"Miscommunication" Blamed for Reimel Competition Oral Advocacy Seminar Schedule Problem

Many Frustrated Students Leave "Required" Seminar: Anger Dissipates Upon Understanding Problem.

By Rich McGuire

A miscommunication that was "the function of circumstances," was the cause of the Oral Advocacy Seminar schedule problem endured by Reimel Moot Court Competition participants on Tuesday, September 26, 1995. At 6:10 pm, Bethany Spear, the Moot Court Representative at the seminar broke the news to the competitors: the seminar, which participants and the Moot Court board believed to be scheduled for 6:00 pm, would not begin until 7:30 pm, the time professors were told by administration.

The change in time was not a unilateral decision by the administration, as many students originally believed, but rather the result of a miscommunication between the Moot Court Board and the administration, neither of whom realized the scheduling problem until it arose.

The problem arose due to the novelty of the seminar program in conjunction with the illness of Professor Sirico, who was taken ill a week and a half before the beginning of the semester.

Due to Professor Sirico's illness, "a lot of people were jumping in at the last minute to complete the logistical aspects" of the seminar program. While the substantive portion was completed, the administration, working with the Legal Writing Instructors and the Moot Court Board, scrambled to schedule events and reserve rooms.

Dean Brogan characterized this mishap as one that "slipped through the cracks," "In a perfect world, this wouldn't happen," she said. Dean Brogan also asserted that no one was at fault in this case, and commended the job done by the Legal Writing Instructors and the Moot Court Board, who "did more than they ever agreed to do..."

Although no one is certain exactly where communication broke down, Dean Brogan suspects the following scenario is what occurred. When originally scheduling the program, Professor Sirico chose September 25th and 26th as the tentative dates for the Oral Advocacy Seminar. Later, it was realized that this conflicted with Rosh Hoshana, the Jewish New Year Celebration. Therefore, the date was consolidated on September 26th. When the schedule was posted, the original tentative time was posted as well. Upon rescheduling the event, however, the administration did not realize that a tentative time had been agreed upon or scheduled. When inquiring speakers for the seminar, the administration created a schedule that was convenient for the speakers. Neither side knew of the conflict until it was too late.

The administration reaffirmed its commitment to keep similar incidents from occurring in the future.

Many students were unable to attend the seminar as a result of the scheduling problem. However, these students will face no difficulty watching the videotape recording of the presentation on reserve in the library. Attendance at the seminars is mandatory for Reimel Competitors. While all the sessions were videotaped, students needed prior permission from Dean Brogan, or an otherwise valid excuse, to miss the class and view the videotape. Dean Brogan took a "hard line," on allowing such excuses. However, due to the confusion, the Oral Advocacy videotape was made available at the Librarian's desk for any student to review without prior permission.

The seminar program is new to the Reimel Moot Court competition this year. The program was recommended by Professor Sirico last year and adopted for the Competition. The object of the seminars is to provide a substantive review on how to write a brief persuasively and how argue effectively. The program was adopted because it seemed logical to the faculty and administration that these skills be reviewed by students who may have forgotten some of the finer points during the summer break. The format for the seminars was deemed to be the best option due to the nature of the Reimel Competition schedule, which calls for briefs to be completed in Mid-September and the first round of oral arguments to begin shortly thereafter. The schedule presents the information to the competitors at a time when it is most likely to be useful.

Many students were understandably quite upset upon learning of the time change. Many were forced to leave, due to prior commitments. Others, simply angry, just left. However, a large fraction of the competitors chose to stay for the presentation.

While very frustrated at the time, Dean Brogan said that students reacted "very professionally... upon hearing the real reason behind the mistake. The first round of the Reimel Competition arguments lasts until Thursday, October 19, 1995.
By Jennifer Prince

In order to help their fellow law students relieve some of the stress from school, the SBA has planned several activities this year. First, as in the past, TGs will be held every other Friday each month. The first TG was held this year during Orientation, and the Activities TG was held at the beginning of September. Every organization is represented at the Activities TG, and it’s an easy way for students to sign up for an activity that interests them. Also, the first Karaoke TG was held at the end of September. At these TGs, which occur twice each semester, Dan Shea from the Princeton Pub in Avalon, NJ provides students with a chance to show off their singing talents with his karaoke machine. According to SBA representative Mike Mullen, “these TGs are the most popular TGs at school. Not only do more people attend the karaoke TGs than the other TGs, but they also tend to stay longer.”

