Tuition Hikes Continue Upward Climb

By Todd Rhoads
Section Editor

The School of Law’s tuition is set to rise close to six percent over each of the next two years, continuing a seven-year trend of increasing tuition rates.

The University approved a 6.24 percent law school tuition increase for the 2000-01 academic year at a November budget meeting. The Board of Trustees is “99 percent” likely to grant the increase, according to Jim Pehl, university director of Budget and Treasury.

The budget for the 2000-02 academic year is not finalized but will likely include a law school tuition increase in the neighborhood of 5.8 to 5.9 percent, according to Pehl. The effect of the proposed two-year hike would be to raise tuition from its current level of $22,130 a year for full-time students to $24,885.

According to The National Jurist, tuition increased an average of 6.2 percent at 100 American law schools in the 1999-2000 academic year. The nation’s inflation, meanwhile, hovered at 2.1 percent.

The proposed tuition increases are less than the hike proposed for the undergraduate school and graduate school, respectively (see chart).

Pat Shields, a law student who attended the budget meetings, still expressed concern, however, because it did not appear to her that the increased tuition would benefit the law school directly.

“...It appeared to me that the university was getting an additional $2.5 million from the law school, and from looking at the numbers I would be surprised if half, or even a third of the money was going back,” she said.

Bethany Nelson, a 2L, said she believes that the majority of the proposed tuition increase would benefit undergraduate students. She questions the wisdom of some of the university’s past spending decisions.

“I remember last year they brought snow in for the undergraduates to have for Christmas—they poured it all over the street between the parking garage and the law school,” she said. “And all I know is that my undergrad didn’t have bands every week.”

University Provost Francis Please see “Tuition" on Page 4

Debunking the Myth

By Todd Rhoads
Section Editor

Bottom dwellers take heart—despite a popular myth to the contrary, Law School officials say they do not automatically expel the bottom 10 percent of first-year students.

“We hear that all the time, but it’s absolutely not true,” says Academic Support Director Janet Madden. “It’s a very widespread belief that we’re flunking them, but the reality is not a complete relief to anxious Ls. For the last three years, the school has dismissed between four and seven percent of students at the four-year mark who successfully appealed for reinstatement. While the number expelled could conceivably approach double digits in a bad year, some students said they were relieved to know that the school’s policy was not as cutthroat as they had heard.

“It makes me feel better in general about the administration that they don’t do that,” said Christie Bertram, who heard the 40 percent rumor from her orientation tour-guide. “I pissed me off when I heard that. I figured they want my $23,000 more than they care if I fail or not.”

Other students said they heard the rumor from classmates or even professors. What they generally do not hear is the complex rules for dismissal. Academic Support’s Madden alluded to. The rule that a student needs a 75 percent at the end of the first year has several caveats. Students are not dismissed if they get below a 75 percent cumulative but:

- received a 75 or higher in all courses but one in one or both semesters;
- their spring semester average, if equalized over an additional 15 credits, could push their cumulative g.p.a. to 75, or
- if their fall average was a 80 or higher.

Additionally, students in the 75.40 to 74.99 range may appeal to a peti-tion for reinstatement. Please see "Myth" on Page 4

The “Other Bar” Warnings of Dangers Awaiting the Unwary Drinker

By Amy Ace
Interim Section Editor

“There are 145,000 attorneys in California. Twenty-nine thousand will die from chemical dependency,” asserted David K. Demergian, Attorney at Law.

On November 11 Fred Zacharias, Professor of Professional Responsibility introduced guest speaker Demergian to speak on his dissertation and reinstatement to the California State Bar.

Demergian discussed three topics: what happened to him, the dis- ease of alcohol and chemical dependen-cy, and what to do now and in the future. To bring his presentation, Demergian listed startling statistics that exemplified the problems that plague the legal profession.

