

## Welcome Back to School Issue

# Letro Courtroom: Where the Action is Final

## Johnnie Cochran cancels trial appearance at Law School court due to illness

By Jeremiah Kane, '07



AMHERST, NY—During a six day trial, the Law School's Francis M. Letro Courtroom on the first floor of O'Brien Hall was filled with the dramatic tension and legal wrangling that mark high-profile civil cases. However, Law School student and faculty have been noticeably absent from this unique asset, a fully functioning courtroom.

State Supreme Court **Justice Ralph A. Boniello III** presided over the civil action of *Owens v. Leavy* in front of a sparsely-populated courtroom. Despite ample seating, fifteen students observed the trial, with only three of those in regular attendance. Situated under the Law Library, the Niagara County jury heard complaints of false arrest, negligence, and battery amid the majestic oak of the Letro Courtroom. A slight-figured **Josephine Owens** of Philadelphia tearfully recounted her story of being accosted by hulking N.Y. Park Police Sgt. **James Leavy** during her 1997 arrest for allowing her children too close to the Niagara Rapids. Mrs. Owens contended not only was she acting lawfully, but that she had been injured when during the arrest and detention.

Our University alone can boast a regularly used trial courtroom. Which provides a more stimulat-

ing introduction to trial advocacy: listening to a professor drone on about rules of evidence, or watching Buffalo's most artful legal practitioners advocating for their clients? Mrs. Owens discussed her plight after the criminal trial with childhood friend, Blair Underwood of *L.A. Law* fame. Underwood then connected her with his friend **Johnnie "If the glove doesn't fit you must acquit" Cochran**. Elmwood Avenue attorney **Robert H. Perk '82** whose niece is a member of the Class of '08 took over the case at the request of Cochran who

tried the notable Cynthia Wiggins trial with Perk. Assistant Attorney General **Gregory P. Miller '82** who usually practices in the Court of Claims defended Leavy.

Zealously representing their clients, both attorneys regularly raised objections, requested sidebars and grilled the opposing witnesses. From opening to closing arguments, Mr. Perk reiterated his assertion that Leavy accosted Owens as she innocently took her children on vacation to see Niagara Falls, while Mr. Miller portrayed Leavy as an officer doing his duty.

For the aspiring attorneys in O'Brien Hall, the largely unattended lessons were far more exciting than any casebook. Smartboards stood ready as counsels jostled before the judge over admissibility and prejudicial content of digital video. Judge Boniello briskly sustained or overruled objections during testimony and conducted hearings as blown up photographs and testimony from the 1997 criminal trial were employed to impeach witnesses during the spirited cross-examinations.

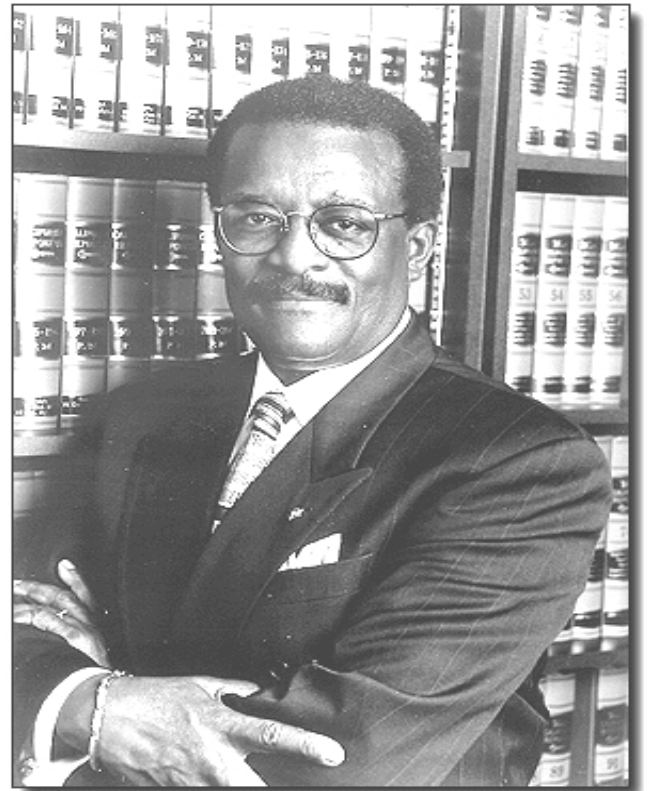
The attorneys involved in the seven million dollar claim made every effort to welcome the meager representation of law students who attended the trial. Miller employed frequent objections to block Perks's attack. During one cross-examination Miller was frantically gestured to squelch a witness that Perk had managed to keep answering a question despite that Miller's objection to the question had been sustained.

