

50-95 Grading Scale May Put CWSL Students at Disadvantage

BEN PEZZNER
MANAGING EDITOR

[Editor's note: The following article is the first of a two-part series about the peculiarities of the CWSL Grading System. This article addresses the grading scale, and the next article will address the curve. The ideas expressed in these articles are solely the ideas of the author, and do not reflect those of California Western School of Law or any of its faculty.]

Imagine a kindergarten teacher who is tasked with teaching her children to not run with scissors. She tells her toddlers about the dangers of running with scissors, how they can slip and fall and hurt themselves, and that they should walk with care whenever they are holding sharp tools. But the lesson does not end there. In a stroke of creative genius, the teacher decides that the importance of the lesson may be lost without a demonstration. So she picks a volunteer, gives him a pair of sharp scissors, and instructs him to run a lap around the classroom. Surely enough, the child falls and stabs himself in the belly. There is a lesson to be learned from this hypo. When deciding the best way to teach a lesson, one must factor in not only the effectiveness of any creative tactics used to drive the point home, but also any unintended consequences that come along for the ride. In some cases, the more effective

a lesson is, the more side effects there will be. We are always learning about balancing tests in the study of law. Education techniques also require balancing tests; in the case of CWSL's grading scale, the balance is between the effectiveness of the grading scale, and the side effects that may occur as a result of the scale's uniqueness. As many of you know, CWSL awards grades on a scale between 50 and 95. A 50 corresponds with an F, and a 95 corresponds with the highest grade one can possibly get. What most of you probably do not know is that this scale is the result of a lesson that originated 28 years ago from an associate Dean named Penn Lerblance. The lesson is simple. No matter how well a student performs on a final exam, that student will never know 100% of the subject matter. Further, the practice of law requires continued study and scholarship; no lawyer can ever be said to know all of the law. The lesson is an important one, and is not to be taken lightly. Laws are always changing, society is constantly evolving, and a lawyer who does not continually update his or her knowledge will quickly become ineffective. The ABA even recognizes this concept by requiring lawyers to attend Continuing Legal Education programs. But now that we have the lesson, what is the best way to drive the point home? Dean Lerblance's idea was to demonstrate the les-

son by making it impossible for a student to get anything higher than a 95. Scoring a 100 in a law class would be antithetical to the idea that one can never know 100% of the law. But just as the scissor demonstration had some potential side effects, so does the grading scale demonstration. The back page of our transcripts outlines the details of three grading curves. An employer would have to turn the transcript over, have the disposition to spend a few seconds deciphering which scale to use, and then independently realize that it is impossible to score higher than a 95. This sounds easy. But many employers are considering hundreds of students from dozens of law schools. A vast majority of these schools use a letter system, or a standard GPA system (4.0 = A, 3.0 = B, etc). One could argue that a student with Legal Skills scores [A, A] or [3.9, 3.8] may have an edge over a student with [93, 92]. On the other hand, there is a chance that the employer will take all of the aforementioned steps and realize that the CWSL student's 93 is equivalent to, and maybe even higher than, the USD student's A. But why take that chance? By balancing the risks involved with our grading scale (probability of CWSL students being at a disadvantage), with See GRADES on page 3...

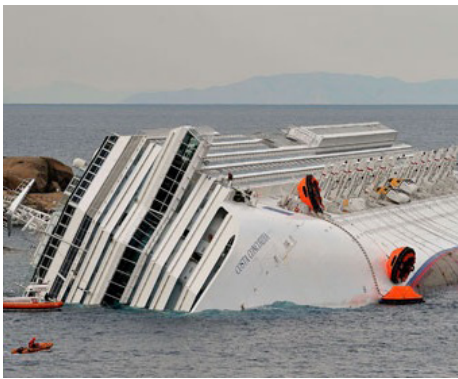


Photo from guardian.co.uk

Sunken Ship and IPJ Issues

BEN PEZZNER
MANAGING EDITOR

Last January, the Costa Concordia sunk when it ran aground off the coast of Italy. This was one of Europe's largest cruise ships, but it was brought down when its captain purposely took it off course in an effort to dazzle the passengers with the rocky scenery of a small island. One of these rocks opened a hole in the bottom of the ship, and the captain spent the next 90 minutes being even more negligent, not reporting the incident, and not ordering an evacuation until it was too late, which resulted in 32 deaths. Dozens of passengers have decided to sue, rejecting a settlement offer from the cruise line. The suit was filed in a Florida state court against Florida-based Costa Cruise Lines (the operator of the ship), and See IPJ on page 3...

Ninth Circuit Affirms Prop 8 Unconstitutional, Appeal Likely

LEAH REEVES
STAFF WRITER

On February 7, 2012, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals released their decision about the constitutionality of Prop 8, the voter initiative that prevented same-sex couples from gaining the right to marriage. The appeals court upheld the lower court's decision in Perry v. Brown, that the proposition was unconstitutional under both the Due Process and Equal Protections clauses of the U.S. Constitution. This appeals decision was made by a 3-judge panel, and it came out 2-1 in favor of overturning Prop 8. Judge Reinhardt rendered the opinion of the court. The decision stated, "Although the Constitution permits communities to enact most laws they believe to be desirable, it requires that there be at least a legitimate reason for the passage of a law that treats different classes of people differently." He went on to state that there was no actual reason presented by the Prop 8 proponents why the restrictions of Prop 8 should remain active (page 4 of the decision). Since California couples were granted the right to marry, back in 2008, and were later denied this right via the passage of Prop 8, this court goes on to state that "the question is whether there is a legitimate governmental interest in withdrawing access to marriage from same-sex couples. . . . Proposition 8 subtracted a disfavored group from a scheme of which it already was a part." (Page 59 of the decision.) Prop 8 proponents had argued that the proposition was in furtherance of advancing California's interest in "child rearing or responsible procreation," but the court

ruled that the only affect Prop 8 would actually have would be to deny same-sex couples the "right to obtain and use the designation of 'marriage' to describe their relationships," and did not, in fact, have any effect on child rearing or procreation. The court went on to state that "Proposition 8 serves no purpose, and has not effect, other than to lessen the status and human dignity of gays and lesbians in California, and to officially reclassify their relationships and families as inferior to those of opposite-sex couples. The Constitution simply does not allow for 'laws of this sort.' Romer v. Evans, 517 U.S. 620, 633 (1996)" (page 5 of the decision). The decision also adds, "It is enough to say that Proposition 8 operates with no apparent purpose but to impose on gays and lesbians, through the public law, a majority's private disapproval of them and their relationships, by taking away from them the official designation of 'marriage' with its societally recognized status. Proposition 8 therefore violates the Equal Protection Clause." (Page 77 of the decision.) The Commentary asked California Western's Professor Cox for her thoughts on the court's decision. "To me, there were two important parts of the decision. First, the court spent some time eloquently explaining why marriage matters to all couples and why receiving equal benefits, without the status and the name of marriage, shows disapproval of same-sex relationships. It spoke of how Prop 8 has no purpose or effect other than to lessen the status and human dignity of gay and lesbian Californians and classify our relationships as inferior to See PROP 8 on page 3...

LAST MONTH IN NATIONAL NEWS

1. Singer Whitney Houston Dies at 48 (CNN)
2. Santorum Takes Lead for Republican Presidential Candidate (CNN)
3. Dow Up Nearly 100% From Bear Market Lows of 2009 (USA Today)
4. Obama Signs Payroll Tax Deal Into Law (CNN)
5. Giants Beat Patriots in Super Bowl, 21-17 (ESPN)

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The Commentary Editorial

In this issue of The Commentary we spend some time talking about grades and the curve. This is an important issue for the student body. We could talk for hours about the pros and cons of the grading system. In fact, many Commentary issues of years past have written pages on it. However, we've recently moved the discussion from general issues with testing accommodations to specific issues regarding career competition and hireability. To see more on that check out our headlining article "50-95 Grading Scale May Put CWSL Students at Disadvantage" on page 1. The article talks about how our grading scale compares to others and what that means for us.

Next month, we will be featuring an in-depth comparative analysis of Cal Western's curve. For now, however, we would like to highlight a specific issue many students have.

Currently, Cal Western has a curve for each class. Included in this curve are full time and part time students, students with learning disabilities and returning students. A part time student must take between 8 and 11 units. A full time student must take between 10 and 17 units. A part time

student taking 8 units will be on the same curve as a full time student taking 17 units. This also means that students with learning disabilities, who are allowed extra time and a private room, are also on the same curve. Furthermore, returning students who have taken the course once before are considered in that same curve.

We are concerned about the possible effect this system has on the curve. Are part-time students who do not have families or jobs outside school at an advantage? Does it make a difference to take an exam in a small, personal, quiet room, both with and without extra time? The answer could very well be "no." Indeed, we have been told by various faculty and staff that accommodations have no effect on the curve. Yet at the same time, we have learned that there has never been a quantitative analysis of these questions.

The curve, especially during first year, makes or breaks many of us. The importance goes beyond getting a high grade. For some it is the difference between a job with the AG or a job at Urban Outfitters. For some it is the difference between a salary of \$100,000 a year and \$10,000 a year.

For some the curve means everything. It is important that we have a thorough understanding of this monster and its effects.

That is why we, the editors, are using this space to reflect a growing sentiment among the student body that the possibility of inequities in the current accommodations system is very real, and that there will never be a clear picture until the numbers are more closely monitored and analyzed.

In the event that it is cost prohibitive to look at past numbers, we urge the administration to consider strategic tracking of all future grades from students who are taking tests in conditions that are not representative of a majority of the student body. Separate analysis covering ALL of the different categories, including part-time students, returners, and those receiving both time and space accommodations is highly urged.