- While ten percent of Americans are alcohol dependent, twenty-four percent of practicing attor- neys are alcohol dependent. Ninety-three percent of trust fund misappropriation cases are related to chemical dependency. Malpractice suits against attorneys total 21.6 billion dollars in 1998 related to chemical dependency, Demergian explained.

Chemical dependency can happen to just about anyone, but is especially prevalent in over-achieving individuals who have an “inability to balance love, work and play.” Even the most prominent attorneys have problems with chemical dependency.

The Other Bar is a California Non-Profit Organization that “serves as a ‘bridge’ for the lawyer or judge hav- ing problems with alcohol and/or drugs to an established professional recovery program, but that Alcoholics Anonymous, Cocaine Anonymous or hospital treatment. [It] is a completely independent and confidential statewide network of lawyers and judges who hold local regular confidential meetings and offer assistance to each other and to family members where alcohol and/or drugs have become a problem.”

Demergian is an advocate for the Other Bar and speaks about his experience on its behalf. He points out that people’s background has nothing to do with whether they become alcoholic
Stanford Prof Gives the Scoop on Splitting Up

By Soo Song

Suggesting traffic and divorce laws are similar to a certain extent, Lawrence M. Friedman spoke to USD law students on Thursday. Friedman, the Marion Rice Kirkwood Professor at Stanford University School of Law, revealed what he described as what traditionally was a dual system when it came to divorce.

"[Divorce laws] are like speeding laws," Professor Friedman said. "Everyone does it, in some cases you're allowed to go five miles above the speed limit but that's not written down anywhere in the [vehicle code]."

The dual system Professor Friedman described was one where the written law and the law in action are different. Through the divorce laws on the books bankers do not view a certain procedure for divorce, the trial courts acted very differently.

"OTHER BAR" from Page 1

or chemically dependent.

Demergian had the perfect "Wally Cleaver" life. He came from a good home, was well liked in high school, he was class valedictorian and captain of the football team. Then he went to the University of Wisconsin where he got his first glimpse of what became to be alcoholic tendencies. He quit school and worked for Sheraton raising up hotels across the country. Then he quit and invested in a nightclub in Minnesota. For all these accomplishments, he was featured in People magazine.

He went to the University of Minnesota and finished his undergraduate degree, then went on to law school. He moved out to San Diego and got his J.D. at California Western School of Law.

He won six American Jurisprudence awards his first year, declined positive and fatal.

"I was worth $22,000 in what I wear! But that was on the outside. On the inside, I wore ratty and old Fruit of the Loom underwear and that's exactly how I felt... Alcoholics learn how to fill that hole in their souls. I turned to liquor and drink to feel I looked good."

David LaSpaluto

Interim Secretary

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

Carrie Wilson
Dean of Student Affairs

Advertising: for information and availability, please call (619) 260-4600 ext. 4343.

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MOTIONS welcomes all letters, guest columns, complaints, and commentaries. All submissions must be signed and include daytime and evening phone numbers. We reserve the right to edit for style and length.

If you looked at only appellate court decisions regarding divorce [prior to the late 19th century], you would have gotten an erroneous view of the reality of divorce laws," Professor Friedman said. "You wouldn't've gotten what amounted to lies."

Professor Friedman, generally considered an authority on American legal history, provided a brief overview of divorce laws in the United States and its evolution throughout the years. Noting that divorce laws were generally difficult to get in the early colonial America until the 1870's, Professor Friedman pointed out that a rise in divorces came primarily from a change in the relationship between the husband and wife was viewed.

"Traditional marriages were ones where man and wife would get married, have sex and have children," he stated. "In companion marriages, the husband and wife were supposed to be best friends."

"Traditionally marriage is a primary, chronic disease of the body and soul. It is characterized by sequences, and distortions in thinking, most notably denial.

"Alcoholism is a sickness, not an evil," explained Demergian. Alcoholics have symptoms that differentiate from people who are not afflicted by the disease like by being chained, living in the garbage and drinking.

