

## Threats to B-median policy inspire debate

By Patrick R. Linsey

Changes are likely to proposed modifications of the law school's B-Median grading policy.

The current proposal would enforce a mandatory grade average on all classes. One or more plans are expected to come to a faculty vote near the end of the semester.

The law school's Education Policy Committee, consisting of faculty, administrators and students, crafted the changes over the academic year.

Faculty will participate in a straw poll regarding grading modifications in a May 2 meeting and are expected to vote on the final changes May 9.

But the plan ultimately selected by faculty may bear distinct differences from the one released to students in March. Members of the EPC said the changes will take into account concerns expressed by faculty and students.

"A lot of the discussion is 'Do we exempt certain classes? Do we exempt clin-

ics?'" said Paul Chill, associate dean for academic affairs, who is an ex-officio member of the EPC.

Clinical courses have been the focus of some of the most intense debate regarding changes to the law school's grading policy. Liz Letak, a 2L who hopes to practice criminal law, started a Facebook group when she learned her Criminal Appellate clinic could be subjected to a median next year. Her classmates in this year's Criminal Trial clinic quickly joined.

"[Clinics] really hinge on

partnership and working together," Letak said. "Everyone collaborates on the same case. That's why I started the Facebook group and feel really strong about it."

Members of the EPC acknowledged concerns over creating a competitive atmosphere in a class in which small numbers of students work together to represent real clients. But they repeated their support for sweeping reforms to the current B-Median system, which they say risks unequal grading between multiple sections of the same

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## Appeals court judge debates the merits of campaign finance laws

By Margaret Goodell

On April 1, the UConn Federalist Society had the pleasure of welcoming to campus the Honorable Ralph K. Winter of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, for a discussion on the constitutionality of campaign finance laws. Earlier in his career, Winter argued against the Federal Election Campaign Act in *Buckley v. Valeo*,

the first case to challenge the constitutionality of campaign finance legislation on First Amendment grounds.

"It was a real coup to get someone of Judge Winter's stature to speak with us today," said Jon Lewis, Federalist Society V.P. "We were extremely pleased with the interest in the topic and the turnout."

Winter emphasized that campaign finance laws imper-



Photo courtesy of Peter Hitt

Hon. Ralph K. Winter with Rob Barbieri and Peggy Little

missibly restrict speech and regulate political parties, violating the First Amendment guarantees of free speech and freedom of association. Proponents of campaign finance

laws argue that money and speech are not synonymous, an opinion notably voiced by Justice John Paul Stevens in the *Buckley* opinion. Winter countered that without

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### Exam software debated

Secureexam returns for spring exams even though questions linger

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### Baker leaves for UPenn

Respected insurance specialist decamps for Ivy League

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### UConn Law has athletes?

Group of students travels to UVA for law school softball tourney

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## Dean's Corner with Dean Jeremy Paul

By Jeremy Paul

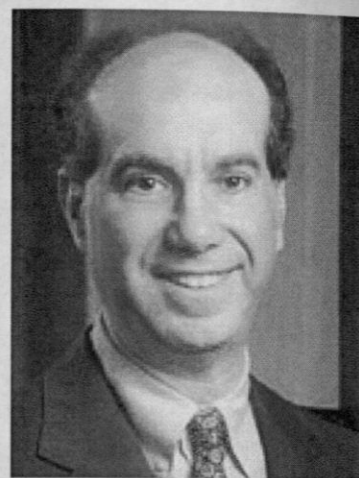
I'd like to use my final column of the year to say thanks and pay tribute to the law school's outgoing associate dean for academic affairs, Paul Chill. Dean Chill has served in his position for four years working under three deans, and has pretty much set the gold standard for responsiveness to student concerns. He has fielded a rich and diverse curriculum despite the increased pressure for our colleagues to spend time outside the classroom conducting research and despite our faculty members' increased tendency to teach temporarily at the nation's other top law schools. He has played a lead role in expanding the law school's clinical offer-

ings: launching an externship clinic with the state's attorney's office, supporting Professors Dickinson and Janis with their new international clinic and working tirelessly to make the intellectual property and entrepreneurship clinic a permanent part of our educational offerings. And he has radically transformed our student orientation into a wholehearted welcoming session covering all aspects of campus life, including a community service component so much a part of starting school off in the right way.