We, The Commentary Board, believe a study should be done. Students have been having these issues for many years, and they will continue to have them if the curve is not addressed. It would be prudent to address them now, rather than letting it continue to be a headache for years to come.

In an effort to save you from the misery that comes with getting your car towed, The Commentary is releasing the following PSA...

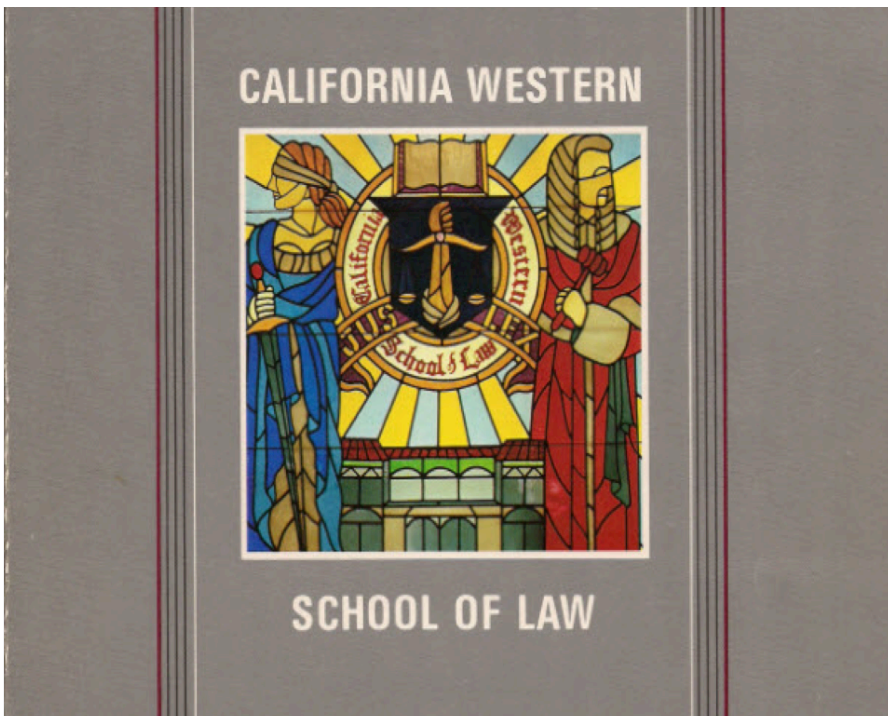
REMINDER!

Do NOT park at the meters across the street from the 350 Cedar St. building before 9 a.m. YOU WILL BE TOWED!

You will have to pay \$350 to get your car. To top things off, when you are walking through the impound to get the car thinking it's all over, there will be a ticket waiting.

That is all. Thank you.

Please send any letters to the editor, corrections, articles, or club messages to CWSLCommentary@gmail.com. The deadline for April submission is March 15th.



PureFitness would like to welcome the students of California Western School of Law by giving all students a 2 week free trial at our Merrill Lynch location in the month of March.

PureFitness Merrill Lynch
701 B St. (619)239-3622
www.Purefitness.com



WRITE FOR THE COMMENTARY!

Our open meetings are every Wednesday evening at 5:30 pm, in the lovely 4th floor lounge in the 350 bldg.

Look for a small but lively group of 1Ls, 2Ls, 3Ls, and angry bar studiers 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!

ABOUT US: The Commentary is the official California Western School of Law newspaper. The SBA president thinks The Commentary has been around for 38 years but we really have no idea. Our office is actually the SBA office in the basement of the 350 building. We don't mind if you want to come by but we ran out of beer last week so there's really no point. The truth is we are just a small group of students who have amazing support from the Cal Western community. The paper used to only print once in Fall and Spring but with all the fun stuff going on why only print twice a year? Although we rip off many photos we do always give credit so if you wish to reprint any of our stuff we ask that you just ask. In all seriousness, The Commentary is a committee from SBA. The views expressed within the content of The Commentary are not to be considered the views of any specific agent of California Western School of Law, its administration, or the other SBA members.

Grades: Potential Disadvantage

From GRADING SCALE on page 1... the benefits of the grading scale (we don't forget that it's impossible to know 100% of the law), it is obvious that the grading scale adjustment is not within the best interest of the students. Just like the kindergarten class could probably have done without the scissors demo, spending some time during intro week to teach us the concepts behind the grading scale adjustment (without actually adjusting the grading scale) would be just as effective in getting the point across, minus the harmful side effects.

To conclude, the repercussions are more than just possibilities. They are very tangible. Consider the following: I was recently turned down from a position at a prominent intellectual property law firm in

Washington, D.C. Throughout the application process, I had developed a friendly relationship with the firm's head of recruitment. Accordingly, she was very candid with me when I asked her why I was turned down. She told me that the attorneys who interviewed me were very impressed, but it came down to one attorney who used a veto because I was "a C+ student." I proceeded to explain to her that an 83 cumulative GPA at California Western does not make me a C+ student. I even mentioned that students with 85 and above graduate cum laude. She was surprised and dismayed to hear this, and she told me that the matter would be looked into. That was three months ago, and I have not heard anything since.

Update: CWSL Named in Lawsuit

LEAH REEVES
STAFF WRITER

Lately there has been a great amount of publicity surrounding lawsuits that have been brought against various law schools in the country. These lawsuits are alleging that the law schools posted employment statistics that are misleading and blatantly false.

As reported by *The Commentary* in the November 2011 issue, a recent press release had stated that the Law Office of David Anziska and Strauss is the firm responsible for the class action lawsuits being brought against the schools.

David Anziska stated in the press release, "The [employment] numbers reported by the schools just don't comport with the reality of the legal job market." And according to an article on The Wall Street Journal's law blog, David Anziska also stated that, "Our goal is to sue 20 to 25 more schools every few months" (<http://blogs.wsj.com/law/2012/02/01/a-dozen-law-schools-hit-with-lawsuits-over-jobs-data/>).

For those students who are wondering where the ABA comes into play, according to The National Law Journal (www.law.com), "a committee reviewing the American Bar Association's law school accreditation standards has agreed upon changes in the way law schools report graduate employment and salaries."

As for how the statistical reporting would change, the article went on to explain that "individual schools would have

to report 25th, 50th, and 75th percentile salary figures for graduates in jobs requiring a juris doctor degree; jobs in which a J.D. is preferred; jobs in other professions; and nonprofessional jobs. The salary breakdowns would have to be provided for 15 job categories, including solo practitioner, government attorney, public interest work and academic" (<http://law.com/jsp/nlj/PubArticleNLJ.jsp?id=1202538734923&slreturn=1>).

At the beginning of February, Dean Smith sent an email out to Cal Western students advising them that our school has been named as a potential defendant. The email stated that they do not have actual confirmation of a suit, but that they have become aware of possibly being named as defendants.

The email went on to state that CWSL "will vigorously defend ourselves against any lawsuit. We stand behind the work of our Career Services team to collect and report accurate data and are confident that steps being taken by the ABA and NALP will help address some of the concerns raised nationally about the reporting of this data."

The letter also went on to assure the students "that this lawsuit will in no way impede the normal operations of the law school or interfere in our admissions efforts in any way."

Unfortunately, this may come as only a minor reassurance to those students for whom these lawsuits have caused stress.

IPJ Issue: Costa Concordia Suit

From SUNKEN SHIP on page 1...

Carnival Corp. (Costa's parent company), which is incorporated in Panama but has its headquarters in Miami.

Any 1L Civ Pro student would agree that a Florida state court in Miami would be the perfect venue for this suit. But not so fast, my fellow Stiglitz graduates. Cost Cruise Line tickets have a clause stating that any action against the company should be taken in Italy. Further, the ship actually capsized off the coast of Italy. Still feeling confident about the Florida venue?

In any case, the lawsuit is pushing ahead. The complaint argues that the Florida court is the appropriate jurisdiction because, in addition to the defendants being engaged in business in the state, the captain (and by extension, the cruise line) was so grossly negligent that the agreement on the cruise tickets was breached, thereby invalidating the forum selection clause.

Regardless of where the suit ends up, this will be an interesting case to follow. For reference: case no. 2-3496CA 40, Geoffrey Scimone et al vs. Carnival Corp. et al.

Prop 8 Unconstitutional... Again

From NINTH CIRCUIT on page 1...

those of opposite-sex couples. Second, the court rejected all of the proposed reasons for banning same-sex couples from marrying (childbearing and parenting, proceed with caution when changing those who are allowed to marry, religious freedom, protecting children from gay and lesbian people, and tradition). If none of these are legitimate reasons to differentiate between couples, then the state is showing animus toward gay and lesbian couples when giving our relationships a different, and inferior, status.

"Finally, I wonder why the proponents of Prop 8 would appeal this decision. As it is written, it applies only to California (although the court's reasoning may prove insightful to other courts considering marriage bans.) If they appeal and lose, then it's possible that all state bans against allowing same-sex couples will be struck down. If they accept the 9th circuit's opinion, they limit their potential for a huge loss. So why not let California go? If I were advising them, I would carefully consider whether it might be better not to appeal and to limit the impact of this important decision."

So what happens next? According to the website prop8trialtracker.com, The Prop 8 proponents have two options when it

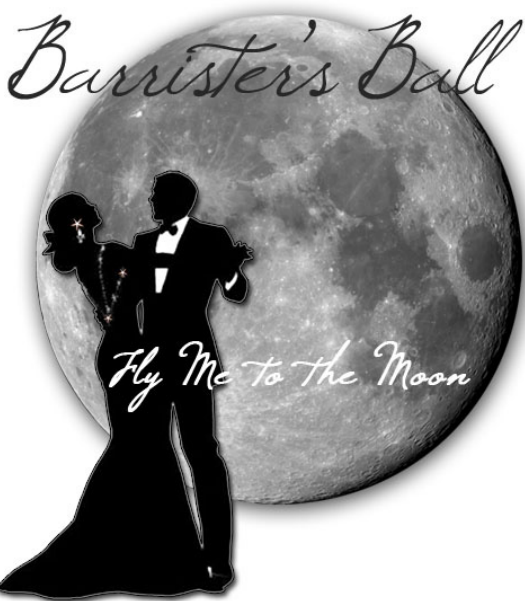
comes to appealing the ruling. "First, they could request what is called an en banc hearing. In most appellate courts, this involves the decision by a panel of judges (in this case, the 3-judge panel reviewing the Perry v. Brown case) being reviewed by all the judges on the appeals court.

