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MOTIONS

University of San Diego School of Law

Volume 42, Issue 1

September 2006

USD Welcomes Class of 2009 by Hasmik Badalian, *staff writer*

On August 16, USD Law welcomed approximately 320 new students to our community. Both 1Ls and transfer students were oriented to school with the help of current students, the Student Bar Association (SBA) and administration.

"Our main goal in planning Orientation was to ensure that our incoming students felt comfortable," said Angie Anastasopoulos, SBA President. "Your first year can be the most demanding and challenging years of your life and we wanted students to not feel intimidated and know that there were a lot of students willing to help them get through it."

Orientation was jam-packed with panels, meet and greets, mock classes, advice sessions and tours. Students had many opportunities to meet fellow classmates, faculty members and upper classmen.

"I really enjoyed how the entire week was set up to allow us to get to know each other," said Frankie DiGiacco, incoming 1L. "The entire setup lent itself to helping us develop what could be long-lasting friendships."

Organizing three full days and manning all events was an all-consuming job for the Orientation Committee. This year, there were over 100 volunteers, more than any previous year.

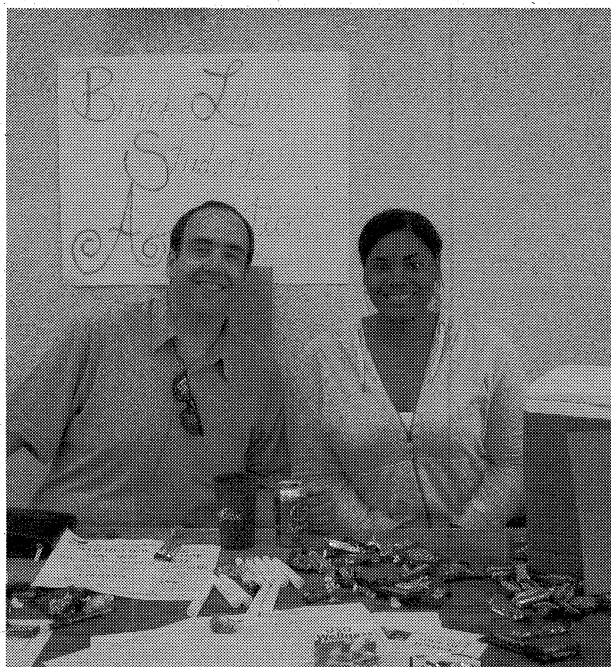
"Being in law school can be a stressful and trying time," said Greg Smith, 2L. "I just wanted to do my part to make the new class as comfortable as possible."

"We expected to have a hard time recruiting as many volunteers as we thought we needed," said Anastasopoulos. "But for whatever reason, that wasn't the case this year."

In fact, prior to the end of the previous academic year, Orientation volunteers had already committed the last few days of their summer vacation.

"Being in law school can be a stressful and trying time," said Greg Smith, 2L. "I just wanted to

Welcome to Law School Orientation 2006



Bruce Elder and Tara Hunter at the Black Law Student Association table at this year's club day, which took place on August 24, 2006. The club day was just one of many activities that were part of the first week of law school at USD.

do my part to make the new class as comfortable as possible."

While Orientation officially concluded on Friday, the SBA had a few more events planned. On Thursday, August 24, SBA sponsored its annual Club Day and provided food and drinks for the new students. During this event, club representatives set up tables in the back courtyard, answering questions and promoting club membership. Besides clubs, various legal services, such as Westlaw and Lexis Nexis, were also present, supplying students with useful water bottles, cups,

Please see Welcome, continued page 8

Take More Than Classes by Kirsten Widner, *staff writer*

When new students (and some of the more experienced ones!) think of law school, they tend to think of classes, endless hours at the library, outlines, exams, rankings, and maybe future jobs. But our school offers far more than this, and these other opportunities will greatly enrich your law school experience if you take advantage of them. Consider getting involved in one or more of the following:

Pro Bono Legal Assistance: A student-run organization here on campus, Pro Bono Legal Advocates (PBLA) offers students opportunities to get legal experience right away by helping people who really need assistance. They coordinate the following free, volunteer-staffed clinics:

Monarch Debate: Teach indigent children the ins and outs of oral advocacy and debate at Monarch School.

Domestic Violence: Help prepare temporary restraining orders and other legal documents for victims of abuse.

AIDS: Help provide a wide variety of legal services, such as landlord-tenant, wrongful termination, insurance disputes, and estate planning for people suffering from AIDS.

Guardianship: Assist caretakers in preparing the court filings necessary for guardianship and custody of children.

Elder Law: Provide elderly people much needed legal support in areas such as wills, power of attorney, landlord-tenant, and real estate.

VITA: Counsel and provide basic tax return preparation for San Diego residents.

Emancipation: Help minors who are seeking emancipation from their parents or the foster care system.

Unlawful Detainer/Civil Restraining Order: Work with Legal Aid to represent clients in unlawful detainer lawsuits, and to assist individuals seeking civil temporary restraining orders.

Ombudsman: Become a state-certified ombudsman and advocate for patients' rights at long-term care facilities.

Please see Classes, continued page 4

How to Become Fearless: Reminiscing on the Cali Bar

by Aaron M. Dumas, *contributor*

Slap yourself as hard as you can, then run into a wall. You might ask why I would start an article by telling you to cause self-inflicted pain. Well, to be honest, that is what taking the bar is like; you voluntarily inflict pain upon yourself. No matter how prepared you feel for the bar, it still hits you like a Zidane head butt; you know something bad is going to happen, you prepare for it, and yet somehow you end up flat on your back.

I have completed the process of inflicting pain upon myself and have endured the immediate post-bar consequence of internal pain infliction through the consumption of copious amounts of intoxicating beverages. I have been told that one should not write about the consumption of beverages, but even the most innocent or naïve of persons knows that post-'worst exam ever created' there will be consumption of "juices."

Law school was a fairly rosy time for me. I worked hard, got good grades, avoided too much trouble, kept the rumors about me fairly low, and even came out with a hug from the school's president at graduation (granted she did not have a choice since I wrapped her in my arms before she gave me my degree). But no one warned me just how rough the pre-bar and post-bar period would be.

Waiting on bar results is painful; you try to

find anything to occupy your mind. You try not to dwell on the fact that you are waiting for results and end up dwelling on the fact that you are trying not to dwell on the fact that you are dwelling on waiting on the results. It is an amazing thing to look into the faces of your colleagues immediately post-bar: there is a curious mix of "Oh my God, I am still alive after coming through hell" and "Do I go home and hide or do I celebrate like there is no tomorrow and no consequences to my actions?"

Now, the question has become what to do with myself? My life has lost its preciseness. The routine was once: wake up as close to class time as possible, shower, run across the street to school, grab lunch, hit the next class, debate about going to the final class, get in a couple of IM conversations during class, head home, do some school work, hit the gym, hit the bar if late enough in the week and then resume the vicious cycle once again the following week. Sometimes with the sprinkling in of a secret date or two.

The firm that I worked for during the summer of my second year does not hire students straight out of school, and my other major employment leads do not hire until bar results become available. So, I am back in a market that I had hoped not to have to set foot in again – the job market. It is a scary place filled with

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University of San Diego
SCHOOL OF LAW

Motions

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Our mission is to provide news, information, analysis and commentary to the students, faculty and staff of the University of San Diego, the University of San Diego School of Law, and the general legal community of San Diego. We believe that journalistic excellence is the soundest foundation for success. We pledge to seek and report the truth with honesty, accuracy, and fairness. These principles are cautiously guarded by each member of the Motion staff.

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SUBMISSIONS

Motions welcomes all letters, guest columns, complaints and commentaries. All submissions must be signed and include daytime and evening telephone numbers. Budget permitting, we do compensate contributing writers with a modest honorarium if their piece is selected for publication. We reserve the right to edit for content, length, style and the requirements of good taste.