Dean Chill has also been a relentless champion of diversity on campus, and from my vantage point he has earned the trust of virtually every segment of the campus. I know one group that particu-

larly respects his contributions is the adjunct faculty. I say that because I hear often from them about how much better Dean Chill manages their situation than his predecessors did. (For those not keeping track, I held the post of associate dean for academic affairs for the five years just prior to Dean Chill.)

But Dean Chill's most important contributions cannot be reduced merely to a list of his accomplishments. He has set a tone of professionalism for the entire campus, and he cares passionately about doing things the right way and leading the school in a manner best suited to enhance the educational experience for all students. I have been proud to work closely with him and know I speak for every member of the faculty



when I say he will be sorely missed in his role as associate dean. The good news, of course, is that his departure is from his administrative post only, and we will all benefit from his return to the classroom as Clinical Professor of Law. Thanks Dean Chill for a job very well done.

### Pro Se

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Editor in Chief: Katrina Goyco  
Managing Editor: Lynn Kelly  
Executive Editor: Christophe Renaud  
Production Editors: Patrick Linsey, Kyle McCarthy  
Associate Editor: Chris Wasil  
Sports Editor: John Kim  
Photo Editor: Peter Hitt

#### Contributors

Chris Argyros  
Jon Burby  
Margaret Goodell  
Naurin Hashmi  
Alexa Lindauer  
Heather McRoberts  
Alan Merriman  
Michael J. Nichols  
Tom Plotkin

## Event debates Asian American issues, concerns

By Katrina Goyco

Asian Americans are one of the fastest growing populations in Connecticut today and their political empowerment is long overdue, said state Rep. William Tong, the first Asian American elected to statewide office in Connecticut history.

At the "Political Engagement of Asian Americans in Connecticut" APALSA event on April 21st, Tong, D-Stamford, and Angela Rola, Director of the Asian American Cultural Center at UConn Storrs, engaged the audience in a provocative discussion about issues facing the state's impoverished and voiceless Asian American community and the Asian Pacific American Commission, an initiative to bring such issues to the attention of the state legislature. Asian Americans are plagued by the

myth of the monolithic successful minority, Tong said, despite their growing need for help.

The AACC was founded after an incident of racial oppression against a group of eight Asian American UConn students just twenty years ago. Two football players on a 20-minute bus ride to a school dance began bullying the Asian Americans on the bus, calling them "gooks" and "chinks," and telling them to "go back to where you belong," then spitting black tobacco juice onto their dresses. Nobody helped them, even when implored. The women hid in a closet during the dance. It took eighteen months for the university to respond. The football players were made to sit out two games.

Every year, Rola asks her Asian American students to describe an experience that

embodies their cultural identity. Ninety percent of the students discuss being bullied in grammar school. Studies have shown that young Asian American females have the highest suicide rate of any women in the country – far above the rate of Caucasian females. Rep. Tong told a story from the Asian American Suicide Prevention Center in Chicago, noting one young Asian American who took his life after having written, "If there is one person that will smile at me on the street today I will not commit suicide." Rep. Tong urged the students at the event to "take stock of our own community, and be comrades to each other." Oppression is not a zero sum game. Ask the African American patron and the Chinese restaurant owner standing on opposite sides of the bullet-proof glass.

## An ode to our fearless leader and founder

*Goyco drove student newspaper's creation and served as first editor-in-chief*

By John Kim on behalf of the Pro Se staff

In the time it takes you to read this article, Katrina Goyco will have organized three events, read 500 pages for Legal Profession, finished her taxes (receiving her refund by the third paragraph), micromanaged the sublime work in your very hands right now and still had time to call her parents, Louis and Emelina Goyco.

If at any time the demands of law school seem too great, please take a peak at the first seven or so pages of Katrina's ever-expanding daily schedule.

When not excelling as a full-time student, the Or-

adell, N.J. native is the den mother and editor-in-chief of Pro Se News (where she turned a fledgling outfit into the most respected and read – not to mention only – student newspaper on campus), co-president of PILG, co-president of APALSA, symposium editor for the Public Interest Law Journal, public relations chair of LLSA and personal psychiatrist to all those lucky enough to be called her friend.

