

4-17-1997

Hastings Law News Vol.30 No.9

UC Hastings College of the Law

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UC Hastings College of the Law, "Hastings Law News Vol.30 No.9" (1997). *Hastings Law News*. Book 233.
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Hastings Readies for Commencement

Attorney General Janet Reno to be featured speaker

Glenn E. Von Tersch
ADVERTISING MANAGER

Janet Reno, Attorney General of the United States, will serve as commencement speaker for Hastings 116th annual graduation ceremony on May 18.

"It is great to have such a prominent national figure speaking at graduation," said third-year Adria Cheng. However, Cheng expressed the same frustration many students feel about having to get tickets to graduation.

As for having Reno present and the corresponding ticket requirement for graduation, third-year Scott Joachim said "I think it is a great tribute to the school, but it is more important to have our families here than to have Reno here at the expense of limiting tickets."

Surprisingly, Reno's presence has not made that much of a difference to those planning the ceremony. However, the time was changed because Reno needs to catch a flight after graduation in order to be in Boston for another speaking engagement the following day, according to Sandra Goodman who has coordinated Hastings graduation for more than ten years.

As for the new ticket requirement, Goodman said that tickets would have been

necessary this year regardless of Reno's presence, because of overcapacity at last year's ceremony.

Convincing Reno to appear was made easier by the fact that Reno's god-daughter will be among those graduating. As in years past, commencement speaker nominations were addressed by a mixed panel of students and faculty.

This year then panel was composed of five students, Dean Kane, Academic Dean Len Martinez, a member of the Alumni Board of Directors and a member of the Hastings Board of Directors. The students are drawn from the third-year Class Council and they also solicit nominations from fellow students and faculty. The committee then meets and considers their preferences among the nominations along with the possibility that those nominated would accept an invitation.

A final list of candidates is then created and the Dean's office sends out invitations in the order dictated by the list. "Janet Reno was our number one candidate this year," said Kane.

As for other details of the ceremony, it occurs at the Nob Hill Masonic Center, and it begins with welcoming remarks from Dean Kane and greetings from the University of California provided by Carol



Hats Off to the Graduates.

Tomlinson-Keasey, Vice Provost in charge of Academic Initiatives. Following that come the student speakers, both Khalidoun Baghdadi the elected student speaker and Noam Mandelson the Valedictorian of the Class of 1997. Next comes an introduction by John T. Knox, Chair of the Hastings Board of Directors and the Commencement Address by Reno. Finally, Shauna Marshall of the Hastings faculty delivers the farewell remarks.

Then, the big event occurs, presentation of the candidates by Dean Kane, Dean Martinez, and Professor Dodge. The ceremony ends with closing remarks by Dean Kane, and is followed by a reception.

Public Interest Fee Rescinded

Molly Peterson
STAFF WRITER

Bringing to a close the latest chapter in the election procedure controversy, the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of Hastings decided in an April 3 morning meeting to invalidate the controversial public interest fee and approve a way of refunding the money already collected.

Last month, second-year Joe Zehnder brought a formal complaint before the regularly-scheduled Board of Directors meeting requesting that the board invalidate the \$5 Hastings Public Interest Foundation summer grant fee on the procedural grounds that the ballot initiative had not been approved by a majority of the student body. Against the background of the larger complaint, Zehnder alleged that the ballot initiative had not been approved by a majority of the student body. Against the background of the larger complaint, Zehnder alleged that the ballot initiative had not been approved by a majority of the student body. Against the background of the larger complaint, Zehnder alleged that the ballot initiative had not been approved by a majority of the student body.

Zehnder further alleged that Kahn and second-year Christine Drake and Chantal Sampogna created conflicts of interest by holding positions both in HPIFL and ASUCH. Finally, Zehnder argued that even if all of the mystery ballots counted, the fee could not be forcibly imposed since it violated his personal religious and political beliefs.

The board held the meeting in Hastings General Counsel Angel Khachadour's office in order to publicly consider the 20-page brief and additional materials Zehnder submitted in March.

On a motion from board member Maureen Cochran eliciting unanimous approval, the executive committee rescinded their validation of the ballot initiative from the April 1996 election. In addition, the board approved the notification process chosen by HPIFL to make students aware of their right to get back their \$5, adding only that Khachadour and Drake should work together to draft a new memo taking into consideration the fact that some students would wish to get back their money simply because election procedure was not followed.

Zehnder told the executive committee that the refund form circulated to the student body via SIC folder was "inappropriate and inadequate" because he continued to argue that HPIFL should automatically refund all students the fee without prejudice. Second-year Ron Shea agreed, asking why HPIFL could SIC-drop memos but not actual refund forms or checks.