The SBA will sponsor other activities this year besides the TGs. Irish Pub nights will be held once a semester. Students will be able to receive discounts on beverages at the Irish Pub, which is located at 20th and Walnut Streets in Philadelphia. Furthermore, the SBA also organizes a Memo Night for the first year students. After a group of student baristas in their graded memo assignments, the SBA will sponsor a “night out, in which students will be able to receive discounts at a local bar. Finally, the SBA will also sponsor the annual Barristers’ Ball, which will be held in February 1996 at a local hotel.

By Laura J. Schiller

My client sat next to me quietly testifying with intermittent sobs. I was pleased with her testimony, she spoke much more clearly than she had in my initial office interview. A married woman aged sixty-five and the victim of both verbal and physical spousal abuse for most of her forty-eight year marriage, Ms. D. was a quiet, heavyset, very sad woman who finally decided to help herself. She had filled a temporary protection order lasting one week that evicted her husband from their home. We were in court. After this temporary order, another order would be extended to a year long Protection Order.

Unfortunately, the judge didn’t find her testimony convincing, but found her husband’s performance much more so. When our case was called, Ms. D.’s husband took about twenty minutes to crawl up the center aisle of the courtroom. Mr. D. needs a cane to walk and apparently he was very good at using that cane to hurt his wife. Mr. D. was about ninety pounds and was about five-feet ten inches tall. Prior to entering the courtroom, I tried to negotiate an agreement with Mr. D. Having dealt with many abusers before, I had never felt so afraid as I had when trying to negotiate, with Mr. D. He spent thirty minutes screaming at me that his wife was crazy, and he succeeded in scaring me a great deal.

By Robin A. Longaker

Professor Louis Sirico has spent the last eight weeks awaiting a heart transplant at Temple University Hospital. Sirico was admitted to Temple Hospital in July, after returning from a conference in Minneapolis where he suffered a cardiac arrest. Sirico spent a few weeks in a hospital in Minneapolis, said, after returning to Pennsylvania he was in a heart specialist’s care. The specialist recommended he stay at Temple Hospital “until I get a heart,” said Sirico.

Sirico has a defective aortic valve. His heart began to enlarge several years ago, and in June, 1993, he had open heart surgery to replace his valve with a synthetic aortic valve. After this surgery, the left ventricle of his heart, which is the pumping part of the heart, remained enlarged.

“Originally, after the initial surgery, I was fine,” said Sirico, “then I began to plateau, and then take a turn for the worse.”

Sirico said there is no definite way to determine when he might receive his heart transplant. “It’s a complicated system,” said Sirico. “I am a person who has been at Temple the longest [waiting for a heart transplant].

Sirico’s blood is Type O, which means he can only receive Type O blood. People with other types of blood, such as Type A and Type B, can also receive Type O blood.

Sirico is monitored by a team of six specialists, and he is confident he will be back at Villanova in the near future. “There is no reason why I can’t be back teaching next semester,” said Sirico.

**Update on Professor Sirico**

Back in the courtroom, throughout his wife’s testimony, Mr. D. laughed at his tales of having to be hospitalized because of his abusive behavior. I silently cheered when the judge admonished Mr. D. for laughing during his wife’s testimony, but that obvious lack of respect for the judge and the proceeding by her husband didn’t convince the judge that this woman needed protection from the law.

Rather, the judge slammed her at both my client and her husband that they needed to “get along... I was stunned. He said that they should stop their ‘bickering... and learn to live together peacefully. Thinking of my client’s interest(s) I requested the judge to continue the temporary order until certain arrangements could be worked out—the judge declined that request. The worst thing for me was knowing that my client had to go back to that abusive home and there was nothing I could do to help her.

**First Year Honor Board Members:**

J. J. Walsh
Christina Mathes
Diane Carman
Amy Pizzutillo
Andy Wozniak
Ed Bernatavicius

Third Year Honor Board Members:

Fierce Buller
Sahil Friede

The Docket

Congratulations to the Newly Elected First Year SBA Representatives and the Newly Elected Honor Board Members:

**First Year SBA Representatives:**

Jennifer Auerbach
Cathleen Kelly
Sasha Bluher
Lisa Nobile
William Linero

**First Year Honor Board Members:**

J. J. Walsh
Christina Mathes
Diane Carman
Amy Pizzutillo
Andy Wozniak
Ed Bernatavicius

Third Year Honor Board Members:

Fierce Buller
Sahil Friede

Docket Fever

Catch it!
THE VILLANOVA LAW DOCKET

Forum

Columns Corner

In the New

Washing football on a Monday night is not exactly conducive to the exciting and wonderful world of studying law. It does make me feel guilty, like I should be doing more. I am, after all, in my first year of trying to complete America’s most challenging graduate degree program. Shouldn’t I be studying right now, this very minute?