Still not embarrassed that you spent an hour this morning reading the ingredients off a box of Hot Pockets?

This semester Katrina is completing an SRP and working in the CULI clinic – and to the best of my

knowledge has never missed a single class or not done her reading on time – while still managing to be one of the most approachable and accessible people on campus.

To no one's surprise, Ms. Goyco has secured a job with Day Pitney – where she is bound for superstardom – and so hasn't needed to do any of this...except for that darn tugging feeling in her heart (altruism, or some such nonsense).

Now Katrina is graduating from the law school to which she gave so much. As such, Pro Se would like to recognize her accomplishments and efforts as a leader, a role model and as the proverbial straw that stirs the

drink we call UConn Law.

Yet, despite all of her success, Katrina is inexplicably (though perhaps not surprisingly) humble. If she only knew I was writing this piece, it would no doubt end up on the cutting room floor.

Pro Se will remember Lady Goyco for her unique style and grace, perpetually cheery demeanor, exclamation-laden emails, and, most importantly, her faith in the talents of others (notwithstanding the unfathomable decision to hand over the sports editor position to a novice writer with a penchant for misquotations and run-on sentences).

Katrina Goyco, you will be missed.

## DVD review: Au hazard, Balthazar

*Tom Plotkin links a movie about a donkey to everyday life*

By Tom Plotkin

So here's my favorite movie ever: *Au Hazard, Balthazar*. It is a rare example of how cinema can rise to the profundity and formal complexity of a Beethoven string quartet. It also brought me as close to a religious experience as I have ever experienced in a dark theater. Finally, it is surely the finest movie about a donkey ever made.

Made in France in 1966 by visionary director Robert Bresson, the protagonist is Balthazar, a donkey who is born, lives, suffers and dies in a mean little rural village. He is passed from

owner to owner: a loving family bound for dissolution and bankruptcy; a drunken tramp who beats him; a lecherous mill owner who uses him as a beast of burden; a gang of delinquents who use him for smuggling contraband. Whether ill-treated or well-treated, Balthazar mutely submits uncomplaining (except for the occasional emission of a magnificent bray). For that is all an animal can do.

Balthazar's life parallels that of the daughter of his first owner, Marie, who garlands him with flowers and baptizes him when she is a little girl, but grows into adolescence making every

wrong choice imaginable. She spurns her childhood sweetheart, whose wealth could save her father's failing farm. Instead she falls in love with the vicious local hoodlum, with horrendous consequences. For unlike donkeys, humans exercise free will, but in Marie's case, this leads to degradation and despair.

Balthazar is not really a movie about a donkey; it is about the people in whose midst he lives and dies, and the seven deadly sins that he will never taste. Director Bresson suppresses surface emotion by eliciting expressionless performances from his non-professional cast;

he employs no soundtrack music; he omits the dramatic moments that would be central to a normal movie. Bresson's austere style allows the viewer to supply the missing emotion. This withholding of conventional drama magically makes small moments pack the wallop of an explosion.

French director Jean-Luc Godard called Balthazar "the whole world in ninety minutes." Through the mute eyes of a donkey, the human condition is revealed. When you watch the final scene of this film, I defy you not to weep. And you won't be crying for Balthazar. You will be crying for us.

## Cautious optimism surrounds Securexam's return for finals

By Alexa Lindauer

Over the course of several months, the originally bleak outlook for the administration of spring exams has turned to one of cautious optimism.

After Securexam's failure to provide a workable product in time for exams last semester, law school staff was preparing for more take-homes and closely proctored exams this spring.

However, despite prior predictions to the contrary, Securexam was able to provide the school with a version of their product that has eliminated the problems seen last fall.

"We were skeptical about the program after being burnt in the fall," Registrar Lisa

Rodino said.

Securexam was not able to provide the school with a new version of the program by the agreed upon date, but they did so shortly after and school administrators have been pleased with what they have seen. Rodino commented, "I've been happy with the version I've tested. The problems we had seen in the fall version had been corrected."

"[Securexam] substantially fixed their product. We took the fixed version and poked at it pretty hard and thought that it looked okay," Associate Director for Information Systems Ann Crawford explained.