In the 9th Circuit, however (by far the largest appellate court in the country), an en banc hearing involves 11 of the court's judges. In order for this review to occur, a majority of all active judges in the 9th Circuit must vote to rehear it. Many legal observers believe it is unlikely the court would allow an en banc hearing. The losing party could then appeal the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court has discretion over which cases it decides to hear, and hears arguments in only about 1% of all petitions filed for certiorari (judicial review) each term, so there is no guarantee it would take up an appeal of Perry. If four Supreme Court Justices agree to hear the case, the Supreme Court will review the case."

The prop8trialtracker.com website does as its name implies, it follows the Prop 8 trial closely, and reports on its finding. In addition, the website also has the actual opinion posted for review by any of its visitors.

CALIFORNIA WESTERN SCHOOL OF LAW
STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION PRESENTS



SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2012
6:00 PM - 12:00 AM
SAN DIEGO AIR & SPACE MUSEUM

CWSLBARRISTERSBALL@GMAIL.COM
CWSLSBA.COM

Barrister's Ball Press Release

"Fly me to the moon; let me play, among the stars... Let me see what spring is like on, Jupiter and Mars..." It's that time of year again, time for California Western's Annual Barrister's Ball, brought to you by the Student Bar Association. This year's Barrister's Ball is on Saturday, March 10, 2012, from 6:00 pm to 12:00 am, and will be held at the San Diego Air & Space Museum, in Balboa Park. The theme this year corresponds to the venue, with an Aviator and 1960's Rat Pack vibe. Frank Sinatra, a founding member of the Rat Pack, recorded the best-known version of the song "Fly Me to the Moon" in 1964. The song was played by the astronauts of Apollo 10 on their lunar-orbital mission and again on the moon itself, by astronaut Buzz Aldrin, during the Apollo 11 moon landing.

Check-in begins at 6:00 and goes until 7:30, but make sure to arrive at the museum in time to enjoy the activities! In addition to hosting the dinner and dance, guests will be able to tour the museum, fly with friends on the interactive F-35 simulators, experience a 4D movie in the Zable Theater (complete with moving seats and unique special effects), and pilot the dual-seat max flight interactive ride. Simulators will run from 6:00 to 8:00. Cocktail hour begins at 6:30, includes tray passed hors d'oeuvres, and runs until 7:45.

Dinner will be served at 8:00, catered by Culinary Concepts. Dinner entertainment includes Emcees Kevin Magennis and Weston Penfield announcing the Professor of the Year Awards and a slide show featuring CWSL students throughout the year. Following dinner is a chocolate fondue station for dessert. DJ BeatNick will be spinning from 9:00 - 12:00.

The Barrister's Ball Committee has been hard at work since October of last year, planning what is sure to be a fantastic event! The committee this year is comprised of SBA President Kevin Magennis, SBA Vice-President Weston Penfield, SBA SDCBA Representative Anna Burnett, SBA Intramurals Director Alessandra Lopez-Hutchinson, and Committee Member Lauren Sheppard. "Come fly with us" on March 10 at the Air & Space Museum! See you there!

Bail Project: Training Students & Helping the Community

CLAYTON CARR
STAFF WRITER

Imagine being arrested. Now, imagine that after being arrested all of your personal items are taken away from you: your wallet or purse, your identification, your contact information, your cell-phone. What would you do? Who would you call? What would you do about your job? Your school work?

Now imagine that you were charged with a felony where the scheduled bail is \$20,000. Do you have \$20,000 in cash or assets? Do you even have \$2,000? It's possible that maybe you do ... but most people in San Diego don't. That's where CWSL's Bail Project comes in.

The Bail Project is a joint venture, integrated into the upper-division course 'Advanced Criminal Justice Seminar' and supported by the Office of the Public Defender for San Diego County. Under the supervision of Professor Lawrence Benner and direction of Adjunct Professor Colleen Cusack ('92), upper-division students develop real-world skills in client counseling, interviewing, oral advocacy, and understanding substantive criminal law.

Each week students report to downtown San Diego's Central Jail to meet and interview recent felony arrestees. Students follow a set interview protocol that informs the arrestee of their constitutional rights and options for posting bail. For many arrestees, this is the first opportunity to speak with someone that is "on their side."



Photo by Ben Pezzner

Three days later, students report to Felony Arraignment located in downtown Superior Court's Department 12. There, students represent the arrestee they interviewed in jail and speak on behalf of the Public Defender's Office in front of Superior Court Judge David M. Szumowski. Students registered with the California State Bar's Practical Training of Law Students (PTLS) program are certified to speak in open court as long as a practicing attorney supervises their work.

Jacquelyn Bickar, a 2L Bail Project student says, "I think the Bail Project is one of the best practicums offered [at CWSL] because it literally throws you into the world of an attorney in a fast paced criminal court room." Ms. Bickar continues, "It's the easiest way to get great experience with both handling criminal defendant clients and speaking in court. It's been rewarding and I think more people should get involved."

Following the semester's work with the Public Defender's Office, students independently research a subject of their choice in regards to criminal law. This research is then presented to the class and the research assignment may be submitted to satisfy the 'Major Research Paper' requirement needed for a concentration in "Criminal Prosecution and Defense Practice."



Photo from attorney.sddt.com

Superior Court Judge David M. Szumowski, whom CWSL Students appear before on a regular basis as representatives for recent arrestees.

FOLLOWING UP WITH CONTACTS



Photo from qualitystudent.com

SARENA KUSTIC
STAFF WRITER

Three months ago you went to a networking event. You met someone who practices in the area of law you're interested in and they gave you their business card. Now you'd like to follow up with them because you have questions about that field of law or their experience but you're worried that too much time has passed since you met. Should you have emailed them within the first week, so they would remember you now? I sat down with Shaka Johnson, Senior Attorney for Sony Electronics, to find out just how long is too long and what is the best way to follow up with your contacts.

It turns out that it doesn't really matter how long it has been since you last spoke. As Shaka explained, "it's less about the time frame and more about the message." Keep it short, open, and convenient. If you don't get a response after a couple weeks, send another email or make a phone call. But do NOT attach or forward the original email.

While forwarding the original can be seen as overbearing, a simple "Hello again, just checking in" may break the ice for the attorney to write you back after some time has passed. Obviously attorneys are very busy. If they realize they haven't responded to your email in a few weeks, they may feel awkward sending a response now. Getting a follow up from you will help re-open the communication line. Another good tip from Shaka, is to skip the emailing and make a phone call. We all know what it's like to be really busy and get one more email in our inboxes. "An email might be seen as one more task, but answering a phone call is simpler and may be more convenient."

Ultimately it's important to remember that the point of networking is not to get all the phone numbers and business cards you can, but to "create a bond, so when a window of opportunity opens up, they'll think of you. And when you email or call your contacts they'll remember your face." It's quality not quantity.

Also, don't worry if your initial encounter wasn't that memorable. If the attorney is practicing in an area you're interested in, it's perfectly okay to call or send an email explaining your interest and asking if you can meet over coffee for conversation. Most attorneys are more than willing to meet with a student to talk about their experiences in law school and in practice. Once you have met in person and gotten to know more about them, chances are they'll remember you in the future.

The bottom line is that it is never too late to reach out to someone you've met. However, be aware that there is a point when you cross the line from making the attorney feel flattered that you're interested in what they do, to making them feel annoyed or stalked by your incessant messages. If you've tried three times to reach them and have not received a response, leave them alone.

SBA Presents: OPEN MIC NIGHT!

TUESDAY, MARCH 20 350 BUILDING LOBBY

FOOD TRUCK AFTER 4PM

Email bhpezzner@law.cwsl.edu to sign up

Spring Start Students Sometimes Forgotten

GRACE GARNER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

California Western's trimester system is a selling point for many students. Finishing law school in less than three years—while absolutely draining—is awesome. However, there are some drawbacks to the system. The trimester system allows students to enter as 1Ls in the fall and the spring. Most people know that there are spring 1L students yet they are often forgotten in the bustle of spring semester. Clubs have already made a push for members, fall 1Ls have established their friend groups, and most people seem to think that everyone knows what's going on.

This leaves spring starts lost for a few weeks, if not the entire semester. Programs and club events are geared toward returning students. Moot court only offers a trial team workshop for fall 1Ls, spring starts are unable to participate in the summer trial team boot camp due to our class schedule and there is no equivalent summer enrichment course. Spring starts are even discouraged from becoming too involved in campus activities. It is understandable to limit club activities in favor of studying but not to the disadvantage of the students.

For instance, many clubs have outline banks and supplemental materials which dues paying members can access. This is a great asset to first year students who have never written an outline before. Clubs also provide students with a support system. As a member of La Raza this year I have received a great deal of care and encouragement from fellow club members. This type of support is critical during the first year.

Despite the drawbacks, there are positive aspects of starting in the spring. The class size is smaller, rounding out at about 50 students, including part-time spring starts. For better or worse, you know your classmates well. This was a huge perk for me (I entered in January 2011). Thankfully, I adore my class. The January 2011 class is diverse in age and experience, fun and supportive. My first year experience was positive largely due to their no-nonsense and minimally competitive attitudes.