Since I am all new to this business of briefing, blue book citing, and “Shepardizing,” being a first year, and new to this school, I should probably introduce myself. My name is David, but I like Dave better. The few people that I have met so far may know that I was born and raised in the Netherlands. When I turned 12 my family and I moved to Hong Kong before moving to Singapore where I eventually graduated high school. Confused? Don’t worry, I am confused myself. When I turned 18 I left for college; Johns Hopkins University, where I graduated with a BA in Economics and Psychology.

Time really flies, doesn’t it. I remember five weeks ago, when I didn’t even know what exactly civil procedure entailed, or what there was to learn in a course property. Most of you first years probably know that this experience has been at times overwhelming, yet strangely rewarding, in that you are finally learning something that can be used in the ‘real world’. Some of you may be even more confused than ever before as a result of law school. I still don’t know exactly what exacdy we are learning in 8400 Sources of Law (section A).

When I am not studying, I like to play guitar, and rock and heavy metal music. Metallica, and when my girlfriend isn’t around I like to play some blues (and jazz, too). Any musicians out there? I also work three out times a week, at the main campus. If you feel old, wait ‘til you take a stroll on the main campus. That’ll make any ‘X’ feel like a thirty-something.

By the way, if any of you find yourself with enough time to watch football on Monday night, or doing something else not related to contracts, or the Constitution, you might want to join the staff here at the Docket. I need people to write some columns, or help out with some of the existing columns. In fact, we could use people in almost any capacity. Even if you have little or no experience, contact me by e-mail at: DKWEZ@VILLANOVA. I am not asking for much of your time.

The Villanova Law Docket

By David Kwez

Jennifer Pitice, Sean Rater, Caen Grokule, Raydele Piwiz, l💑ta Sctier, Jean Datn, Soca Neerrren

The Women’s Law Caucus would like to announce its officers for the 1995-1996 school year:

Co-President: Sherryn Plesse
Co-President: Nancy Peterson
Vice President: Melinda Rosa
Secretary: Jennifer Lucy
Treasurer: Theresa Saint-Amour

Special Events Coordinator: Shea Rhodes

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International Law Society Seminar Focuses on Estonia

By Caren Grokulsky

On Monday, September 11th the International Law Society kicked off its lecture series by inviting Michael J. Gallagher, Esq. as its guest speaker. Mr. Gallagher did his undergraduate work at Tufts University, is a graduate from the Villanova Law School, class of 1985, and studied economics at the London School of Economics. He is currently employed by the Jacoby and Degraaf in Philadelphia. The topic for the evening was: “Transformation of a Post Communist Legal Order: A Case Study in Estonia,” focusing on his experience in having spent the past year working pro bono in Estonia. While in Estonia he worked as a liaison for the American Bar Association’s Central and Eastern European Law Initiative (CEELI). CEELI is an organization which attempts to help European countries move from socialism to capitalism.

As liaison Mr. Gallagher assisted the bar, legislature, judiciary and members of the Estonian legal profession in an attempt to establish a new legal order. Mr. Gallagher gave a detailed historical account of the Estonian plight, focusing on its small population, and its continued suppression by the Russian government. He discussed some of the problems that Estonia is facing due to its small size, lack of organization and resources, isolation from the West, poor legal attitudes, nationalism, and little capital.

While in Estonia he taught a class at Tartu University, a very old and highly esteemed university in Eastern Europe. The class focused on assisting professors of law and students on legal writing and research skills, subjects not ever studied at the university before. He remarked that these resources are so limited that they receive little to no practical experience while in school. Graduates from the university have no idea what the legal profession is like, and once they are in it, they are generally forced into the private sector, because the government has no resources with which to pay them. Unlike America, Estonia does not send its prospective lawyers to a university and then to law school. The students enter University at age 18, study law, and graduate in 5 years, thus producing very young lawyers. Mr. Gallagher pointed out that the Assistant to the Supreme Court’s Chairman, is only 22 years old, and Estonia’s Prime Minister is 32 years old.