Law school staff examined the product Securexam presented. A group of students tested the product, and some

minor, fixable issues were discovered. The Registrar's Office then required that all students take a practice exam on the software, and while some problems did present themselves, the number of problems present in the entire student body was roughly equivalent to the number of problems present in the test sample last semester.

Further, those problems that were identified have largely been corrected. Some students encountered problems with the size requirements of the new software; although that type of problem is not fixable, the school will provide students encountering that problem with a loaner laptop.

Crawford does not anticipate that students will

have any problems with the program once they sit down to take an exam in May, but admitted that it is possible. She said the required practice test helped to identify problems, but students who only opened up a practice exam and pressed save could potentially have more difficulties when they attempt to take a real exam.

Should students encounter problems during an exam, the program has a recovery mode, which means that any answers written will be saved. The exam proctor is equipped with a password to restart the program, but should that fail to fix the problem, a student may either continue their exam on paper or type it using Word.

## Symposium discusses insurance and IP developments

*Academics weigh domestic and foreign developments in insurance and copyright*

By Tom Plotkin

On April 4, The Connecticut Insurance Law Journal held its Symposium, "Insurance and Intellectual Property Innovation."

The first panel discussed insurance and IP generally. Michael Meurer of Boston University School of Law presented his analysis of patent litigation risk. Robert W. Fletcher, President of Intellectual Property Services Corporation, discussed his experience as the sole provider of offensive and defensive patent insurance. Richard H. Murray, Managing Director of Swiss Re, provided a reinsurer's perspective on insuring patents. Leib Dodell, Chairman of Media/Professional Insurance, discussed his experience in underwriting copyright risks.

The second panel introduced

the European perspective.

Following an overview of risk assessment, Amedee Turner, former member of the European Parliament, narrated his experience writing a European Commission Report proposing compulsory patent insurance, and how it was stalled by large corporations. Giuseppe Scellato of the Politecnico Torino presented a study on the feasibility of patent insurance in the EU derived from game theory and computer modeling. Eskil Ullberg, a research economist at George Mason University, complemented Scellato's findings that unless patent insurance is mandatory, it will only be useful as a tool of stifling competitive innovation with the threat of insurance-backed enforcement litigation.

The third panel, moder-

ated by Professor Willajeanne McLean, addressed the topic of the insurer as gatekeeper within the copyright regime, focusing on fair use in the documentary film context. Entertainment lawyer Michael Donaldson told of how he negotiated fair use endorsements with insurers in the field. Ken Goldstein of Chubb revealed how insurers' acceptance of fair use assertions is predicated on the opinion letter of competent copyright counsel who vet the film in advance, in effect underwriting the documentary.

The final panel, moderated by Professor Hillary Greene, dealt with business method patents within the field of insurance. Michael Meurer of Boston University School of Law, and Steven Kunin, former Deputy Commissioner at the PTO,

related how courts and the PTO have recently retreated from their hitherto permissive granting of business method patents. Robert Hunt, of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, presented his own research on business investment in such patents. A lively discussion ensued between these three and several other panelists, who advise companies on business method patents. The panelists concluded that such patents are used less to promote innovation than to stifle the work of competitors; that innovation will occur in insurance product development regardless of the presence of patents; and that the volatile nature of both judicial and PTO treatment of business method patents will likely lead to a tapering off of filings in the near future.

## Leading insurance scholar leaves UConn for UPenn

*Baker departs Insurance Law Center to work closely with Wharton School of Business*

By Alan Merriman

UConn Law prepares to turn the page as Professor Tom Baker, and over a decade of his industry-leading scholarship in insurance and tort law, moves on to the University of Pennsylvania in the fall.

After a lengthy period of reflection and contemplation, Baker, the director of UConn's Insurance Law Center, accepted a position as professor at Penn Law, beginning in the 2008-09 academic year.

Alyssa Norwood, a 2L who had Baker for Principles of Insurance, reflected what seemed a consensus opinion among students: "[Baker is a] tremendously enthusiastic and passionate professor who makes a potentially dry topic very interesting."