With smaller class sizes also comes individualized attention. Each student is able to speak fully and office hours are relatively calm, even during finals. Spring starts get a couple different professors too. Professor Cox and Professor Finkmoore bring a mastery and intensity to Civil Procedure and Property. It is likely impossible to forget what you learn when taking their courses.

Just like everything else, starting law school in the spring has its pros and cons. For a non-competitive environment, small class sizes, individualized attention and a virtually empty library in the summer it's best to start in spring. For more attention from clubs, trial team, competitiveness, an internship or light course load summer and the most popular professors it's best to start in fall. Either way though, if you put in the work, it will pay off.

Fourth Floor Renovations Update

DENIZ BAYRAMOGLU
& BEN PEZZNER

Rehab the Fourth Floor" Committee reported that the process to renovate the fourth floor lounge areas is underway. Since that initial report, Committee members Deniz Bayramoglu and Ben Pezzner have spoken with Head Maintenance Guru Ray Hadley about their plans. The conversation was very encouraging, because while SBA is in charge of stocking the room with items like furniture, TVs, and pinball machines, the school is in charge of maintaining the structural elements, like the windows, floors, and walls.

Ray is enthusiastic about helping us to make the fourth floor a little bit more inviting. For instance, one of the top priorities on the Committee's checklist was to get the 50+ year old windows fixed. We learned that this has been in the works for a while, but would be very costly since the job would have to be done from the outside, and that would require scaffolding to cover the entire wall of the school, all the way up to the roof. Not to worry though - that wall is scheduled to be painted sometime next year, so when the scaffolding is put up for the paint job, hopefully the windows will be replaced as well. In the meantime, Ray has told us that he will work on getting the current windows to be able to close all the way and latch shut.

As for the items under SBA's jurisdiction, the main projects include replacing the lawn furniture with nicer (and matching) chairs, upgrading the TV, and getting the super awesome Star Wars pinball machine looked at. We will also be putting in requests for the laminated flooring to be replaced with carpet, vertical blinds to cover the windows, and the walls to be painted and patched. In the meantime, if you have any suggestions for something you'd like to see improved on the fourth floor, feel free to let the Committee know by emailing Deniz at dennis.bayramoglu@gmail.com.



Photos by Ben Pezzner



PUT A RING ON IT & BUILD CRED?

SHANA METZGER
GUEST WRITER

Many young lawyers, especially women, have a hard time being taken seriously by their older colleagues. This is quite evident in the sports and entertainment industry. In researching women in sports I came across a very interesting article on the website, espnw.com. The article was titled, "It gets better. 'Til then, wear a wedding band." Although the subject of the article was women sports reporters, I believe that it can also be applied to female sports lawyers. This article was written in response to an anonymous email that the author received from a female reporting for her college. The woman in question was wondering how to be taken seriously when the men in the locker room are smacking her ass and calling her "darling". The author told her that it will get better and that she will develop credibility with experience. In conclusion she ended the article with this gem... "But I also gave her some advice that the pioneering women in our business might have gotten during the Joe Namath era. Wear a fake wedding band, sweet cakes." (espn.go.com, Jane McManus.) Is that really the answer?

This issue of being a young single woman in the professional world came up again in a meeting that I had with a powerful female entertainment attorney in Los Angeles. I asked her if she had come across any resistance in the industry because she is female. She said that she had a hard time being taken seriously when she was just starting out. Yes, because she was new to the industry but also because she was young and single. She said that people started to treat her with more respect and took her more seriously once she married.

What does this mean for someone like me? I am still fairly young, single, and have no plans to marry anytime in the near future. My plan... I will have to work hard and fast on developing my creditability in the industry, and in the meantime, I guess I should start looking for a nice, cheap ring.

Club Feature!



Photo from facebook.com

ANIMAL LAW SOCIETY

Animals have a place in society and our hearts. Cal Western hosts "Cutest Pet" contests, and people routinely refer to their pets as their own children. We see pet care facilities popping up, allowing owners to pamper their fluffy loved ones just as they would their own family members. And that's because, as any guardian will attest to, animals are an integral part of the family unit.

So if animals have such a presence in our everyday lives, they should be protected by law, right? Sadly this is not the case. As it stands today, your gecko or Labrador is treated like property in the eyes of the law. They receive no more protections than that of an ordinary chair. Owners are usually only able to recover for market value of the animals; something that causes an issue when animals are adopted and become a part of the family. And with budget cuts and time demands, prosecuting animal cruelty as a felony often gets pushed to the back burner. Domesticated pets are not the only victims, as the issues spread to animal testing and factory farms. So what can we do to bring light to the issues?

California Western School of Law has partnered with the Animal Legal Defense Fund to create a student chapter of the national non-profit group, whose mission is to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals through the legal system. With the Animal Legal Defense Fund's support, students at the school's new chapter will join the ranks of hundreds of other student chapter members nationwide, taking on projects such as: advocating for the addition of animal law courses to curriculums; hosting speakers, debates, panels, and conferences; writing law review articles for journals dedicated to animal law; tabling on campus to raise awareness about animal issues; and volunteering to do legal research and writing for local law firms.

In 2000, only nine law schools offered courses in animal law; today, the list has grown to over 135. The first Student Animal Legal Defense Fund (SALDF) chapter was established in 1992 at Lewis & Clark Law School; 15 years later, there are more than 170 chapters at law schools throughout the U.S. and Canada, at top schools including Yale, Harvard, Stanford, NYU, and Northwestern. Students interested in joining CWSL's SALDF chapter should contact president Eden Brown at aldf@law.cwsl.edu. For more information on animal law happenings and articles, check out www.aldf.org or www.animal-law.com.

The Benefits of Coconut Oil: Combating Dryness & More



Photo from sharronsguide.blogspot.com

SARENA KUSIC
STAFF WRITER

For those of you battling dry hair or skin, nature has a remedy. One night, I was complaining to my cosmetologist friend. I had just tried a new conditioning treatment that was supposed work great, at least that’s what the price tag said. The end result was a greasy film left on my hair even after I shampooed. That’s when my friend asked me, “Have you ever tried Coconut Oil?” I had heard of Coconut Water, but never Coconut Oil. My friend explained that applying Coconut Oil to my hair for at least a half hour once a week would soften it better than any conditioning treatment. Then she told me that it has the same effect on dry skin.

As a girl always interested in a low-cost home remedy, I was excited to try Coconut Oil. I initially bought a tub of 100% Pure Coconut Oil from the grocery store for around five dollars. But it was unscented and I like the creamy scent of natural coconut. Later, I went to Sprouts Market and purchased the extra virgin and unrefined oil, also for around five bucks.

The oil was in solid form, so I wasn’t sure how to apply it. I searched online, and the results were overwhelming. There are numerous websites dedicated specifically to Coconut Oil. Apparently the oil isn’t just cosmetically beneficial. Many websites claim it can be used to boost metabolism, treat various skin conditions, condition your hair, boost your immune system, and help relieve stress.

After browsing several websites, I decided to test the Coconut Oil on my hair. To apply it I spooned a small amount into my hand and rubbed my hands together to liquefy it. Then I ran my hands through small sections of my hair at a time until all of my hair was saturated. I wrapped my hair up in a clip and went back to doing my homework. After a couple hours, I washed my hair. The instant I lathered my hair with shampoo, I could tell the difference. My hair felt like silk! I conditioned with my normal conditioner and then styled my hair. The results? My hair was not only soft, it was super shiny!

Excited by this new miracle oil, I decided to try it on my skin. After showering, I applied the oil like a body lotion and went to sleep. In the morning, my skin was really soft. The best part was that it wasn’t greasy at all. Overnight the texture of my skin had improved. The next night I tried Coconut Oil on my face as a nighttime moisturizer. Breakouts are a concern of mine, so I was a little worried that putting oil on my face would be a bad idea. Thankfully I awoke with the same results as before, my skin felt baby soft. Plus, I haven’t had any breakouts since I started the treatment.

I know I’m not the only person at Cal Western who has limited time and money to dedicate to beauty treatments, so I figured I’d share my experience. Without leaving your house or having to skip study and sleep time, you can pamper your hair and skin for just five bucks.



Photo from coconutcraze.com

Interested in learning more? These are the articles I found really informative:

- [Health Benefits of Coconut Oil](#) at OrganicFacts.net
- [Coconut](#) (Cocos nucifera) at Coconutresearchcenter.org
- [Coconut Oil for Beauty](#) at Beautyandgroomingtips.com

Sweet Recipe

BY GRACE GARNER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Savory Recipe

Peanut Butter and Jelly Bars

Revisit your childhood with these delicious peanut butter and jelly bars. Be prepared to be covered in peanut butter and jelly and make sure you have a few glasses of milk ready to accompany the sweetness.

Spicy Penne Pasta Dinner

It can be tough to find time to cook as a law student. Even with the best intentions we often end up eating out. Here’s an easy recipe that can last you through the week. I always keep my kitchen stocked with the ingredients in case I get a craving. I guarantee you’ll fall in love.

Peanut Butter and Jelly Bars (yields 2 dozen)
Adapted from Martha Stewart
Ingredients:
1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature
3 cups all-purpose flour
1 ½ cups sugar
2 large eggs
2 ½ cups smooth peanut butter
1 ½ teaspoons salt
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
1 ½ cups strawberry jam
2/3 cups roughly chopped salted peanuts (optional)

Directions:
1. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9-by-13 inch pan with butter or cooking spray. Line the bottom with parchment paper, making sure to let some hang over the sides (this makes it easier to take out of the pan). Grease the parchment as well. Set aside.
2. Place butter and sugar in the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment. Beat on medium-high speed until fluffy, about 2 minutes. On medium speed, add eggs and peanut butter; beat until combined about 2 minutes.