Mr. Gallagher disagrees with the U.S. government’s decision to continue aid to Estonia. He believes that the problems they are facing are bordering on insurmountable, but does have faith that they will be able to survive albeit with great difficulty.

In the audience was a native Lithuanian (and 1 student here at Villanova). She felt that Mr. Gallagher was too quick to criticize the Estonian government. “He did not emphasize to the audience that Estonia has civil continental law as opposed to the common law here in the U.S., he kept comparing the two systems and they are drastically different...” She feels he spent too little time discussing how the Judicial System actually works, and too much time pointing out its problems.

Mr. Gallagher claimed that the Estonians looked at him with a great deal of suspicion at first, and rightly so. After having gone through 200 years of struggles, it is no wonder that Estonians looked at a westerner coming over to help them, free of charge, with question. Their problems cannot be fixed in a year, and Mr. Gallagher would be the first to point that out. However, Estonia has many foreigners going over there, pointing out the problems, attempting to fix them, and then leaving. Unlike most, Mr. Gallagher is continuing in his effort to help the Estonian government by serving as an advisor to the Estonia Law Center Project, which is financed by the World Bank and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The research being conducted in the Federal Courts on Race, Gender & Ethnicity centers on access to the courts, substantive law and decision making, court employment, and appointments, and courtroom interaction. She focused this part of the discussion on gender issues in courtroom interaction. As an example of this research she discussed the effects of metal lawyers and judges who refer to male lawyers as “Mr,” and female lawyers as, “Hon...”, “counsel,” or use their first name. This kind of gender differentiation undermines the credibility of female lawyers in front of jurors, witnesses, and defendants. She posed such questions as: What is the role of the judge in these situations? Does he/she interfere? Does interfering undermine her credibility more? Do jurors think she has to be protected by the judge? Along with this kind of research the Federal Judicial Center is setting up Gender Task Forces. These task forces make up questionnaires that deal with gender sensitive issues and are given to judges, lawyers, and courtroom employees. Our own Villanova Law Psychology students are directly involved in the gender task force in the Eastern District Court of Pennsylvania.

The last topic Mr. Johnson discussed was the management of Federal Death Penalty cases. The federal courts have seen few death penalty cases in recent years, and judges who are faced with a death penalty case for the first time turn to the Federal Judicial Center for guidance. The research Dr. Johnson lectured on was “Death Qualified, jurists. Their studies show that these jurors tend to be more conviction prone and are less representative of the public, generally coming from a similar social strata. Questions posed were (1) Whether a defendant rights were being violated if the jury showed those kinds of inclinations, and (2) Does the death qualification process itself have an affect on the juror’s perspective of the case? Currently the same jurors are sitting through both the conviction phase and the sentencing phase, which weighs the aggravating and mitigating factors determining whether the defendant receives the death penalty or life imprisonment. Dr. Johnson raised the following question: Is it right for the court to use the same jury, for both phases, in capital crimes? Do jurors become desensitized in multiple defendant cases, and take into proper consideration the factors in each case? Should the multiple-defendants have the same jury? Dr. Johnson gave a very informative lecture, and provided a good deal of insight into the Federal Judicial Center’s functions and the benefits of their research for policy makers. The law-psychology program is sponsoring 2 more employees of the Federal Judicial Center to come and speak on October 26th. Dr. Johnson received her undergraduate degree from Hamilton College, her Law degree from the University of Maryland, and her doctorate in Psychology from Johns Hopkins. The Federal Judicial Center provides research and continuing education services for the Federal Judicial Branch. Their research is used by the Federal Judicial Committee to reveal the possible effects of policies they are considering.
Your Horoscope

Libra (September 23 - October 22): Learn to appreciate the little things in life; e.g., cable T.V., the brand spanking new feeling of a fresh high-lighter, and your morning java. Warning: the Surgeon General (or at least the Dean) warns that over indulgence of the first may cause the adverse affect of falling.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21): This month brings exciting new revelations: a tort is not only a dessert and the Law Library has THREE levels. Armed with this knowledge, life should become a little less complicated. Now, just to find out the meaning of promissory estoppel...