Baker hopes to continue his scholarship in the fields of tort and insurance law, examining their effect on the corporate environment. His recent nation-

ally-recognized law review article, written with former UConn Law Professor Sean Griffin (now at Fordham Law), *Predicting Corporate Governance Risk: Evidence From the Directors' & Officers' Liability Insurance Market*, represents the beginning of a new strain of thought in the field.

Baker said UConn Law's strong focus on scholarly growth and development has been beneficial to him and he expects it will continue to nurture young scholars to excel in their respective fields. However, one of the major draws of Penn is the opportunity to work closely with the University's Wharton School of Business and its Department of Insurance and Risk Management, which has come to be an internationally recognized leader in research and academics.

Michael A. Fitts, Dean of Penn Law, recognized Baker as the nation's preeminent young scholar of insurance law and

noted, "With his creative mind and his wide-ranging expertise in the law and economics, Professor Baker is a great addition to our faculty."

Dean Jeremy Paul sought to put a positive face on Baker's departure, saying UConn Law's reputation is bolstered when its professors move to other leading institutions. "For more than 20 years, this institution has been very serious about scholarly growth," Paul said.

Paul said Baker's tradition of scholarship will be carried on in part by UConn Law's noteworthy young scholars, including professors Willajeanne McLean and Sachin Pandya, and visiting professor Jill Anderson of Western New England College's Law School. Paul said that with these young scholars come fresh perspectives and new ideas to expand the depth of UConn's contributions.

The institution will look to fill the position of director of the Insurance Law Center

through a nationwide search beginning this fall. A faculty-appointed committee of six voting members, consisting of tenure and tenure-tracked faculty members (as well 3 non-voting members including the Dean) will have the duty of orchestrating the process required to find appropriate candidates.

Though eventually Baker's position will be filled, Paul said, "Tom will not be replaceable," as it is "impossible to overstate Tom's enormous contributions to our community as director, accomplished scholar, dedicated teacher, and voice of sound judgment."

Said Baker: "I'm still grateful for the trust that the law school faculty had in me nearly twelve years ago. I look forward to watching the Insurance Law Center prosper under its new leadership and to hearing about the accomplishments of the many excellent UConn law students whom I had the privilege to teach."

## Winter argues campaign finance laws limit free speech

from WINTER, p. 1

money, a candidate will be unable to reach the public. He pointed out that money is crucial to insurgent movements because the public is already familiar with incumbents. Judge Winter noted that it is no coincidence that Illinois Sen. Barack Obama, the current Democratic front-runner, also has an enormous campaign budget.

Winter contended that campaign finance laws are written by those already in office. He stressed that incumbents already have access to channels of communication and public money, and that the funds

and resources of a challenger are more limited.

Campaign finance regulation also restrict our right to organize by restricting contributions to political parties, Winter argued. Contrary to its goal, regulation actually make the voices of ordinary citizens harder to hear because they are the ones who need the aid of political organizations to make their opinions heard. "Rupert Murdoch does not need anyone's help to get his opinion heard," Winter pointed out.

Proponents of campaign finance say that speech should be egalitarian, and by

uniformly limiting contributions we can equalize speech as well. Winter countered that speech is always unequal and to set up a leveling mechanism is tantamount to massive censorship.

During the Q&A, 1L Patrick Linsey asked whether the Internet will make campaigns less reliant on money to spread their message. Winter replied that it is still too early to tell, but that it certainly has made it a lot easier for candidates to raise money. To conclude, Winter emphasized that the First Amendment creates a marketplace of ideas, truths, and falsehoods; and that speech

and money will always find a loophole, and that any law attempting to regulate them must be broad and overbearing.

"I was not that familiar with the regulations and restrictions of campaign finance law, but Judge Winter's talk was extremely pertinent to the present election," commented Eddie Bryan, a 1L and Federalist Society member. "This lecture really made me reconsider the role of money in campaign politics."

*Editorial note: the author is a member of the Federalist Society.*

## Mean could replace median in proposed grading system

from MEDIAN, p. 1

class, creates grade inflation and rewards students who favor smaller, less mainstream courses to the detriment of larger foundational ones like Federal Tax and Business Organizations.

"I'd be very surprised if we keep the current [B-median] system," said Prof. James Stark, chairman of the EPC.