Photo from alpineberry.blogspot.com

3. Whisk together salt, baking powder, and flour. Add to bowl of mixer on low speed; combine. Add vanilla. Transfer two-thirds of mixture to prepared pan; spread evenly with spatula. Using spatula, spread jam on top of peanut butter mixture. Put the remaining third of peanut butter mixture on top of jam. Add roughly chopped peanuts if desired.
4. Bake until golden, about 45 minutes. Transfer to wire rack to cool; cut into pieces.

Spicy Penne Pasta (serves 8)
Ingredients:
1 package (1 lbs.) hot sausage (Jimmy Deans or something similar)
2 tbs. olive oil
1 box (16 oz) penne noodles
2 large cans diced tomatoes (28 oz each)
4 jalapenos, minced (stem and seeds removed)
6 garlic cloves, minced
1 package fresh basil, chopped
4 tbs heavy cream
Directions:
1. Cook sausage over medium heat until fully cooked. Strain and set aside.
2. Strain tomatoes and set aside.
3. Heat olive oil in a large pot over medium heat. Saute garlic and jalapenos, 3 minutes.
4. Add sausage and tomatoes to garlic/jalapeno mixture and simmer on medium low heat for about 30 minutes. Stirring occasionally.
5. Cook pasta until tender. While pasta is cooking, chop basil into small pieces.
6. Drain pasta and add to tomato/meat mixture. Add heavy cream and basil and stir to combine.

That’s it! Add Parmesan cheese on top to make it extra delicious. The best thing about this recipe is that it is really easy to alter to make your own. If you don’t like it spicy buy mild sausage and only add a couple jalapenos or you can add more jalapenos if you really love the spice. I tend to be very generous with the heavy cream. This dish is perfect for lunch the next day and can easily be frozen for quick dinners the next month. Enjoy!



Photo by Grace Garner

Sh*t Law Students & Professors Say

BRENNA MILLER, IRIS JOHNSON, &
OTHER ANONYMOUS STUDENTS

STUDENT QUOTES

CHECK OUT BRENNA AND IRIS’S
YOUTUBE VIDEO @
[HTTP://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/
WATCH?V=JAOBWNTXFRo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JAOBWNTXFRo)

- Pass.
- I have this feeling I’m going to be called on today.
- Did you read the case/notes?
- Don’t you have the script?
- I never study on the weekend.
- I hate this class.
- I’m going to start outlining this weekend
- The professor definitely saw me sleeping in class yesterday.
- I judge people who take the elevator from the first to the second floor.
- I got a Starbucks card from Lexis
- First year is definitely the hardest
- Second year is definitely the hardest
- I’m giving up coffee, this is tea
- You haven’t started outlining yet?
- I was in the library all weekend!
- Who eats chips in the library?

- Oh I never do the reading anymore.
- Have you ever seen the dean at coffee and donuts?
- Do you have a topic yet for your SW paper?
- Someone go tell those 1Ls to shut up, don’t they know they’re in a library?
- If I see one more Facebook status about finals I’m going to lose my shit.
- Well... someone gave me their old outline
- Why weren’t you on gchat during class?
- Do you really think the professor can see our computer screens? If so, he’s catching the world series too!
- If I’m more than 5 minutes late to class, I just don’t go.
- My outline was like 60 pages long.
- When do grades come out?
- I did REALLY well in that class.
- Gunner.
- That’s not the answer I got.

PROFESSOR QUOTES

- Are you sure you don’t want your money back? THIS IS CONFUSING
- That was supposed to be funny.
- Rise and accept the call to greatness.
- My office hours are usually pretty empty.
- What does the rule say?
- What does the case say?
- Don’t look at your book, look at me.
- Wonton is a soup, wanton is bad behavior.
- I’m going to kick ass in dodgeball.
- I’m younger than my father-in-law.
- The bar exam isn’t an open book test.
- Can you help us out today with this case?
- GRANDMA’S DEAD, Y’ALL.
- ...and they find a human head in your purse...
- I know Princess Romanov was a princess in Russia, but what was she like Lady Gaga of her day?
- Think of the Alaska fish packers case.
- It’s just like in Alcoa...
- Does anyone know how to turn on the volume?
- Not my baby, not my fountain.
- We don’t feel sorry for Sister Antillico.
- Believe me, we can tell when you’re facebooking during class by the look on your face.
- What’s a female clasp in a seat belt? The part the other part is inserted into, you know, female. Basic anatomy.
- If my 74 year old bladder can make it through an entire class, you young people can too.
- All of you should be able to learn how to construct arguments and put the facts together with the law and rules. That’s the challenge, the joy, the horror, the beauty, of being a

- lawyer.
- I’m going to take up a new line of work, I’m obviously not doing a very good job here. You are ruining my day.
- You never want to see either law or sausage being made.
- Why does New Jersey lead the nation in the number of toxic waste dumps and California lead the nation in the number of lawyers? New Jersey had first choice.
- Judges hate work and making decisions. A judge is happiest when she sits on the bench and does nothing.
- Hate me but trust me.
- If you want simple, neat answers, go into accounting.
- Go ahead and interrupt me. If you have something to say when I’m in the middle of the sentence, have at it. I might lower your grade, but have at it.
- I would have preferred and still would prefer to come to work in my pjs. If you don’t mind my saying so, you look pretty professional.
- Did you ever see someone’s teeth come through their cheek? I almost fainted.
- Never, ever make your accuser’s case for them. Just play dead.
- A foul tip in Little League with no cup was a life changing experience for me.
- This is like Shakespeare I never understood it anyway and everybody always ends up dead in the end. Who cares? This case is from 1871.
- I’m getting worked up here. I should relax on account of my blood pressure.
- What’s the difference between God and a federal judge? God doesn’t think he’s a federal judge.
- You probably knew you were in deep Kim-chi
- Any questions or comments from the three of you who are still awake?
- I didn’t think he was going to get very far, I didn’t want to tell him that because he was buying me lunch so I just said “great idea, on to the lobster”

Cal Western’s Most Stylish Students

GRACE GARNER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



**Brianne
McLaughlin**



**Brooke
Didier**



**Weston
Penfield**



**Akeel
Birk**

Staff Feature!



Photo from cwsu.edu

TONY DULDULAO
ADMISSIONS OFFICE

Not only can he be found at the admissions front desk but he is frequently seen in the courtyard playing his ukulele during lunch.

What do you like best about working for admissions? for Cal Western?

Don't want to seem like this is the standard and generic answer, but I truly believe that the best part about working in Admissions, is working with Traci, Jean, Audrey, Susan, Chris, and Iris. We have such great chemistry in our department. This is the first time ever, in my working career (which spans over 15 years in the corporate world) that I firmly say, "I love working and doing what I do" and really meaning it.

And again, not to seem like a broken record, but the sense of community and belonging are truly what makes California Western so special. And that for me is the best part about working for the school.

Are there ways for students to be involved with admissions after they've been admitted? (i.e. Student Ambassador, etc)

Apart from being a Student Ambassador, there are other ways to help out the Admissions too. During the course of the year, we have numerous Admission events such as Orientation and Preview Days, where you are able to take part and help out. Just call the Admissions Office if you'd like to help out.

When/why did you start playing your mandolin ukulele (Oooh KU LEH LEH)? any other instruments?

I picked it up about 3 months ago. Self taught through the wonders of YOUTUBE. It was just something I have always wanted to learn to play. I grew up on a little island in the middle of the South Pacific (American Samoa), so only seems right...lol. It's pretty cool because both my kids have picked it up as well, and they love it. I did take piano lessons as a kid, but stopped because I hated to practice.

Any advice for students who are graduating this year?

Stand tall and be proud of your accomplishments here at California Western, thank your loves ones for their endless support and most of all...for putting up with you during your time here in law school, and then "hit the ground running." Makes us proud!!!!

If you could be anywhere in the world right now, where would you go, and why?

Pearl City, Hawaii. My dad lives there with my sister and her family. I haven't seen him in a while, and would love have my family spend some time with him and my sister's family We are very close.

How to Do Saint Paddy's Day San Diego Style

DENIZ BAYRAMOGLU
STAFF WRITER

One of my favorite holidays is coming up; Saint Patrick's Day! This year, the glorious day will fall on March 17, 2012 (a Saturday!). A day when you may get pinched, green beer and shamrocks are everywhere, and anyone even 1/32nd Irish feels entitled to a kiss (Prof. Campbell is Scottish though, so don't let him fool you!)

St. Paddy's day, as the holiday is affectionately known, tends to become just another excuse to go out and drink (It's an Irish holiday after all). BUT the day is a huge celebration of Saint Patrick, who drove the snakes (Read: animals and Lawyers) out of Ireland. Thereby preventing the formation of an Irish legal profession. I know, I know, Tragic for Irish Lawyers and serpents, but it gives us Americans a reason to celebrate!

San Diego, although half a world away from Ireland, is no stranger to St.Paddy's partying. In fact, San Diego's celebration, ShamROCK is the biggest St. Patrick's Day party on the west coast, with over 20,000 Partiers expected to fill the streets of the Gaslamp. Through divine coincidence, (thanks Saint Patrick) the 17th annual ShamROCK party will actually fall on the 17th this year. If that's not the luck of the Irish, I don't know what is.

SO! The real question is WHERE should I party? Well, I'm here to let you in on a few Irish secrets in the Gaslamp. But overall the answer is easy! ShamROCK!

ShamROCK will take place on 6th Avenue between E and G Streets, "F" Street between 5th and 7th Avenues, and G Street between 5th and 6th Avenues in the Gaslamp.

Tickets in advance are \$40 and \$45 at the door. And there will be a 150 foot Irish pub with Irish river dancers.