Second-year Michele Childers gave no reasons for wanting a refund, not wanting HPIFL to have the money and not agreeing with the way the election was conducted. "There is a whole other reason why you might want a refund, and that is you feel there were irregularities with the election and that this should not go forward without any kind of proper approval by the students."

Zehnder's allegations concerning the potential ethical violations of Kahn, Drake and Sampogna are still unresolved. In addition, the board of directors has yet to consider and approve the \$10 Ralph Santiago Absentee for approval by the student body in the March 1997 election.

IP Lawmakers Need to Rethink Property Rights, Fromm Lecturer Says

Molly Peterson
STAFF WRITER

At the first-ever AllIreland Harnett Fromm Lecture last Wednesday April 16, Filipino lawyer Marvic Leonen championed a radical perspective on intellectual property rights that takes into account local communities' conceptions of property in its legal formulations.

Leonen's lecture, entitled "Intellectual Property Rights: Privacy or Progress for Local Communities?" encouraged the attendees to reassess of intellectual property rights that aren't based in notions of exclusivity of intellectual property

the way systems emphasizing copyright laws are rooted. Instead, Leonen said, laws that don't provide for long-term copyrights but instead create short-term licenses for intellectual property exist to protect local communities, who can be exploited by profifiers who steal local technologies, such as information about native seeds and plants, especially in the realm of biotechnology. Leonen's work has brought him into contact with many indigenous groups, leading him to espouse a different approach to law and regulation of intellectual property rights in this context.

Leonen is the executive director

of the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center of the Philippines. In addition, Leonen teaches law at the University of the Philippines, from which he received his LL.B. As part of his extensive work, Leonen consulted with the Philippine Senate's Committee on Natural Resources and helped to draft the 1996 Plant Variety Bill, a cutting-edge approach to intellectual property law in the biotech field, which touched on interests of indigenous peoples and human rights, biotechnology and the environment, and property rights.

As a result of such revolutionary property-law formulations, Leonen says local communities are able to

live more securely, even if the laws only address a fragmented part of the way they live, since the danger of outside and unfriendly elements is lessened. This approach emphasizes biological preservation, local autonomy and decision-making, and indigenous peoples' rights and culture.

Leonen argued that indigenous conceptions of environment and property are "wholistic" and superior to the fragmented perspective circumscribed by western laws. Leonen added that intellectual property rights as we understand them are inferior since they fail to take into

See FROMM, p.3

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Take the Moot Out of Court

Mike Malugani and Sarah Jacoby
SPECIAL TO THE LAW NEWS

Before entering law school, many students were told that LW&R and Moot Court were the two courses in the first year curriculum that actually had some practical application in the real world. The past 7 weeks have convinced us that the advice was a little off base.

Surviving Moot Court became our only goal. Writing a brief and appearing before a court are not skills the program succeeded in teaching. Why?

1) 7 Weeks: We were expected to completely research, write a brief, and prepare a 15 minute oral "presentation" on a topic that was controversial enough to make it to either a state Supreme Court or the U.S. Supreme Court. In all previous years the class had been 10 weeks. I venture to guess that even 5 extra weeks would not have been enough time to do a competent job. Just 2 weeks after the first class, the first draft of the argument was due. Such a short period leaves little time for research, especially in light of the fact that the topics are new to us.

2) Topics: How can we be expected to write a brief on a topic that we have not even begun to encounter in a lecture class? Sure we are exceptional legal minds (sarcasm), but come on. The U.S. Supreme Court obviously does not hear very many cases on topics such as contracts, torts, real property, or criminal law, so the

choices are limited. But it is hard to imagine that there are not plenty of options among the 50 state Supreme Courts.

3) 10-Error Rule: Because we fail if we have more than 10 errors, but pass even if the argument is weak, we are forced to concentrate a disproportionate amount of time on the technical aspect of the brief. With such a short amount of time, formulating a thorough analysis of the topic is an unrealistic goal.

4) Inconsistency: With over 20 instructors and over 60 teaching assistants, consistency is lacking, both among the instructors and the assistants. The *Blue Book*, the supposed ultimate authority, was overlooked by some while others stressed its supremacy. Additionally, some assistants decided that an outdated edition was a sufficient authority, even though it is contradicted by newer editions.

5) In light of all the above, the Moot Court Department put out a memo, to be read to all classes, urging instructors and assistants to fail students they believed were not trying hard enough. Some encouragement, huh? We understand that we are not supposed to be babied, but this memo was just a little ridiculous. Just how would such a determination be made anyway? Probably a majority of the students were putting in a serious effort but producing work that was less than stellar. Considering the topics and short time available, this result is not surprising.