Earlier in April, faculty discussed the proposed changes and persons present at the meeting said many diverse opinions were voiced.

"There are some faculty members who think we should have stricter grade normalization," Chill said. "There are some who think there should

be no grade normalization — at least for second- and third-year classes."

Stark said the EPC will take into account student and faculty concerns in drafting revised proposals for a faculty vote. He also noted it is the responsibility of faculty and not students to make the final decision at the May 9 meeting.

"I hope we will come in and present, if not one choice, two choices," Stark said. "At that point, we'll have a better understanding of what majority sentiment is."

The changes as currently proposed would require professors teaching all first-year and upper division courses, seminars and clinics to grade

in conformance with a mean, or average, between 3.2 and 3.3.

The Student Bar Association sponsored a TWEN poll of students' feelings with regards to proposed changes and alternative plans. The results have been released to faculty and the EPC.

Students have also complained about the timing of the changes, saying they should not be implemented until spring semester or even until all current students graduate.

But even outspoken critics of the changes have acknowledged issues with the current system. Average grades in non-median seminars tend to be significantly higher than in

courses with median grading.

"I do think some of those small seminars — people take them just to get good grades," Letak said, but for most students, the system "all evens out in the end."

Meghan Sweeney, a 1L and one of two student members of the EPC, disagreed.

"I think [criticism is] understandable, because students are concerned about how things will affect them. I think GPAs are important," Sweeney said. "I still believe in the proposal, because I think there is severe grade inflation. A difference [between median and non-median courses] that large has to be remedied somehow."

## Conference discusses new anti-discrimination bill

*Students question why federal bill won't include transgender protections*

By Chris Argyros

Transgender or "trans" people—allies, lawyers, and health care practitioners from around the Northeast—convened at UConn Health Center for the Second Annual Transgender Lives Conference on April 19th. Sponsored by numerous Connecticut organizations, including UConn Law School, the conference explored an array of health and legal issues specific to the trans community.

Much of the legal discussions at the conference surrounded the revision of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), a proposed federal bill that would expand protection from employment discrimination to gays, lesbians, and bisexuals.

When the bill was first introduced in 2007, it included

protection based on "sexual orientation," as well as "gender identity." Later, "gender identity" was dropped when proponents feared the bill would not pass if it included protection for transgender people.

The day culminated with an exciting panel discussion in which a representative from the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), Jeremy Pittman, bravely fielded questions on this issue from the audience. Questioners sought justification for HRC's support of the non-inclusive ENDA. Some in the audience also questioned whether recent interest in Connecticut was a strategic public relations move to save the organization's reputation within Connecticut's GLBT communities, or a sincere desire on the part of HRC to support the trans community

here. The general tone in the audience was one of distrust and anger.

Some activists are asking, how much would trans people really benefit from a federal protection against employment discrimination? Will pervasive discrimination against trans people actually be curbed? As a trans lawyer, professor, and activist, Dean Spade pointed out at a recent Lambda event that many transgender people in this country experience entrenched system-wide discrimination—they lack basic healthcare benefits, regularly experience violence, trauma and social stigma, suffer very high rates of HIV infection and suicide rates, and are pathologized by the medical community. Spade pointed out that a federal employment discrimination law could

protect trans people who have jobs, resources, and empowerment—but he questioned whether the effect would actually trickle down to the rest of the country's transgender citizens who are just barely surviving.

Rather than focusing on lobbyists, some transgender activists are more committed to local efforts and community organizing with the goal of getting basic services to trans people and making changes from the bottom-up. The Transgender Lives Conference combined these perspectives. While some workshops offered a national assessment of the state of transgender Americans, other workshops showcased the local lawyers and activists that are working to make Connecticut a safer place for transgender people to live and work.

## Our say: carnival is a huge hit for SBA

### COMMENTARY

The Student Bar Association deserves praise for a delightful Carnival last Friday that brought out much of the law school community. SBA representatives succeeded in planning an event that allowed students, faculty and administrators to enjoy a few carefree hours outdoors even as exams loom just over the horizon.

Of course, perhaps the best aspect of the carnival wasn't planned at all. The weather was perfect with temperatures in the high 70s and a clear blue sky. Just the remedy for melanin-deprived students nearing the end of the semester.

