

Understanding Disability Accomodations at CWSL

ELENA SHAYGAN
EDITOR IN CHIEF

There's been much discussion in the halls about extra testing time and skewed curves so we've set out to set the record straight. The CWSL policy states that students are granted accommodations on a "case by case basis" which involves consultations, forms, and medical records.

While defining physical disabilities is an easier task because of the nature of the medical records and tests that can be produced, it is defining psychological disability that becomes a real challenge. Some of the most commonly seen psychological and learning disorders at our school include ADHD (needing little explanation), Anxiety Disorder (including Panic Disorder and PTSD), and Asperger's.

Contrary to popular rumors, Anxiety Disorder is not when you get anxious because you're in a room of anxious people or because you get anxious about exams. Anxiety Disorder is often treated by medication and is a response that is "unrealistic" or "out of proportion to the situation." According to WebMD, the anxiety is so extreme that it "dominates the person's thinking" to an extent that "interferes with daily functioning."

For both psychological and physical disabilities, the school is willing to make "reasonable" accommodations. The specifics of the accommodations are determined during a consultation with the student where the dean will take into account the medical records, doctor recommendations, and student's opinion.

In addition to the disability description, test descriptions, and doctor recommendations, the application form for accommodations includes a place for past medical history. If you have not been diagnosed in the past it does not necessarily preclude you from receiving accommodations. "There is something about the pressure of law school that brings out things that weren't there before or that the student was able to disguise before," said Dean Seibel. Although, according to Dean Seibel, most people who receive accommodations have had long term recorded disabilities.

In the past the school has made accom-

modations such as extra large font on exams for those with vision disabilities, capturers (recording of professors) for those with hearing disabilities, adaptive software for those with dyslexia, and allowing people to bring in special equipment such as pillows for back issues or prescription drugs that need to be taken.

As for extra exam time, the typical recommendation for students with relevant disabilities includes time and a half, although sometimes the recommendation may be something as little as the student getting their own room. Dean Seibel made clear that the school will only grant double time in "very, very rare cases." This, however, includes breaks that must be given by law.

Dean Seibel also noted that the people who receive accommodations cover a broad spectrum in the curve and that there is no advantage in the curve for students with accommodations. "The accommodations are designed to equalize and I think we're pretty successful," said Seibel.

According to Dean Seibel 7-8 percent of students are receiving disability accommodations which is within the 6-10 percent range averaged by the Southern California Deans of Students.

Dean Seibel expressed that she believes the percent of students receiving accommodations is because of the increase of students in undergraduate programs receiving assistance. The Bar exam, however, is much more stringent on approving accommodation than schools and application for accommodations should be put in far in advance to test date.

To apply for accommodations for this Spring, your application must be turned in by February 24.

Students are reminded that falsification of an accommodation need is an honor code violation and that any student aware of another's falsification without reporting it is also in violation of the honor code.

According to Dean Seibel, if any student were to report that they had heard of a falsification, they would seriously investigate and if appropriate move on to honor code violation charges. Although, to date, they have never experienced such a report.



CWSL Cafeteria Goes Green, Switches Styrofoam for Paper

ELENA SHAYGAN
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The new year has brought many changes for Cal Westerners but none as environmentally friendly as the cafeteria's switch from Styrofoam.

The cafeteria in the administration building is run by a private company that produces many goodies such as hot sandwiches, cheese quesadillas, and daily specials. With their close proximity and lack of nearby alternatives, I'm sure you have experienced them on occasion.

Up until this year the cafeteria has served their food and beverages in Styrofoam products. The cafeteria also used to microwave foods on Styrofoam.

The cafeteria and school facilities manager Jolie Cartier (see her staff feature on page 5) have been exploring the world of non-Styrofoam products for years. Ms. Cartier even collected and kept a stash of different cups on her desk for research purposes.

After crunching numbers and comparing prices, the cafeteria and CWSL have finally found that now was the right time.

The cafeteria now has non-Styrofoam plates, to-go containers, water cups, large and small drink cups, as well as coffee cups. Not only has the cafeteria stopped using Styrofoam but they've gone really "green." The new products are biodegradable, compostable and made of all natural fibers. They have also stopped microwaving on Styrofoam and now use a ceramic plate for all microwave use.

The change, however, has come at a cost. Almost all items on the menu have increased. However, the increase is only between 15 and 50 cents. Also, if you want your food to-go there is now a 25 cent charge for the containers. For now, water cups are free but according to Silvia, a worker in the cafeteria, there is talk of charging for those too if you have not purchased something. The water cups, however, are the only plastic item left.

LAST MONTH IN NATIONAL NEWS

1. Newt Gingrich Takes Lead for Republican Presidential Candidate (Gallup)
2. Use of Tear Gas on Occupy Oakland Protestors Continues (Fox News)
3. Federal Student Loan Rates Set to Double This Summer (CNN Money)
4. Twitter to Censor Some Tweets Where the Country Requires It (CNN Tech)
5. Judge Orders Defendant's Mouth Physically Taped Shut (ABA Journal)

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Parking Passes as Incentives

GRACE GARNER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

If you drive to school every day you know that parking is a hassle. As a downtown school, space is limited to metered street parking or private lots. Many students choose to park in the private lots to save time and avoid parking tickets. These lots cost approximately \$150 per month. However, a lucky few are able to snag a discounted rate by being members of student organizations. The Student Bar Association (SBA), Moot Court Honors Board, and Law Review all have parking passes for their members.

SBA provides one parking pass each to the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and The Commentary. Further, the SBA funding distributed to each club may be used for parking passes. Each club's leadership simply has to decide if they would like to use their funds in this way. Currently, there are no clubs who have done this.

Moot Court Honors Board (MCHB) provides parking passes at a discounted rate. Each MCHB Executive Board Member is able to pay a lesser rate for a parking spot in the ACE lot on the corner of 3rd and Beech. The rest of the payment is made by MCHB. Since MCHB Executive Board Members often work late at school for trial competitions and other programming, the group has an interest in making sure they have accessible parking. Similarly, Law Review offers passes to their executive board members, currently at about ten students.

When told about the parking passes some students were surprised. "They do!" exclaimed Naomi Cruz, 2L, "I had no idea!" Others, like 2L Dan Wade, just shrugged their shoulders. Either way, it is an interesting perk that goes along with volunteering to get involved with the student body. Of course, some students choose not to have a parking space due to proximity to school or other parking arrangements.

EDITORIAL

Happy February! We hope everybody had a wonderful break, and a pleasing January. With the recent graduation of Editor-In-Chief Brian Horan, there has been a change of guard here at the Commentary. Our new Editor-In-Chief is water law champion Elena Shaygan. Rounding out the Editorial team are intellectual property pin-up Ben Pezzner and the well-mannered-even-tempered-hot-on-the-dance-floor Grace Garner.

With intros out of the way, let's move on to business. Firstly, we are replacing the usual Letter from the Editor column with an Editorial letter that will be authored by all of the editors *per curiam*. Except in this issue, a Letter from the Editor will only appear as a response to Letters *to* the Editor. We encourage all students and faculty to submit letters so that we can make this the best possible student paper.

The regular Editorials that you'll see are designed to express the opinion of the newspaper. Editorials are not assigned to any one person but are a reflection of the board's views. The subject will change each month and the opinions - however insane they might seem - are that of the board and do not reflect the opinion of California Western, SBA or any other organization. Consider it an insight into the soul of the Commentary.

Secondly, we are attempting to form a more defined role for the paper this trimester. We believe that having a student-run newspaper gives us the opportunity to provide a sounding board for our school-related opinions and ideas, as well as a forum through which the faculty and students can discuss their thoughts. In order to achieve this goal, we hope to get more input from our fellow students, as well as more involvement from the faculty and staff. Any suggestions are always appreciated, and feedback may even be used in the next issue as a continuation for each story. As editors, we ask around to see what people think of the paper, and your responses have been amazing. We get everything from "hilarious" to "offensive." We want you to publish these thoughts by writing in, so that we can continue what works or make changes to what doesn't.

To begin the process of opening the paper to student and faculty comments, this month we have decided to open a forum for STEPPS discussion; see Page 3. This discussion encourages students to submit specific comments about the program, and in response we will get specific answers from the faculty. The new requirement making STEPPS mandatory has triggered a lot of buzz, and we hope to facilitate a space for productive discussion.

Furthermore, as is evident from our front page, the newspaper will also be used to answer many of those important questions students have but are too afraid to ask. Rather than allowing the rumor mill to churn out scary "facts," we would like to provide you with the TRUTH. Our articles on disabilities, parking passes, and taking classes at other schools are just the beginning of a series of articles that provide trustworthy answers.

Last, but not least, we want the articles in the Commentary to reflect the student body as a whole, versus a small group of editors. We have open meetings every Wednesday at 6pm on the fourth floor of the classroom building. Anybody who has interest in contributing to our paper is welcome to attend - no RSVP required.

In closing, thanks for reading; we hope you enjoy it as much as we do.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Although the Letter from the Editor space will now only appear in response to Letters *to* the Editor, I had to take this opportunity to provide a brief introduction of myself and the team as well as to give some recognition and thanks to our previous editor, Brian Horan.

As stated in the editorial, the odd mid-year switch is due to Brian's Fall graduation. Brian's tireless efforts to transform The Commentary from a biannual paper to a monthly paper have paid off immensely. The ease in which I was able to continue his frequency and quality of production is astonishing.