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Editor's Comment

Welcome to the first issue of *Motions* 2006-2007. What is *Motions*, you may ask? Well, think of this paper as a conduit for sharing information, reporting on events, and expressing opinions amongst the student body, the faculty and staff, and the greater San Diego legal community. It is not dense casebook fodder, so relax and enjoy.

While our paper is not meant to be the *UCLA Daily Bruin* or the *New York Times*, with staff reporters, foreign correspondents, or Pulitzer Prizes; the *Motions* staff and the contributing writers are dedicated to making our monthly legal newspaper a high-quality, useful diversion from the rigors of studying the law.

Motions is sort of an informal gig and we depend on members of the student body to volunteer articles. We're always open to submissions and will try to get as many pieces in as possible. Shoot us an email at usdlawmotions@gmail.com with an idea or to get on the mailing list for deadline reminders.

The payback for writing is the notoriety of having your name and article in print and a modest honorarium paid out per page submitted that is accepted for publication. The student body, in turn, has access to information on a wide assortment of opportunities from a variety of sources. This year, I look forward to articles ranging from the results of the McLennon Competition to news from the intramural softball league to opinions on the upcoming US Supreme Court Docket.

Speaking of articles, let me introduce this issue. Leading off, Has reports on the events of Orientation and also contributes an opinion piece on why we should strive to maintain the high quality of life that we enjoy here at USD Law. Kirsten is one of the most active people I have met in law school, and her article on what to do beyond classes should be cut out and taped to your weekly planner if you want to get involved in just about anything. Angie gives us a preview of upcoming student-sponsored activities in her first article as SBA President. Our new assistant editor, Haley, gives some advice to new 1Ls from the eyes of a newly minted 2L.

We have three articles contributed by members of the class of 2006. Of course, they write about the Bar Exam and finding a job. Aaron and Dave write a couple of thrillers about the bar experience; 3Ls shouldn't worry, we've still got a year to go. Okay, 11 months. If that notion made your stomach churn, there's a cheat sheet to memorizing the elements of Wills on the back page. Tiffany writes about the job hunt, post-Bar. Her article will be a continuing feature, so take note of that as well for an inside perspective. If we're lucky, she'll get on *The Apprentice 6* and Donald Trump will advertise the value of a degree from USD Law for free.

Now, forget about orientation advice, the Bar, and the job hunt for a second. Eddie takes us to the first "other" Bar Review at Stingaree and Cole gives us some advice on why our secret identities as law students shouldn't be revealed to prospective romantic interests until the second date.

Finally, check out my interview with Professor

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**WE ARE CURRENTLY SEEKING
WRITERS, EDITORS, AND
OTHER POSITIONS FOR NEXT
YEAR!**

**PLEASE CONTACT US AT:
USDLAWMOTIONS@GMAIL.COM**

Rodriguez, in a new recurring segment called Inside the Professor's Office; think *Inside the Actor's Studio* but with legal subtleties. And yes, we still have Soduko on the back page.

Thanks for picking up an issue and we'll see you in October, just in time to remind everyone to take pictures of the latest Halloween party fiasco and to prepare for finals. It goes by fast, doesn't it? Hemingway said to never mistake motion for action. I don't think we are in danger of that in law school. Not often, anyway. Oh yes, and emails to the editor are welcome.

Jared D. Ackley,
editor-in-chief

**A Message from the SBA President
by Angeline Anastasopoulos, staff writer**

The SBA Council is excited for the upcoming year and is already busy planning. Among other things, we are making a special effort to connect students with alumni and to help integrate law school and "the real world." The alumni-student program is under way; we are working to pair each 1L student with an alumnus for social events of the alumnus' choice. The events could be anything from a round of golf to a BBQ by the pool.

Establishing relationships and networking early on in your legal career is imperative. Hopefully, by the time you are a 3L and looking for jobs, you will have a network of successful attorneys who know and want to help you. No one is going to hand you anything. You have to work hard and start building relationships early. Together with the Alumni Development Office and Career Services, we hope to empower students with the necessary tools for success after graduation.

The SBA also oversees nearly forty clubs on campus. If you missed the club fair, come to one of the SBA meetings to meet representatives from each of the clubs. SBA meetings are held every other Monday from noon to 12:50 in either room 2A or 2B. The next meeting is on September 11th and everyone is welcome. In addition to helping bolster your resume, clubs are a great way to meet other law students and expand your knowledge in a particular field of interest. If you are passionate about something and there is no club on campus, start one! The SBA is here to help you and to make this experience as meaningful as possible.

If you are looking for ways to get more involved, we still have openings for 3L's on the graduation committee, which helps plan graduation and the grad party. Also, we are looking to put together a team of 2L's to find a speaker for your commencement ceremony in May of 2008. If you have any contacts or just don't want to listen to a dull speech, be proactive and help recruit a dynamic speaker. There are also open positions on the social committee. If you are interested in event planning and want to help with the Halloween party (which is going to be amazing - do you have your costume yet?) and the Barrister's Ball in the spring, email me or stop by the SBA office.

For a wide variety of valuable information, pictures from orientation, and more, do not forget to regularly check the SBA website at <http://www.sandiego.edu/usdlaw/sba/>.

Lastly, a little advice: USD's faculty is among the top in the country. Take advantage of this, you're paying for it! Although I doubt most of you were avid attendees of office hours in college, now is the time to immerse yourselves and spend some one-on-one time with several of the top legal scholars in the country. They're kind of a big deal. You should know them.

Good luck! Now, go read for class.

Angie can be reached at usdlawpres@gmail.edu

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- Saturday, September 16, 2006: Noon-6:00 pm
- Sunday, September 17, 2006: Noon-6:00 pm
- All Sessions will be given **LIVE** at California Western School of Law, 350 Cedar St., San Diego, Saturday-Room 2B, Sunday-Auditorium..

ORANGE COUNTY #1

- Saturday, September 30, 2006: 9:00 am-4:00 pm
- Sunday, October 1, 2006: 9:00 am-4:00 pm
- All sessions will be given **LIVE** at Hope International University, 2500 E. Nutwood at Commonwealth, Fullerton (across from Cal. State Univ., Fullerton), Second Floor, Room 205.

LOS ANGELES

- Saturday, October 7, 2006: 9:00 am-4:00 pm
- Sunday, October 8, 2006: 9:00 am-4:00 pm
- All sessions will be given **LIVE** at the LAX Plaza Hotel, 6333 Bristol Parkway, Culver City, in the Projection Room.

VENTURA

- Saturday, October 14, 2006: 10:00 am-4:00 pm
- Sunday, October 15, 2006: 10:00 am-4:00 pm
- All sessions will be given at Ventura College of Law, 4475 Market Street, Ventura. Room 9. **DVD PRESENTATION**

SACRAMENTO

- Saturday, October 14, 2006: 9:00 am-4:00 pm
- Sunday, October 15, 2006: 9:00 am-4:00 pm
- All sessions will be given **LIVE** (Lecturer: Attorney Mara Feiger) at McGeorge School of Law, 3200 5th Avenue, Sacramento, Room E.

ORANGE COUNTY #2

- Saturday, October 21, 2006: Noon-6:00 pm
- Sunday, October 22, 2006: Noon-6:00 pm
- All sessions will be given **LIVE** (Lecturer: Attorney John Couch) at Hope International University, 2500 E. Nutwood at Titan, Fullerton (across from Cal. State Univ., Fullerton), Room 215A.

SAN FRANCISCO

- Saturday, October 21, 2006: 9:00 am-4:00 pm
- Sunday, October 22, 2006: 9:00 am-4:00 pm
- All sessions will be given **LIVE** (Lecturer: Attorney Mara Feiger) at Golden Gate University, 536 Mission Street, San Francisco, Room 2203.