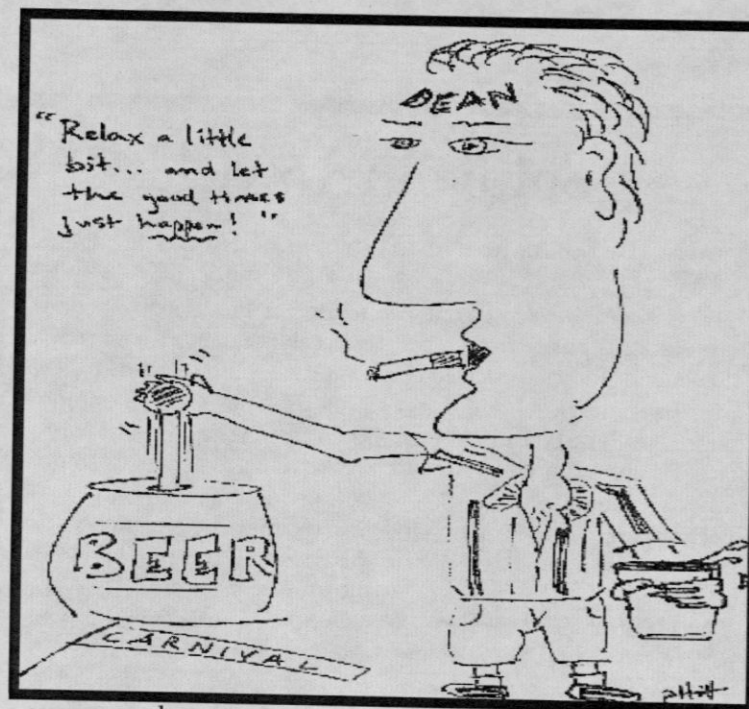
Braver souls than we took to the stage to perform in the talent show. Congrats to Eric Miller, who won by showcasing his guitar, vocal, and — yes — beatboxing skills. Enjoy your hot stone massage, you mad emcee. And a shout out to a be-

loved "Pro Se" editor, John Kim, who programmed the competition.

The food was inexpensive and plentiful. The candy apples with sprinkles and coconut were a particular treat. And who could help but smile seeing kids scarf down cotton candy? The giggling tikes worked up respectable sugar highs to burn off in the "Bounce House."

Credit is also due to the dozens of students who pitched in on behalf of various student organizations, staffing the tables. Maybe next year *Pro Se* will get its act together and lend a hand, but this weekend we work to put this last edition of the year to bed.

Many thanks to Meghan Sweeney, Haroula Toboulidis and Christine Jean-Louis for organizing such an expansive event. SBA reps spend a lot of time working on these functions. And while occasional decisions can raise a few eyebrows (ahem, train station prom?),



everyone always seems to have a good time.

It's easy to flood in-boxes with complaints about student programming. It's much less so to invest hours of precious time in the hopes one's fellow students will have a memorable evening or a pleasant afternoon.

Finally, kudos to those who took their chances

perched above a tub of chilly, hyper-chlorinated water. And here we do level a criticism at the SBA Carnival: Word on the street is the distance from which contestants lobbed softballs at the dunk tank's target was not strictly enforced. Then again, perhaps some springtime activities call for a flexible standard rather than a bright-line rule.

## Reflecting upon three years at UConn Law

By Michael J. Nichols

On August 25, 2005, the majority of the Class of 2008 came onto campus for Orientation. Since then, we have had ups and downs that we will forever remember.

We did the usual first year rites of passage. We read...outlined...read more...outlined more...prayed Professor McLean wouldn't call on us (or Professor Berman or Professor Becker...) We studied for... and

took... and passed our exams!

We were taught Constitutional Law by Justice Scalia. We watched confirmation hearings for two other men to the Supreme Court. We competed in the inaugural Davis Mock Trial Competition. We survived Moot Court. And we played softball in Virginia.

By second year we had convinced ourselves we'd figured it out. We joined student organizations, journals, and intramural teams. We applied for

jobs, picked our own classes, and wrote scholarly articles. We planned symposia, argued before courts, and competed in 'moots' and 'mocks' across the country.