As editor-in-chief, in just six months, Brian has increased The Commentary's circulation enormously, improved layout by moving from Microsoft Word to Adobe InDesign, and expanded content to cover many new and relevant areas to help keep Cal Westerners informed - all while still maintaining a wonderful sense of humor. A big thank you goes out to Mr. Horan for his hard work and accomplishments both with The Commentary and in his school career. We send our best while you tackle the Bar.

In the upcoming term, there are some additions I hope to make to Brian's legacy. First, I hope to replace our current scraggly wire news stands with something more modern. Second, as I'm sure you've all noticed, some serious signage is needed for these papers. But more importantly, I hope to increase awareness of the paper.

It distresses me that there are still students who don't know this very paper you're holding exists. They have no idea that this open forum for change and information exists, and no idea that the answers

to many of their questions (where to eat? where to study? what is the curve? and so on) are sitting an arm's length away.

If you are reading this, I implore you to educate your fellow Cal Westerners of The Commentary's existence because without the vital presence that is the school newspaper, there can be no access to the neutral, informative, humorous exercise of freedom of speech and print relevant to this school.

Before I get carried away, let me introduce our latest staff of editors. Moving up in the world, we have Ben Pezzner. Ben was an associate editor last trimester but, being the masochist that he is, Ben has decided to step up into the Managing Editor's shoes.

The newest member of our editorial team is Grace Garner. With all the stress that comes with developing a school newspaper, we decided to hire her as a life coach. But we're just going to call her Associate Editor. Only kidding. Grace's talents include brilliant story concepts, exceptional writing, time management, and of course, providing comedic relief. She was also a dedicated and reliable staff writer all during Fall. We are happy to provide her with the official title and look forward to having her on the editorial board.

Before I finish, I would also like to send out a quick but very heartfelt thank you to Ms. Lori Boyle and the donors who were generous enough to give The Commentary a laptop and printer which will further advance our layout and editing capabilities.

Thank you all for reading, and I look forward to leading this fun and creative staff for the remainder of the year. Please feel free to contact me with your ideas.

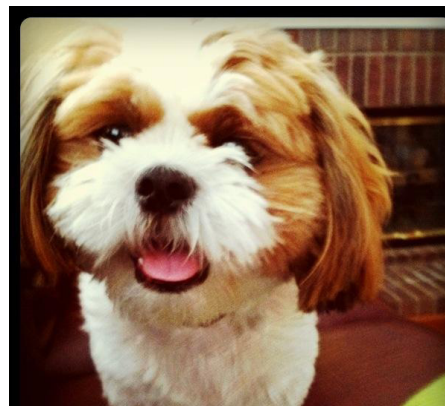
-Elena Shaygan, Editor-in-Chief

**Please direct all letters to the editor, corrections, articles, or club messages to our
NEW EMAIL ADDRESS: CWSLCommentary@gmail.com**

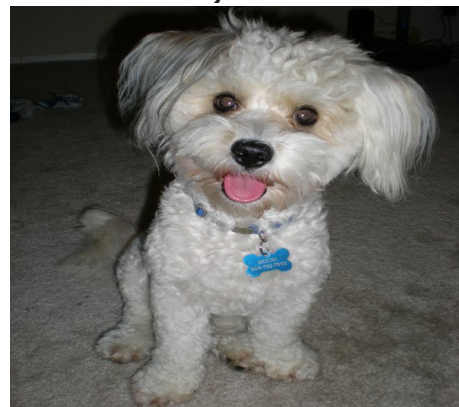
CWSL Cutest Pet Competition WINNERS!!



First Place Goes To BRUNO!
Owner: Alana Rutberg



**Second Place
Mortimer**
Owner: Kiley Schaumleffel



**Third Place
Mochi**
Owner: Gisela Acevedo

*Thank you to everyone
who submitted and
participated in voting!
We look forward to
seeing your pets again in
next year's contest.*

*Winners- please email
CWSLCommentary@
gmail.com to claim your
pet's Petco prize!*

First Place Prize:

\$50 to Petco

Second Place Prize:

\$25 to Petco

Third Place Prize:

\$25 to Petco



WRITE FOR THE COMMENTARY!

Our open meetings are every Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm. They're set in the lovely fourth floor lounge in the classroom building.

Look for a small but lively group of 1Ls, 2Ls, 3Ls, and homeless people huddled around a computer on the black leather couches by the TV. We encourage anyone with fresh ideas and an interest in contributing to come.

This is our school paper, so come on, school, show us your stuff!

If joking around,
getting published,
and building your resume
are not enough incentive...

The Commentary is offering
ONE MONTH
of

Free Parking!

...to the student who contributes
the most [quality] articles.

Articles are due by February 15th.
400-600 words each

(preferably with photos)

CWSLCommentary@gmail.com

Parking is for the Ace lot on

Beech and Third Street

for the entire month of March.

An Open Discussion: STEPPS

GRACE GARNER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The STEPPS program is a two semester practical lawyering course made up of a large group discussion and a small law office meeting. The course is designed to teach professional responsibility, ethics and lawyering skills. The large group discussion revolves around the Model Rules of Professional Responsibility and the law office meeting is treated as an actual law office with timesheets, clients, professional attire and a San Diego lawyer who acts as the supervising attorney. The course allows students to apply their legal skills to real life situations.

This school year the STEPPS program was introduced as a mandatory course for all second year students. Prior to this year students were able to choose between STEPPS and a one semester professional responsibility course. As with any change, there has been significant discussion surrounding the new requirement.

We, at The Commentary, have been hearing great discussions around campus. There are positives and negatives, constructive criticism and new, exciting ideas for the course. Unfortunately, many of the comments are shared among friends and go no further. The Commentary would like your voice to be heard. We have teamed up with Professor Casey and the STEPPS Planning Committee to use The Commentary as a discussion board. Here's where you come in, send us your feedback regarding the STEPPS program. Tell us what you like and what you don't. Share your ideas with us and we will share them anonymously with Professor Casey. Some of the comments and responses will be posted in an upcoming issue of The Commentary. We encourage everyone to share and promise to respond to each email we receive (inappropriate comments excepted).

To share your thoughts, email us at CWSLCommentary@gmail.com



Photo from cnn.money.com

The Hostess with the Leastest: Beloved Junk Foodery Bankrupt

MARISA MANDOS
STAFF WRITER

Junk food lovers will be doing some serious emotional eating this fiscal quarter. Gluttons, sugar addicts, and "Fair Food" connoisseurs were sad to hear that one of America's most-famous brands, Hostess, filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy this January.

It's the second time in ten years the carbolicious company has sought bankruptcy protection. Things don't look good, guys. So, instead of drowning my sorrows in partially hydrogenated oils, I did the reasonable thing: I made a list of the questions I have about the calamity I've affectionately named "The Twinkie Tragedy."

1. How many are left? Twinkies basically have a shelf life of infinity millenniums. You think all 39 of those ingredients are just there to increase deliciousness? I can't even pronounce many of the components and ... fun fact! ... five of the ingredients are made from rocks.

With that said, I'm considering raiding local grocery stores, procuring Twinkies in mass quantities, and saving them for a rainy day. Or the end of the world (What's up, 2012?). Or to sell on the black market once those not-so-savvy consumers have a hankering for Polysorbate 60.

2. Did religious fundamentalists have something to do with this? Let's be honest. Hostess product names could be mistaken for titles of the highest-grossing pornographic films. Ho Hos? Twinkies? Ding Dongs? Sno Balls? I'm not pointing any fingers, but it wouldn't surprise me if Rick

Perry were involved.

3. Does Hostess appreciate irony as much as I do? Hilariously enough, Hostess cited "rising medical benefit expenses" as one of the main reasons for its financial struggles. I vaguely recall heart disease and cancer being the top two causes of death in America. Those who eat diets high in fat and cholesterol have higher rates of heart disease. Those who, uh, ingest chemicals are more likely to get cancer. Go figure.

4. Are Americans kidding themselves? For about 30 years now, doctors and other medical experts have been warning us about obesity. But true to form, Americans did not listen; that is, until Jennifer Hudson lost the equivalent of a 9-year-old child and The Biggest Loser spoke to us like only reality shows can.

Americans claim they aren't buying Hostess products because they're "bad for us!" Instead, we're opting for treats such as energy bars and "portion-controlled" snacks. I'll take this opportunity to gently point out that you don't need a Power Bar to sit at your desk and Google things. Furthermore, eating three "100 Calorie Packs" is still absolutely disgusting.

5. Where do we go from here? Of course, just because a corporation files for bankruptcy does not mean it ceases to exist. Thankfully, Hostess is continuing to operate and thusly, so will heart surgeons. Young consumers: the future is in your hands.

Don't just sit there idly. Sit there idly and consume! If you don't, I will.

Message from your President...

KEVIN MAGENNIS
SBA PRESIDENT

Welcome back to another exciting trimester! Hopefully you were able to join SBA at Stingaree or Fleetwood already this semester.

This is both my last trimester as President, and as a California Western student. Time zoomed by and now like many 3Ls I'm staring the Bar straight in the face! But before we go too far SBA has some great events to help ease the pain.

Our biggest event is Barristers' Ball! This year's ball will be on March 10th at the San Diego Air and Space Museum in Balboa Park. It should be a great time! Tickets go on sale starting in February with 3Ls getting priority.

Building on last trimester's "Food Truck for Finals" we are planning another great mobile food Picasso to visit us! Last trimester Groggy's sold out of everything and the students showed up strong. If you have any suggestions send them over.

Overall this trimester is going to be busy and entertaining! Please keep tuned in at cwslsba.com to see what more we have to offer in the coming months.