RIVERSIDE

- Saturday, November 4, 2006: Noon-6:00 pm
- Sunday, November 5, 2006: Noon-6:00 pm
- All sessions will be given at California Southern School of Law, 3775 Elizabeth Street, Riverside, Room 2. **DVD**

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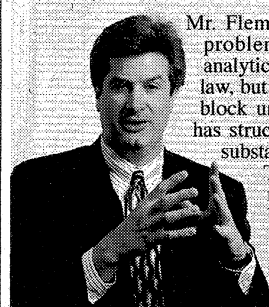
24
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For the past twenty-four years, Mr. Fleming has devoted his legal career to the development of legal preparatory seminars designed solely to aid Law Students and Bar Candidates in exam writing techniques and substantive law.

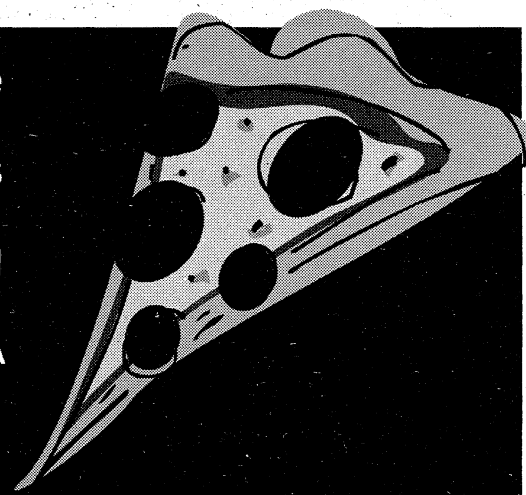
Mr. Fleming's experience includes the Lecturing of Pre-Law School Prep Seminars and First, Second and Third Year Law School Exam Solutions®. He is the Organizer and Lecturer of the Baby Bar Review Seminar and the Founder and Lecturer of the Legal Examination Writing Workshop. Both are seminars involving intensive exam writing techniques designed to train the law student to write the superior answer. He is the Founder and Lecturer of Long/Short Term Bar Review. In addition, Mr. Fleming is the Publisher of the Performance Exam Solution® and Multistate Examination Workbooks, the creator of The Exam Solution Tape Series®, which aids law students in exam preparation, the Author of the Essay Examination Writing Workbook Volumes 1, 2, 3 & 4. These are available in legal bookstores throughout the United States.



Mr. Fleming has determined that the major problem for most law students is weak analytical skills. Most students can learn the law, but application of the law is a stumbling block under exam conditions. Mr. Fleming has structured his programs to include both substantive law and legal analysis training. This provides the combination necessary for the development of a better-prepared and skillful law student and Bar candidate. These courses have made it possible for thousands of law students to improve their grades and ultimately pass the Bar exam.

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Watch for our flyer announcing the
Sept. 6, one-hour, on-campus
lecture by Prof. Jeff Fleming
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on exam taking techniques.



So You Got Into Law School...Now What?!

by Haley Miller, *assistant editor*

You have been in school before, and always earned good grades. You smashed the LSAT test and have always been the "smart kid" to your friends and family. Every time you've expressed misgivings about law school, they've been squelched with, "yeah right, you're going to do great!" So, why do you feel so confused and anxious now? You've heard a hundred different opinions on how to succeed. You've been told "you have to outline" but have no idea what that means. You are worried about the workload, having a life, and making friends. You are anticipating the Socratic Method taking you down in a blaze of idiocy your first week of class, and this arrogant freak you met during orientation won't stop talking about all the prep books he read over the summer, or how he's already started studying for each of his classes.

Rest assured most people feel nervous and apprehensive about starting law school. If they don't, they haven't been thinking about it enough to be uneasy (so you're ahead of them already). The good news: you will be just fine. One of the worst things about starting law school is how everyone has advice that is counterproductive, and it usually conflicts directly with what someone else has told you. Those with the best advice (the "you'll figure it out as you go" variety) aren't giving you anything tangible that you can hold onto from the get-go.

So why listen to me? Because I was YOU last year. I was anxious about everything and asked a lot of questions. I've heard the good, the bad, and the nauseating in-between of law school advice. Whether it's helpful or not, here it goes:

You don't need to know anything going in. As for that freak from orientation, he's not ahead of the game because he read books over the summer that are marketed to prey on your fears or motivation (whichever way you want to look at it). Concentrate on what the professor assigns and says in class. They are assuming you have no outside knowledge of the subject, and will teach you essentially everything you need to know.

Go to class. This is your best resource for figuring out what will be on the exam and how your professor thinks. Take good notes, pay attention, and read everything until you figure out short cuts for yourself. I spent my entire first year trying to figure out why people say that the reading isn't important, which was a total waste of my time and energy. Just because some people

get by without it doesn't mean you will. You'll want to get back at least one set of grades before deciding that you are okay without doing the assigned work. By end of my first year, I had figured out little shortcuts that work for me, as will you.

Commercial outlines are helpful. Some professors hate them, others don't seem to mind. However, the outlines are NOT a substitute for going to class unless you are shooting for a mediocre grade. Their best use is as a back-up source. Did the professor say something that confused you? Look it up in an outline and see if an alternate way of phrasing clicks better with you. Remember, the outlines are broad overviews of the law; they don't take into account the specifics that your

professor will be teaching, which are important because the exams are all about the details. The LRC Reserve Room has a ton of commercial products; don't spend your money on them.

It doesn't matter if you sound like an idiot. Yeah, it's not fun to say something stupid or to draw a complete blank when you get called on. However, that is not what your grade depends on. The Socratic Method is nerve-racking at first (I wanted to die), but sooner or later, it just becomes routine. After awhile, you won't even care if you sound like a fool because everyone does at some point. Try to be prepared and do your best, but

Please see Now What, continued page 6



OUR FACULTY IS RENOWNED IN THE SUMMER TOO The Hon. M. Margaret McKeown, a judge on the US Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit and Adjunct Professor of Law at USD, delivers a guest lecture while Visiting Professor Pamela Bresnahan looks on with her Professional Responsibility class. Professor Bresnahan, who is a partner in the Washington, D.C. office of Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP, was the chief investigator for the ABA into Chief Justice Robert's fitness to serve on the Supreme Court, and was recently named one of the 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America by the National Law Journal.

Classes, continued from page 1

PBLA clinics are designed to work into law students' schedules, and generally demand fewer hours than a traditional internship. They provide a great way to build your resume while serving your community. Plus, USD Law has a pro bono service award, given at graduation, so if you work more than 50 hours in one of these clinics, you'll also get public recognition for your service. For more information, contact PBLA Chair Kim Etchepare.

Oral Advocacy: Hone your skills and have a great time doing it. USD has three great oral programs, and they offer many opportunities for students to get involved:

Moot Court: USD's Moot Court program is a student-run organization focused on appellate advocacy. It puts on four intramural tournaments a year here at USD, and these are open to all second, third, and fourth year students. If you are interested in getting involved as a first year, you can volunteer to bailiff at one of these tournaments. It gives you a great inside look at what the judges will be looking for, helps prepare you for your oral argument in Lawyering Skills, and is a lot of fun. At the end of your first year, you'll also have the opportunity to apply for the Moot Court Associate Board, where you could help plan and run tournaments, and get priority for a role on the Executive Board in your 3L year. 2L students who did not participate on the Associate Board can get invited to apply for the Executive Board and/or National Team by participating and doing well in intramural tournaments. For more information, see the Moot Court website at: <http://home.sandiego.edu/%7Emcourt/index.php>.