Main Stage

- 2:30 - 3:30 pm - The Fooks
- 4:00 - 5:00 pm - Irish Dancers
- 5:30 - 6:30 pm - Fenian's
- 7:00 - 8:00 pm - Down's Family
- 8:30 - 9:30 pm -Lexington Field
- 10:00 pm - Midnight -The Young Dubliners

Local Stage

- 2:00 - 3:30 pm - Mikey Beats
- 3:30 - 4:30 pm - Hyena
- 4:30 - 6:00 pm - G*Roy
- 6:00 - 8:00 pm - DJ Icon
- 8:00 - 10:00 pm - Sid Vicious
- 10:00 pm - Midnight - Scooter & Lavelle

As if the entertainment wasn't enough, here is a short list of the Gaslamp's Irish Pubs you can go to and be merry, even when it is not Saint Patrick's Day.

Dublin Square

554 4th Ave 619-239-5818

Live music 2:00 - 5:30 on St. Patrick's. Open at 7am Come here if you want a Traditional Irish breakfast. Probably the most Irish.



Photo from yelp.com

Hennessey's Tavern

708 4th Avenue (619) 239-9994

No specials, just fun.

Maloney's Tavern

777 5th Ave (619) 232-6000

A bit Faux Irish, but with a name like Maloney's its pretty much an Irish Pub with load of TV's. Corned beef and cabbage. Specials on GREEN Beer and Guinness.



Photo from yelp.com



Main Stage - Electronica

- 2:00 - 4:00 pm - Kyle Flesch
- 4:00 - 6:00 pm - Tara Brooks
- 6:00 - 8:00pm - TBA
- 8:00 - 10:00 pm - Donald Glaude
- 10:00 pm - Midnight - Special Guest



Photo from sandiegoshamrock.com

The FIELD

544 5th Ave (619) 232-9840

A nice little Irish sports bar. Open EARLY on the 17th so you can get an early start. 6am-2pm.

Henry's Pub

618 5th Ave (619) 238-2389

Live Music All Day on St. Patrick's Day! Not technically an Irish pub BUT there will be cheap Miller Lite and specials on Irish Car Bombs and Guinness.



Photo from yelp.com

TRANSPORTATION

If after all of your shenanigans in the gaslamp you need a ride, the trolley will be running extra late on St. Patrick's day and there will be loads of cabs all around. Call any of these cab companies for a ride

Yellow Cab: 619-444-4444
Orange Cab: 619-223-5555
San Diego Cab: 619-226-8294
Silver Cab: 619-280-5555

Please remember, drink responsibly, and NEVER drink and drive.

RESTAURANT REVIEWS: SAN DIEGO RESTAURANT MUSTS

1. Urban Solace

3823 30th Street, \$\$-\$\$\$

This modern American bistro boasts menu items of mussels and grilled cheese, making it the perfect spot for all of your friends. The atmosphere is fun and inviting, the drinks perfectly strong and the service superb. If you've never been, go now. Ben Pezner is always up for a trip with his oft used slogan of "the grilled cheese sandwiches are life changing."

2. Hash House A Go Go

3628 5th St., no reservations, \$\$

The veritable brunch spot for San Diegans, Hash House is beloved by those with big appetites and time. The lines are out the door every weekend and the portions are huge. I don't use the word huge lightly. As Deniz says, "the portions are outrageous. One order can feed 2 hungry students (read: Family of four) comfortably."

After my thirty minute wait I was not impressed. The portion sizes left me feeling punchy that so much food was being wasted. Plus, it was just average. Giant pieces of rosemary stick out of the bread and dry wheat noodles top the breakfast dishes. Elena agrees, "It's not creative. It's not pretty. It doesn't taste good and it gets in the way of everything!"

However, we don't hate everything about this place. The mixed drinks are awesome. Especially the "orange one" and the "lemonade with all kinds of fruit in it." Come on, who is really paying attention to drink names while drinking? Not the Commentary staff.

Bottom line, if you want big portions of greasy, meaty hashes, then this is your place.

3. Phil's BBQ

3750 Sports Arena Blvd., \$\$

The best barbecue in San Diego. It is not Texas or Carolina BBQ, but it is still delicious. The meat is tender and the sauce is excellent. Brenna recommends the pulled pork sandwich for "more meat for your dollar." The place is laid back, the servers are friendly and there are plenty of paper towels at each table. Surprisingly, the food re-heats well the next day—even the onion rings, which are the best I've ever had. If you keep Kosher, like Ben, he says the veggie burgers are delicious. And no matter what, do not go after 4pm unless you want to wait in line for hours. Seriously, go for lunch, you'll enjoy your meal much more.

See RESTAURANT on page 12...

GRACE GARNER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Photo by Elena Shaygan



Photo by Kiley Schaumleffel



Top left: Urban Solace's life changing grilled cheese and tomato fennel soup. **Top right:** Grace Garner at Hash House with scrambled eggs and crispy potatoes. **Bottom:** Phil's BBQ pulled-pork sandwich.

Photo from
yelp.com

Sports

March Madness and How To Win Your Office Pools

BRIAN LYNCH
STAFF WRITER

It's February. This means March Madness is right around the corner. This tournament takes the top 64 NCAA basketball teams in the country and pits them against each other. So how do you pick a winner for your office pool?

The tournament is divided into 4 regions with 17 teams per region. Each team is seeded roughly corresponding to how well they're expected to perform in the tournament. For a respectable performance in your pool, it's easy to go ahead and pick the top seed for each game played. This tactic rarely leads to a winning bracket, although it saves the completely ignorant from abject embarrassment.

Let's face it though, picking straight along the seeds is pretty boring, and what good is dignity anyway? Despite this, your first order of business is to advance all #1 seeds. Just do it. Of course everyone wants to see Southwest Alaska Tech A&M State Bible Study School beat Duke, but it's not going to happen. Then you have to look for the dark horse teams. Your best chance at finding this team is to pick a 12 seed over a 5 seed. I have no idea why this happens, but it seems to happen nearly every tournament.

Now that you have your #1 seeds advanced to at least the sweet 16 and you have your 12-5 upset, it's time to evaluate your crazy options. You most likely didn't follow the season and won't look up statistics for each team, so you should pick at least one team you haven't heard of before (unless it's the UCSB Gauchos - beach bums can't play basketball). I know some people who have had success picking their favorite colors, so that's something to consider. Even Steven Colbert also has a bracket methodology, which involves picking all the Tech schools. He claims that they're the "manliest" teams.

Back to reality: long live the ACC. Pick North Carolina and Duke. These are veteran teams that are always in championship contention. I know picking Duke is a tough pill to swallow, but you want to win, don't you? After that, pick Ohio State. They're tough inside and play good defense. Michigan State has also been playing exceptionally well. Syracuse is really good this year, but that 2-3 zone is always a liability against teams that can shoot the 3, so put them on upset alert. Also, watch out for Vanderbilt. Their only losses this season have been by narrow margins, including a nail biter with Kentucky, another elite team primed for a deep run.

When all else fails, throw a dart at a board and that's your winner. Good luck on winning your office pools!



Photo from gunaxin.com

A NEW ICON IN THE LINBA

JAKE WEINRICH
SPORTS EDITOR

Unless you've lived under a rock for the past month (or you make it a point not to pay an ounce of attention to sports), you've probably heard about the breakout of the New York Knicks' young point guard Jeremy Lin. Many people are wondering just who this kid is and where he came from.

In 2006, Jeremy Lin led Palo Alto High School to a state championship. He received zero basketball scholarship offers, and was told that he wasn't much more than a Division III player. Lin worked hard enough to earn an academic scholarship at Harvard University where he tried out for the basketball team. Although he had a successful career there, he failed to appeal to pro scouts.

Lin went unchosen in the 2010 NBA draft, but was good enough to make the Golden State Warriors' practice team, making him the first NBA player from Harvard since 1954. He made a handful of appearances that year, but averaged a paltry 2.6 points and less than 10 minutes per game. Before the 2011-2012 season began, the Warriors waived Lin. He was soon after picked up by the Houston Rockets, only to be dropped just 15 days later. During his run with the Warriors, Lin was demoted to the D league four times. Then on December 9, 2011, the New York Knicks decided to take a gamble on the young guard from Harvard.

Prior to February 4, 2012, Lin was just another NBA player spending most games on the bench and living in obscurity. He played little part in the Knicks 8-15 record at that point in the season. Due to injuries and a thinning bench, Lin received his calling against the New Jersey Nets. He did not disappoint. Lin scored 25 points and led the Knicks to a come-from-behind fourth quarter victory over rival New Jersey Nets. Lin started the next 7 games, averaging 24.6 points and dishing 8.9 assists per game. On top of that, he led the Knicks to seven straight victories, most of which were without superstars Carmelo Anthony and Amar'e Stoudemire.

Lin scored more points in his first 6 starts than any NBA player ever. That means more than the likes of Kobe Bryant, Michael Jordan, and Larry Bird. He's also the first ever American born NBA player of Taiwanese descent. Lin has captured the hearts of fans and media around the world. He has garnered nicknames of the Linglorious Bastard, Linderella, Linception, and my personal favorite, Super Lintendo. Despite all this attention, Lin has not changed his always-humble demeanor. He's received many comparisons to the NFL's own underdog story, Tim Tebow for the improbability of his success and his devotion to religion.

Everyone loves hearing stories like Jeremy Lin's. He's a person who has repeatedly been told that he is not good enough. He has also failed many times in his life. Jeremy Lin, however, is more than just another ridiculously overpaid basketball player. He's an inspiration. Even if Jeremy stumbles back into obscurity by the time this article is released, he has still implanted himself into the annals of basketball history and the hearts of people around the world. He is living proof that hard work can get you anywhere you want in life. Best of luck to those who have just taken the bar, to those who will soon be taking the bar, and to those who are still pushing through school. Remember that anything is possible with hard work.