L.L.M. in Trial Advocacy

AMY BRODERICK
L.L.M. STUDENT

You may have seen twelve new people this year. Twelve people who didn't quite look like typical 1Ls, but definitely shared that lost and confused look common to most 1Ls when they first arrive on campus. Who are these twelve people you ask? Well, we are twelve people from all over the country who have come to Cal Western to become even more awesome, and well because having a J.D. just didn't seem like enough. What you may or may not realize is that your school offers a degree one step above a J.D. As grades approach, you probably have no desire to think about extending your schooling, but bear with me. If you can stomach about four more months of classes, you too can become more awesome. Let me tell you how.

California Western offers an LL.M. in Trial Advocacy for those of you who just can't get enough of criminal law. The program focuses on federal criminal defense and includes four months of classes followed by an additional four months of an internship where you are placed with an attorney (or 50, if you want to head to the San Diego Federal Defenders like me) who practices federal criminal defense. Do not fear, this is not simply a rehashing of the classes you are presently taking or have taken in law school. The classes are intense, focused, and practical. Over the span of four months you will become best friends with the Federal Rules of Evidence, start drafting and arguing criminal defense motions in your sleep, and find new and exciting ways to irritate your opposing counsel through the course of two federal criminal trials (which, by the by, are conducted in front of real judges in the district court downtown). If... I mean, when... you survive this, you then get released into the "real world" to put these skills to use! No worries, you aren't alone. You will be placed with federal criminal defense attorneys who will keep you tucked safely under their experienced wings while you get your sea legs. At the end of it all you get to tell people you are a MASTER OF THE LAWS!

Long story short, if you love criminal law, this LL.M. program was designed for you. Past experience, although helpful, is not required. All you need is a strong interest, a little insanity, and an open mind. Want to learn more? You can always hassle the directors, Professor Brooks and Professor Conte! Alternatively, head to the school's homepage and click on the "LL.M. Programs" link at the bottom of the page and then click on the "LL.M. in Trial Advocacy" where you can read all about what the program has to offer.

ALUMNI FEATURE

ANNE-MARIE DIGGLE RÁBAGO '07



KENDRA BRAY
ALUMNI REP

Mrs. Rábago grew up in a military family, traveling all over including Frankfurt, Germany. She attended Ohio University. As a Bobcat, Mrs. Rábago majored in Interpersonal Communication with minors in Theatre Arts and Women's Studies. Mrs. Rábago waited almost 10 years before heading to law school, having a variety of jobs with her first being an administrative assistant at Arena Stage.

Disenfranchised with the work-a-day life, she left to join the circus (literally), but ended up selling wedding gowns, Clinique cosmetics, and eventually women's clothing. At the age of 23 she was Store Manager and had a four-wall profit and loss accountability for a \$1M chain store. After three holiday seasons in retail, she went to work for Capital One as a sales recruiter and training manager.

Anne-Marie followed love to San Diego (happily married for almost 5 years now) and worked as the director of fundraising at San Diego Repertory Theatre.

In 2004, she enrolled at California Western, finishing in December of 2006. After backpacking through Europe for 60 days the following summer, Anne-Marie and her husband relocated to Chicago so she could attend Northwestern School of Law where she received an LL.M. in Taxation in May 2008. After graduation, PricewaterhouseCoopers recruited her as an International Tax Consultant in their Dallas, TX office.

Having a passion for small business tax issues where clients really can't afford Big 4 accounting firms, Mrs. Rábago decided to hang her own shingle and move back to San Diego. In December of 2009, after taking her second Bar Exam, she started Rábago Law. Mrs. Rábago calls it a law business, because she feels she's just like every other type of business owner, stating, "I am responsible to get the business, do the work, and run the business. Some days it can be overwhelming, but I find helping small business owners extremely rewarding and I love the area of law I practice." Concerning what she does as a tax and business attorney, "I prepare tax returns (because it's fun), help clients structure and form business entities, provide advice on tax planning, and represent individual and small business taxpayers before the tax authorities and the courts."

When asked what the most valuable asset of having a law degree is, Mrs. Rábago stated, "I believe one of the greatest things about being an attorney is we can just up and decide to start our own practice. While not the right choice for everyone, it is nice to always have that option." She further stated, "I wish law schools did more to prepare students for the business of law, because it truly is a business – whether you work for yourself or someone else, in this economy everyone is responsible for the bottom line and anyone who does not realize that is likely to be shown the door rather quickly." She recommends the best way to prepare for the reality is to "talk to business owners (lawyers or otherwise) about what they do and how they do it. Learn to network! Good networkers are not born; they are made, and the skill requires practice. Find a fabulous mentor and hold on to him/her. These are all things you can accomplish as a law student by attending MCLE's and SDCBA Events. Build relationships with your classmates, they are future lawyers and colleagues. 80% of my clients come to me via referrals from other attorneys. Finally, read How to Win Friends, And Influence People by Dale Carnegie, it's a guide to life."

Taxes touch almost every area of law, and clients expect their attorneys to have all the answers. Many attorneys expressly state they will not provide tax advice in their engagement agreements. However, not having knowledge of how taxes will or will not impact a client's case can lead to malpractice.

For more information about Anne-Marie Rábago, visit online at <http://rabagolaw.com>.

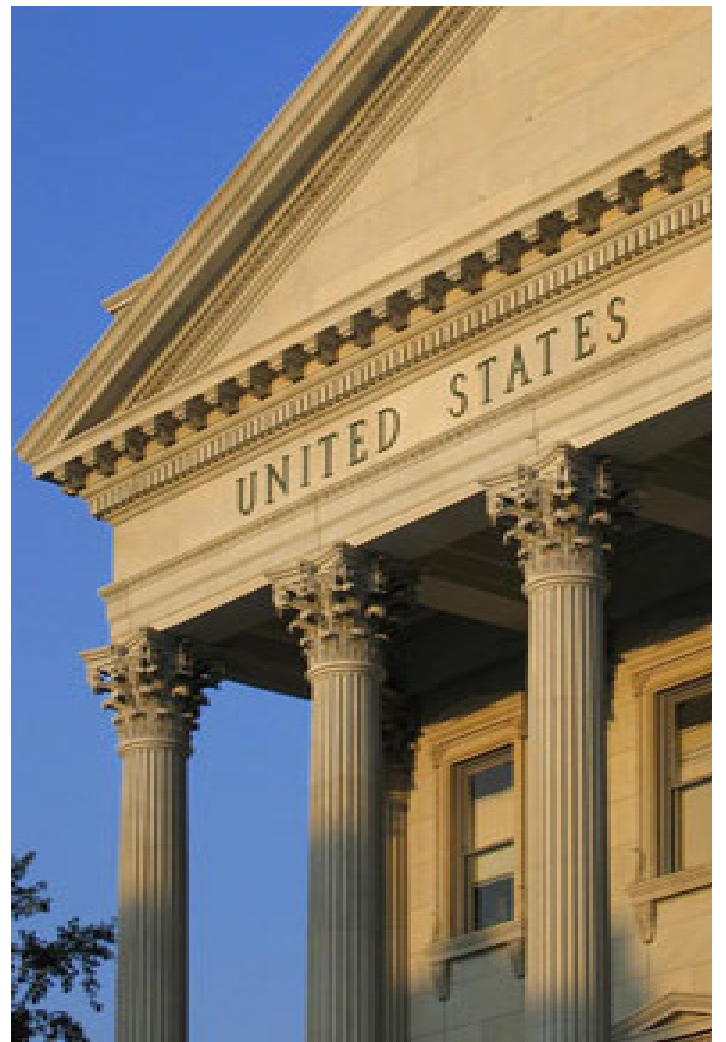


Photo from cwsledu

On February 21st, the Lawyers Club and California Western's Alumni Association will host an MCLE which will address tax laws and enable attorneys to better protect themselves and their clients' interests.

The event is a Local Beer Tasting and Informational session held on Campus in LH1 from 5:30-7:30. Cost is \$15 for students.

For more information please visit LawyersClubSanDiego.com

STAFF FEATURE

JOLIE CARTIER, FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

1. What is your background and how long have you been at California Western?

I have a Bachelor's of Science in Economics, a Certificate in Facilities Management from UCSD, and have been a Certified Facility Manager (CFM) through the International Facility Management Association since 2002. There are less than 4,000 CFMs in the world, so I'm pretty proud of that designation. Before CWSL I was in commercial property management. I've been with CWSL since 1993 when we only had one building at 350 Cedar and were constructing the second at 225 Cedar! We've done a great deal of construction and renovation since then, from building the 290 Library to renovating classrooms to replacing the carpet in the entire 225 building while it was occupied... it's a lot of work, but it's exciting because there's never a dull moment!

2. What does Facilities Management entail?

Facilities Management is a discipline dedicated to coordinating support and functionality of the business environment. We're sort of like the City Manager if you look at the campus like a little city occupied by users who have very diverse needs. California Western's Facilities Management department handles campus maintenance, security, mailroom/reception, and audio visual as distinct departments, but it's really a great deal more. People frequently mistake FM as simply maintenance or janitorial, but it actually encompasses 11 core competencies ranging from finance to property management to emergency preparedness.

I have a funny sign on my desk that says, "Nobody knows what I do until I don't do it" which really illustrates how behind-the-scenes our department is. Yet we're constantly busy! A successful FM department is like a duck traversing a pond; it appears to run smoothly to 'customers' while all the hard work is being done below the surface.