Mock Trial: USD has an outstanding Mock Trial team, which is focused on trial-level advocacy. This group puts on two intramural tournaments a year, one in the fall and one in the spring, which are open to all students. Don't think that you don't know enough to compete as a first year – the tournaments are a great learning experience, and there is a specific "best 1L advocate" prize. The spring tournament is also one of the primary avenues for those seeking to be invited to join the Mock Trial Team. The other way to get on the team is to compete in the Closing Arguments Competition at

the beginning of your second year. For more information, contact Team Administrator and Assistant Coach Lisa Hillan, at LHillan@SanDiego.edu.

Vis International Moot: The newest oral advocacy organization on campus is the Vis International Moot Program. This unique student-run program takes teams to international commercial arbitration competitions in Vienna and Hong Kong. For more information, contact the Vis Moot Chair, Bruce Elder, at Belder-09@sandiego.edu.

Writing Opportunities: Writing skills are the key to successful lawyering, and our school offers many opportunities to hone your writing skills:

Motions: This newspaper is entirely student written and edited. Got an idea you want to share? Draft an article! Writers earn a stipend of \$40 per page of work, and you don't have to commit to writing for every issue to get involved. For more information, contact our editor, Jared Ackley, at: usdlawmotions@gmail.com.

San Diego Law Review and San Diego International Law Journal: Our two student-run law reviews hold a write-on competition each spring to select new members. 1Ls are allowed to compete for *SDLR*, and both 1Ls and 2Ls can compete for *ILJ*. Our law reviews provide great opportunities to become an expert on a particular area of law (through the Comment-writing process), to develop editing skills, and to work on a high-quality publication. For more information, contact *SDLR*'s Editor-in-Chief, Aimee Axelrod, at aaxelrod.sdlr@gmail.com, or *ILJ*'s Editor-in-Chief, Shanish Aloor, at SALOOR-07@sandiego.edu.

San Diego County Bar Association: This year, for the first time, USD is providing SDCBA memberships for all students. This professional organization will offer many opportunities for you to get out and mix with local practitioners and judges, to attend training on legal topics of interest, and to get involved in committees on your area(s) of specialty. For more information on this great organization, see their website at: www.sdcb.org.

Student Organizations: There are other student organizations, on almost every conceivable area of interest. Interested in animal law? Get involved with the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund. Politics? We

have both the Republican Law Society, and the USD Law Democrats. Intellectual Property your passion? There's the Intellectual Property Law Association. Public Interest? There's the Public Interest Law Foundation. The list goes on and on. The best way to find out what's available is to visit the SBA's clubs page, at: <http://www.sandiego.edu/usdlaw/sba/clubs.php>. You can also watch the squares on the chalk boards and the bulletin boards and electronic announcement screens in Warren Hall for information on upcoming club events.

And speaking of the SBA, you are all members, by virtue of enrollment at our law school. The SBA meets every other Monday, and discusses student concerns, upcoming events, and more. Attending these meetings is another great way to get involved.

Kirsten Widner is a contributing writer and a third-year student who has been involved in almost all of the above activities at one time or another.

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War Declared on the Job Front

by Tiffany Keith, *contributor*

I am writing from the trenches. I am a post-July 2006 bar taker searching for a job and I have waged war. Now, to be fair, you should know I took a few weeks off between the torture that is the Bar and the beginning of my job search. So in case you were worried that a month has already passed and I haven't had an interview yet, don't worry too much. But do not be mistaken, snagging your first job using a resume that doesn't have an "expected" graduation date on it, is to engage in battle after battle after battle.

I find myself waking early in the morning (early for the unemployed is 10:00). I drag myself downstairs and turn on my computer. I search through various free websites and then consider paying for another job search site. It's a tough market out there; this is not news to you. I find almost no jobs for recent graduates, especially not in San Diego. Not only is it a difficult market for attorneys, but when you throw in the fact that I only just graduated in May, the situation gets even stickier.

You see, as a recent graduate, I am in limbo. I am not yet an attorney (hopefully come mid-November, when we get the results from the Bar, I will be one), and I am no longer a law student. So, I can't apply to the attorney jobs, and the law clerk positions are looking for

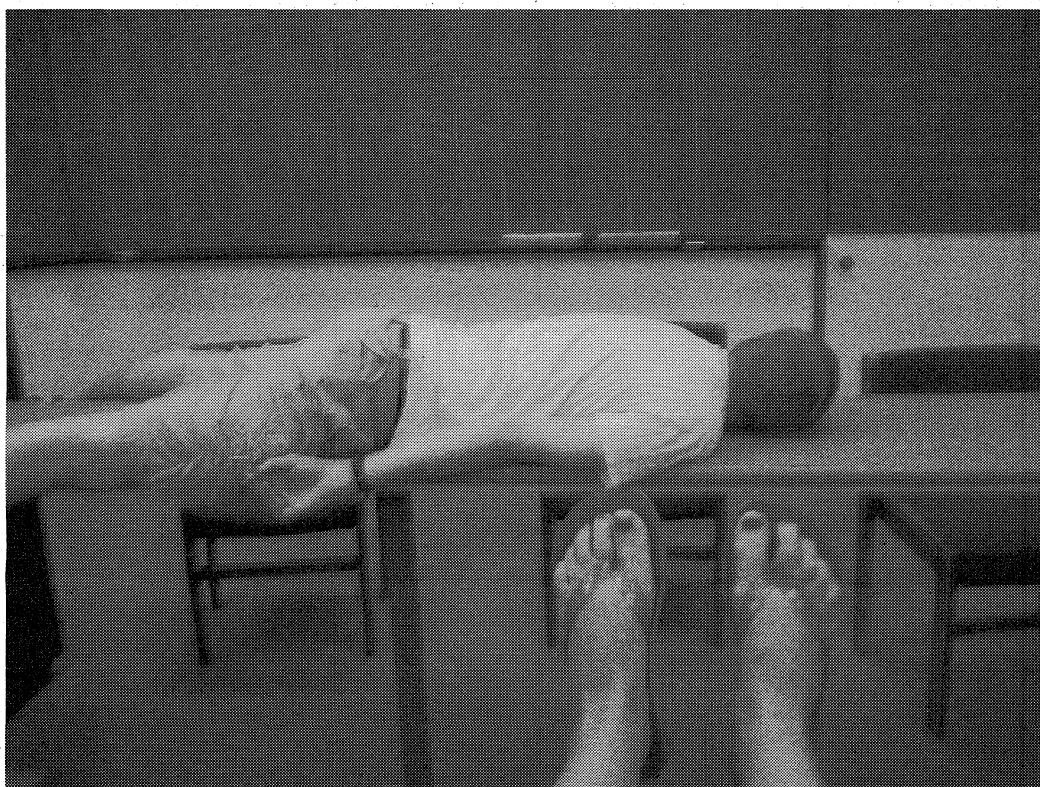
students with at least a year to commit (not a measly three months). The classifieds just don't have any firms offering a law-clerk-soon-to-be-attorney position.

It almost seems as though Hallmark should get involved with a congratulations-good luck-get well soon type combo.

Randomly picking out law firms from Martindale Hubble and sending out my resume feels a bit like blindly throwing a grenade in the general direction of the enemy; it could work, but chances are, that darn thing will either blow up and not get any enemy, or worse, will roll back and blow me away.

I briefly curse myself for turning down a couple of offers, but then I remember they weren't what I was looking for, so in the end, hopefully it was right to let them pass me by. In the coming months I will keep at it and will continue to report back from the front lines – even as those lines separate the sections of countless resumes, define the browser windows of online job search forums, and one day, my signature from my printed name on new employee forms.

Tiffany graduated from USD Law in 2006.



HOLY MNEMONIC BAR REVIEW BATMAN An upcoming 3L stares at an endless list of BarBri mnemonics in WH 131, wondering what the 3 new mnemonics will be for 2007, as the bar-studying composer of the charts dangles her feet 3 days before the July 2006 Bar.