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.

PROFESSORS SURF WEB DURING BORING PARTS OF CLASS

By: Ben Pezzner

It was just another Wednesday in Electronics Law when Professor Hertz Kirchhoff realized something that would change the way he went about classes at Cal Western. He was in the middle of a lesson on capacitor jurisdiction when he looked up and realized none of the students were paying attention. “It just seemed like they were all sucked into their laptops, glazed eyes and everything,” said Kirchhoff during an interview in his office hours. “I was trying to explain how to apply my voltage law to an RLC oscillator circuit, but I could tell the students had their own agenda.”

At that moment, Kirchhoff decided to quickly check his gmail. “I figured I could discreetly do it, since the students couldn’t possibly see me all the way in the front of the class, and it was just going to be a quick check.” Little did Kirchhoff know, this one check would turn into two, and the lone gmail tab would multiply into many.

Eventually, Kirchhoff was checking his email multiple times each class, signing onto his facebook account, and watching live feeds of IEEE meetings and science fair recaps. “I’m so far away from the students, there’s no way they can see what I’m doing up here. Also, my laptop faces away from them, so as long as I can’t see them, they can’t see me.”

Kirchhoff’s theory was recently tested among the rest of the faculty, and the results are startling. In over 87% of the test cases, the subject actually disappeared during surfing times, only to reappear when switching back to being productive. “It’s incredible,” explained Ted Ampersand, the faculty member who ran the testing. “Students have figured this out years ago – that surfing the web in class makes them invisible to the professor in the front of the room. It’s a wonder that professors took this long to catch up.”

As for Kirchhoff, the newly enlightened professor sees much potential for development of his new discovery. During his future classes, he plans on testing the theory by texting underneath the podium, taking multiple bathroom breaks, and eating his Greek salad.



SBA TO MAKE BARRISTER’S BALL MORE LIKE HIGH SCHOOL PROM

By: Weston Penfield

Recent SBA plans to make Barristers Ball more like Prom reveal wider conspiracy to make law school more like high school.

Shortly after college, or perhaps a failed attempt at a career, students enter law school only to find they have reverted back to a social environment akin to high school.

Cliques form during orientation, and are made permanent with assigned seating charts. Competition for academics naturally evolves into a social competition. People join groups; there is safety in numbers. Labels attach, suspicions grow, rumors start. Law school becomes high school.

It was once thought that this phenomenon occurred naturally, but the latest attempts by the Student Bar Association reveal a calculated effort to turn CWSL into CWHS.

The SBA’s latest act in their conspiracy to transform law school comes to us by way of Barristers Ball 2012. Sources with insider information anticipate the ball to be more like prom than ever before.

Rumors abound for plans to crown

a Barrister King and Queen, requiring from them a coronation speech. Even cheesier, the SBA plans to award superlatives straight out of a high school yearbook. “Most likely to be an investigative journalist!”

It doesn’t end there. Dress code will be strictly enforced. Ladies must wear full-length gowns, and their dates must have color-coordinated ties and vests.

Even more childish, the SBA is sponsoring Couples Portraits under an arch of balloons, hands placed on the hips just so, to highlight the obligatory corsage.

Most astounding is the threat that alcohol will not be served, just to encourage rebels to spike the punch. You can’t get more high school than that!

The SBA has gone too far to transform Barristers into prom, and law school into high school. Spread the word about this conspiracy, or else you’ll be part of some choreographed dance scene -- right out of a cheesy high school prom flick.

Fight the SBA clichés, don’t let CWSL become CWHS, and don’t let Barristers’ Ball become Prom!



AMAZON TO RELEASE PAPER VERSION OF ITS E-READER

By: Ben Pezzner

In its latest press release, Amazon announced the next generation of its celebrated e-book reader. The new e-reader, to be called the Amazon Kindle Page, will carry on the innovative tradition of its predecessors, while simultaneously going back to its more traditional roots.

For starters, the Page has done away with the keyboard. “We thought it was silly to have a keyboard on your e-book,” explained Amazon research and design engineer Robert Frostberg.

In addition to removing the keyboard, the electronic display has been revised. The last display consisted of an E-Ink electronic paper display capable of rendering multiple shades of gray to simulate reading on paper while minimizing power consumption.

The Page, however, will use actual paper, eliminating the need to have E-Ink. “We found that the E-Ink drove up the price of the product, so we decided to eliminate it,” reported Frostberg. “The new ink will look just as good though, since we’re going back to paper.”

There is one major drawback, however. The Page will only come pre-loaded with a single book, making it necessary to purchase a new e-book every time you’re ready for a new story. Despite this quirk, Frostberg is very excited about the new release. “Not only is the Page much easier to read, but its relatively simple paper technology allows us to sell them for less than \$10 each!”

And if that wasn’t enough, Amazon also plans on coming out with a new smartphone in the near future. The phone will consist of a handset, a rotary dial, and it works best when plugged into an RJ-45 jack.

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS SUED FOR OCEAN POLLUTION DURING VOLUNTEER BEACH CLEANUPS

By: Elena Shaygan

With the influx of environmental non-profit organizations (mostly due to a need for money laundering) San Diego has never been greener.

In 2011 San Diego had a total of 167 environmental groups - each of which separately run a weekly “beach clean up.” For most of 2011 these beach cleanups consisted of volunteer members who would bring trash bags down to the sands and collect the trash.

You may have noticed that with this much involvement, San Diego beaches quickly became some of the cleanest in the world. However, because of the flood of volunteers, the organizations are now seeing a severe decline in available environmental work.

In order to avoiding being shut down, these organizations have been distributing trash along the beach before volunteers arrive so they have something to do during their weekly beach cleanups.

Brianna Henderson, president of San Diego Coastrider, claims that this is a “win-win” situation. “It was a simple business decision,” says Henderson. “By placing the trash on the beach before volunteers arrive we preserve our organization and people feel like they are helping the world. Plus, it would cost too much to reprint our calendars without the beach cleanups.”

Unfortunately many of the organizations have been negligent in trash

distribution, causing a swell in ocean pollution.

Many of the environmental organizations were given cease and desist letters but none complied. Out of the 167 registered groups, 132 were named in a lawsuit. San Diego Regional Water Quality Monitoring Board released a statement last week saying that they would be addressing the “disgraceful misconduct” of this community.

Despite the high level of trash and contaminates that have been washed into the ocean due to the pre-cleanup trash distribution, many organizations deny the allegations in the suit. “We are insulted that the Board has failed to recognize how these new tactics help preserve the San Diego beaches,” said Thomas Silvan.

Top 10: Ways to Get a Nosebleed at CWSL

- 10: Falling down the steps to the 350 basement.
- 9: Being caught taking someone’s lunch from the fridge.
- 8: Getting your Legal Skills memo back.
- 7: Santa Ana winds.
- 6: Crossing the street in front of the freeway exit ramp.
- 5: Slipping off the tall toilets on the fourth floor.
- 4: Standing too close to the smokers’ circle.
- 3: Asking a 3L you don’t know for outlines.
- 2: Not stepping all the way into the elevator.
- 1: Crossing an angry bar studier in the fourth floor lounge.

Update: Prof. Lynch To Return!

Photo from cwsl.edu

1. "The abyss looms in front of you and you are about to fall in..."
2. "You betchum, Red Rider."
3. Severe emotional distress is not suffering a hangnail."
4. "Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned!"
5. "It's the worst thing you could accuse him of, except maybe having sex with chickens."
6. "He's as innocent as the driven snow!"
7. "Burning with righteous indignation."
8. "I'm like a dog that returns to its vomit."
9. "Tough noogies..."
10. "Do I have a flat? Is there a body dragging from my car? You need to check for these things!"
11. "The plaintiff has a hard row to hoe."
12. "Tighten your sphincter."
13. "Wrongo Bongo!"
14. "He never had any erotic attachments... woman... man... animal..."
15. "In the Navy I had 92 very syphilis ridden men under my control."
16. "Pick up the tattered badge of student honor!"
17. "The waltz of the mammoth ships..."
18. "Like locusts they will swarm on the scene."
19. "She attracted men like a honey pot attracts bees."
20. "The sharks are circling..."
21. "It's the white coat syndrome - we're raised to worship doctors as gods."
22. "It's like an attempt to do fine tuning with a sledgehammer."
23. "If you want a severe attack of diarrhea, study Last Clear Chance."
24. "The Rule Against Perpetuities is much like chewing on sand."
25. "The two most dangerous substances to create a witch's brew are alcohol and testosterone."
26. "People are philistines."
27. "Be brief. Be blunt. Be gone!"
28. "The defendant was a wicked discount store, like WalMart."
29. "Every day is not a banquet."
30. "Every dog will eventually find a bone."
31. "Was the husband upset because they offered to sleep with his wife or because they only offered her \$2?"
32. "I remember when seat belts first came into vogue, it was like drinking water out of a plastic bottle."
33. "You can sit back and relax on this case. I'm going to recite it. So you can sit and watch porn if you'd like - I've sat in on one or two classes where the students have done that."
34. "He's a no good son of a gun and she's the Wicked Witch of the West!"
35. "The woman was not a blushing bride. She had high mileage on her..."
36. "If you mutter 'I do' you've taken the vow."
37. "Think of adverse as a cow and hostile as a giraffe, they are very different."
38. "Loss of sex, love, companionship, watching Seinfeld together - these are all loss of consortium."
39. "Am I going to Heaven or Hell? I hope someone's merciful!"
40. "Lately the church has been underplaying Purgatory."
41. "If you're negligent in entrusting the gun to a dingbat, the dingbat's character is at issue."
42. "Little old ladies in tennis shoes in La Mesa don't want to see men grappling with each other."
43. "If the mother invites the postman in and has sex with him while the kids watch, it probably means she's not a good mother."
44. "Maybe most people don't believe in Hell, well they'll be in for a big surprise! I know I've been thinking about it lately."
45. "If his name were revealed he would be wearing cement boots at the bottom of the East River."
46. "Boston, Massachusetts is the drunken capitol of the U.S."
47. "I sprinkled pixie dust over the words and made them magical."
48. "I tell my son not to say anything to the police, and what does he do? He goes and signs a written confession!"
49. "Don't ask questions when you probably don't want to know the answer."
50. "If you have to put wings on the pig, forget about it!"

