandaries of “post-K” New Orleans to which there are no easy answers.

I was filled with hope and gratitude by my experience in the office. These attorneys are playing an unpopular yet vital role for the city, and are doing so while facing daily criticism and borderline hatred from the people for whom they are working. I still do not agree with some of the local government’s ideas and plans, and I sometimes question their motives and values, but I thank the staff at the City Attorney’s office for their perseverance and their devotion to the city that I love.

By Kelly Kennedy

The hospitality I encountered at the City Attorney’s Office is what I will remember the most. The Deputy City Attorney gladly shared his personal experiences with the storm and the effects of the storm on the city in general. The attorney with whom I was matched took the time to calmly address the City’s extensive legal issues since the storm, from accidents resulting from fallen traffic signals to the lack of correct addresses in serving notice. I was struck by the disarray that resulted from the devastation of Katrina. Yet, the DCA strove to find me tasks that would be interesting and he truly wanted me to benefit from the experience, not the other way around.

Louisiana Green Corps
By Chanel Gray

The Louisiana Green Corps is an organization that is committed to providing the youth of New Orleans with job training skills through environmental service learning projects that help in the continued, eco-friendly rebuilding and revitalizing of the city. Nicole Green, Laura Jacobson, Maakor Quarnyne

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Strutting Their Stuff: BLSA Fashion Meets Mr. Marshall-Wythe

By Maitread Blue

On Friday, March 27th, the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) hosted its 2nd annual fashion show. In conjunction with this show, the Public Service Fund (PSF) staged its Mr. Marshall-Wythe Pageant. This year's fashion show theme was Flashing Lights: [II]elegantly Fabulous. Proceeds from the event went to PSF and the Magruder Children’s Benefit.

Myron McClees, BLSA’s dashing brazen president, escorted the evening. Looking finer than usual with closely trimmed mustache and peering chest hair, Myron skillfully drew the audience into their seats and away from the wine. Tiffany Wesley, in one of her many roles that night, announced the models as they stepped onto the catwalk. And what models! Who knew so many beauties attended Marshall-Wythe?

Bishop Garrison, debonair in pink, proudly escorted a stunning Brooke Williams down the catwalk. Brooke’s eyes quickly wandered, leaving it up to Jen Reichle and friend to rescue a deserted Bishop. Swooping in wearing stunning rose-colored dresses, the girls quickly gave our man something to smile about.

Students weren’t the only ones to model that night. Amy Winehouse (Karla Baker), Paris Hilton (Genevieve Jenkins), Nicole Ritchie (Jane Honeycutt) and Rihanna (Latoya Asia) all made special appearances. Not to be outdone by their Hollywood counterparts, certain political figures also decided to show. John McCain (Ryan Marion), Sarah Palin (Elyse Simonner) and as Katt Williams would say, the black superhero himself, Barack Obama (Bill Smith) gracefully strutted down the catwalk.

Between fashion showings, Stephanie Acree hosted the Mr. Marshall-Wythe Pageant. For this year’s competition included Alper Ozinal, Jason Wool, Bishop Garrison, Andrew English, Dave Warren and Stephen Barry. Throughout the night, Stephanie put these attractive young men through quite the pageant obstacle course. Contestants had to answer such difficult questions as: “President Bush: A great president or the greatest president?” Anxiety filled the room.

Strutting, style and sense seemed to be what the judges were looking for in this year’s winner. Poor Stephen Barry! He skillfully paraded himself down that catwalk only to be ruined by a softball question. Can anybody say Miss Teen USA? Andrew English took the opposite approach to Stephen by deciding to give an elaborate description of how he could get this economy to peak. Never before has an economic discussion proved so titillating!

Ultimately, the judges had to decide on a winner. With fingers crossed each man listened for Stephanie to call his name. Second place went to Andrew English. Was it the Stetson or his detailed Econ knowledge that carried him so far? Either way, a tiara never looked so good as it did on that boy’s hat. But now, drum roll please, this year’s 2009 Mr. Marshall-Wythe is none other than Alper Ozinal.

Politically savvy, tall, handsome and with the ability to down more than 5 hot dogs in 5 minutes, Alper embodies everything a Marshall-Wythe man should be. Interested ladies take note, as a 3L Alper won’t be around much longer. Better put your game face on and attack before it’s too late!

The new Mr. Marshall-Wythe!

The Muscarelle Museum: A Cultural Oasis

By Robert Bauer

On the William & Mary main campus is a cultural oasis that few law students visit. Located off Jamestown Road and free to students is the Muscarelle Museum of Art. Whether you’ve studied art or just half-listened to a cute art history major at a party, you’re likely to be aware that Picasso, Titian, Matisse, Velasquez, Toulouse-Lautrec, and Georgia O’Keeffe (who actually lived and painted in Williamsburg) are all big names in painting. Works by each of these are present at the Muscarelle as part of its permanent collection, along with a recently-acquired (and, according to the Associated Press, copyright-infringing) original print of the Obama “Hope” poster from the November election. Although you could easily spend hours taking in the works on display, the museum is accessible enough that you can have a fulfilling experience just going for a short study break to clear your head.