"People aren't alcoholic because they drink too much. People drink too much because they are alcoholic."

Intervention is the only known way to get addicts into treatment, so someone usually takes the addict to the treatment facility straight from rehab. The good news is that the disease is treatable. The five-year recovery rate is eighty-five percent without fail.

Then the other Bar arranges for California Superior Court Judges to call up the addicted attorney or judge to "see them in their chambers." Attorneys always show up when requested, but when they get there, family and friends are their instead of the judge.

The addict has to listen to everyone read their letters and is only allowed to speak after everyone is finished reading.

With the exception of one, intervention works. It gets addicts into treatment right there. There is no "convenient" time to go into treatment, so someone usually takes the addict to the treatment facility straight from rehab. There are no meetings to attend while the disease is treatable.

Then Demergian defined the disease that plagued his life according to the American Society of Addiction Medicine: "Alcoholism is a primary, chronic disease with genetic, psychosocial, and environmental factors influencing its development and manifestations. Alcoholics are biologically predisposed to this disease and it is fatal. It is characterized by continuous or periodic: impaired control over drinking, preoccupation with the drug alcohol, use of alcohol despite adverse consequences, and distortions in thinking, most

Trees with an opinion on the propriety of either point of view, he pointed out that companion marriages may depict the modern marriage. However, companion marriages may also be more fragile. Professor Friedman said that a companion dynamic could be more easily disrupted through fights, disagreements, or problems.

This is contrasted to the traditional marriage where no such expectations existed.

Professor Friedman added he had researched the topic of divorce law because he had always been interested in what people think about the law. He added that he was well liked in high school, he was class valedictorian and captain of the football team. Then he went to the University of Wisconsin where he got his first glimpse of what became to be alcoholic tendencies. He quit school and worked for Sheraton raising up hotels across the country. Then he quit and invested in a nightclub in Minnesota.

For more information about the Other Bar call the toll-free confidential hotline 1-800-222-0767.
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Letters to the Editor: Columns to Responses in Column in November 4

**Issue Regarding Halloween**

SBA Apology to the Little Girl Lost at the Adult Law School Halloween Party

The SBA would simply express their sincere apologies to the Little Girl Lost at the Adult Law School Halloween Party. They would also apologize for any inconvenience caused to the participants, particularly to the Little Girl Lost. They would assure the Little Girl Lost that they have learned from this experience and will take measures to prevent similar incidents in the future. They would also like to express their gratitude to the Little Girl Lost and her family, who have been supportive throughout this difficult time.

**State Assemblyman speaks to Environmental Law Society about Beach Contamination, Erosion**

**An Environmentalist’s Christmas Eve Wish**

Andrew Gagen

Chairman of the Environmental, Safety, and Toxic Material Committee

On November 18, Speaker of the Environmental Law Society (ELS) for about 45 minutes. He primarily addressed the issue of beach contamination in the state, focusing on the recent contamination of the beach resulting from the overflow of wastewater into the ocean. Andrew emphasized the importance of beach contamination and erosion and highlighted the need for immediate action to address this issue.

Andrew is now an 83-year-old young man, engaged in a beach writing career, but he is the one for whom I have the most admiration. He is known for his passion beliefs that can lead him to change his ideas. For Andrew, the beach is a place of deep reflection and healing. He has observed the changing patterns of the beach over the years and has noticed the impact of pollution and erosion on the natural beauty of the beach.

Andrew shared his personal experiences with beach pollution, emphasizing the need for collective action. He encouraged the audience to take a proactive role in protecting the environment and highlighted the importance of beach cleanup efforts. He ended his speech with a call to action, urging everyone to become involved in the fight against beach pollution and erosion.

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The End Is Near? Don’t Bet On It

By Juanita G. Blanco
Staff Writer

Racism. Sexism. Classism. Rape. Gun Violence. Hate. Hate. Hate. Why are we so violent towards one another? Philosophers and poets have asked the same. I want to know the answer.