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21): The 13th may bring some bad luck to your doorstep. Forget those traditional omens of the black cat and the full moon. Yours will entail the purchase those hornbooks you've been eyeing and take a walk on the wild side with your locker. Hmm, maybe that second one isn't so bad after all.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19): Relax and take a much needed break from studying. Signs of an overload: contemplation of the Jeffersons' implied warranty of habitability in their apartment and a possible drum beat at your doorstep. Forget those traditional omens of the black cat and the full moon. Yours will entail the purchase those hornbooks you've been eyeing and taking a walk on the wild side with your locker. Hm, maybe that second one isn't so bad after all.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 19): You are overcame by nostalgia for your childhood this month. This is not entirely unfortunate. Schoolhouse Rock's 'I'm Just a Bill,' came in quite useful at Sources of Law, but didn't it?

Piscis (February 20 - March 20): Your creative nature, common to Pisceans, rides high this month. Use it to your advantage and start a Lonely Hearts E-mail Club or a support group for O. J. Simpson trial addicts.

Aries (March 21 - April 20): Good news: your 15 minutes of fame are here! Bad news: you have exactly 1 minute left. Make the most of it with an impromptu rap on those cool microphones in Rooms 29 and 30. You might become the object of your colleagues' admiration.

Taurus (April 21 - May 20): Take up a new hobby to relieve some stress. Try the art of miming. This can improve not only your confidence but bring you a tort. Suggestion: invite some friends over for a Criminal Procedure Show.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20): Financial worry cast some shadows on your happiness. No need to worry. You can purchase those hornbooks you've been eyeing by selling unwanted items. Only three pints of blood and you can begin your collection.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22): Financial worry cast some shadows on your happiness. No need to worry. You can purchase those hornbooks you've been eyeing by selling unwanted items. Only three pints of blood and you can begin your collection.

Leo (July 23 - August 22): An unexpected loss of a great friend will cause you some grief. A most loyal and convenient concomitance, your pocket version of the Constitution will be sadly missed. You still have your daily planner, though.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22): Bad news: you have exactly 1 minute left. Make the most of it with an impromptu rap on those cool microphones in Rooms 29 and 30. You might become the object of your colleagues' admiration.

Libra (September 23 - October 22): Learn to appreciate the little things in life; e.g., cable T.V., the brand spanking new feeling of a fresh high-lighter, and your morning java. Warning: the Surgeon General (or at least the Dean) warns that over indulgence of the first may cause the adverse affect of falling.

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Letters to the Editor
Kinko's drops the ball.

Dear Editor,

Recently, I had an experience which caused me to transfer all my copying business to Office Max and I want to share it with students and faculty. After a preparation was made with Kinko's in King of Prussia to copy and bind briefs for an outside competition, they refused to do it before the mailing deadline because other business had come in. Their customer attitude was totally missing.

In contrast, after explaining my dilemma to the Office Max in King of Prussia, two employees took on the challenge as their own and did everything possible to complete the job professionally and on time. They had a wonderful "can do," attitude and made me feel that they really cared about me as a customer. A further point was noted when the bill came. Last year, these same briefs cost $256 at Kinko's and are listed at $15.00 at Office Max. I am forever a converted customer and encourage the Villanova community to make the switch to a copier who cares!

Sincerely,
Joanne M. Judge, Class of 1996

Editor:

Joanne M. Judge, Class of 1996, encourages the Villanova community to make the switch to a copier who cares!

The Safest Course of Action: A Perspective on Abortion

by John Murray

I wonder how anyone could come to that conclusion. The Supreme Court in Roe v. Wade, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), held that a woman's right to privacy is a "fundamental right," under the 4th, 5th, and 9th Amendments. Bush, in his speech, decided that the practice of abortion falls within this right to privacy, the legislature has only a limited right to regulate abortion, and may only completely regulate abortion if it is only in the third trimester of pregnancy that the state has an interest in protecting the "viable fetus." It is amazing that the court decided that the standard should be when the fetus has the "capability of meaningful life outside the mothers womb...I think it would be a better standard to say when the fetus has "potential for meaningful life," I believe that the potential for meaningful life starts at conception.

The court was able to successfully rationalize that the right to an abortion was a fundamental right. They were able to determine that this interest was in their "right to privacy," better consider the "safer course of action." Hello, that is what we are talking about when we speak of abortion and the right to decide to have an abortion.