HPILF Announces Grant Recipients

Amy Fairweather
SPECIAL TO THE LAW NEWS

Hastings' Public Interest Law Foundation has announced the 1997 summer grant recipients. The HPILF Board chose from a pool of first and second year who applied for the \$3000 grants. To be eligible, applicants secure summer positions with public interest firms or organizations and develop a project above and beyond the organization's normal legal services.

Recipients, projects, and sponsoring organizations include:

- Yvonne Cudley (2L), Pro-Se Representation on the Navajo Nation, DNA Peoples Legal Services, Mexican Hat, Utah;
- Lafadio H. Darling (1L), Farm Worker Pesticide Project, Columbia Legal Services, Seattle, WA;
- Leigh Frazier (1L), Government Abuses of SSI Psychological Examinations General Assistance Advocacy Project, SF;
- Alyson Lewis (1L), Benefits Planning for the 21st Century, The Changing Face of HIV, AIDS Benefits Counselors, SF;
- Eileen Manning-Vilas (2L), Oil and Water DO Mix: An Environmental "Translation", SFE;

- Suma Peesapati and James Donahue (1L), joint recipients,

"Know Your Environmental Rights" Community Handbook, Communities for a Better Environment;

- Jennifer G. Perkel (1L), Legal Intervention and Advocacy for Battered Lesbian Empowerment, San Francisco Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation.

Recipients secured summer placements through a variety of means. Suma Peesapati and James Donahue both interviewed with Communities for a Better Environment at the Public Interest Public Sector Career day this February. Their environmental rights handbook will provide training for underrepresented communities in the Bay Area and Los Angeles. It will include legal resources, citizen suit provisions of environmental statutes, notice forms and will be available in Spanish and English.

Alyson Lewis found her summer position through Hastings Career Office Materials. "AIDS Benefits Counselors operates entirely on private referrals," explained Alyson, "so I wouldn't have found them through public listings." Her project will gather information for pre-disability HIV positive persons. It will be available at testing centers and healthcare offices and will include information on benefits planning and disclosure issues.

"The idea is to get patients private health care now so that when they need it they won't have to rely on government funds. By taking advantage of private health planning they will be able to get much more funding and better health care."

Lafadio H. Darling did not arrange formal interviews for Public Interest Public Sector Day. While at the event he met representatives of Columbia legal Services and finalized his summer position with them during spring break.

He will interview agricultural field workers, growers and agencies... research noncompliance with pesticide regulations, and develop a suit to require medical surveillance of pesticide loaders.

"Grant writing is an important skill for anyone interested in public interest or the non-profit sector," said second year Aaron Myers, chair of the selection committee. "It's really gratifying to be in a position to support these students. They have a lot of energy and talent, and will do a great job."

Recipients receive \$3,000 for working 40 hours per week for a minimum of 10 weeks. The money for the summer grants are raised through an auction and pledge drive.

LAWNEWS STAFF MEETING

Interested in writing for the Law News next year? We need writers, editors and others. Come to the informational meeting on 4/24 at 4:30 in the Law News office in the basement of the 198 building.

Hastings Law News: "From Dialogue Comes Truth"

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Dean Offers Finals Advice to Students

Eileen A. Scallen
ASSOCIATE ACADEMIC DEAN

The tension is mounting—we can all feel it. The academic year is coming to a close; students, staff, faculty are tired and ready for a break. And yet, people are still so busy! The combination of fatigue, tension and workload takes its toll on all of us.

Another faculty member and I were noting the other day that you really can't joke around with students at this time of year—people completely lose their sense of humor. And who can blame you? The most intense work period—exams—sisit staring you in the face. If you are a first or second year, you then look forward to summer school, finding a job or starting a job. If you are a third year, you look forward to starting the bar review grind the day after graduation, then the bar itself and the uncertainties of the "real world." Who can laugh when you think about all this?

Well, let me try to deliver some good news for a change. By reading this paper, you already show you have the right idea—when faced with all of this pressure and work, you need to schedule in some breaks. No one can absorb material intelligently by studying 10 or 12 hours nonstop. You need to take a breath, get out for a walk or a run. Think of this as a long-distance race—you need to pace

yourself.

Here's another positive thought—you know more than you think you do, even at this point. After eight years of teaching, I've discovered that for the students who prepared for and attended class regularly (and that includes most of our students), the biggest exam problem is not failing to know the material, but rather the problem of communicating what they know.