The trial swung from emotional recollections of abuse, to drawn out examinations of photos, to loud heated demands that witnesses were "liars" and "should not be allowed through the doors of the courtroom again." While the criminal trial had found Owens innocent, the civil trial jury found that Leavy had used no unreasonable force and that probable cause had been present for Owens's arrest. The jury thus made no award for Owens.

There are thirty-one actions in the courtroom scheduled in the coming months. Some of these actions include trials brought by the Student Wide Judiciary against students charged with campus infractions. Group Legal Services often defends these trials before undergraduate justices.

During trials, Erie County Sheriff, bailiff Zeigler will smile and request that visitors turn off their cell phones and remove their jackets before entering the court. The court's double doors are well situated to allow a visitor to enter and exit the courtroom unobtrusively. The gallery layout allows excellent visibility and close contact with the attorneys who are usually eager to explain the proceedings during recesses.

Students, who attended *Owens v. Leavy*, will



Civil rights attorney Johnnie Cochran was scheduled to attend the Owens case at the Law School

attest to the educational value of witnessing a real courtroom drama. The attorneys argued anything but academic points as they stood before their clients demonstrating the application of civil procedure, tort, and criminal law. Just as our counterparts at the medical school compete for the opportunity to learn about surgery through observation, learning medicine first hand, law students need to take a more active role in observing our mentors in action.

If you missed this trial, make sure you take the opportunity to attend future sessions. Not only will you be able to check your understanding of the law, but you can help represent the Law School's interest for our legal community.—Staff Report.

**Student Bar Association  
Law School Survey**

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THE OPINION

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The Anonymous Lawyer:  
A Blogger's Take on the Legal Profession

By Caroline Brancatella, '07

If the internet is the first truly democratic form of communication than bloggers are the *vox populi* -- or at least they think themselves to be.

For the uninitiated, "blogs," short for web logs, are essentially journals -- interior monologues typed out almost daily and sent into cyberspace for the masses to read. The format enjoyed its coming out party as a credible source of information when bloggers were granted press credentials to both the Democratic and Republican conventions.

It seems natural that lawyers, who have a reputation for enjoying the sound of their own voices, would easily make the jump to enjoying reading their own words on the web. Hence the birth of "Anonymous Lawyer" ([anonymouslawyer.blogspot.com](http://anonymouslawyer.blogspot.com)) in March of 2004.

The blog features the rants of an attorney -- a partner at a large and prestigious firm -- about his work, his lack of family life, and his contempt for the minions of paralegals, associates and law students who help make his life a living hell.

"Anonymous" satirically confirms the malevolent reputation of attorneys that helped put tort reform on the national agenda

"Every day lately someone is talk-

ing about public interest as if public interest lawyers are something other than the people from terrible law schools who can't get jobs at a place like this one," he posts.

"Anonymous" never sees his children, mocks his co-workers and loathes his own loathsomeness. He also realizes that he has achieved every one of his dreams to perfection. For the most part "Anonymous" sticks to satire. He hyperbolizes the ridiculousness of firm politics, chastises female attorneys who dare to have children and declares blackberries the messiah of large law firms worldwide.

Although at his best when bitingly sardonic, he occasionally delves into the metaphorical. "We work hard," he says, "but we really are Anonymous Lawyers. We affect people, but in ways no different than someone else in our positions would if they sat in these seats."

It does not take a sharp eye to see that his diatribe is derivative. References to missing staplers and work "flair" prove that he owes much to the popular cult film "Office Space" studied and enjoyed by those avoiding 9-5 employment everywhere.

Evidently countless billable hours have been wasted by young associates and law students who have discovered the cyber-soliloquy. Comments to the

blog both share "Anonymous"'s pain and pester him with questions about his true identity and what firm he might work at. The blog has become so big time that *The New York Times* and *The San Francisco Chronicle* have recently featured pieces on it.

Alas, "Anonymous" couldn't stand all that popularity and no credit for too long. He has revealed himself as Jeremy Blachman, a third-year law student at Harvard who bases his material on a summer gig at a large New York firm and war stories that discontented legal professionals e-mail him.