Many feel that the right to an abortion or the right to choose should be a legal or political issue. They feel it should remain a private issue left to society to choose as free individuals. They feel that, as it is against God's law, it should not be addressed by the government due to a separation between church and state. Because it is a matter of living and not living, it is also a matter of killing or not killing. Thus, the state has an interest in protecting the lives of infants that have surfaced. Some of these include providing notice to third parties concerned, parental consent, procedural limitations and the like. Does one not see that any other restriction is not only one not being seriously scrutinized. Still, abortion exists. As time has worn on, other factors attempting to restrict the right to abortion have surfaced. Some of these includes providing notice to third parties concerned, parental consent, procedural limitations and the list goes on. Still, there doesn't seem to be any difference between Roe v. Wade and other developments, concerning the ability to abort between that period before and after viability. The Court in Casey, repeals Roe's holding that after viability, the state may tightly regulate, even proscribe abortion unless necessary for the protection of the mothers life or health. There is the big problem - viability.

When does viability commence? In Roe, the court brilliantly and neatly (and ignorantly and irresponsibly) stated that it was after the first trimester. After Casey, it appears that the state may decline the decision up to the doctor to decide, according to each individual case, whether the particular fetus may possibly be viable. Wow! Hey, don't know what you guys are thinking but to me it looks like we, as a society are in a big state of "waffling," (Geesh).

From a scientific perspective, a powerful debate was ignited in Roe v. Wade. We are currently in the midst of a profoundly important issue. The scientific evidence shows, forget what Catholic doctrine teaches us and let us consider the issue from an objective point of view. The drum roll please...When does life begin? When is the fetus viable? Assume that we are not taking scientific evidence into consideration, nor the scientific evidence and when the answer is that we really do not know. I ask you very bluntly to ask yourself if you know the answer. Do you know the answer or are you just rationalizing? Are you just creating an answer based on your high intellect? If you are not going to concede to scientific evidence, if you are not going to embrace religious doctrine, do you know the truth? No, you do not. Since you do not, and if you act contrary to your knowledge, you are acting negligently and recklessly. Since we do not know, you would have to tell me that you wouldn't it seem logical, objectively correct, to take the safest course of action?

When I was in college, one of my theology professors, Abbet Walter, gave us a little quote to live by. He said that whenever we are in doubt, we are morally obligated to take the safest course of action... Now if this quote was applied comprehensively it would render life pretty boring. If all decisions, regardless of subject matter were made based on the safest course of action then a lot of things that exist today may not have come to be. Benjamin Franklin may not have flown his kite to discover electricity, the Wright Brothers may not have flown at Kitty Hawk to develop flying, Ray Kroc may not have established the franchise, the franchise, more importantly McDonalds, and man may not have landed on the moon. You see my point. When we are dealing with issues of life and death, or those which we may be labeled as moral issues, do you know Abbet Walter's quote is quite appropriate.

In conclusion, I am all for taking chances. Heck, I might even open my own Law Practice some day (I wonder if that could be a morality issue?). But where I am in doubt, or with respect to abortion, where others are in doubt, I would advise that one take the safest course of action and protect not only the interest of an innocent life but also there own interests in maintaining an innocent life...
DOCKET

SPORTS

VILLANOVA LAW RUGBY'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Two beautiful women were born in 1970. The Villanova Law Rugby Club and Joseph Q. Piesco, Jr. (Class of 1997). In its 25th year, the team has over 35 members and a bright future.

As a member of the Eastern Pennsylvania Rugby Union’s Graduate League, Villanova Law has always been highly competitive—coming within one game of claiming last year’s division title. While this year’s team only returns six starting players, a mix of former second team players and a strong class of first years makes for a promising season.

The club stresses a balanced mix of rugby, academics and a strong social life. While many first year students are too intimidated to take on any commitments other than school, club members and alumni unanimously agree that the rugby club provides balance, discipline and is an excellent method for relieving stress. A good percentage of the second and third year club members have ample time to participate on the Law School’s scholarly journals. Club members also have ample time to participate in team sponsored social activities. The annual Halloween Party is famous (or infamous) at the Law Schools premier fall social event (and the law suite it generates provide team members with excellent clinical experience). Last year’s 1st annual Pig Roast was also a tremendous success (T-Shirts are still available).

Anyone interested in becoming a member can contact Keith Forkin through the team’s mailbox in the S.B.A. office. No experience required (note. The men’s club has attempted to start a woman’s rugby club at the Law School, but has not yet generated sufficient interest. Any ladies interested in playing rugby can contact James MacDonald (Liaison to the Women’s Law Caucus) at the club mailbox).