Law School's Final Exam

by David Thomas, *contributor*

I'm sitting waiting to take this marathon of a test, and I'm nauseous. While I usually can enjoy a good heave, this certainly was not the time, considering the best receptacle was a trash can in front of a few thousand fellow bar examinees. Even more disconcerting was that this potential vomiting may have eaten into my precious test taking time.

To calm down, I tell myself that this anxiety is ridiculous – the Bar is not a life threatening situation; the worst case scenario is that I have to take the test again or change professions. I recall the fact that more than 80% of first time takers from USD pass this thing, and combined with the Bar-Bri guarantees, I am all but ensured to pass (right?!). But, then I think: somebody has to fail. I start looking around to try to pick out who might indeed fail.

Damnit, everyone looks smart. And no joke, the valedictorian for my class is sitting right behind me. Crap, where are all the stupid people?! Before I convince myself to get up and leave, I'm interrupted by the proctor announcing "we shall begin." And we're off.

Three days of testing ensue. The test is a roller coaster seemingly designed to instill some humility in recent law school grads full of hubris. The notion that one can get around sixty percent on the multiple choice, fail half of the essays, and still pass proves that this test is not designed to validate your knowledge of the law. Needless to say, I walked out on the third day not at all confident that I passed. I think most of us felt the same way, so I don't think there is any secret formula for preparing. Nevertheless, I'll share a few things I would have done differently during my law school years that

may have helped.

First, I wish I had taken classes in all the subject areas tested on the Bar exam. It made for an ugly summer trying to gain an understanding of a couple subjects while reviewing a dozen others. Further, I never looked ahead towards the Bar exam while in school; I guess it was in the back of my mind, but I took each law school class as piecemeal, doing whatever was necessary to pass. A friend mentioned that he viewed law school exams as pop quizzes with the real test being the Bar exam. I think that would have helped encourage some better study habits on my part because there is no getting around the fact that eventually you are going to have to understand and memorize at least the basics for each subject tested on the Bar.

Another change I would have made, if I had the time and money, is that I would have taken a break between my final semester of school and taking the Bar. Some people have no problem jumping from studying for finals to studying for the Bar, but my work ethic certainly was not up to it.

In any event, the Bar exam will eventually end, and oddly enough, you may be a bit depressed when it does. Even though studying for it is pure drudgery, it has its benefits. For one, it offers the perfect excuse: "sorry, I can't do it, I'm studying for the Bar." You'll be amazed at how well that works, and in a sense it is a testament to how well lawyers have marketed the difficulty and intensity of the Bar exam. Even non-lawyers seem to have bought in to the idea of the "big bad Bar exam." But looking back, it is really just one long law school exam. So there really is no need to get nauseous, though I do secretly wish someone else had an accident. And with that, I wish you best of luck.

Dave graduated from USD Law in 2006.

Fearless, continued from page 1

many rejected goods; those items that I want, but cannot rationalize taking home, and those items that I cannot attain.

For much of the time period post-bar I felt that a CA 5150 should have been imposed on me (Cal. Welfare and Institutions Code § 5150: "when any person, as a result of mental disorder, is a danger to others, or to himself...a peace officer... may, upon probable cause, take... the person into custody and place him or her in a facility... approved by the State Department of Mental Health as a facility for 72-hour treatment and evaluation.") I moved in a fog – a daze – I was as close to a zombie as I have ever been. The question most often asked of me was "How was the bar?" The amazing thing about that question is that it is impossible to properly answer. I have never been shot, hence my never making it as a rap artist, but I imagine that it is a very painful experience; one that can never be adequately described, just experienced. So when people asked me, "How was the bar?" my stock answer of "My laptop froze on the software and I freaked out, I am not sure how I did, I am so, so, so scared" was really just an auto pilot response.

Right after the bar, my response to any "How was the bar?" questions truly should have been: "I felt violated. I felt like I would never, ever recover and that was just after reading the instructions on day one. By lunch I felt like 'God how much longer can they keep us here?' Then I remembered that my laptop crashed and I wanted to die, then I thought 'hey it is just the bar, you can take it again.'

By day two, my spirit had been broken; I was no longer vibrant or even alive. I was a robot, a drone, someone willing to do anything the California Bar told me to do as long as it would make the time go faster. By day three I had pretty much tricked myself into thinking I was just taking one very long first year exam and that all I had to do was just get through it, because it was all a practice. Oh, and 'I think I failed and I want to now hit you so hard that you feel my pain, so thanks for asking.' For some reason I felt that none of my friends would sit through that or want to hear it, so I just replied in the most basic of fashions.

If the bar taught me anything, it taught me the value of good friends and family. My parents, who have pushed me to excellence all my life, who would never allow me to use phrases like, "I think I failed/I cannot do this" were so relaxed about the examination. After the fiasco of my laptop freezing, my mom said the most beautiful thing to me: "Boy, (apparently my parents have a hard time remembering my name despite the fact that I am named after my father) so many people are unable to get as far as you have, your father and I are both proud of you and love you. You are smart; do not worry about the exam. If you have to take it again you will, and you will do well!" My mom is an amazing woman. She knew that I was broken and she made me whole. My father, a man as calm as anyone I have ever met, reassured me that greatness is still mine no matter what the results of the examination are.

That, I think, is the main lesson to be taken from the bar exam: it is truly just an exam; something that measures if you got the right answer on the right day. It is not the most accurate reflection of your ability to practice law because failing can be the product of any number of things. Your life will go on and I assure you that you will be able to take a step the next day no matter how much your back feels like it is broken during the examination.

To borrow a phrase I heard recently: "I am here to hand out ass whoopings and candy bars and I am all out of candy bars." Now, that is the mental state I have for everything I do. Post-bar, nothing feels impossible. I feel like I can conquer any activity, hence my renewed obsession with cycling. Some days I cycle for thirty miles. I have toured all over our beautiful city on my bicycle and have renewed my love for it. Unlike most of my colleagues, I have not taken a trip abroad. Instead, I am trying to get fit enough to ride my bicycle from San Diego along the PCH to Los Angeles. The trip would have seemed unrealistic merely two months ago but now, well now, "I am all out of candy bars!"

The post-bar period is filled with ridiculous hopes, dreams, and desires; I am still trying to figure out a way to have entrance theme music play every time I enter a room like a wrestler. How great would it be if I entered job interviews with music blasting in the background? Maybe a little Salt-N-Pepa blaring "Whatta man, whatta man whatta man what a mighty good man...I wanna take a minute or two, and give much respect due. To the man that's made a difference in my world...I know that ain't nobody perfect, I give props to those who deserve it. And believe me y'all, he's worth it." What employer would

Please see *Fearless*, continued page 8

Inside the Professor's Office

by Jared D. Ackley, *editor-in-chief*

This year, *Motions* would like to introduce a new regular feature. It is called "Inside the Professor's Studio" and is meant to be a play off of the infamous set of questions asked by James Lipton at the end of the interviews he conducts for his popular program, *Inside the Actor's Studio*. While *Motions* doesn't pretend to have near the success of Lipton's addictive interrogation of the dramatic and comedic geniuses of our time (we're waiting for Will Ferrell to do a spoof), these questions, which Lipton himself lifted from French television personality Bernard Pivot, should prove an entertaining look into the heads of our nationally renowned faculty. The questions have been augmented just slightly to accommodate the legal community. It is interesting to note that Pivot himself started his collegiate studies in law before moving into journalism and later asking his Proustian questions on *Bouillon de Culture*.

Our first interviewee is a quasi-celebrity on campus tracing back to his days as the dean of the law school. Professor Daniel B. Rodriguez is the Warren Distinguished Professor of Law. Professor Rodriguez joined the law school community in 1998 and prior to that, was a Professor of Law at UC Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law. This semester, Professor Rodriguez is teaching two sections of property, but would probably appreciate it if the 1Ls in his classes avoided using the words "focus" or "affirmed" to excess on their final exams. With that brief introduction to Professor Rodriguez's many accomplishments, I would like to thank the Professor for his time and without further ado, present his nearly spontaneous answers:

Motions: What is your favorite word?