According to the *Times*, Blachman never really wanted to practice law, he wanted to write. But, like so many twenty-somethings harboring literary delusions of grandeur he decided that law school was a better option than sitting in his parents basement and waiting for *The New Yorker* to call. But a simple web address has allowed him to compose more than class assignments and now he is looking not for an associate position, but a book deal.

"Anonymous Lawyer" although written by someone who has never even taken the bar has clearly struck a cord with the legal community.

"That it happens to be on a blog, to me, seems fairly inconsequential," says Professor Alex Halavais, University at Buffalo Graduate Director of Informatics.

"Someone decides to create a certain fiction about the work world, and that resonates with a lot of people, both within and outside of the profession. Attorneys, like doctors and others, are in the strange position of being valued by society, but often unable to communicate what they do: it is either privileged, or they do not have the time to do so -- unless they quit and become novelists. It seems like a perfect target for fictionalizing, if you know a bit about the profession,"

He continues, "The anonymity of the blog allows these people to write without regard to how it might affect those around them. It also allows them to fictionalize, either partially or entirely, without penalty. In some ways the fiction can cut closer to the bone than real life does." --*The "blog" can be found at: [anonymouslawyer.blogspot.com](http://anonymouslawyer.blogspot.com)*

The Opinion

Healthcare Brought to Forefront as Group Looks to Form  
IL Takes on Leadership Role, Plans to Coordinate a Health Law Student Group

By Caroline Brancatella, '07

It is not exactly headline news that health care, or more importantly how to manage and pay for it, is a matter of national concern. From a disarming infant mortality rate to the high cost of prescription drugs for financially strapped seniors health care policies and services are important to nearly all citizens.

With the uncertain future of social security and government programs such

as Medicare and Medicaid, understanding the intricacies and issues surrounding health bodes well for the possibility of future gainful employment.

Not only is University at Buffalo Law School half the price of almost every other law school in New York, it is also the only school in the state to offer dual degrees in law and a Masters of Public Health. UB is only one of seven law schools in the country to offer such a pro-

gram.

In existence only since 2001, the program sets UB Law apart in a field of growing importance where expertise in the legal issues surrounding health care will be much in demand during the coming decades.

For those uninterested in spending an extra year in the classroom, UB Law also offers a Health Law concentration

Continued on page 6

Courses to Examine Technology's Influence on Culture:

Cyberspace fertile ground for knowledge, lust, commerce & crime, UB faculty members say

BUFFALO, NY—The Internet, mobile technologies and new-media technologies may be the most influential drivers of cultural change in American society today, according to Buffalo faculty members offering courses this semester exploring the social and cultural consequences of information and communication technologies.

The courses -- "The Age of Information," "Cyberporn and Society," "Technology Law and Cyberspace" and "Elements of Machine Culture" -- will examine how new technologies are shaping culture and changing human behavior. A wide range of technology-driven topics and issues will be covered, some of which -- such as obscenity and free speech, privacy and intellectual property -- often are debated during periods of significant cultural or technological change; while other issues -- cybercrime, virtual reality, spam and artificial intelligence -- are new to the cultural landscape.

The UB School of Informatics, in particular, is committed to the study of how information, technology and people interact within a variety of cultures, according to Penniman. The school is one of only two in the U.S. to have "informatics" -- roughly defined as the

intersection of people, information and technology -- as its focus and in its name.

"The Age of Information" and "Cyberporn and Society," are three-credit, undergraduate elective courses being offered by faculty in the School of Informatics, which also is offering the graduate-level course "Online Gaming Research."

"Cyberporn and Society" will examine the role of pornography in the development of the Internet and related technologies, and how the prevalence of cyberporn has affected social structure, mores and expectations, according to Informatics instructor Alexander Halavais.

"This course is not about how to appreciate, criticize or produce pornography," explains Halavais. "We'll look at the interaction between pornography and technology; the effects of pornography on society; and the effect of the cyberporn industry on the emergence of new media," he says.

While a course on cyberporn may on the surface seem sensationalistic, the topic, according to Penniman, has serious academic value and continues a long academic tradition of examining emerging societal trends, including trends involving controversial subjects like sex, prostitution and pornography in banned literature

and in other media, such as videotapes, televised movies on demand and online "escort" services.