As you prepare for exams, think about these two points and try to incorporate them at every point in your preparation. First, the key to success in writing exams (as well as in writing "real world" documents) is to remember that you are communicating with a particular audience—in this case, your professor. You are far more likely to communicate effectively if you use the professor's terminology and process of analyzing a problem than the language and method of organization suggested by a commercial outline.

Remember too that the professor reads your bluebook, not your mind; if you don't raise a counterargument or spell out your reasoning in addressing an issue, the professor doesn't know whether you thought of the points and dismissed them as weak, or whether you just didn't think of them at all. Law school exams are like the math test where the teacher told you

that you got credit for showing your work—we want you to show us your reasoning ability.

Second, try, really try, to see a legal problem (a.k.a., an issue) from all sides. One of the most common problems students have is being too conclusory. Law professors have no way of knowing which side of a legal problem you will ultimately end up representing; we are interested in your ability to take the problem and examine it from all different angles. Being able to see a problem from different perspectives requires keeping your mind open. An open mind is really rare but is the hallmark of great lawyers, since they are always prepared for their opponents' arguments and can craft solutions that others have overlooked.

Once you have finished exams, move on to enjoy your summer. All too soon you will be busy, busy, busy once again. The "Dean Team" of Deans Kane, Martinez and myself hope you have a productive and interesting summer. For the graduating third years, we add our hopes that you will keep in touch; let us know where you are and what you are doing. One of the real joys of teaching is watching your former students grow in their professional and personal lives. We will always be happy to hear from you.

ASUCH Prez Looks Back

Edward Streets
SPECIAL TO THE LAW NEWS

I recently received a memo requesting me to write a brief missive detailing my time at Hastings. This is a difficult task. First of all, what I believe to be exciting times may be painfully boring to someone else. Second, so much has happened since I have been at Hastings, I would have to write a novel to say it all.

Having said all that, here is my attempt to give you my time at Hastings in a nutshell.

When I arrived at Hastings, I was a shy punk rocker who felt an obligation to work towards social justice. I wanted to use my law education to improve society. I had no doubt I was going to be a public defender when I graduated. During orientation I met my section mates. I was pleasantly surprised to find that some of them were even more kooky than this punk rock kid from Arkansas.

Shortly after that, I met Joanne Madison. She was ASH president at the time. She convinced me to run for IL rep for my section. Fired up, I stood before my classmates and people I did not know, and told them my platform had only one promise: I would represent their interest to the best of my ability. They laughed, clapped and later voted two other section mates into office. That was fine. ASH would only take away from my slam dancing—which by the way is a great means for relieving stress and tension.

That spring, Judy Shipper, one of my classmates who was elected, asked me if I would take her position as IL rep because she was moving to an executive position. I said "no problem." I took her position and began to cause immediate problems.

I believe the most significant thing I did that year as an ASH rep was draft the Thorn Resolution. The Thorn Resolution arose from a racist attack directed against a Hastings student. The resolution was ASH's statement that we were opposed to bigotry.

My favorite creation of the year was the Day of Open Minds. I felt that students needed a day when they could come together. So I created Day of Open Minds. It provided students the opportunity to share their cultures and opinions and have a good time. It was, and is, a celebration of diversity.

Admittedly, I do not remember much of my second

year. I spent the majority of it in shock and disbelief. It was hard for me to believe that I finished the first year and returned to get more. I do remember that during the spring of my second year, I began to feel rejuvenated. I became motivated and ran for ASUCH president. I felt that this school could use some improving. It was a dirty job but somebody had to do it. I ran a great campaign, but lost. However, it was discovered that the elections were bogus and had to be redone. I ran again. This time I won.

As ASUCH president, I improved Hastings reputation with the community (which is evidenced by the plaque Willie Brown presented to ASUCH on behalf of the mayor's office for our work in the community), improved student-faculty relations (faculty now eat with students in the Law Cafe), worked with the administration to improve student morale, advised the board of directors of student concerns, and sought to bridge the gap between students and Alumni. However, I believe my greatest achievement is the Alumni Wall. It will bring a sense of pride to students and alumni for years to come.

So, there you have it, my time at Hastings. Although I am no longer a punk rocker, I still feel an obligation to work toward social justice. Without a doubt, that is what I will do when I leave this institution. I will leave you with some words of wisdom from Bush: "Drink life as it comes—straight—no chaser."