According to legend, less than 40 years ago a visitor to campus noticed that an original O’Keeffe painting was hanging, unprotected, on the wall in one of the academic buildings and notified the College administration. Curious as to what else the school might have, College President Thomas Graves, Jr. ordered the Art History Department to survey all of William & Mary for any other important works that might be lurking in distant corners of the campus. With gifts from alumni these works were collected together into the Muscarelle, opening for the first time in 1983. Since then, the museum has increased its holdings and has hosted numerous traveling exhibitions, including those featuring Andy Warhol, Caravaggio, and soon Tiffany glass.

Christina Carroll (2L) has been working as a Director’s Fellow since this past summer, gaining experience toward her goal of becoming an art lawyer. She showed me around and explained the significance of the Muscarelle and the works there. It turns out that the Muscarelle Museum of Art is among four percent of museums nationwide accredited by the American Association of Museums, a significant accomplishment for such a small and relatively new organization. Local and free for students, it presents a unique opportunity to view art.

Major upcoming events include Tiffany glass, starting April 18th, and Andy Warhol photographs in the fall, plus regular docent tours every Saturday and Sunday. The Tiffany exhibition also includes a special wine-and-cheese reception for students on April 17th, starting at 6PM. With finals, trials, and other deadlines rapidly approaching it may seem as though taking an hour or two to go look at art should be a low priority.
and I worked with the Corps members in studying for GED examinations and college-level assignments, creating resumes, and determining the importance of environmental sustainability in each Corps member’s life.

Louisiana Bucket Brigade
By Matread Blue

Danielle Brooks, Jen Bacon, and I were placed with an organization called the Louisiana Bucket Brigade. The Bucket Brigade assists “fence-line” neighbors in their campaigns to make industry accountable for its pollution. A fence-line neighbor is someone who lives up against the fences surrounding industrial plants. The organization collaborates with local community leaders to design and implement various sampling and pollution monitoring programs. One of the communities that the Bucket Brigade is recognized for helping is Norco, Louisiana.

Norco, which stands for New Orleans Refinery Company, is home to a large Shell petroleum refinery. Some residents claimed that proximity to the plant resulted in health problems. Margie Richard and Iris Carter, two homeowners, worked with the Bucket Brigade to campaign for a fully funded relocation of all residents living within four-blocks of the Shell fence-line.

Though relocation is a common and equitable solution for those individuals living near refineries, oil companies do not like to facilitate the process. Relocating blocks of people to another area is expensive and companies do not want to admit to emission of dangerous levels of toxins. Shell and others in the field accept the fact that plants emit chemicals. They do not, however, acknowledge a causal effect between emissions and adverse health conditions in neighboring communities.

The Louisiana Bucket Brigade believes that by providing residents with air quality monitors, they can build a case strong enough to force oil companies to reduce emissions levels or implement programs reducing the effect of those emissions on neighboring households. The Bucket Brigade provides interested residents with air monitors and teaches them how to take air samples. The air samples are then sent to a research lab in California where they are analyzed for certain dangerous chemicals. Armed with sample results, concerned citizens are better able to argue for a causal link between emissions and declining health.

All relations between citizens and oil manufacturers are not negative. Those doing business in Louisiana donate millions of dollars to local communities and public universities. Shell employees are some of the highest paid and most successful individuals in their towns. Instead of waiting for the day when Louisiana requires refineries to pay for relocation, Shell and others should collaborate with concerned citizens. Through organizations like the Louisiana Bucket Brigade, oil companies and citizens can come together and effectuate change.

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days. There is an annual fee of $25.00. Division membership is a window for law students to look outside their academic walls and into the issues facing professionals in their chosen field.

Through the ABA—Law Student Division students have many opportunities to cultivate their leadership skills, participate in public interest programs, and compete in competitions. The SBA office is filled with plaques from the ABA lauding the achievements of William & Mary students and organizations. Sadly, not a single plaque dates later than 1979. I want to change this.

M: And I hear you’re looking for student volunteers?
T: Exactly. Along with other changes to the SBA this year, I hope to have a renewed relationship with the ABA. In order to do this, I want to form a committee composed of interested students willing to take the lead on various ABA-related projects. These students would also represent William & Mary at ABA conferences. Anyone interested should contact me at tdrverson@wm.edu.

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The Last Page

Food and Film: Movie Tavern Premiers in the ‘Burg

By Thomas Ryerson

The UrbanDictionary defines a “popcorn movie” as a movie that is guaranteed to be “eh.” One that is sure not to win any awards. One only goes to see it as an excuse to eat popcorn and other junk food with friends. Sometimes it is seen with the intention of insulting it afterward.