We had an incident mid-year that threatened to split us apart. With a resiliency that will forever attach to our class, we had a dialogue. We worked together. We educated one another... listened to one another... and grew even stronger as individuals and as a class.

Finally, we spent our third year finding which way we will go. Some will go government, others will go in-house. Some will go public interest, others will go Big Law. Some will start their own firms, others will never practice.

It's fitting that at Orientation we were told how we were entering as 210 individuals with 210 backgrounds for 210 different reasons.

Together, on May 18, 2008, we leave as lawyers.

# The Back Page

## Softball trip yields sunburns, southern coeds

By Jon Burby

A few weeks ago 55 UConn law students put down their textbooks and study aids, picked up their bats and gloves, and journeyed south carrying the hopes and dreams of the entire law school community with them. Each spring, over a hundred law schools from around the nation assemble at the University of Virginia Softball Tournament to show the world that not only are Juris Doctorate candidates socially awkward but that we are also mediocre at athletics.

The tournament has quickly become one of the most memorable experiences of law school for many students. This year we sent four teams down to UVA (Men's "A", Men's "B", and two Co-Rec).

Special thanks goes to 3L Kevin Kratzer who organized

the trip and coached the Men's "A" team with a fire and grit that made Lou Pinella look like your typical BarBri rep. A rookie 1L, suffering from second-degree sunburns after seeing the sun for the first time since orientation, was overheard saying "I would follow Mr. Kratzer to hell... or at least to the party tonight because he is the only one who knows how to get to the bar."

Showing no signs of minivan lag from the nine hour drive down the Men's "A" team got off to a great start outclassing Penn State Dickinson and New York Law School due in large part to the sweet swings of 3L Mike "Deep to" Wright and 1L Tim Nast'y." Unfortunately the team lost a tough third game to a Washington and Lee team that had clearly been practicing every day since last year's tournament.

"If only we hadn't wasted our



first round pick on Jon Burby," lamented 2L John Kim, still upset about the loss.

The team advanced to the second round of the tournament but the following morning they were eliminated due to the weather. Probably for the best as it was rumored most of the team had stayed up late debating the merits of the B-median with various southern coeds.

Stealing a line from "Casey at

the Bat" to describe the performance of the Men's "B" and Co-Rec teams... "the former was a lulu and the latter was a cake." However, even going a combined 0-9 didn't keep any of them from having a great time on the trip. 2L John Dimanno summed up the weekend by saying, "I had a blast and can't wait to come back. Hopefully next year with a little luck and possibly a tailwind I can hit a ball out of the infield."

## Student bassist juggles riffs and rules in local band

By Patrick R. Linsey

Like other members of the 1L class, Justin Theriault spent last fall learning Torts, Contracts and Civil Procedure. He also learned to play bass guitar.

This semester, Theriault has invested whatever free time he can scrounge into The Athens Stance, a self-described Emo/Pop/Rock act that earlier this year won a battle of the bands at the Webster Theater Underground in Hartford.

Theriault said balancing

bass riffs and casebooks has actually relieved more stress than it caused.

"It's a perfect time where I spend a few hours with the guys and I'm thinking about anything except what I have to do for work," he said.

Theriault also contributes vocals at the band's shows, and there he has greater experience. From the age of 15 he joined his father and his aunt, singing with their acoustic act at bars in Central Connecticut.

One could say music is in Theriault's blood. He described his father and his

father's two siblings as "musically inclined." In the 1970s, Theriault's father rocked out as part of a band that covered acts like AC/DC.

Theriault thought he wouldn't be able to juggle the rigors of law school with a rock band's rehearsal and performance schedule. But when he heard that Storrs-based The Athens Stance was looking for a new bassist, he decided to give it a shot.

"They're pretty cool about it," Theriault said of his bandmates. "They're pretty flexible that I don't have as much time

as they have."

But does he have to worry about common-law elements distracting his concentration in the midst of a performance? Apparently that's not a problem.

"Thankfully, I'm not that good at bass that I can be that absentminded," Theriault laughed. "Is this bass solo reasonable?"

More information about The Athens Stance is available on: <http://www.myspace.com/theathensstance>.