Professor Rodriguez: I would say my favorite word is focus.

Motions: What is your least favorite word?

Professor Rodriguez: Unprepared.

Motions: What turns you on legally, creatively, spiritually or emotionally?

Professor Rodriguez: People who, in their profession – whatever their profession – are passionate about what they do and committed through their hard work and energies to [do] a job well done; to really doing well, and to be creative.

Motions: What turns you off?

Professor Rodriguez: The easy answer is to just say the flip side of that – of what I said before. But let me be a little more specific: lethargy and just kind of ambivalence about what one's doing, professionally and personally. Not really having a commitment to doing their best. You know, excuses. Things like that.

Motions: What is your favorite legal word?

Professor Rodriguez: Favorite legal word is affirmed.

Motions: What sound or noise do you love?

Professor Rodriguez: The sound of my daughter singing.

Motions: What sound or noise do you hate?

Professor Rodriguez: Total quiet. Is that a sound?

Motions: What profession, other than law professor, would you like to attempt?

Professor Rodriguez: Oh! I would have always loved to be a playwright.

Motions: What profession would you not like to do?

Professor Rodriguez: I hate to say it, but I would not like to be a high school teacher.

Motions: If you were in front of the U.S. Supreme Court, what would you like to hear The Chief Justice say after you have walked through the marble, Corinthian columns?

Professor Rodriguez: Good to see you again! Thanks for coming by once again!

Jared is a 3L and the Editor-in-Chief of Motions. If you would like to suggest a professor to be interviewed for the next "Inside the Professor's Office," or have any other suggestions or questions regarding Motions, please feel free to email usdlawmotions@gmail.com.

Nice Guys Will Finish First...Eventually

by Hasmik Badalian, *staff writer*

Every year, the US News and World Report ranks top tier law schools based on numerous measures including selectivity (acceptance rate, median undergraduate GPA, and median LSAT score), placement success (employment rates for graduates and bar passage rate), faculty resources (student faculty ratio and library resources), and quality assessment (assessment by peers and professionals).

Every year, employers use these rankings to determine the quality of students at a particular law school.

And every year, students rush to look at these rankings when they are released to determine their value in the job market.

Unfortunately for USD, one of the key factors that sets it apart from other law schools is not quantified and calculated into this score: quality of life.

A high quality of life is important because it leads to happy students. Happy students are more likely to complete the curriculum, to be productive, to be involved in activities outside the classroom, to succeed in those activities and most importantly for a law school, happy students are more likely to donate.

Fortunately, I think it's only a matter of time before U.S. News and World Report incorporates quality of life factors (such as friendliness of student body, lack of competitiveness, approachability of faculty, helpfulness of administration, and desirability of location) into its law school ranking system. Quality of life is already used as a measure in comparing undergraduate universities, cities, and even countries.

Smart employers could read a lot into a law school's potentially high quality of life ranking. For

Please see Eventually, continued page 8

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Now What, continued from page 4

cut yourself some slack.

Outlining. Everyone does it differently! It's a generic word for finding a way to condense your massive amount of notes into something digestible. Some people get fancy while others make bullet points and paragraphs. You will have to figure out what works best for YOU. The smartest person I met last year had outlines that looked a hot mess to me, but it worked for her. What to include? Throw out all the little insignificant stuff, the multiple ways you wrote down the same point, and the voluminous facts of the cases you read. Keep the details/policy/law that your professor deliberately talked about in class. Annoyingly, it's one of those things you have to figure out through trial and error. I always err on the side of over-inclusiveness. Start outlining after about the third or fourth week of classes, and try to stay on top of it. Do not leave everything until the end or you will be swamped, and won't have time to actually learn the stuff.

Time Management. This is the key to doing everything you want with your life and getting good grades in school. For me, that meant getting up before class to get things done to free up my evenings a little. For others, that means studying hard in between classes throughout the day. It IS possible to be in law school and maintain a personal life if you are productive when you're supposed to be. To the same end, don't fall behind in your courses. It takes way more time to catch up than it does to do it right the first time.

Study Groups. I spent the first week of classes thinking about whom I should corral into a study group right away, as if it had to be done then or I would miss the opportunity. So we formed one, and it turns out that I study better alone. Some people study with friends during exams, some all year, and some never do. Once again, you'll have to figure out what works for you.

Worry about YOU, not everyone else. The worst part of being a 1L is that everyone sizes each other up. Do not play this game or you will only psych yourself out. The people with good grades will undoubtedly come as a surprise, as will some of those with bad grades. Just because they talk in class or act like a know-it-all does not mean they actually have a clue. Some people study less and absorb more in class. Others are perpetually in the library but do not learn well in class. Some people are

comfortable speaking, and others just put their head down and do the work. There is no one way to do things, so do not let yourself become all-consumed with other people's behaviors. There will be people (and lots of them) that will act as if they have everything together, but more often than not, they are as overwhelmed as you are. Almost everyone will have a moment when they think there is no way they're going to do well because everyone else is SO SMART, but I assure you, you are too, or you wouldn't have been accepted to USD. It's an even playing field at the start – anyone who does the work and prepares well has the same opportunity for a great grade. It's not about them, it's about you.

Haley is the assistant editor of Motions.

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Why I Don't Tell Girls I'm in Law School

by Cole Cannon, *staff writer*

Your status as a law student should NEVER be brought up during a first encounter with someone of the opposite sex. I've had countless conversations with women that result in something like this: "An unemployed surf bum who free-rides off of his parents! How can you feel good about yourself?!" to which I quickly retort, "Hey you'd do it too if you could..." Anyways, what are you doing this weekend?"

Yes, like you, I am a law student, and yes this is one of many actual conversations I have had when meeting a girl I'd consider taking out. Arguably a questionable *modus operandi* for getting a number you say? Not so. The following is an exposition of why girls should never be told you are a law student (at least until the 2nd date).

1. The James Bond Fallacy

Last year, as I purchased my Contracts and Civil Procedure casebooks, I thought to myself, like Caesar, "*veni, vidi, vici*." I was standing at the doorway of the most prestigious fraternity, prepared to rub shoulders as comrades with the upper echelons of the highest social strata, the legal community. I couldn't even name five past presidents who were not attorneys. Corporate gods fear our kind, BMW dealerships revere us, the accused need us, and women (no matter how critical of our

dubious profession) adore us. Just pay 3 years of dues, I thought, and the world would be at my mercy.

I was excited to report to my female counterparts that I was no longer *considering* law school but was fully enrolled; *Ich bin eine JD'er!* Law school is the breeding ground for the modern day James Bond, where oratory and robust bank accounts are sexier than kung fu skills and tuxedos. With an international law focus, my prowess was superior even to Austin Powers. The only thing that could be bigger than my ego was the paycheck that I was sure to garner in the near future.

Just when I thought that my ascension to greatness was complete, the painful truth was realized: the whole image was a farce (at least for law students). There is no such thing as high status for a law student. Perhaps the image was the product of some ominous scheme orchestrated by the ABA to induce unsuspecting college grads to apply to law school. Realistically, I have never been more scared in my life, overwhelmed, broke, and dwarfed by the intellect of others. This makes no mention of the life of groveling which awaits me while climbing the legal ladder, assuming of course that I'm auspicious enough to pass the Bar. The problem: many women believe this James Bond fallacy; and it's just not true.

2. Be Honest-Always

It's my mantra. It is my sincere belief that telling a girl that I'm a surf bum is far more truthful (or shall I say less deceiving) than confessing that I'm a law student. If I confess my student status, the James Bond fallacy will almost certainly creep in. Who can blame them? I thought the same thing until 3 1/2 months into my law school career. I, for one, have far more in common with a broke surf bum than I do James Bond.