3. What kinds of projects are you working on now?

I'm currently working on a capital plan. We first do an extensive condition assessment of the campus infrastructure. We look at the condition of complex things like the HVAC and electrical systems, and also basics like floor covering, then devise a financial plan going forward 20 years so that we can budget effectively to replace things as they age. It allows the school's Board to understand what costs to expect, because, as you can imagine, costs related to facilities can be quite extensive. For example, eventually we'll have to replace the roof on one of the buildings. It's a lot easier to set aside a little bit annually leading up to that project than to have to dip into the bucket all at once to pay for it. It also permits us to act proactively rather than reactively to maintenance issues.

4. What are some big accomplishments so far?

It's easy to point out the more obvious achievements like the library building, or renovations of major classrooms such as the Auditorium. But I am also gratified by other, quieter efforts, such as cost savings that we have seen in areas of lighting retrofits, phone service, and energy supply contracts. We have a robust Emergency Response committee, and we championed the campus Assessment and Care Team (ACT), all under the umbrella of our security and safety goals. And frankly, our hard-working facilities team should be seen as a huge accomplishment. We try to answer every request with a positive and timely response, which requires a dedicated team of folks who truly enjoy the work that they do. We have members of our team who have been here 17, 19, and 26 years... and one who will celebrate his 30th year here in July!

5. What changes are we going to see at Cal Western in the future?

We have successfully renovated all of our classrooms except for the Moot Court room. Our renovation committee and architects have commenced planning but because of other pressing priorities and the scope of the project (driven in part by our goal of maintaining its architectural integrity), it will be some time before we implement renovation. We also continue to keep the facility clean and functional; it's a lot like the Golden Gate bridge where once you've completed the process you have to go back and start all over again! Sustainability is an ongoing goal for our department that is considered in all our projects. As our campus community's needs change, so will the response from Facilities Management. Our work never ends, and changes constantly, which is what makes it such a fun profession to be in.



Time for Fourth Floor Renovations

DENIZ BAYRAMOGLU
STAFF WRITER

Has anyone ever actually gone up the stairs that are randomly placed next to the auditorium? I didn't even know that there WAS a fourth floor until well into the second semester of my 1L year. But lo and behold, there is a fourth floor and it's actually pretty neat.

As you may or may not know, our 350 building started its humble beginnings WAY back in 1929. (That's back when Professor Lynch and Professor Campbell were still in High School). Back then it was an Elk's lodge, the remnants of which you can still see on the doors of the Roy Bell Room. Since then, our building has been through many changes. But one consistency is that it has been a venue of frustration for many people - first as an Elk's lodge where the new comers were put through secret rituals, then as a DMV office where countless motorists wasted immeasurable hours in line, and finally as a law school where the torment of 1Ls never seems to end. (If you put your ears to the walls and listen carefully, you can hear the anguished wailing of generations.)

How does all this play into the fourth floor? The fourth floor lounge is meant to be an oasis from the rigors of law school. It has some couches, vending machines, a kitchen, a foosball table, a pinball machine, and two pool tables - not to mention the caverns of unending lockers. There are a couple study rooms, but the overarching theme is a place where people can go and unwind.

As great as it is to have a place like the fourth floor to unwind, we can do better. The fourth floor in its current state is grungy at best and plain sad at worst. I ran my campaign to join the SBA on the promise that I would fix the broken Pinball machine, but I'll do you one better, oh ye clamoring masses! The SBA has committed to fixing the fourth floor and we need your input.

As it stands at the moment, we are thinking of new couches and new paint. But the fourth floor needs some serious lovin and the "SBA Rehab the Fourth Floor" Committee is here to save the day. If you have any ideas that you would love to see come to fruition or want to volunteer (walls don't paint themselves you know) please feel free to contact me at Dennis.Bayramoglu@gmail.com and we can get this done.

Seriously, no idea is too silly. This is OUR space and we already have the OK from the powers that be to do anything to it within reason. This can be an amazing project, or completely terrible if left to me and my own devices.

One last thing: go explore the fourth floor, see what's up there and explore your school. You never know what you might find in this rich historical landmark.

Editor's note: SBA President Kevin Magennis and The Commentary staff would like to remind everyone that the fourth floor has been purposed for STEPPS and for lounging. So if you're using the STEPPS rooms to study and people are being loud in the lounge area, try moving to the library! The lounge is a shush-free area.



Get Out of the Library and Get Your Groove On - The February Schedules

SARENA KUSTIC
STAFF WRITER

For Cal Westerners who enjoy live music and smaller venues, San Diego has plenty to offer. If you want to see your favorite band perform, find a new favorite, or just want to get out of the books for an evening, check out the following music venues and events.

HOUSE OF BLUES

I have to start off with my personal favorite, House of Blues. This is a great place to see more popular bands, while avoiding the costs, crowds, and hassles of large concert venues. In the last year I've seen Face to Face, Alkaline Trio, and VNV Nation, all for less than \$25 per ticket. HOB offers a wide variety of music genres to appeal to all music lovers. Here's a preview of featured artists for February and March. FYI, it's wise to purchase tickets in advance since they're cheaper and tend to sell out.

HOUSE OF BLUES:

2/12 Excision, Tickets start at \$30 (Presented by Insomniac & Eventvibe—for Electro/DubStep Lovers)
2/16 The Fray, Tickets start at \$35
2/17 The Expendables, \$18
2/29 The Kooks, \$25
3/6 Flogging Molly, \$35
3/9 Lagwagon \$18
3/20 Ani DiFranco, \$30
3/23 The Ting Tings, \$23
3/28 The Pink Floyd Experience, \$25

4TH & B

4th&B is another venue that features the more “celebrated talent.” Although there didn't seem to be much on their February calendar, their website demonstrates the variety 4th&B offers. “Over the years, 4th&B has welcomed such top recording artists as The Black Eyed Peas, Willie Nelson, Beck, Deep Purple, Elvis Costello, B.B. King, Social Distortion, Jack Johnson, Ringo Starr, Duran Duran, and Korn.”

4TH&B:

2/3 MuteMath, Tickets start at \$31
2/10 Los Amigos Invisibles—Grammy Party, Tickets start at \$23

CASBAH

If you like music primarily of the rock persuasion, the Casbah has a packed calendar. Although you may not be as familiar with these names, you're guaranteed to find some new favorites. For the broke student in need of a night out (aka the law student), the Casbah has live shows starting at only \$5!

CASBAH:

2/2 Heavy Glow (Compared to The White Stripes and The Black Keys), \$6
2/3 The Tuggs (Reminds me of The Killers), \$5
2/4 Goodbye Blue Monday, \$10-12
2/5 Guttermouth, \$15 (Plus free hotdogs)
2/9 Murder by Death (White Noise reminds me of Danzig w/ a little Cash), \$15
2/10 PeeWee Moore (If you prefer country), \$8-10
2/11 Film School (Makes me think of MGMT and Silversun Pickups), SOLD OUT but worth checking out for your music library.
2/15 Everest (Similar to Elliot Smith, soft and poetic), \$8
2/18 Dum Dum Girls (Sounds like the modern day Runaways), \$12-14
2/23 Sebadoh (Indie Rock), \$15-17
2/27 Sleep Lady, FREE SHOW

ANTHOLOGY & 710 BEACH CLUB

ANTHOLOGY is a restaurant near Little Italy, which also features live music. On February 3rd, Lisa Loeb will be performing. Tickets are \$11-27 at 7:30 or \$10-22 at 9:30. You can also pay for a booth for under \$50.

And whether you enjoy watching performances or performing yourself, **710 BEACH CLUB** may suit your fancy. It's located in Pacific Beach and offers live band karaoke every Thursday. There is usually no cover and “the show” begins around 8:30pm. The added bonus is you're on the beach and drinks are cheap!

So now that you have a peek at your options, all you have to do is pick which show to go to. If you want to know more about the bands or their styles of music beforehand, check out the above venues' websites and you'll find links to the artists' songs. Have fun!



House of Blues. Photo from Facebook



4th and B. Photo from Cityguide.com



Casbah. Photo from Eventful.com



Anthology. Photo fromSDChamber.org

In the Wise Words of DOCTOR LOOOVE... SOOO... ANYONE HEAR THE NEWEST LANGUAGE FILLER?

A SATIRICAL COLUMN BY

MARISA MANDOS & SHEELA TABRIZI

Dr. Love:

I'm a First Year; I'm so afraid to get my first trimester grades back. What if I fail out? I'm scared my new boyfriend (also a 1L) will break up with me if I have to leave! What should I do?

- *Impatient and Scared*

Dear Impatient and Scared:

Been there, done that! Every 1L has similar worries, and you are certainly in good company. If your grades are below a 74, not only must you consider a new career path, but you should also prepare to be dumped by your law school BF, GF or SBWB (Study Buddy With Benefits). As most people will tell you, law school relationships are difficult, and if your guy passes and you don't... well, it doesn't look good. But I'm concerned you've got your priorities tangled up. Your schoolwork should always come first. I wonder if you spent too much time worried about this guy and not enough time worried about your grades. Face the facts: if you fail out, things will probably end between you and your beau. Look at it as an opportunity to start loving yourself and putting yourself first. Your successes will multiply and before you know it, guys will be knocking at your door!

- Dr. Love

Dr. Love:

I feel like I've really let myself go in law school. My hair is a mess, my outfits (if you would even call them that) don't match, I am so pale I look like Casper, and my roots are outrageous. It's no surprise that I haven't had a date in months. How do I get back on the Shaggin' Wagon?

- *Hot Mess*

Dear Hot Mess:

We know how you feel! We, too, used to show up to school in black leggings and a huge sweatshirt (which friends affectionately called "the Home Uniform"), hair on top of our heads. Then, we wised up.