If that’s what a “popcorn movie” is, imagine the quality of a “monte cristo wrap movie” or a “mini me burger movie.” In short, one does not go to the Movie Tavern on High Street before the Oscars to assess the latest award season fare. Rather the Movie Tavern serves another, albeit important, purpose: to see those “eh” movies, the viewing of which will not be ruined by the heads of waiters and incessant “would you like anything else with that” being heard throughout the theatre.

The concept of the Movie Tavern is simple: take “dinner and a movie” and turn it into “dinner in a movie.” With a full kitchen and relatively diverse menu, the Movie Tavern offers the option of having a meal while enjoying the latest flick. As you enter the theatre, you purchase your tickets and any soda and typical movie snacks you also want. At the same time however, you can also order a meal if you choose.

With a range of happy hour-esque food available, everyone is sure to find a tasty (and hopefully quiet) meal they can enjoy. At this point you’re given a number to set on your table in the theatre. Upon entering the theatre itself, you’re greeted by a veritable United Nations General Assembly of movie viewing. Countless shallow tables with roller chairs behind the waiters who bring your food and the food for those in front of you are bound to block your view of the bottom portion of the screen. Combined with the endless chatter between waiter and patron, there are certainly more distractions here than in a typical theatre. This atmosphere creates an incidental problem of people thinking they are in a restaurant, and not a theater, resulting in a greater likelihood of people giving their own impressions of the movie. “Don’t you dare go through that door” and “oh, that dude is dead” were heard a little more frequently here than in a traditional movie viewing setting.

The owners of the Movie Tavern must be commended for opening another theatre in Williamsburg in which sweaty, downtrodden tourists can enjoy an air-conditioned dinner and movie in one fell swoop. However while the Movie Tavern is sure to be attended by many William and Mary students and Williamsburg tourists, it is no replacement for typical theatres. While the option of seeing a movie and eating at the same time might appeal to time crunched law students, the distractions of food and waiters are a few too many for this movie viewer to put up with when going to see those non-“popcorn movies.”

Spring Break: Panama City Beach

By Ryan Ruzic

Every since returning to Williamsburg I’ve been getting one question, “How was your spring break?” Well sack up honkey tonk, ‘cause now this is happening. Some friends and I drove down to Panama City Beach, Florida. While the drive was unremarkable, I myself was about an hour or so late to meet with them; this prompted no less than seven death threats. “I’m literally going to kill you if you bail on us,” Chuck Hasselfraiss illegally threatened me. Scared for my life, which I believe protects me from any liability I may or may not have allegedly incurred on this trip, I had no choice but to join them.

Once in Panama City Beach we went about the stereotypical spring break, Coronas in coolers on the beach, a variety of drinking games, and music. Over the six days in Florida we attended a number of concerts and the largest nightclub in America, not to mention an endless series of beaches, pools, and hot tubs (one of which I became dangerously dizzy in). While this was all great, there were certainly some mishaps as well.

One day I made the mistake of falling asleep shirtless on the beach. Mistaking me for a beached albino manatee, a local community group rolled me back into the ocean. As I slipped gracefully back into the sea I couldn’t bring myself to inform them that my shockingly white and soft exterior was a result of being a law student, not an adorable, if pigmentarily deficient, sea cow. You might not know this, but we actually have sea cows on land as well, we call them land sea cows. I train them.

Drinking also caused a fair number, by which I mean all, of our problems. One of the intrepid trip members exercised his 21st amendment right to the point that he lost his lunch on the bedroom floor, and then, apparently deciding to make the best of the situation, fell asleep right there in it. While I am no doctor, I was a pre-med student for three days, so I made sure he was on his side, and then, knowing as a law student that I had no duty to save him, left.

One night, while walking along the moonlit beach on a long phone call, I noticed a small child yelling for help amid the waves. Stripping off my shirt for dramatic effect, I rushed into the water, only to discover that a vicious tiger shark was slowly circling the child. The shark darted forward and I interposed myself, wrestling with the shark as the waves seethed around me with the fury of our combat. I was scared, but at the same time, I wasn’t scared. As the shark slowly slipped into unconsciousness from my sleeper hold, I carried the child back to the beach, when suddenly, bear attack! A grizzily reared up and roared with rage. I had to fight the bear hand to hand. It was unbearable. I won. “You are all that is man,” softly sighed a stunningly attractive female native of this quaint sea side village as I tore the bear’s claws from their sockets and handed them to her saying, “The second amendment says you can have these.”

This was more or less exactly what happened over my spring break. My friends and I departed the next day, driving the 125 hours or so back to Virginia.

You’re welcome Panama City Beach.