3. She May Actually Know the Truth about Law Students:

The only thing more stifling to a burgeoning relationship than the myth of law students, is the truth about them. Believe me, there is little appeal to a broke, stressed-out, studyaholic with no time to devote to his girlfriend. Spare yourself the rod until the second date by not revealing your occupation. One date without the law student presumptions may be enough to convince her that you are not like the rest of them. How refreshing would it be to hear, "oh you're a law student? I never would have guessed."

4. Gold vs. The Gold Digger:

Too many people translated Deep Throat's admonition to "follow the money" into a standard dating procedure. The matrimonies of California have been—often accurately—described as *mergers* not *marriages*. The best way to filter out gold from among the gold diggers is to inform your prospects very early that there is no treasure in your coffers. I hate to see my colleagues date someone who is under the false impression that they, as a student, have the income of a corporate partner.

5. The Good Girls Don't Care

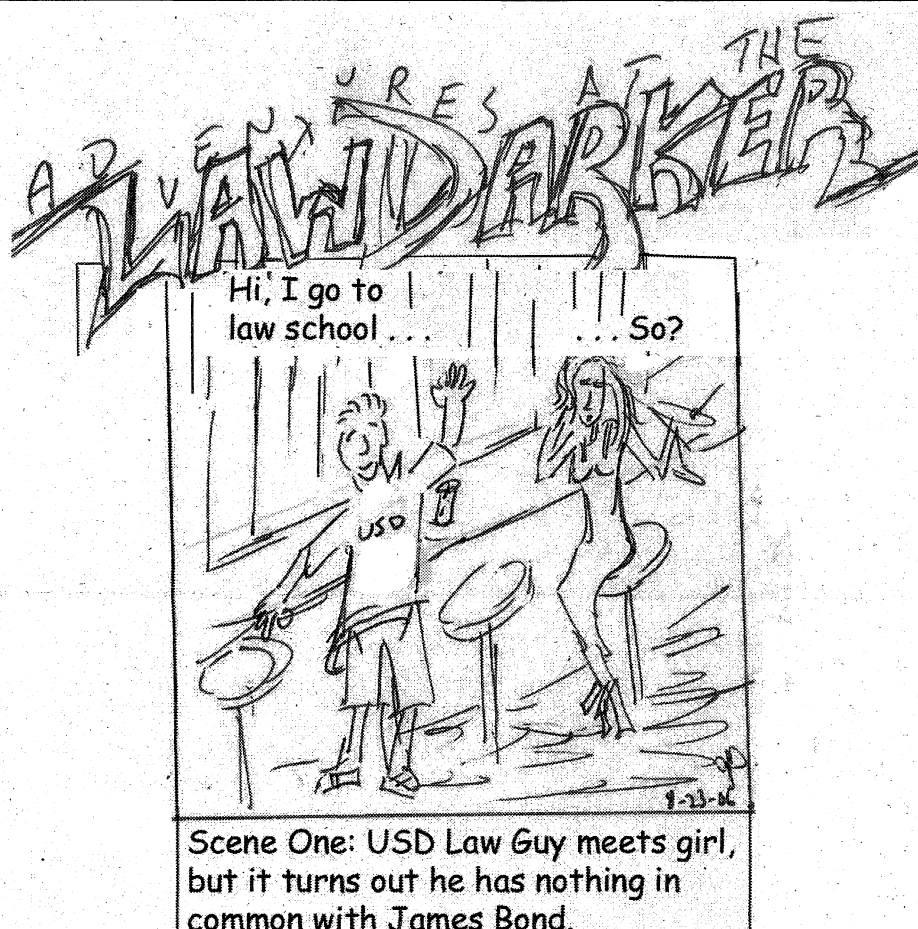
Need I say more?

Conclusion:

For the women: though this article is drafted from a man's perspective, it does not mean that your gender is exempt from the vicissitudes of law school stereotypes. In fact, I believe that men's intentions while dating are far more suspect than women's, thereby necessitating your constant vigilance (forgive me gentlemen). Admittedly, last year I would have believed the myth and foolishly would have considered dating a glorified law student just for the sake of prestige by association.

Bottom line is this: the term 'JD candidate' carries with it a lot of unnecessary baggage. My advice? Rid yourself of the burden by doing what I do (the surf bum alibi or whatever else describes you best). If you cannot restrain yourself from saying you are a law student then you better invest in a t-shirt that reads, "Now Meeting Lowered Expectations" and wear it EVERYWHERE.

Cole is a law student at USD, but don't tell anyone.



Bar Review: 1, Liver: 0

by Eddie Tsang, *staff writer*

Attention 1Ls: If there's one thing you should learn in law school, it's that there are really three things you should learn in law school. The logic goes something like this: First, law students gossip like little girls. Second, law students constantly do gossip-worthy things. Third, gossip-worthy things happen at Bar Review. Therefore, thusly, and maybe even notwithstanding, you should go to as many Bar Reviews as possible. Some of you may be asking yourselves, "What exactly is Bar Review?" Ah yes, the age old question. Perhaps the best place to start is at the beginning.

The first Bar Review was held when the first two lawyers got together at a bar to decide whether the study of law should be clear and understandable or confusing and suicide-inducing. A bottle of whisky later, they had developed a method of teaching that involved random Latin words, the Socratic Method, and a wonderful little strategy called "hide the ball". Those lawyers are currently burning in hell with Hitler and whoever invented automated answering systems.

These days, Bar Reviews have evolved into an outlet where law students can gather to discuss school and life in general. It's an excellent opportunity for you to convene with your peers and future colleagues on a weekly basis. Hopefully I used the word "convene" correctly. I should be okay as long as it means something along the lines of "drink 'til you soil yourself".

I can't stress enough how important it is to utilize opportunities like Bar Review to network and meet people. Every person you meet could possibly be your future colleague, boss, or spouse. And they're all there, just waiting to talk to you. Where else will you

have the opportunity to mingle and get to know people so easily? I can't imagine anything as convenient; unless someone invents some sort of website where you can upload pictures of yourself and talk about your favorite movies and music so that other people can learn all about you without ever actually hanging out with you.

In completely unrelated news, check out the Bar Review MySpace page at www.myspace.com/usdlawbarreview.

Right now you might be thinking that you don't need Bar Review to interact with others. Sure, you can meet people anywhere and develop good friendships. But how long will that take? I like to get to know people fast. I like to get from the "awkward introduction" stage to the "farting on each other" stage as quickly as possible. And the most efficient tool for this is alcohol.

In fact, I once read in a science book that the fastest way to truly get to know someone is drinking with them. I considered that statement and realized that I did discover most of my law school friendships at the bottom of a bottle. Indeed, if it weren't for drinking, I would never have found out that Rishi*, Luke, Mike and John dream of forming a karaoke boy-band; Sean looks stunning in Chippendale stretchy pants, and Esther can slap really, really hard.

Perhaps more important than getting to know other people is the opportunity to get to know yourself. There will be a point in your life when you have to go out and drink while networking with lawyers and judges. You have to learn your limits sometime, and you might as well start now. I recommend viewing Bar Review as

an opportunity to find out exactly how many drinks you can safely have without telling everyone about that one time in Mexico. I'm beginning to feel like maybe I'm not the best person to be giving out advice on appropriate conduct. This year's first Bar Review was last night, and I'm having flashbacks of hearing the Black Eyed Peas and shaking "my hump". And I'm still not quite sure what that is or if I even have one.

One last reason for why I go to Bar Reviews: If I didn't, I wouldn't have anything to blame my mediocre grades on. It basically comes down to facing one of two realities: 1. I'm stupid, or 2. I'm a raging alcoholic. I choose "raging alcoholic". There's no 12-step program for stupidity.