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VIEWPOINT

Letter to the Editor

Reader Questions Omissions in HPILF Article

To the Editor:

Most students are probably aware of the allegations of fraud and abuse of power which sullied the March and April 1996 student elections and the credibility of our student government representatives. Second year student Joe Zehnder prepared a 20 page report outlining a litany of high crimes and misdemeanors alleged against these paragons of ethical virtue now firmly embedded within the structure of student government. He presented these findings to both the administration and the board of directors. The charges were as serious as the fraud which had been committed against the student body at Hastings.

And so it came to pass, that the *Hastings Law News* reported the story. While laughing in the student cafe, I met the intrepid Molly Peterson, author of the article and editor-in-chief of the student weekly. Our encounter was brief, but quite spirited! (And one should quote nothing less in an exchange between budding barristers at one of the top 100 law schools in the country!) In

her defense of the article, she maintained that she had not misrepresented or distorted any of the facts. Perhaps. But I am reminded of the axiom that all history (and journalism) is selective. Sims of omission play an important role in the credibility of a journalist.

Her article was rife with equivocation, trivializing the ethical breaches alleged against the ASUCH 3. Moreover, after representing the arguments of Zehnder in a facile or incoherent manner, she set forth chapter and verse why Zehnder had erred as virtually every item of his argument. If this article had claimed to be an editorial, my commitment to free speech would compel me to respect the views therein. But when it feigns the posture of neutral investigative reporting, it is an intolerable example of the sort of scatalogical drivel which waxes increasingly as the hallmark of the loony left of this august institution. To wit:

The trivializing of fraud, "When the matter reached the board in June, ASUCH did not claim that

the measure had passed. Precatory language in resolution 96-28 includes the assumption that "had these five ballots [found by Kuhn in the SIC rooms] been counted, the total number of students voting would be 589, surpassing the majority requirement to consider a student for increase." Precatory language? PRECATORY LANGUAGE?? Ms. Peterson! This was nothing less than premeditated fraud being perpetrated by the board of directors. Such lame palliatives are hardly a surprise, coming as they do from one of the leading apologists of the liberal left. But they can neither erase nor hide an embarrassing stain which will only be cleansed through the acuity of public inquiry.

Second, the article was dismissive of virtually every argument of Zehnder. The reader is asked to watch for the word however: "Zehnder's substantive argument is that the imposition of fees is unconstitutional. They're good causes but it's a violation of my first amendment right to have some group with a political and ideological purpose which I disagree with. . . reach into my wallet and take out \$5.00 to go to their purpose." However, (here it is, do you see it?) However, section 14 of UC policies adopted by Hastings legalizes student-initiated fees passed in accordance with election regulations passed by a simple majority. After the ruling in the recent California Supreme case, *Smith v. Regents*, students who disagreed with fees on first amendment grounds can petition for a refund of money. . . . And there it is! Zehnder's argument is out of touch with contemporary jurisprudence! And perhaps it is Molly. Perhaps not. I don't know. What I do know is that you did not claim that ASUCH, Kuhn, Sanpogna, or Drake so invoked *Smith v. Regents* in response to the charges. It was you Molly, avatar of impartiality who volunteered that little analysis, and more dismissive gestures look judicial (er, editorial) notice that Zehnder's argument is groundless. Uh, thanks for clearing that up Molly. Sure glad we had you advising us on this matter before we wasted any more energy on it! Maybe you can rent yourself out to the Supreme Court and clear up the backlog of cases with a stroke of your pen.

Zehnder's argument about the election requirements (that the ratio of voters was below the 50% mark) was similarly dismissed with elegant dispatch. The ASUCH 3 had not tried to circumvent election procedure with smoke and mirrors as Zehnder alleged. Actually, the matter was "unclear." Five students were on leave last semester and were not on campus for the election. Whether these students count towards the total of eligible voters is unclear since election regulations have never addressed the issue. What Peterson omitted, of course, is Zehnder's reasoning for why these five students were eligible to vote, whether they were in San Francisco or Hong Kong at the time of the election. Some students, upon hearing Zehnder's argument, might have found it to be airtight. They might have found that the clarity guidelines he established a model of administrative craftsmanship. Mercifully, we have been spared the intellectual labor of weighing the matter for ourselves. Judicial notice has already been taken that the matter was "unclear." Which, I suppose, makes Zehnder's arguments tenuous at best. Poor Joe! Can't you make any good arguments Mr. Zehnder?