"Any serious scholar concerned with the evolution and diffusion of technology must consider the significant role adult material and even prostitution have played in the adoption of new technologies," he says. "The role of pornography, and especially cyberporn in the age of the Internet, must be a significant concern for students who will be our leaders in shaping future research, legislation and policies."

The emergence of cybercrime and the creation of laws and policies to regulate cyberspace are of special interest to Law School professor Robert Reis, who will teach "Technology Law and Cyberspace" in the Law School this semester.

According to Reis, the anonymity and vast reach of cyberspace, combined with the enabling power of new technologies, has given people new opportunity to behave outside the moral, or legal, constraints of society.

"Cyberspace is fertile ground for the amoral, immoral and unscrupulous to ply their trades," Reis says.

Moreover, "there's a whole subculture of people who feel entitled to break the law -- by copying a music CD, defaming a person or business online or hacking into a

computer -- because the technology has empowered them to do so, without fear of being detected," he adds.

Behavior in cyberspace is a major concern to lawyers, Reis says, because much of the legal system depends on voluntary compliance, with the sense that if you harm someone you will be detected, identified and prosecuted. Reis says the legal system eventually will catch up to technology. He expects new laws will be created to further regulate cyberspace and monitor the activities of people who venture there.

Within the UB Department of Media Studies, "Elements of Machine Culture" will take a more conceptual approach to technology's influence on culture. According to instructor Marc Böhlen, assistant professor of media study, the course will focus on "cultural aspects of technologies and the desire for and belief in the 21st century machine," from coffee grinders to automobiles to mobile phones and autonomous robots.

"The course will follow the conception and history of the machine from the monastery bell to the latest humanoid robot," Böhlen explains. His students will be asked to critically contemplate, via case studies, select technologies, and to examine the consequences -- conceptual, economic and social -- of automation in general. -- *UB News-wire*.

## OPINIONS &amp; COMMENTARY

## We All Got History: A Look at "Negro History Week"

By Ricky Johnson, '06

Every February Black History Month comes along and some people take the time to learn more about the history of the people of African descent. However, there is a growing number of people who see no need for Black History. Many Blacks themselves even say that they don't want to celebrate Black History Month because its in February and that's the shortest month of the year. However, before people jump on this bandwagon they should realize that this thinking is inaccurate.

Black History originated in 1926 as "Negro History Week" because it was supposed to fall between Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass birthdays. However, February is known for more than these two men's birthdays. It happens to be W.E.B. Dubois' is birthday. W.E.B. Dubois was the first black to obtain a Ph.D from Harvard and one of the founders of the NAACP. It is also the month which the 15<sup>th</sup> amendment was passed which granted black the right to vote. It was created by Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson who is considered the father of African Studies.

Black History month can be used as a catalyst for uplifting all black people. It is only when we study the history of Black people we learn of their greatness. As Marcus Garvey once put, "Rise Up You Might Race, you can accomplish what you wish. When you look at the strength and accom-

plishes black people have had in spite of a history of oppression from slavery, Jim Crow, and racism it is quite admirable. However, it is also important to look at the history of black people before the Atlantic Slave Trade. The history of the great peoples of Egypt (Upper, Lower Nubia), Cush (Ancient Ethiopia), Timbuktu, the Babylonians, and the Phoenicians is a history of many remarkable cultures. According to the book "Young, Gifted and Black," few educators know that there were three Nile Valley Centers of Education in Africa before European or other penetration into the continent in Ancient Egypt, Nubia, and Ethiopia.

There is also a great history of African Americans which has not always been realized. Many people rightly acknowledge the greatness of Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, and Malcolm X, but rarely seem to delve deeper into the history of the many great people before them and after them. Even before the fiery street preacher and activist Malcolm X proclaimed that the Jesus was black, there was Henry McNeil Turner. Bishop Henry McNeil Turner said, "we have as much right biblically and otherwise to believe that God is a Negro, as you buckra or white people have to believe that God is a fine looking, symmetrical and ornamented white man." Even before Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat, there was Ida B. Wells who was an advocate, activist and writer for African Americans as well as a suffragist for females. W.E.B. Dubois once wrote, "throughout history the

powers of a single black men flash here and there like falling stars and die before the world has rightly gauged their brightness."

I realize that Black History month may not be considered politically correct by both liberals and conservatives. However, this may be one of the most useful ways of uplifting black people so that they realize that they do not have to depend on whites because they have been great throughout history. It is not to say that one culture is better than another but to show that blacks have had cultures equally as great as Greece, Rome, and Europe, China, Japan and Asia. I think the study of any cultures history is important. It is equally important for Blacks Americans to know of the British roots of our judicial system, the Greek origins of our democracy.