How you appear to your peers says a lot about how you treat yourself, and before you know it, you begin to feel like... well, a hot mess. That doesn't bode well for your looks or confidence.

When your confidence is low, not only do others notice, but you don't feel how a lawyer should: poised, powerful, and in charge. Wake up just 10 minutes earlier everyday; throw on a blazer instead of a hoodie and a necklace instead of a baseball cap. When you're studying or taking tests, you'll feel more confident, and others will notice too!

- Dr. Love

Love Your Body: Souper Food for the Super Student

MARISA MANDOS
STAFF WRITER

Before I came to law school, I ate very healthy. I felt great! I was fit and euphoric enough to think law school was actually a good idea. Almost immediately upon entering the doors of the 350 Building my first year, the health-conscious part of my brain was sacrificed to make room for the elements of burglary, adverse possession, and negligence elements. Gradually, the lack of sleep and nutrients took a tool on my mood and my performance. My goal as a 2L (besides, well, passing) was to restore a healthy lifestyle by eliminating trips to the Local and Firehouse and refocusing on exercising and eating foods that would fuel my brain. Mission: Accomplished. I am sure many of you can relate; thus, I give you my Souperfood Recipe:

Ingredients:

- 1 package dehydrated mushrooms
- 1 can bamboo shoots
- 1 can bean sprouts
- ¼ cup diced low sodium ham (optional)
- 1 bunch chopped bok choy
- ¼ cup low sodium soy sauce
- ¼ cup rice vinegar
- 2 gloves garlic
- 1 small onion
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground pepper
- 2 teaspoons Sriracha
- Extra Virgin Olive Oil (coat the pan)
- 2 quarts prepared chicken stock
- Scallion

Chicken Stock:

1. Finely chop the bottom part of the scallions (the part that resembles a bulb). Combine with one tablespoon minced garlic, and sauté in a dutch oven or large pot until translucent.
2. Add two quarts low sodium chicken broth and bring to a boil. Add salt and pepper to taste.

The Good Stuff:

1. Rehydrate mushrooms according to package; rinse and set aside.
2. In a medium pan or wok, sauté the garlic, onion, and bok choy until the onions are translucent and the bok choy is wilted.
3. Add the first three ingredients, plus the ginger, Sriracha, salt and pepper. Cook for one minute to let the flavors infuse together.
4. Add the soy sauce and rice vinegar.
5. Add the chicken stock, bring to a boil, and cook for eight more minutes.
6. Combine the wok contents with the chicken broth. (Serve with scallions as a garnish if you're having company or want to feel fancy!)



GRACE GARNER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

So. A small word. A transition word. Microsoft claims they started the phenomenon of leading sentences with so. "So, the way it works is..." That may be true but "so" as a lead up is not the problem. It is unnecessary, yes, but relatively harmless. The problem is this: "I went to 7-11 yesterday and they didn't have any Reese's. I had to go all the way to Target. So..." So what? "I have class until one. So..." So what? Nothing.

The word is thrown in for no reason. I thought it had to do with disliking awkward silence. Or maybe people were forgetting what they were talking about? As I listened a little more closely, I found those weren't the reasons. Many of us are comfortable with silence and those that are not tend to blurt out TMI's. And we are no more forgetful now than we were ten years ago. "So" has simply taken the place of other common speech fillers.

Long gone are the days of "I, like, didn't know what to do. He was, like, really rude to me." Even "ums" are heard less often. However, "so" is everywhere. Even professors are using the filler. Granted, we still do use "like" and "um." They are not permanently gone; but people, especially law students, seem to be more aware of these faux pas.

"So," just like our generation's slight inflection at the end of a sentence, makes us sound unsure, are we making a statement with "so" or are we hoping that someone swoops in with something better to say? It may not seem like much of a problem when we are surrounded by our peers because most of them are speaking in the same way. The trouble comes when we are speaking with a member of an older generation.

Many of the previous generation are professionals, partners at major law firms or board members for companies where we'd like to practice. How does our language sound to them? From what I've learned, it's not good. It sounds lazy, unprofessional, and lacks confidence. Now, this doesn't necessarily mean someone will be held back from a job, but it certainly does help to sound polished.

My main worry here is that our speaking skills are rapidly deteriorating. The emphasis on social media and texting may be the culprit. We don't have to speak very often. Thus, when we do, we sound choppy and it can be confusing. Why does it seem that many of us would prefer to write our thoughts rather than speak them?

I propose that we take our language to the next level. Let's practice speaking clearly by thinking before we speak, pausing instead of saying "um," and affirmatively ending our sentences. Let's get rid of language fillers, especially those that go nowhere. So, what do you say?

How to Take Classes at Other Schools for Credit

BEN PEZZNER
MANAGING EDITOR

Did you know that CWSL lets us take classes at other schools and transfer the credits?

Let's say, for instance, that you're interested in intellectual property (IP). Who wouldn't be? IP in the U.S. is worth trillions of dollars, and businesses large and small pay top dollar to the lawyers who protect it. There are four areas of IP: patents, copyrights, trademarks, and trade secrets. Our school covers the first three. But the fourth area, trade secrets, is not offered here. While trade secret litigation is estimated to have doubled over the past ten years, and trade secret theft is estimated to be responsible for hundreds of billions of dollars in damages, this important area of IP law is only offered by four law schools in the country – USD being one of them.

Lucky for us, California Western students are given the opportunity to take this class and others through an exchange program we have with the other two San Diego law schools. This program allows students to take certain classes for free, and then transfer the units back to our school. This program is just one example of what's available to us.

There are many specialized areas of the law that continue to grow in relevance yet are underrepresented in law schools. Either there is a lack of qualified professors to teach the subject matter, or practitioners have not been doing a good job communicating to the ABA that schools need to start pushing these subjects. Regardless, these areas of the law are being offered somewhere, and if you find a class in another school that offers a subject not offered at CWSL, we have the opportunity to take it.

In fact, we are allowed to take up to 12 credits from other graduate schools, and up to 8 credits from other law schools. While grades do not transfer, the credits do, and so do the bragging rights on your resume. Practitioners love to see students who have taken relevant classes, and, in my experience, that really comes out in interviews.

If you find a non-CWSL class that covers an area of the law that is relevant to your career goals, do the following:

- 1) Contact that school's registrar and ask for permission to take the class.
- 2) Fill out the *CWSL Petition to Visit or Take Graduate School Courses* (located by the register's office on the first floor of the faculty building). Be sure to include a paragraph explaining why this area of the law is important to you, and attach a class description.
- 3) Be sure to check the requirements on the reverse side of the petition for details not mentioned in this article. For instance, credits from grades below C- from other law schools and grades below B- from graduate schools will not transfer.
- 4) Attend the class. SBA President Kevin Magennis suggests sitting in the middle and making as many friends as you can – both for networking purposes, and because, hey, it never hurts to make a new friend!

Disclaimer: The Artichoke is satire, and it is meant to make you laugh. Its stories and characters (however misguided) are completely fictional. Proceed at your own risk.

POINT

You Don't Really Have ADHD



By: Tyler Hempton, 2L

Hey I know that the reason you get extra time on your finals is because you say you have ADHD, but let's face it - you don't. ADHD only affects 3% to 5% of children and adults in the U.S. Plus, wikipedia tells me that it's characterized by the co-existence of attentional problems and hyperactivity, with the symptoms starting before the age of seven. Your ADHD started last January, after you saw that your friends got extra time and you wanted it too.

While you may not have hyperactivity, you definitely do have attentional problems. I can tell because I sit behind you in class. Rather than paying attention to what the professor is saying, you have YouTube, ESPN, Facebook, Reddit, Microsoft Paint, and six gchats open at the same time.

I know you think you're taking notes by having a Google Doc open in the background while seven of your friends are contributing to the doc in real time, but you spend most of your time in the google doc chat window talking about how you wish the wireless connection were faster so your football game wouldn't have to buffer all the time and your poker hands could be played more efficiently.

In closing, I'd just like to say that you're making it difficult for our classmates who actually DO have hyperactivity issues. You're giving them a bad name, and you're depleting their adderall supplies every time you forget yours and ask to borrow theirs.

Student Begins Outline Early

By: Ben Pezzner

Last Saturday, high school senior Perry Johnson started her Property Outline. "I just couldn't wait any longer," she explained, after finishing First-In-Time doctrine. "I heard that people are starting their outlines earlier and earlier. I needed to get a head start while I still can."

Perry might only be a senior in high school, but it's never too early to start outlining, it seems. According to a recent survey, it is more likely than not that the person sitting next to you in the library has already begun his or her outline and is weeks ahead of you. But these trends may not be all they're cracked up to be.

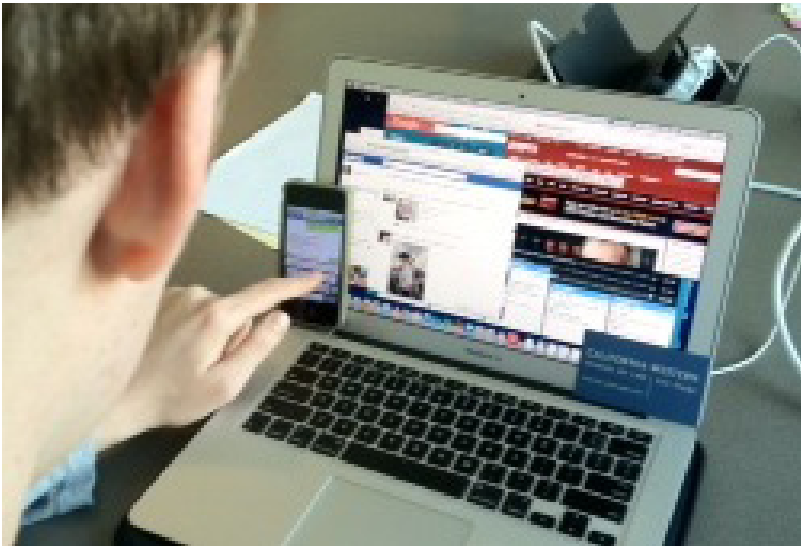
"With a rise in early outliners comes the inevitable crescendo in outline banter," outline expert Keith Alton said. "In my twenty years working for the ABA as an outline trend observer, I have never seen this amount of banter. The repercussions are enormous."