And then there was the crushing banality of it all. Zehnder might as well have been arguing how often the library shelves need to be dusted. The truly incendiary statements of Zehnder—statements that might have raised the ire of fellow students—were selectively ignored. For example, in his report to the board, Zehnder had stated: "Refund my \$5 fee that went to support HPILF's summer grant program. The overriding purpose of the grant is to forward HPILF's narrow political and ideological interpretation of 'public interest'." For example, in recent years, HPILF's summer grant program have led to the following causes: 1) California Summer Fight for Affirmative Action (National Lawyers Guild), 2) Lesbian Reproductive Rights (National Center for Lesbian Rights), 3) Same Sex Marriage (Lambda Legal Defense), 4) Lobby Congress to Amend Portions of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (Native American Rights Fund). Now there's an impressive quote! There are within Hastings students of Conservatism or Christian ideology who

passionately oppose many if not all of these causes. Had this quote of Zehnder been repeated in your article, Molly, some students might have actually found themselves agreeing with Zehnder's cause, and more than a little aggrieved over the fraud and theft being perpetrated against them by the ASUCH 3. Instead, Zehnder was made to appear more than a little malcontent junior lawyer squabbling over technicalities of election irregularity. In reality, Zehnder's crusade is nothing less than a quest for justice and relief from a group of thugs who run our student government like a Central American Junta trying to shake down every student on campus for \$15.00 a year to further the corruptness of HPILF/PFERAGE. And now for the six million dollar question Ms. Peterson: What portion of that incendiary quotation by Zehnder did you elect to quote in your article to put the matter in the proper perspective? To capture the passion, the emotion, the indignation, the outrage? Before I tell it, students are advised to get the fire extinguisher out. Are you ready? "It was not germane to the university's purpose to fund someone's job." That's it! Hot stuff, eh? So that's the pressing issue that impelled Zehnder to spend his spring break preparing a detailed 20 page brief for the board of directors while the rest of us laid on the beach drinking mud jugs. "It was not germane to the university's purpose to fund someone's job." Why, after reading your article, Molly, one could reasonably conclude that Zehnder is truly a young man with too much free time on his hands! So much energy went to trivial a matter. And on top of it all, such poorly reasoned legal arguments by Zehnder. Poor Joe! Leaves one wondering how on earth he was ever accepted to one of the top 100 law schools in the country.

No Molly, you did not distort what Zehnder said. I will grant you that. I didn't even find your article dishonest. I think you are a nice person at heart. And I frankly enjoy your writing. You write with a nice clear style and a bit of spice. (Not as spicy as mine, of course.) However, the article was fatally flawed in that it feigned impartiality while attempting to reach a foregone conclusion. And that, Molly, is what is meant by "sins of omission, and other editorial peccadilloes." Or, as the king said to Amalec: "And there it is."

RON SIAA
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HASTINGS LAW NEWS

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Music and Concert Roundup: Props to Morphine and Mescolanza

Molly Petersen
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Shawn Colvin
at the Warfield, 4/5 and 4/6

Fogheads is my sister's catch-all term to describe white, suburban double-income-no-kids-people, the kind of target population that Adult Alternative Album-oriented stations like KFOG love because they always need some work done on their Volvos. Fogheads, as you would imagine, have forgotten how to be at concerts (turn the cell phone ringers off, people), but unfortunately, they were at Shawn Colvin's concert in droves. Fortunately there were enough interesting people there to make it worthwhile.

Colvin was joined by most of the same musicians who backed her up on 1996's *A Few Small Repairs*, including former James Taylor backup singer Kate Markowitz and longtime collaborator Larry Klein, who played bass on "Object of My Affection" and "Facts About Myself" the second night. This is Colvin's fourth album, and many of her longtime fans were there to shout for "Shotgun Down the Avalanche"

and "Diamond in the Rough," standards off of her first release, *Steady On*. While they were rewarded with those two, Colvin's concert leaned too heavily on the new release, featuring not only radio hits like "Summy Came Home" and "Get Out of This House" but also "I Want it Back" and "Wichita Skyline," the latter of which is my personal signal to change the CD. "Trouble," however, was excellent in concert, with Shawn Pelton's excellent percussion driving its paradoxical mellow intensity.

Less successful was Colvin's take on a Tom Littlefield song, "Window to the World," which came from her album of cover songs (aptly titled, as Colvin noted wryly, *Cover! Girl!*). Her partner, which was somewhat charming on the first night, became canned the second when she played almost entirely the same set list and stopped in the same places to tell the same stories about Lyle Lovett and the movie *Sling Blade*. Colvin played the same three songs for the encore each night: "If I Were Brave," a mediocre piano ballad off of the new album, followed by a well-done and haunting cover of the Beatles' "I'll Be Back," before seguing "Suicide

Alley" into Free's *All Right Now*, better known as the Stanford song if you grew up near the Farm. The second night she made up for the encore featuring new songs nobody knew by closing with a solo cover of Talking Heads' "Naive Melody," which audience members had probably been shouting for since South Dakota.