Generation X has been blamed. The word on the street is that we are too materialistic. We are too self-centered. We are too self-destructive. We can do too little. We can do too short; we smoke too much. We drink too much. We do not believe in hard work. We do not believe in anything of value according to some critics.

But Generation X is not the first group to run amok on planet earth. I look at this world, and wonder who has the power at the eve of the next millennium? Us?


So here I am at the University of San Diego School of Law. Here we all are. Future lawyers. Leaders. No matter what we do with our professional lives, we cannot escape the fact that the fate of individuals will rest in our hands. Embrace the challenge.

We all have a stake in this world. We all have the power of Truth. We are all together as One. It’s time to EVOVE.

No one is powerless. That is why I introduced a new organization to the University of San Diego School of Law this semester called EVOVE. It stands for End Violence and Oppression with Leadership, Vigilance and Ethics. EVOVE is dedicated to eradicating violence and human dignity through dialog and community involvement. I want EVOVE’s membership to eventually be open to the world (I learned if you are going to dream, dream big). EVOVE will be more than an organization. We will emphasize the fact that the human race is a community. Action is the keyword for this community. Action begins here at the University of San Diego School of Law.

Contained in EVOVE’s name are the three components of the organization. The first component is leadership. Empowerment of individuals is EVOVE’s strategy for developing leaders. EVOVE will encourage people to take an active role in their own empowerment, and the development of others in their shared community. The second component is vigilance. Through the vigilance of EVOVE’s members, individuals will be empowered and prepared to assume their roles as leaders. EVOVE’s leaders will start chapters in their communities and serve as mentors in the development of new EVOVE leaders.

Finally, there is ethics. Instinctively, many people think that their ethics and opinions are the only ones that count. EVOVE will seek to facilitate discussion forums and information sharing to explore different viewpoints. EVOVE will highlight means of peaceful conflict resolution by focusing on the Truth.

A major goal during the formation of this community is the development of Community Leadership Centers. These CLC’s will be based out of high schools, colleges, graduate schools, community centers, and other places where EVOVE chapters gather. The CLC’s are resource centers where EVOVE’s members can utilize our programs.

EVOVE will have a mentoring program, an interactive web page, contests, and events aimed toward the cultivation of peace and Truth.

EVOVE will also have designated Action Days, which will be a mobilization of all chapters for a day of public service.

EVOVE also plans to host conferences and discussion forums, where the free exchange of ideas will be explored. For example, students from an inner city school, and students from a suburban school will trade places for a day or week. Then, EVOVE will facilitate a discussion on the student’s observations, reactions, and experiences.

EVOVE’s web page will regularly feature social issues and invite members to submit responses. Another part of the web page, The Justice Files, will be dedicated to exposing acts of violence, oppression, and injustice.

EVOVE will have an impact in a number of ways. EVOVE will impact its members through a “chain of mentorship.” For instance, an attorney will mentor a law student. In turn, that law student will mentor a college student, and so on down the generations. Through this system, people will have someone near their own age and experience to look up to; everyone will realize some accountability. This accountability translates into the realization that we are One. EVOVE has already provided guest speakers to high school campuses to talk about tolerance. We have also sponsored an essay contest at a local high school for Hate Crimes Awareness Week. A college application workshop is scheduled, as well as an event raising awareness and participation in World AIDS Day.

EVOVE needs more members. EVOVE needs people who believe a world based on tolerance, understanding, peace, compassion, and Truth is possible. EVOVE needs you.

I do not pretend to have the answers. All I know is that action based on compassion and Truth will yield positive results. There are ugly things in this world. There is hate, and too much pain. Sometimes I fear raising children in this violent world.

When confronted with the perplexing issues of our world, apathy is a natural result. But I will not flinch. I am not apathetic. I still dream. My friends are getting hurt, and I get no buzz, no warm fuzzy feelings from the sufferings of others. It is time for change. I need your help.