Outline banter is characterized as the snippets of conversations centered around how one student has already begun outlining but the rest haven't. This usually results in outline frenzy, which in turn leads to outline convulsions, which, in rare cases, ends in outline death.

Because of these serious side effects, students are reminded to keep banter down.

COUNTERPOINT

Stop Looking at My Laptop



By: Pat Mortenson, 2L

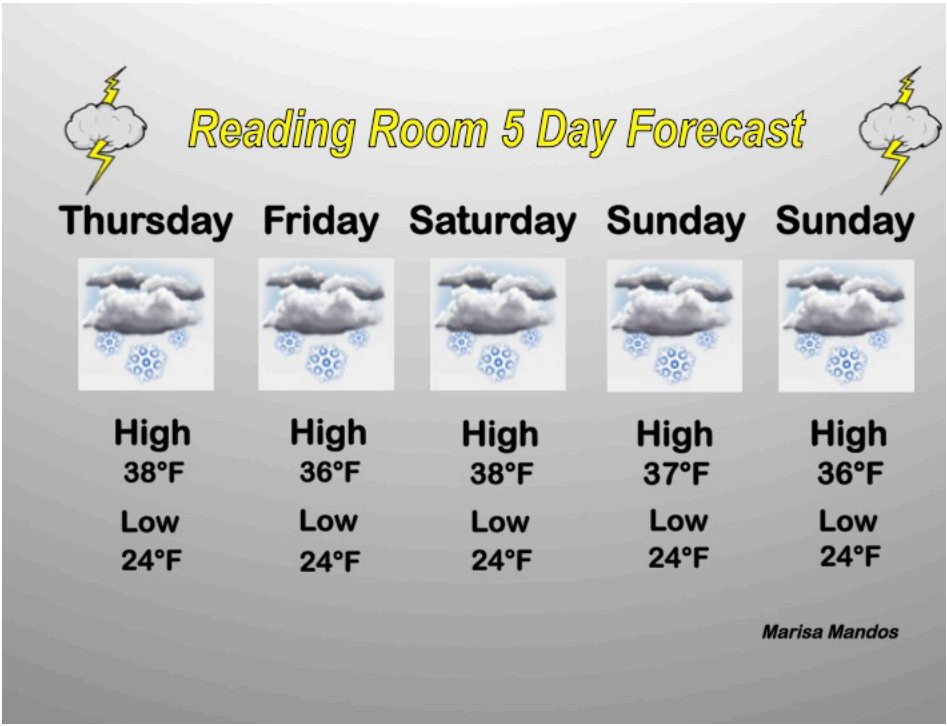
Whoa, buddy, who said you have to look at my laptop during class? There are plenty of other directions to look. Plus, I need all of those things open. Those gchats are all my friends trying to talk with me, not knowing I'm in class. I keep telling them that I can't talk, but they keep chatting with me anyway. If only there were some way to sign out of the program so they couldn't reach me. But it's not that easy these days. My google doc notes are necessary to my success. Without the continuous inputs from my friends, there would be no way I could pay attention long enough to take my own notes. Those classes are more than an hour long! How do they expect us to sit in a chair for that long? When I'm a lawyer I'll never have to sit for that long. I'll be running around the court room talking to juries and hanging out with the judge during sidebars.

And as for my ADHD, well, you're just jealous of my accommodations. I need the extra time because I don't type as fast as most of you, due to my hands always being cold. Also, I need my own room because being around people who get anxious during tests makes me anxious. The last time I took a test with other anxious people in the room, I got really gassy. And no one wants that.

In closing, maybe you should consider getting tested for ADHD. You spend most of your class time being distracted by what's going on on my laptop - maybe if you took some adderall it would help you focus more on your own gchats.

Long Weekend Weather Report

Artichoke Weather Services



Disclaimer: The Artichoke is kinda like The Onion, but more artichoky. It has more layers and doesn’t make you cry when you open it. High five for veggies. And Jerry Falwell.

National Retail Banks Debut Exciting New Fees

By: Joe Carr

The July 2010 passage of the “Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act” brought with it numerous benefits in hopes of averting future financial crises; to wit: a consumer protection bureau, legislation to end “too-big-to-fail” banks, and added transparency and accountability for banks engaged in dangerous proprietary (“prop”) trading. But with the good always comes the bad. Found somewhere in the 849 page Dodd-Frank bill is a last minute addition known as the “Durbin Amendment,” named after the senior US Senator from Illinois and current Senate Minority Whip, Dick Durbin.

The Durbin Amendment, put into effect October 1st, 2011, limits the fees retail banks can charge their customers and merchants. For example, prior to the Durbin Amendment, Bank of America used to charge merchants 1.3% for every dollar spent by consumers using BofA debit cards. This amounted to nearly \$3 billion a year in added high profit margin revenue for Bank of America. The added revenue allowed BofA to subsidize premium services, offering customers free checking, savings, and ATM withdrawals. The Durbin Amendment imposes a cap of 7 to 12 cents on most debit card fees, a decline of roughly 80% from present levels. This cap limits each merchant’s financial burden to national retail banks, with intentions that merchants will ultimately pass on these savings to consumers in lower priced goods and services.

However, despite the obvious consumer benefits, the

Durbin Amendment is having a dramatic negative effect on America’s largest and richest banks. “It no longer appears that [Bank of America] will be able to recapture the funds lost to the Durbin Amendment,” reported Rochdale Securities analyst Bobby Dawkins. “What’s clear is Bank of America will likely develop a new strategy in response to this bill. They will figure out a new and creative way to screw their customers with exotic fees. Trust me, Brian Moynihan [BofA CEO] is going to figure out a way to pay himself \$3 million a year.”

Kitty Morearty, a 2L at California Western, has already fallen victim to the response. “First they took away my free checking. Then they took away my free ATM withdrawals. Now they are hitting me with fees I didn’t even know existed. For example, I went to deposit some money into my ATM the other day, and the bank charged me \$27. I went inside to ask why and the clerk told me it was a ‘Depositing Money Fee.’ Then the clerk told me he’d need to charge me \$13 for an ‘Answering Questions Fee.’ Then they told me they were charging me a fee for charging me a fee! They fee’d my fee!”

Bill ‘the Bulldog’ Doughan, 3L, is also feeling the pain. “The other day I thought about using my debit card to buy groceries. I got a text message from Wells Fargo informing me I’ve been charged with a \$4 ‘Thinking about Buying Stuff’ fee. To be fair, I was probably going to buy those groceries and I did really think about it. Like, really hard.”

CWSL GRADE SYSTEM OVERHAUL: NUMBERS OUT, MOOD FACES IN

By: Ben Pezzner

Students and professors alike have been calling for the antiquated grading system at CWSL to be revamped. “The system, in its current state, is not very intuitive,” said Professor Jeff Houston, who chairs the grades committee. “Not only are employers unaware that it’s impossible for a CWSL transcript to have anything higher than a 95, but students are also discouraged because the numbers don’t translate to their abilities.”

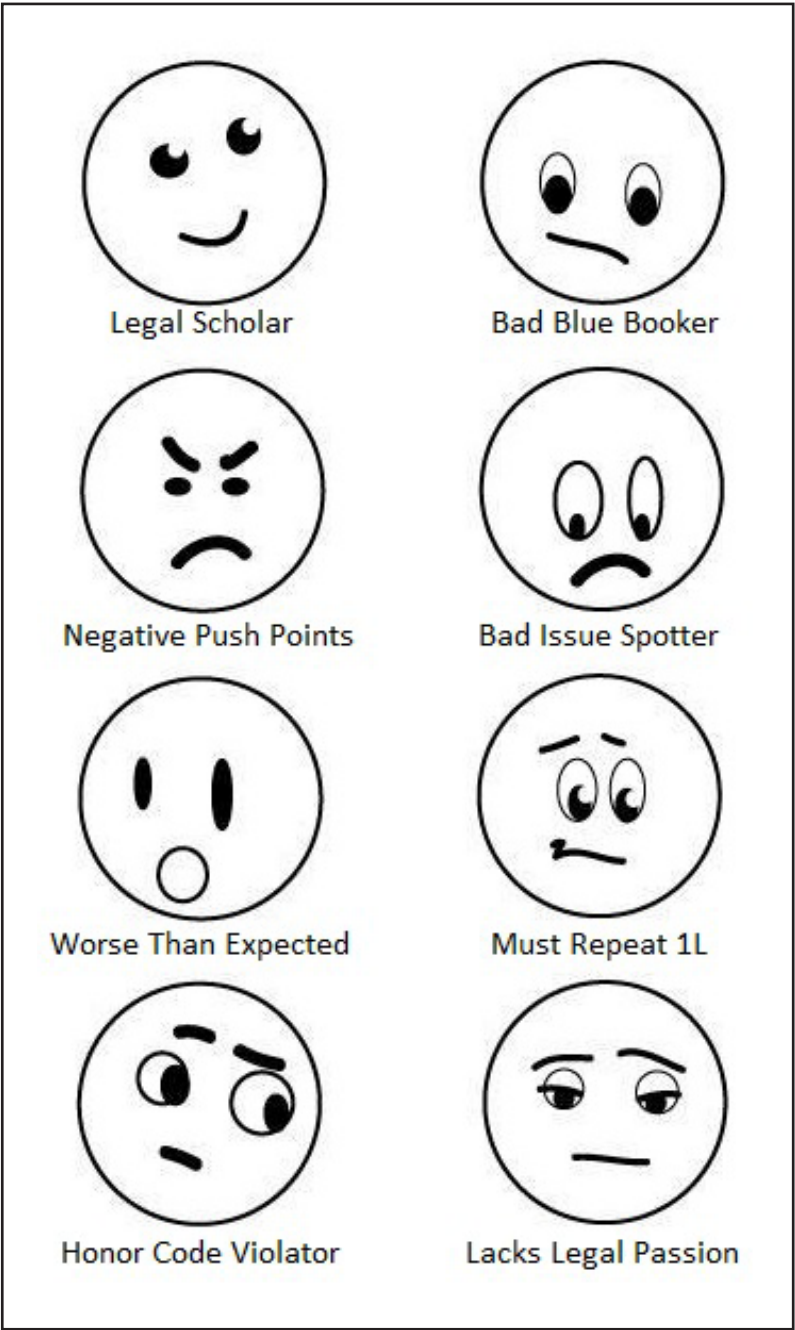
The numbering system is unique to Cal Western, and the grades committee wanted to maintain that uniqueness while discussing alternatives. Many options were discussed, according to others on the grades committee. Among the alternatives were a color system, where each grade would be a different color on a grading rainbow. Sadly, the committee ultimately decided against it, due to the possibility of