Fall 1995 Schedule

September 30 At Temple Medical.
October 7 At Temple Law
October 14 At Jefferson Medical
October 22 At P.C.O.M.
October 28 At Wharton
T.B.A. At Widener
T.B.A. At Villanova Undergrad.
T.B.A. At V.L.S. Old Boys

by Sean Porter

You really have to admire the gall displayed by the Democrats during President Clinton’s recent visit to Philadelphia. After all, none of the evening news during the week leading up to the President’s visit was complete without a scathing attack against the Republicans over the issue of student loans. According to those with a social conscience, the Republicans were threatening the very foundation of our society because of a proposal aimed at limiting the amount of student loans guaranteed by the federal government every year. For all you students out there, I’ll summarize the President’s message: Republicans are evil people who hate you and want you to fail in everything you do, including scoring with a cute babe in the back of a flattened pickup (the President must have been having a momentary flashback when this little gem slipped out).

To demonstrate his concern for the impending impoverished students, President Clinton threw a fundraiser, and solicited donations from these same impoverished students. The irony is beautiful. I ask you, is there no better way to show your support for a group of supposed downtrodden souls than to auction off your influence? Televangelists do it all the time. “Send me your cash and God will save your soul... The President’s message was simple: “Fork over $100 and show me that you really care, and I’ll fight those evil Newtites to the death or until a better deal comes along... The scary thing is that some people (even some misguided VLS archons) got sucker’d by the deal. Didn’t any of you see the “Monroe,, episode?

Well, being the adventurous type, I decided to crash the party. First, I had to find the right disguises. Should I go as a New Democrat, complete with canned slogans praising the Chinese economic model; or should I go as a Traditional Democrat, and wear my hammer-sickle on my coat lapel right next to my “Ferraro for VP,, button? Feeling frisky, I broke out the “It’s Teddy’s Turn,, baseball cap and matching flask.

I arrived at the Wyndham-Franklin Plaza Hotel just in time to see the President take the stage. (Note: there had been some confusion by Sean Porter Clinton’s recent visit to Philadelphia. After all, none of the evening news during the week leading up to the President’s visit was complete without a scathing attack against the Republicans over the issue of student loans. According to those with a social conscience, the Republicans were threatening the very foundation of our society because of a proposal aimed at limiting the amount of student loans guaranteed by the federal government every year. For all you students out there, I’ll summarize the President’s message: Republicans are evil people who hate you and want you to fail in everything you do, including scoring with a cute babe in the back of a flattened pickup (the President must have been having a momentary flashback when this little gem slipped out)."

Lucky Joy, Reno happens to be upstairs, and learning of the events in the ballroom, proposed a solution. Thus was born what would be known as “Operation Take the Cake,,. Under the direct supervision of the Attorney General, a division of ATF agents, with FBI backup, would go to the Four Seasons and confiscate the cake ordered, and paid for, by the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce. After a quick NBC News poll of the crowd in the ballroom showed overwhelming approval for the property-taking, the President signed off on the mission.

At approximately 9:05 p.m. (Eastern), swarms of federal agents entered the Four Seasons with orders to “Take the Cake,,. What transpired next is in dispute. A reliable source has relayed the following account. An outraged chairman of the Chamber of Commerce at first refused to give up the cake. After being assured that the agents were prepared to use force, the sensible business people were in the process of handing over the cake when the ten-year-old son of one of the businessmen in attendance threw a piece of icing at an ATF agent. The agents opened fire, killing and wounding over 100 people.

The ATF and FBI agents returned to the Attorney General’s makeshift headquarters at the end of the bar at the Plaza, and informed Ms. Reno of the events that evening. The President was called in, and a special Commission, under the direct supervision of the Justice Department, and the White House, was formed to investigate Operation Take the Cake. After five minutes of casual soul-searching, everybody was cleared of any wrongdoing (except the ten-year-old boy, whose remains were to be buried at sea). The Philadelphia Inquirer’s Acel Moore and syndicated columnist, Cliff slopped approvingly. Ms. Guinier’s crew got their cake. Operation Take the Cake was considered a huge success, even with (and probably because of) the loss of the radical looks known as the Chamber of Commerce.

The students who attended the President’s reception left that night feeling pretty good about themselves. In all, the students had raised more than $20,000 for the President’s re-election. All the students I spoke with were convinced that the President was going to fight for their interests and protect all the federal money for student loans. Of course, up in the Presidential Suite, a group of the nation’s leading bankers had spent twice the amount of the student donations on alcohol and food alone. Influence does not come cheaply. The President has probably found himself a better deal.
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