Together we have the power to change our world for the better. Within each of us is a spirit that can work miracles. We all lay our heads to sleep, we all dream; together let us dream a planet where violence and hatred exist only in nightmares. Let us EVOVE.

Student Bar Association Hosts Successful Community Service Day

By Amy M. Au
Interim Section Editor

On Saturday, November 6, 1999 at 1 p.m., approximately thirty-five USD law students banded together for the Student Bar Association (SBA) and helped the Bayside Settlement House.

Bayside Settlement House is a community center located in Linda Vista, the home of the University of San Diego School of Law. The volunteers did a variety of good deeds for the center including cleaning the premises of litter, painting parking lot lines, planting trees, doing yardwork, and putting in basketball baskets.

By Juanita G. Blanco

Community Service Day Coordinator Kenneth White explained, “I think it was important to have the SBA’s community service event in the community of our university.”

Bayside Settlement House (Bayside) is the cornerstone of the community for the residents of Linda Vista, and our time spent there was very worthwhile.”

The Center gives free lunches to the hungry, holds citizenship classes, hosts senior citizen bingo nights, presents legal clinics, sponsors day camps, and arranges summer camps, among other things.

The Diligent Crew of the Student Bar Association’s Community Service Day

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November 23, 1999

MOTIONS
Organizations and Sports 7

Woman's Law Caucus Runs for The Cure

By Kenneth White
Section Editor

On Sunday, November 7, members of USD's Woman's Law Caucus participated in a 5K run called Race For The Cure.

The event raised awareness and dollars for the fight against breast cancer. The 5k run took the participants of the event through San Diego's Balboa Park in downtown San Diego. The bravest participants of the event were the Breast Cancer Spirit Champions, a group formed to honor those lost to Breast Cancer. "Pink Hats" were these women who survived bouts of breast cancer, who symbolized the determination of the human spirit.

Breast Cancer is the most common form of cancer affecting women today. Currently there is no cure for Breast Cancer, but early diagnoses increases the chance for survival. The day served as a reminder of human courage, and the dedication to public service the Woman's Law Caucus exemplifies each academic year.

USD Professors of Law Discuss Their Pro Bono Experience

By Kenneth White

On November 16, 1999 in room 3A, Professor Morris, Professor Minan, Professor Heiser, and Professor Stefan discussed their personal experiences doing pro bono work. The University of San Diego School of Law's Pro Bono Legal Advocates sponsored the event. Professor Hartwell MC’d the event. He said he wasn’t “a connection of the heart and mind.” Truly, each speaker noted the importance of both the heart and mind to a practicing attorney.

Professor Morris said that pro bono work allows one to realize that the “law deals with real people and affects real people.” A champion of allowing the heart to guide the mind, Professor Morris has involved himself in several pro bono projects, including serving as a mental health hearing officer. Among other responsibilities, working as a mental health hearing officer gave Professor Morris the challenge of dealing with issues such as whether a person can, and should be, committed to a mental institution without his or her consent.

Professor Morris revealed that pro bono work could be a rewarding experience for any attorney. Speaking of his experience as a pro bono attorney, he said, “I have received more than I have given.”

Professor Minan’s experience is evidence that pro bono work can begin unexpectedly. For instance, in Professor Minan’s case, a woman handed him a pamphlet one day, and his life changed forever—he began his career as a pro bono attorney.

Today, Professor Minan continues to give his talents to the benefit of the public, even to the point of spending his sabbatical doing pro bono work. Professor Minan believes that public service is a duty; something that “can take you in a rewarding number of directions.”

Professor Heiser’s whole career has been pro bono—at least according to his wife. He began pro bono work by getting involved in his law school’s clinical activities, which led to other opportunities to give his talents as an attorney. Professor Heiser said that pro bono work is not really work at all, but a gift of time to explore ideas, and to be with the less fortunate people in our society.