Colvin is a literate lyricist and has a strong and feminine voice, all of which are severely needed in the music industry. But her failure to emphasize her own strengths and efforts instead to sell the new album made the concert, unfortunately, a disappointment.

Morphine
at the Warfield, 3/31

Morphine's concert at the Warfield two weeks ago was a tight two-hour affair, with a good mix of old favorites and soon-to-be-classics.

Morphine's songs can be provocative in their minimalism, sometimes resulting in teenage girls screaming, "I want 'Super Sex'!" American rock is electrically driven, techno is electric and full of synthesizer sound.

Morphine lacks both of these conventions. The Boston band is comprised of an odd instrumental mix: Billy Conway's drums and percussion and Dana Colley's sax, especially the monster double sax, complement Mark Sandman's bass and smoky spooky vocals. Morphine's fourth album, *Like Swimming*, was released by Dreamworks/Rykodisc/Mar. 11.

The new album, by the way, is spectacular. The first single, "Early to Bed,"

encapsulates Morphine's cooler-than-thou attitude with lyrics like "early to bed/and early to rise/makes a man and woman/misad on the night life." True to form, Morphine added whimsy with one-line songs like "French Fries With Pepper" and "Eleven O'Clock." These new songs continued the trend last manifested in the band's release *Yes* with the song "Sharks" ("sharks patrol these waters/don't let your fingers dangle in the water/and don't you worry about those day-glo orange life preservers/they won't save you/swim for the shore just as fast as you're able.")

While Morphine clearly was on tour in support of a new album (and if there was any doubt about that, Sandman's plea for the audience all to pick one up probably cleared that up), the band anticipated requests for the title track of the band's strongest all-around album, *Care for Pain*, as well as other tracks from that album like "I'm Free Now" and "Canby." Sandman encouraged the audience sing-along on "Buena" and "Thursday," the latter of which Morphine played even though it was Monday because, according to Sandman, "we'd love to play it every day of the week."

The show did have its slower moments during songs like "Whisper" and "Radar," which like many of the songs from *Yes*, begin with similar percussion-driven introductions. But following them with the taunting "All Your Way" and the haunting "I Know You (Part III)," the band seemed to recognize potential hulls almost instantaneously and strove to fill them with the lounge-ish, after-midnight sound that makes Morphine instant relaxation therapy.

Mescolanza
2221 Clement St. (at 23rd)
668-2221

Mescolanza provides traditional, straight-up Italian food at tremendously reasonable prices.

The decor is Williams-Sonoma Moonstruck-Brooklyn Italian kitchen, with clean cream-colored walls, many copper-colored pots, and wooden shelves with large flowered plates on them.

Appetizers are traditional in recipe; this is hearty old-school food: the carpaccio appetizer is served with capers, onions and a mustard-based sauce. Eaten with or without these accents, the paper-

thin beef was velvety and rich, and surprisingly light. The buffalo mozzarella and tomato appetizer, served dressed in a light peppery vinaigrette, was unimpaired.

Dinner pasta portions are large, and with the thick and rich sauces can be too heavy. Nonetheless, the creamy pesto sauce was rich and flavorful. Pizzas are another house specialty, with *pizzetta* crusts brushed with garlic and basil and topped with a light combination of roma tomatoes, cheeses and meats. While you can easily anticipate the tastes of the food, the likelihood of finding another Italian restaurant in the area that is as good is minuscule at best.

For dessert, the hazelnut cheesecake is a house specialty, and is excellent, rich but not too heavy in weight. Other cheesecakes include traditional and chocolate. Tiramisu was good, though a little soggy when we ate there.

Much of the clientele is local, with some families with loud children close to the dinner hour. The restaurant is tiny, without a waiting area, and can develop a long wait around peak dining times. Still, the waitstaff is efficient, knowledgeable, and accommodating.

Pacific Cafe
7000 Geary (at 34th)
387-7091

There's a constant line outside this place, and the great seafood accounts for a lot of that. So does its proximity to the Lincoln Park golf course. But the best reason, the most fun reason, for the line is the complimentary wine (house white or red) the Pacific Cafe provides while you're waiting.

The restaurant is dark and wood-lined inside, with high posts on the corner of booths to throw your jackets on. The tablecloths were a synthetic natural-colored vinyl, the easier to wipe down after every diner, but instead of being slightly cheesy they added to the Pacific Cafe's accessible character. The service further reflects a lack of pretension while being efficient.