colorblind employers. The committee also considered scratch-n-sniff transcripts, with pleasant smells like lavender and grilled cheese equating to As, and disagreeable smells like jockstrap and sweaty underboob representing lower grades.

In the end, the grades committee decided on a mood face system. Each face would represent a different grading disposition, and there would be a grading key on each transcript (see below).

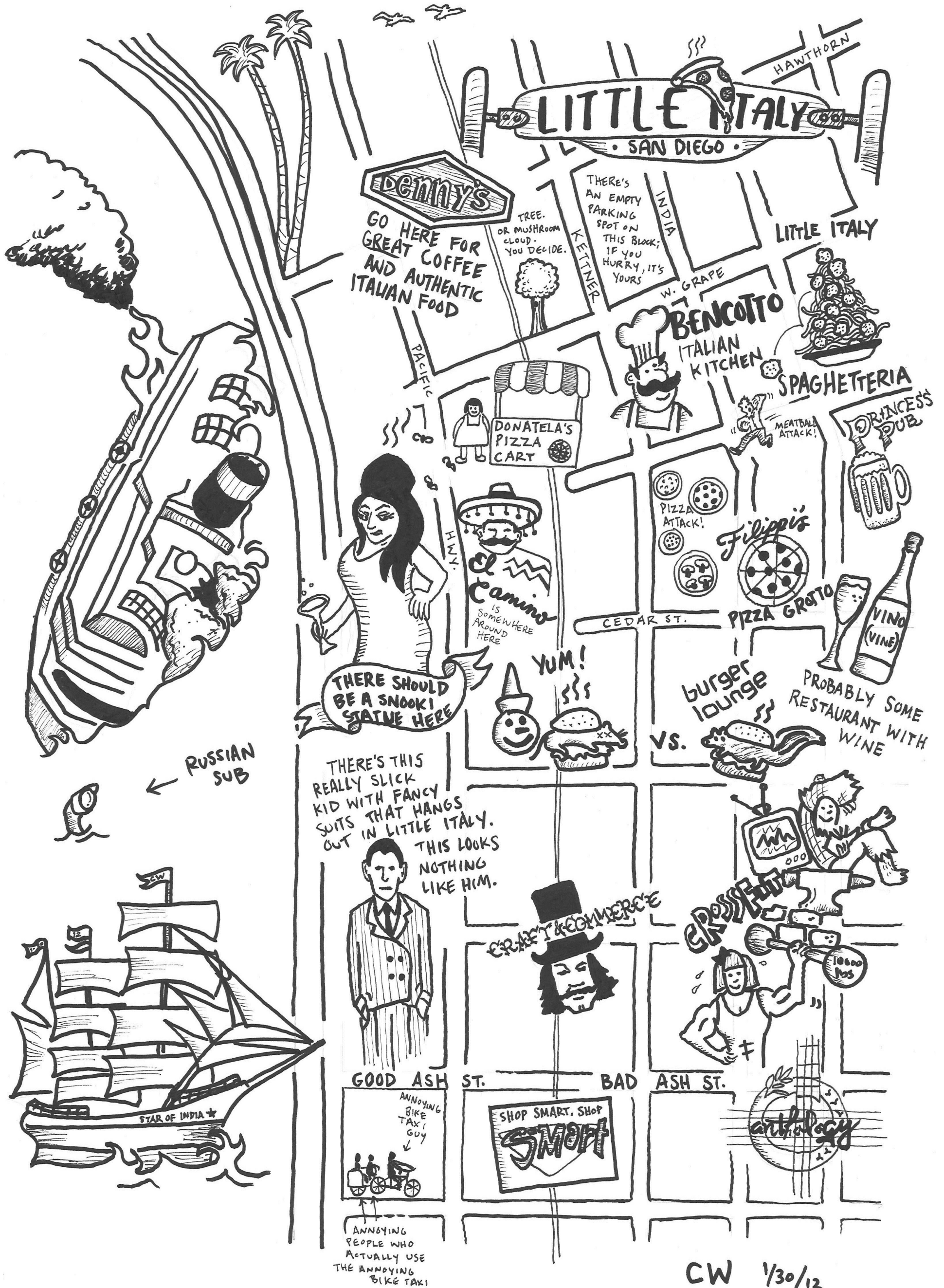
Initial reactions have been mixed, but employers, for the most part, are celebrating the change. Steve Wiley of Hutz Pinkerton Wiley & Borstein LLP welcomes the new system. “I tend to make those faces when my interns submit their motions,” said Wiley, “so the new transcripts will better communicate a student’s capabilities to me than some random number based on a haphazard scale.”

The Revamped Cal Western Grading System



Top 10: Proposed Honor Code Violations

- 10: Asking more than 3 questions in a row during class.
- 9: Blocking the stairs with your conversation.
- 8: Stubbing someone’s toe with your roly bag.
- 7: Not reading The Commentary.
- 6: Angry typing / having Tourette’s in the library.
- 5: Dying intestate.
- 4: Taking PR instead of STEPPS.
- 3: Stealing the foosball.
- 2: Reading The Artichoke.
- 1: Negligently hitting a Torts professor with your car.



Forgot Valentine’s Day?
Too lazy to make a card?
Too cheap to buy one?
Whatever your reason,
we’ve got you.

Instructions

- 1. Cut on the dotted lines.
- 2. Fold the card in half.
- 3. Write a sweet message and/
or decorate to your liking.



Sports

What I Learned From Sports in 2011

MARISA MANDOS
STAFF WRITER

1. Maybe I Won’t Send My Future Children to Sports Camp, After All.

When I was younger, I played a ton of sports. Now I watch them on TV. This is just how life works when you have a busy schedule, take up smoking, and realize that the Nike billboards have lied: you’re not “Bigger.Better.Faster.Stronger.” I digress.

I learned valuable lessons from sports: the importance of teamwork and the relevance of Jock Jams to the 20th Century to name a few. I even spent many fun summers turning my mediocre skills into athleticism. Kudos to my parents, right? I, on the other hand, won’t be able to ship the kids off to sports camp without fearing they’ll end up on To Catch a Predator.



Photo from Bebe Jones tweet.

2. In a Shocking Turn of Events, I Discover I Actually Do Like the NBA.

You don’t know what you’ve got ‘til it’s gone, or something like that. If I’ve learned one thing from the NBA labor dispute, it’s that I would rather watch basketball than sit idly on my couch – hoping Versus is actually airing one of the NHL games – than go through the winter/spring months without some viewing alternatives. The wait from the Super Bowl ‘til March Madness is pretty unbearable as it is.

As it turns out, I enjoy hearing the squeaking of the shoes on the court. I actually look forward to Kobe Bryant’s post game comments. Plus, I’d rather SportsCenter have something interesting to talk about. I’m sick of them regurgitating Tweets.

As my boyfriend says (and this is pretty awful): “Basketball is like that girl at the bar at 1 a.m.” I think what he means is that you probably won’t care if she comes home with you, but it’d be a lot coooler if she did.

3. Marathons: Good for Ego, Bad for Attractive Legs

After successfully completing a few races, I am happy to say I’ve hung up my Sauconies. I’ve replaced my fitness regimen with steady diet of rage, superfoods, Pinot Grigio, and the occasional Skittle. I’ve lost about 18 pounds and I actually resemble a female again.

4. It Turns Out That Extremely Dangerous Sports Are, in Fact, Extremely Dangerous.

I’ve always said that in order to be a professional athlete, one should be required to take at least one Personal Finance class (See: Scottie Pippen, Johnny Unitas, Mike Tyson, etc.). However, I’ve added another prerequisite to the “So, You Wanna Be a Professional Athlete?” curriculum: Physics 101.