Pro bono doesn’t have to be a whole career, Professor Heiser encourages all attorneys to at least make pro bono work “a sideline.”

Professor Stefan begged all law students to give their talents to those who need them most. “Loans are not an obstacle,” he said, “you can do the work of your heart and still pay off your law school loans.”

According to the Student Handbook of the University of San Diego School of Law, “Pro Bono” is short for pro bono publico: “for the good of the public.” PBLA is an organization dedicated to giving legal assistance to the local community. Through each of its seven programs, PBLA helps bring legal help to those who would otherwise be lost in a legal system or who might not be able to afford competent counsel. In addition, PBLA provides programs that are not specifically law-oriented for those who want to help out in the local community. Current programs include AIDS home visits, guardianship, domestic violence prevention, juvenile law, mediation, and a high school mentoring program. PBLA also sponsors two beach clean-up days each academic school year at Law Street Beach.

Another event sponsored by Phi Alpha Delta is the shadowing program. The first phase of the program provides undergraduates with the opportunity to shadow law students, and learn the intricacies of law school. The second phase will offer law students the chance to shadow practicing attorneys and judges, providing a great opportunity to gain practical knowledge. For more information on the shadowing program, contact Don Lipity or Alumni Relations Chairperson Kelly Allard.

Phi Alpha Delta will have another rush during the first two weeks of the spring semester. Watch for details in the spring.

This author personally participates in the AIDS program and the Domestic Violence Clinic. I have found both programs to be remarkably rewarding experiences. As a first year law student I take great pride in being able to give the minimal amount of legal knowledge I have to the benefit of others. For example, I recently worked on a case involving the AIDS program dealing with lien. I gained more knowledge about the intricacies of liens, I gained the trust of an individual who suffers from a life-threatening illness. Language is too limiting—I can’t explain the joy I receive when I shake a client’s hand and watch them walk out the door...hopefully to never return again.

Pro Bono work is a gift each lawyer has the ability to give. First year associates, seasoned veterans of the legal system, and even savvy senior partners have something to offer to the less fortunate.

Pro Bono work does not have to be a full time occupation. There are many ways a lawyer can give his or her time to the service of the public. Professor Minan noted that public service might be a “sideline.”

According to the determination of the human spirit.

Breast Cancer is the most common form of cancer affecting women today. Currently there is no cure for Breast Cancer, but early diagnoses increases the chance for survival. The day served as a reminder of human courage, and the dedication to public service the Woman’s Law Caucus exemplifies each academic year.

According to the Student Handbook of the University of San Diego School of Law, "Pro Bono" is short for pro bono publico: "for the good of the public." PBLA is an organization dedicated to giving legal assistance to the local community. Through each of its seven programs, PBLA helps bring legal help to those who would otherwise be lost in a legal system or who might not be able to afford competent counsel. In addition, PBLA provides programs that are not specifically law-oriented for those who want to help out in the local community. Current programs include AIDS home visits, guardianship, domestic violence prevention, juvenile law, mediation, and a high school mentoring program. PBLA also sponsors two beach clean-up days each academic school year at Law Street Beach.

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Andrew Gagan Editor-in-Chief

The City of Chula Vista (City), in Southwestern San Diego County, plans to build a 5-mile highway that will connect Interstate 805 (I-805) to the currently nonexistent State Route 125 (SR-125). The highway will be named Olympic Parkway (Project) because it will extend to an ARCO Olympic Training Facility.

The Project will traverse through Poggi Canyon (Canyon) at the expense of 8 acres of virgin wetlands. Because of the uneven terrain of Poggi Canyon, the Project will require 4.7 million cubic yards of soil to be dredged and filled into the Canyon in order to align I-805 to SR-125. That’s a lot of soil.

The dredge and fill operation will not only bury Poggi Canyon under 50 feet of soil, but the “borrow area,” from which the dredged soil will be “borrowed,” will destroy sensitive wetland habitat within the Canyon.