The Pacific Cafe's high quality fish is a treat. The Shrimp Louisiana was cooked in a flavorful garlic-cajun sauce with whole bay leaves and rosemary, but wasn't overpowered by the seasonings. Likewise, the steamed mussels were soft and flavorful without being rubbery. All entrées included a choice of shrimp or Caesar salad.

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Movie Review

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Ethan Kallet
STAFF WRITER

Most of us third years will soon graduate and, soon after, about 79% of us may actually pass the bar. Then some of those people may actually get jobs as practicing attorneys! Alas, we all may find ourselves ill-prepared for the practice of law. At this time of crisis, we should look to films to provide us with what we need. The VCR, that third parent who raised us, can now become our mentor, our scrapbook, and our support in times of uncertainty.

For the retrospective among us, here are a few films that may provide alternatives for the law school experience. If you ever get nostalgic, check out:

1. *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*. A group of geeky, cocky, annoying, spoiled, rich kids (11s) go to a cabin in the woods (Hastings) where they are chopped to bits by the family which lives there (faculty). Even the local sheriff (the administration) is on the hacking.

2. *Sar Wars*. In the ultimate allegory to final exams, this film shows that all the research and preparation in the world can't beat closing your eyes and praying to hit a bullseye. *Sar Wars* is the crossing of the rope bridge in *Monty Python's Holy Grail*.

3. *The Fly*. Our hero works like a dog for years only to become hideous and unrecognizable to his girlfriend.

4. *Grease*. A young, innocent girl has hopes to remain pure (do public interest law), but by the end of school she is resigned to be a slut (corporate lawyer) in order to get the man of her dreams.

5. *Jack & the Beanstalk*. A foolish lad sells his family fortune for some magic beans (a J.D.) which are supposed to make him rich but ultimately just lead him to a giant who wants to eat him (Fannie Mae).

As for the few, the proud, the employed, here is a list of the best lawyer movies of all time and what they can teach us. If you need advice on what to do, these films may help.

- *Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills*. A message for D.A.s: when you're in trouble, tell the jury the defendant wore black T-Shirts.

- *Cape Fear*. Also to D.A.'s: don't let your daughter date former defendants.

- *Anatomy of a Murder*. Make sure your client knows his defense before he tells you the facts of the case.

- *My Cousin Vinny*. Never work with family.

- *The Godfather*. Unless he's the Don. Also, it's okay to have one client, as long as he kills a lot of people.

- *"Breaker" Morant*. It's okay to use the system in order to build an empire.

- *The Caine Mutiny*. It's okay to hate your clients.

- *The Verdict*. It's okay to love your clients.

- *To Kill a Mockingbird*. But you shouldn't live near their alleged victims.

- *Carlito's Way*. Sometimes you're better off not trusting your lawyer. He may be a coke fiend.

Burritos and Opinion

Amy N. Fairweather

SPECIAL TO THE LAW NEWS

Prague get really serious about their favorite burrito. It's like talking politics at a cocktail party. They're fiercely loyal, even without the booze. Of course, if you want a real burrito you've got to get out of the loyn and drag your self to another upscale neighborhood. Prucko Villa is on 16th Street, just below Mission. They have a doorman so those of you from Orange County can feel nice and secure. If you still feel shaky, take a look at the guy behind the counter making mince meat out of the grilled chicken with a pair of machetes. Home sweet home. By far the best burrito in town, perhaps the state, except of course, certain fish tacos in San Diego. I don't know the name of the place but any self-respecting San Diegan could point you there. There's no shortage of bars and book stores up the block. I love the Mission, and I wouldn't mind at all if that other side of town snark back into the sea where it came from... and take the new "snaps" establishments right along with it. Whoops, I'm in law school... I

might offend.

Back to the loyn. A total non-neighborhood. But there are a few passable burritos to be had. Tops is Caliente. Some might disagree, they prefer the greasy shit food kind of childhood bland pre-molded logs you can get up on Turk St. I don't know, I've never been there. Did you think there was some sort of ethics requirement for restaurant reviews. A friend told me about a place on Market, Cancun, I believe. He said to order the vegetarian burrito, really good, but don't get the meat. This frightened me so I decided not to go there either. Caliente, marinated grilled chicken, snapper cooked before your eyes, real salsa, somatillo, habasero. So if your scared of real ingredients go elsewhere. Maybe the law cafe. How do they make everything taste like sawdust. It's amazing. And speaking of Mexican food, lay off the snaw-burritos. They're kooky with pesticides and the workers could use some basic amenities... like decent pay and sanitary working conditions. Viva Gear... oh and to that other IL... I'd be one of those neat sextax types who actually believes in affirmative action.

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