I would finally like to take this opportunity to introduce Kathy Snyder and Hali Henderson. The three of us are this year's Bar Review representatives. Kathy and Hali are wonderful people to work with and totally don't treat me like their lackey. In fact, I wrote this article because I wanted to, and not because they told me to and I'm afraid of them. They are sweethearts and only yell at me when I deserve it; or if I accidentally voice an opinion.

See you at the next Bar Review. I'll be the guy fetching drinks for Kathy and Hali. It wouldn't be so bad if it weren't for that damn loincloth.

* Last names have been omitted in the interests of anonymity. Also, I'm not sure I remember them. Alcohol is crazy, man.

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not want to hire an applicant like that?

My birthday is on the 24th of September. In recent years I have gone big, yet post-bar, and with so many of my friends out of town, I am thinking of just sitting on my verandah staring out at the beach and reflecting over my life. Such is the power of the bar that something that, in the past has been proclaimed by me as a reason for a Bar Review is now affected by an exam that by the 24th of September will have been 3 months past. I must make note that my belief that the 24th of September is such an important date that I have managed to slip the date of the 24th of September four times into a single paragraph.

Here is a list of just some of the odd things that I have done in the few weeks since the bar: attempted to set a new personal record for the amount of entries I can post on my blog (calijamai can.blogspot.com); started (subconsciously I hope) arguments with all my ex-girlfriends in under a week, even those still living in Jamaica; created a drink so powerful that my friend became drunk after drinking only a third of it; designed new titles for myself that I would like to be introduced as ('the student formerly known as' and 'the crusher of dreams,' 'the killer of hopes,' 'the creator of reality.' I did not say all the titles were good); seriously debated the fact that in the 1980's if a Russian appeared in a movie you were guaranteed to see the American protagonist defeat him/her yet you do not see Afghan/Iraqi 'bad guys' in movies currently, which made me wonder if it was just too unrealistic for us to believe that Afghans could give Americans serious competition a la Drago in *Rocky IV*? Is it that we cannot have a culture that so many associate with terrorism on our movie screens; or, as I hope, have we realized that not only is it politically incorrect to label an entire race or culture, but it is just plain wrong.

A crazy situation is now occurring: after thinking that I would rarely set foot on campus again, I realize that because of my current part-time job, I have to go on campus to meet my boss periodically. So should you see me around school, it is not that I cannot let go and have to stay close to school to feel whole, it is merely for my job (I tell myself that to remain sane).

So, why should you sit through law school and then the horror of the bar? Well, because in the end it all becomes worth it. And if that trite cliché does not warm the cockles of your heart, how about this: my biggest concern currently is figuring out how I will be able to ever give directions to my new home in front of my new roommates, who are very big fans of the movie *Half-Baked*, and not have them scream every time I say that my new apartment is "RIGHT NEAR THE BEACH...Lord-a-mercy." Oh the small but beautiful twists of life. I left a small island famous for its beaches to move to a state famous for its beaches. No matter what result the bar gives me I say "Bring it and God will help me through it!"

Aaron, also known as the 'CaliJamaican,' is a recovering law student still feeling withdrawal from a summer spent in the library. He is completely willing to give unsolicited and possibly bad advice to law students. He can be contacted via AIM at soulmanaaron or by email at aaronD@alumni.sandiego.edu

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handbooks and other legal paraphernalia.

While Club Day is primarily geared toward 1Ls, upperclassmen and LLM students also take advantage of signing up for clubs, catching up with old friends and mingling with new students.

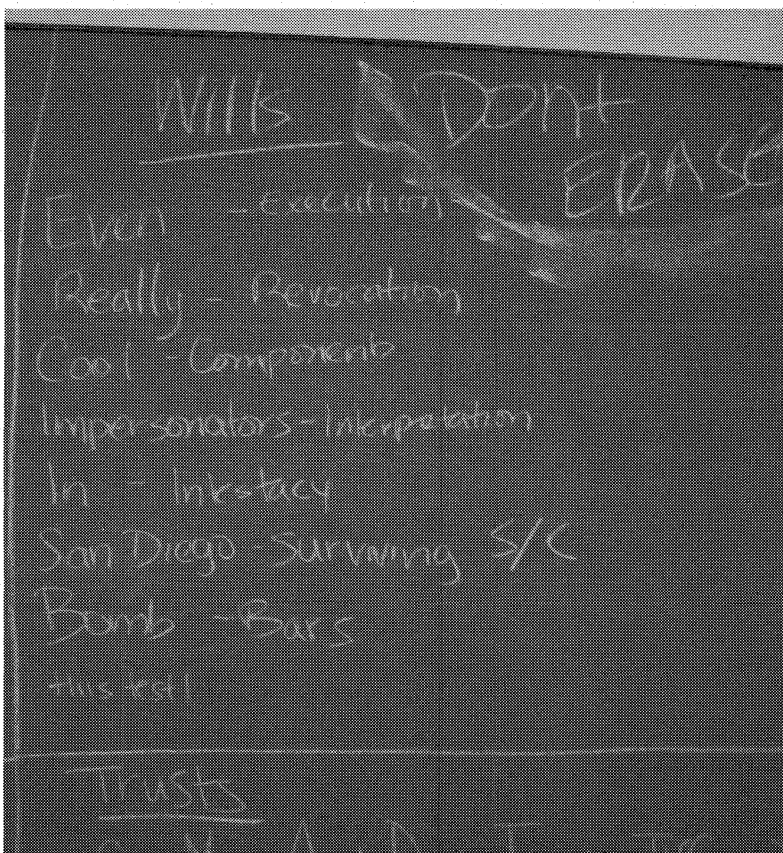
"There are a lot of activities that go on in law school that, as a student, you don't necessarily hear about," said Adam Diamant, 2L. "I enjoy Club Day because you get to see a little bit of the more obscure things you don't hear about but would be interested in pursuing."

Lastly, the USD Law School Administration wrapped up the summer and kicked off the new school year for the 1Ls by treating them to an evening in the Gaslamp. Incoming students were invited to spend some time getting to know their classmates in a social setting at the popular downtown hotspot, The Tin Fish.

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example, students from these programs would be used to working alongside their colleagues and not against them. While employers may expect an employee to be aggressive against opposing counsel, they do not want to deal with petty tribulations that are commonplace in individuals used to cut-throat environments.

In that vein, it behooves the students at USD to continue the tradition of keeping the law school a welcoming and friendly school environment. Despite what some readers believe to be the case, this school has an amazingly



VARIATION ON A WILLS MNEMONIC: Even Really Cool Impersonators In San Diego Bomb (this test). You can tell why this particular study aid wasn't officially endorsed.

collaborative approach to teaching and learning that is uncommon in most other programs across the nation. A brief conversation with a student in almost any other law school will prove this to be true.

USD has a formal, student initiated Mentor/Mentee program. Informally, students openly share outlines, notes, advice, and practice problems for specific classes. Scholarship deadlines are overtly communicated and reminder messages are sent over class listservs. I have never heard of a book disappearing on the eve of a Lawyering Skills assignment and most tellingly, there is an administration-sponsored class registration advice session where upperclassmen give invaluable advice on professors, classes, schedules and requirements.

I'm willing to bet USD has one of the highest quality of life rankings in the nation and should be proud of it. In the real world, where deals are made and broken based on personality and reputation, the qualities a student picks up in an institution where helpfulness and hospitality are key features cannot be taught. So if you know that 1L who has your same Crim Law professor, spend some time helping him understanding how to study for that class. If you have a friend who is taking a class you have the book for, let him borrow it. If you applied for some grant or scholarship that really helped you out the summer after your first year, tell someone about how they can apply for it as well. One day, when the US News and World Report starts using quality of life measures in its rankings, the time you took to help your fellow students will raise USD's ranking, and possibly, your salary.

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MEDIUM

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