Why are people still participating in ridiculous “sports” such as racecar driving and twirling around in the air on a motorcycle, which I believe is called “Motocross?” Here’s a good rule of thumb: if the average education of the crowd is less than or equal to 10thgrade ... probably not the smartest sport to partake in.

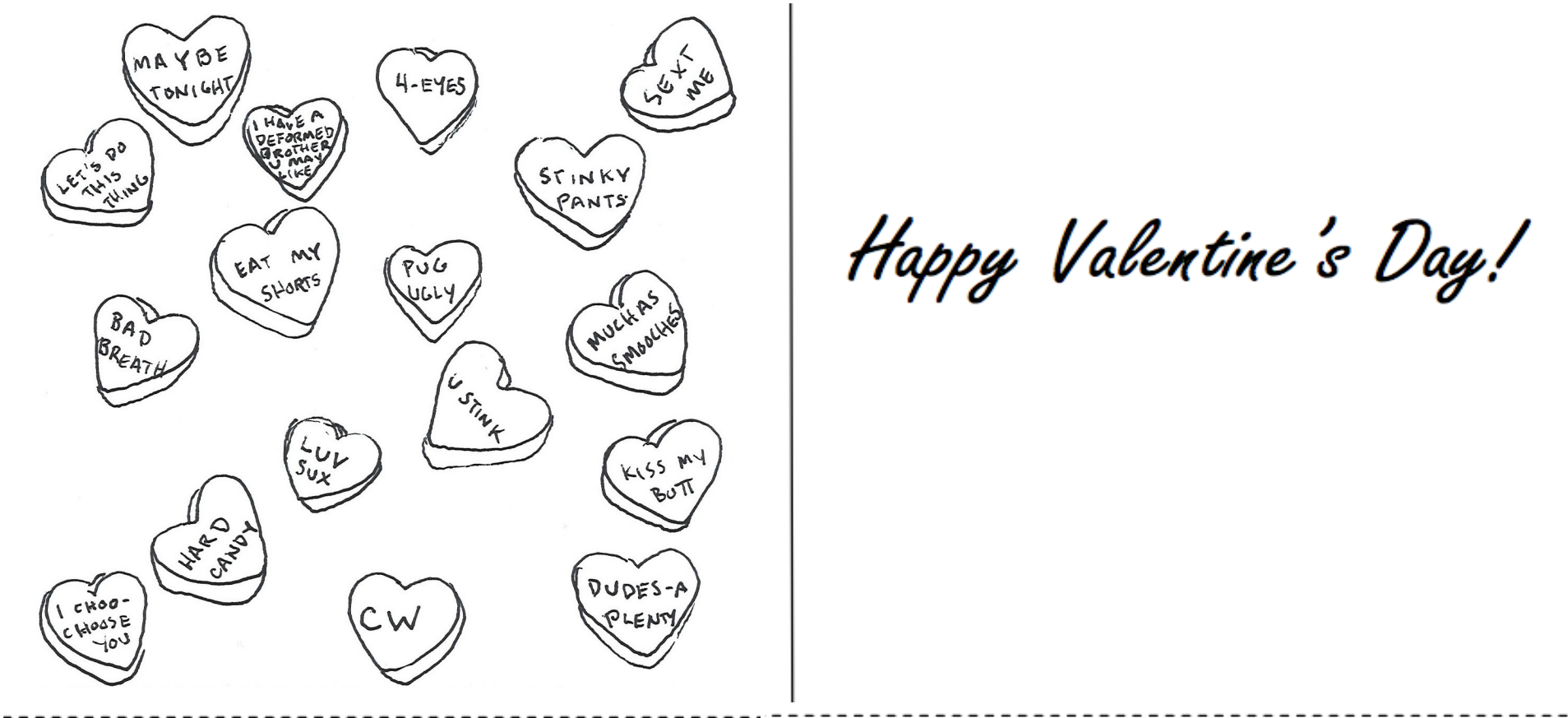
Recall: Travis Pastrana (yes, everyone who competes in the X Games is named Travis). In July, Mr. Pastrana embarked on his “Nitro Circus Live” show. I have a couple preliminary problems with this. First, he clearly does not respect WCW. Further, he is a moron. Here Pastrana’s idea of a good few days: compete back-to-back in Best Trick and Freestyle events (X Games – LA); fly to Indianapolis to make NASCAR debut; return to LA to compete in RallyCross (X Games – LA). Long story short: he kept hurting himself.

Then we have Dan Wheldon, who people were surprisingly upset about. “He was a good guy ... a charmer,” they said. Unlike all those not-so-charming starving African children who die every day, Mr. Wheldon died in the IndyCar finale while driving approximately one million miles per hour. I imagine he felt a lot like Will Ferrell in Talladega Nights, except no one was laughing and he probably really was on fire. USA Today articulately reported that Wheldon “drove into a tangle of cars careening off each other in every direction.” I’ve done a lot of stupid things in my life, but if anything is ever careening off anything else, I’m almost positive I wouldn’t head into the mess face-first.

5. Rob Gronkowski Is So Great.

From the moment I saw this guy’s first press conference, I knew I wanted to be his best friend. I took one look at him, and thought: “This is a man who loves keg stands.” Gronk was a model sleeper pick. When it comes to football players, it’s rare to see someone so new to the NFL be so versatile and beastly; it’s exciting to watch someone so young break those kinds of records. Then, he went and put the icing on the cake: in an attempt to get more Twitter followers (clearly, the most important of the records he was seeking to break), he took a few pics with another tight end, porn star Bibi Jones. The aspiring actress (?) did the unthinkable: she posted a few pictures on her Twitter, wearing Gronkowski’s #87. Gronk somehow took heat for ... making a porn star put clothes ... on? I don’t get it either, but if there is one man who can accomplish the unimaginable, it’s this guy.

I’m sure 2012 will have more to offer than a potential Armageddon and skyrocketing unemployment rates. Imagine the possibilities; look at all the great things I learned in 2011.



LAW SCHOOL WORD SEARCH

C	O	M	P	L	I	A	N	C	E	H	I	J	M	R	E	Y	O	N	N	E	P
L	N	N	O	I	T	C	I	D	S	I	R	U	J	O	I	N	D	E	R	X	L
O	S	A	O	E	F	G	V	E	U	N	L	D	O	S	T	R	A	T	E	G	E
N	F	P	R	T	E	A	I	N	S	P	O	L	I	A	T	I	O	N	E	V	A
G	L	C	U	T	I	S	C	D	E	L	C	E	N	Q	A	M	O	G	L	W	D
A	J	A	A	P	S	C	E	T	I	A	F	P	I	U	P	T	V	N	Q	L	I
R	T	R	I	M	P	L	E	A	D	E	R	O	Y	R	P	O	J	U	S	T	N
M	T	A	C	N	O	I	T	S	E	U	Q	L	A	R	E	D	E	F	T	M	G
S	C	T	G	O	E	S	N	N	M	B	P	S	N	S	A	I	R	A	O	S	S
T	O	N	Y	I	V	D	E	F	E	N	S	E	S	L	L	S	D	C	P	P	M
A	U	E	G	T	T	O	M	D	R	M	M	Q	O	E	S	C	A	L	X	E	Y
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E	R	U	R	O	D	R	T	E	U	N	E	V	L	J	F	R	O	C	O	E	S
J	C	J	T	E	S	P	E	N	N	Y	R	E	O	K	Y	Y	A	M	E	C	U
U	L	A	S	S	I	M	S	I	D	O	E	R	P	S	O	R	P	R	I	O	L
C	A	D	E	U	B	N	O	I	T	C	A	S	S	A	L	C	A	U	R	R	C
L	I	P	Z	A	G	I	N	D	E	M	N	I	T	Y	V	S	Q	M	I	P	E
W	M	E	F	C	O	M	P	L	A	I	N	T	K	J	L	A	V	O	M	E	R
E	D	Y	C	O	M	P	U	L	S	O	R	Y	I	G	A	M	H	T	N	U	P
F	O	C	H	I	S	T	C	A	T	N	O	C	L	A	M	I	N	I	M	D	S

APPEALS

CAUSE OF ACTION

CLASS ACTION

COMPLAINT

COMPLIANCE

COMPULSORY

COUNTERCLAIM

DEFAULT

DEFENSE

DENIAL

DISCOVERY

DISMISSAL

DIVERSITY

DUE PROCESS

ERIE

FACT

FEDERAL QUESTION

FORUM

IMPLEADER

IN REM

INDEMNITY

JOINER

JURISDICTION

LONG-ARM STATUTE

MINIMAL CONTACTS

MOTIONS

NOTICE

PENNOYER

PLEADINGS

PRECLUSION

REMEDIES

REMOVAL

SETTLEMENT

SERVICE

SPOILIATION

STRATEGY

SUMMARY JUDGMENT

VENUE

MARY- MICHELLE’S COOKING CORNER

This month’s recipe is designed to cook for 4... perfect for a study group break! So if you’re feeling adventurous, put down those blue books and federal rules and pick up this recipe for a quick, easy, and healthy meal.

- Ingredients:
- 2-3 stalks celery - diced

1 white onion - diced

4 carrots - peeled and diced

3 cloves garlic - minced

2 lemons

Olive oil

8 small red potatoes - diced

Salt/pepper

Boneless chicken breasts or thighs

- Directions:
- Preheat oven to 350

Toss veggies in olive oil, juice from 1 lemon, salt and pepper

Place chicken on top, drizzle olive oil, salt, pepper, garlic and 2nd lemon on top

Cover with foil

Cook 35-45 min or until inside chicken temp reaches 180 degrees (juices run clear)

Enjoy!