PROPERTY WORD SEARCH

SARENA KUSIC
STAFF WRITER

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

- | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------|
| abandon | defect | indexes | reversion |
| acquisition | delivery | inherit | sale |
| adverse possession | easement | inquiry notice | seisen |
| assignment | equitable | insurance | servitude |
| Blackacre | escrow | interests | sublease |
| capture | estate | landlord | tax |
| caveat emptor | evict | merger | tenant |
| chain of title | fee simple | mortgage | tract |
| control | find | nuisance | transfer |
| co-owner | gift | property | trespass |
| covenant | grantor | purchase | trust |
| creation | Greenacre | quiet enjoyment | vested |
| deed | habitability | record | waste |
| | home | rent | zoning |

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

From RESTAURANT on page 9...

4. Hodad’s

945 Broadway Ave, \$
Hodad’s wins the award for best burgers. It appeals to all types of burger lovers with different sized burgers and loads of toppings, if you want them. Leah, a self-described burger connoisseur, says, “the burgers are juicy and flavorful, and the fries are happiness in a basket.” I agree, I could not stop eating, evening opting to take home my leftovers. The place is laid back and very diverse. Deniz is a fan and especially appreciates the service, “the service is no nonsense and no frills. I really like that when you go up to the register to pay, they always ask you how the meal was, and (at least appear to) actually mean it!” Next time you need a study break take a walk to Hodad’s. Cheap prices, delicious food and “simply phenomenal” onions rings.

5. Lucha Libre

1810 W. Washington Street, \$
Lucha Libre is owned and managed by three brothers. They opened the restaurant in 2008 to offer a different kind of Mexican food. The menu consists of gourmet tacos and burritos and homemade salsa. The ingredients are fresh and the décor is unique with bright colors and classic lucha libre matches on the tvs. The food is solid, with surf and turf burritos and tacos. The salsa bar lets you choose the best combination of flavor and spice. Deniz tells us it can be quite loud and very busy, but the food is good and the price is right.

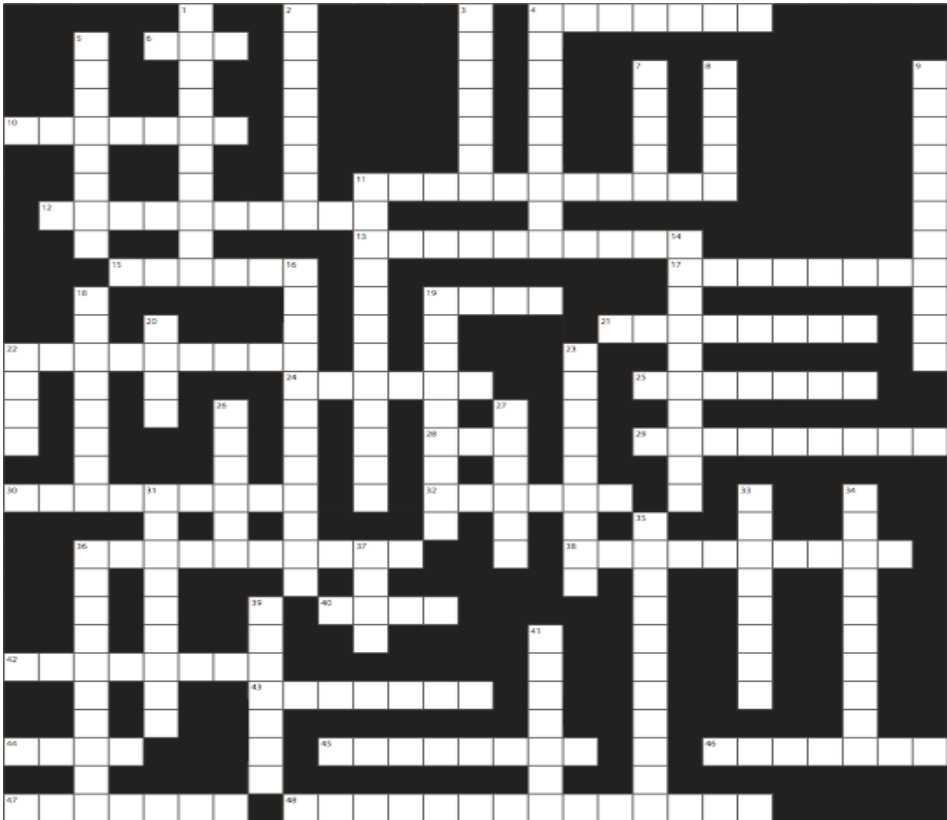


Photo by Elena Shaygan



Photo from yelp.com

CONSTITUTIONAL CROSSWORD



Across

4. How many times may a congressman be reelected (two words).
6. Francis Scott _____ wrote the national anthem of the U.S., “The Star Spangled Banner”.
10. A _____ election is an election held before the general election to determine the main candidates representing the various political parties.
11. British practice of boarding American ships and seizing sailors for service in the British navy.
12. The White House is located in _____, D.C. (1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.).
13. A person must be at least _____ (hyphenated word) years old by the time he/she will serve in order to be eligible to become president.
15. James _____: 5th U.S. President; noted for an early U.S. doctrine dealing with European interference.
17. John _____: A Chief Justice of the Supreme Court whose opinions strengthened national power.
19. The national _____ is the total amount of money the government owes.
21. Roger _____: Left Puritan colony seeking religious freedom; settled the colony of Rhode Island.
22. Thomas _____: First president elected by original Democratic-Republican (now Democratic) Party.
24. The Constitution set up a system of _____ and balances in which the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government have the power to check each other to maintain a balance of power.
25. Description of a government that is cruel or unjust - term used by the American colonists towards King George III of England.
28. The first 10 amendments to the Constitution (Bill of Rights) were adopted in 179_____.
29. William _____: Chief Justice of the Supreme Court during the Reagan and Clinton administrations.
30. A formal change to the United States Constitution.
32. The government may not _____ or take a person’s property without a warrant. This is a right guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.
36. James _____: Wealthy Englishman who established the colony of Georgia as a haven for debtors.
38. A _____ convention is a meeting in which a political party will choose its candidate for president.
40. Henry _____: The “Great Compromiser”; his tariff plan ended nullification controversy; a War Hawk.
42. A person must have lived in the U.S. for at least _____ years in order to be eligible to become president.
43. A group of governmental officials who head various departments in the Executive Branch and advise the president.
44. A person must be a U.S. _____ citizen to be eligible to become president.
45. Alexander _____: Washington’s Sec. of the Treasury and leader of the Federalist Party.
46. Daniel _____: Orator and statesman from Massachusetts; advocated a strong national government to preserve the Union .
47. James _____: 4th U.S. President; had to flee the capital when the British burned it during the War of 1812.
48. A _____ government is when the people elect representatives to make laws for their benefit; indirect democracy; a republic.

Down

1. The term “_____ of powers” refers to the philosophy of a balanced government in which each of the three branches of government has its own powers.
2. An _____ democracy is a political process in which the people control the government through elected political officials - also called a republic.
3. The government may not _____ or house soldiers in private homes during peacetime without the owner’s consent. This is a right guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.
4. The _____ Plan was much like the Articles of Confederation and called for no executive or judicial branches and a one house legislature with equal state representation. (two words)
5. George Washington, inaugurated as the first President of the United States in 1789, was _____ of the Constitutional Convention.
7. A person may not be tried _____ for the same crime and does not have to testify against him or herself. This is a right guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.
8. A _____ committee is made up of members of both houses of government in order to speed action on the legislation.
9. Domestic _____: Peace at home.
11. The Judicial Branch of our government has the purpose of _____ laws.
14. The right to apply for federal _____ opportunities is one benefit of being a citizen of the United States.
16. The _____ Proclamation freed many slaves.
18. The right to vote; also called the franchise.
19. A political candidate who is not a leading contender but receives unexpectedly strong support. (two words)
20. A check the president has on the powers of the legislative branch to reject or refuse to sign a bill from Congress.
22. The right to serve on a _____ is one benefit of being a citizen of the United States.
23. The Executive Branch of our government has the purpose of _____ laws.
26. A _____ democracy is a political process in which the people are able to have direct control over the government in making decisions, e.g., colonial New England’s town meeting and today’s referendum.
27. A _____ election is a special election called by voters to remove an elected official from office before his/her term expires.
31. Powers that are exclusively for the federal government and are enumerated in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution are called _____ powers.
33. William _____: Governor of Plymouth Colony; was chosen by the Pilgrims.
34. Powers that are shared by the federal government and the state governments.
35. A Constitutional check the Congress has on the President or other high-ranking federal officials. This involves an accusation against that official.
36. How many senators are there in Congress (two words)?
37. A _____ tax is the requirement that a person must pay a certain amount of money in order to vote - found to be unconstitutional in 1964 by the 24th Constitutional Amendment.
39. The 1775 gunfire at Lexington and _____ were indeed “Shots heard ‘round the world”.
41. John C. _____: Leading defender of states’ rights but supported federal improvement programs; a War Hawk.