California Department of Fish and Game (Fish and Game) is the state agency that has jurisdiction over projects that will significantly impact the aquatic tributaries of California.

Along with destroying wetland habitat, Fish and Game has determined that the Project will eliminate threatened and endangered wildlife. So, what is Fish and Game going to do about it? Nothing.

In fact, Fish and Game granted the permit (officially known as a Streamlined Alteration Agreement) that ultimately approved the Project.

The USD Environmental Legal Clinic (Clinic) initially prepared to challenge Fish and Game’s decision to grant the permit, but the Clinic’s efforts were stymied by Fish and Game’s procedures for granting Streamlined Agreements.

Fish and Game’s procedures do not allow for any public comment or participation, which prevented the Clinic from challenging Fish and Game’s decision to grant the permit under the California Administrative Procedure Act (APA). The APA enables the public to challenge a state agency’s action or decision.

3. Undaunted, the Clinic proceeded to challenge Fish and Game’s decision to grant the permit under the California Environmental Policy Act (CEQA).

The CEQA process involves: 1) informing the public of a state agency’s action that might have a significant impact on the environment, and 2) requiring state agency’s to consider alternative and mitigated measures for a proposed project that may have a significant impact on the environment.

Under CEQA, the City of Chula Vista was the ‘lead agency’ and Fish and Game was the ‘responsible agency,’ a distinction that ultimately stymied the Clinic’s efforts to challenge Fish and Game.

In this case, the CEQA cause of action was strong. Specifically, Fish and Game failed to comply with CEQA when it decided not to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) where there was evidence that there will be significant environmental impacts.

Fish and Game, as the ‘responsible agency,’ properly offered a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) prepared by Chula Vista. However, Fish and Game’s decision not to prepare an EIR was improper, because both the MND and Streamlined Agreement expressly stated that the Project would cause significant environmental impacts, which require the preparation of an EIR instead of the less intensive MND.

However, according to the CEQA regulations promulgated in the California Code of Regulations, the Clinic did not challenge Fish and Game’s decision to grant the permit because Fish and Game was a ‘responsible’ agency.

Why is Fish and Game, which possesses a great responsibility for impaired wetland ecosystems, allowed to move forward with the Olympic Parkway Project via the granting of the permit, able to hide behind such a distinction?

Perhaps, the drafters of the CEQA regulations intended to prevent the ‘responsible’ agency from duplicating the efforts of the ‘lead agency.’ Regardless, 8 more acres of California’s virgin wetlands will be lost in order to build another, unnecessary highway.

Notably, California has already lost 90% of its virgin wetlands to development. Attempting to explain the ecological significance of wetlands should be beyond the scope of this article, but suffice it to say that wetlands act as the liver for the earth, i.e., wetlands filter pollutants out of the earth’s aquatic tributaries, which yield fresh water for both wildlife and humans alike.

If you are interested in participating in the USD Environmental Legal Clinic, then now is the time to register for the Clinic.

The author would like to thank the efforts of the San Diego Audubon Society, Environmental Legal Clinic Professor Richard Wharton and Clinic students, Amari Meyer, Torie Fuller and Tony Gimm – we’ll get ’em next time.

"Beach Erosion" from page 4

beaches, rather, beach conservation measures should be taken.”

Assemblman Wayne was never able to finish his discussion of San Diego Beach contamination, and erosion, because ELS members differed up with questions until the hour expired.

In the opinion of the author, Assemblman Wayne’s discussion was quite interesting and the ELS appreciates the time he took to address the members.

The ELS provides an opportunity for ELS members to learn about these types of local, state, and global environmental issues. ELS is an excellent place to learn about the law of these topics and may provide a mentorship environment that will foster a sense of community among ELS members.

Next semester ELS intends to organize an environmental law paper discussion forum discussing current issues in environmental law. ELS meets once a month, and membership dues are $5; $15 also gets you a nice shirt.

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