I may be so bold as to say that a National History Month for all cultures is not such a bad idea. Yet, I believe Dr. Carter G. Woodson may be rolling over in his grave because today it seems that the greatest gain from Black history has been a myth. Negro History Week and now Black History Month should be used as a mechanism for uplifting blacks, and educating Americans of the greatest of black people.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Conservative Corner offers Different Perspective at Law School**

Dear Editor,

I came across an article in your paper, "The Conservative Corner's Fiction" (Vol. 43 Issue 3), and I must say I was extremely disappointed with your "review" of the new newsletter on campus. In the interest of full disclosure, I am a writer for the "Conservative Corner." I read the headline and I felt proud that our newsletter was stirring the pot. I was hopeful that we had inspired open debate about issues. Mr. Whittaker, however, isn't looking for a debate; he just wants everyone to know how unintelligent and wrong we are for disagreeing with him.

Mr. Whittaker doesn't like us because of our "tired rhetoric." I can see how he has become disillusioned by our rhetoric when we describe our opponents as "misleading, erroneous, and uninformed," and use words like "bigotry, extremism, fear, jingoism, subversion of human rights, and a continued dismantling of international law" to describe our opponents positions. Oops? wait a minute? that was Mr. Whittaker's rhetoric about us. He even runs back to the same old unfounded cheap shots about Fox News; likening the ideas in the Conservative Corner to those on the cable network. Even though Fox News has nothing to do with our paper and I don't see where it fits into the debate, he returns to the tried and true way to defeat a conservative in an argument; say they are like Fox News. I'm sure it was nothing more than a slip of the pen, since Mr. Whittaker is only interested "well thought out and serious presentation[s]" of political debate and not "tired rhetoric." Keep trying Mr. Whittaker.

Even if it is accepted as true (I know this assumption seriously stretches the bounds of reality) that all his facts and positions on the issues are the correct ones, all it proves is that we have a policy disagreement.

Simply because you don't like our policy positions doesn't mean the Conservative Corner is a bunch of rhetoric. It means that there is a debate happening that wasn't here before that you should get in on. That's good, that's what we are here for. In my opinion your views are wrong, but I'm glad you put them out there. I can accept that we disagree and still be respectful of you and your paper. I only wish you can do the same.

Aren't liberals supposed to be the tolerant ones anyway? —Chris Ferratella, '05

**Law School softball team forming to compete in annual Virginia tournament**

Dear Editor,

I would like to use this forum to let other law students know about the University of Virginia's Annual Softball Tournament. Each year, UVA hosts almost 100 teams of law students and law faculty members from around the country for a weekend-long softball tournament in Charlottesville, Virginia.

The Law School has participated in this event in the past, and this year, the SBA has decided to take part again. The tournament runs from Friday, April 1 through Sunday, April 3. SBA President, Mike Mann, has secured funding to cover the cost of the entry fees from a generous sponsorship deal with *BarBri*, and we will hold a bar night and other fundraisers this semester to raise money for the team. While each participant will have to pay a little money out of pocket, it will be well worth it.

Participants will get the chance to visit Virginia, meet law students from around the country, attend a barbeque on Saturday and a tournament party on Saturday night. We will be holding an informational meeting on February 9 at 5:30pm in the SBA office, room 101. If you have interest, you must attend the meeting or contact me directly at [cmurphy2@buffalo.edu](mailto:cmurphy2@buffalo.edu), so that we can gauge how many people would like to attend. If there is enough interest, we will enter more than one team.

There are no try-outs, this is a fun trip where everyone will have a chance to play, drink, have fun, network with other law students, represent the Law School, oh and kick some butt.

For those who are not interested in traveling to Virginia, keep your eyes open for SBA spring intramurals in a variety of different sports, and remember just because it is winter doesn't mean you cannot work-out and stay healthy.

—Colleen Murphy, '06, SBA Athletics Chair.

### Students Wanted for Leadership Positions with the ABA Law Student Division

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## In the Supreme Court: *Death Row and Foreign Nationals*

By Jenny Mills, Editor, '05

In December the Supreme Court granted certiorari to hear the case of Medellin v. Dretke. This case involves the rights of foreign nationals to consular assistance when detained in a foreign country. It will have significant ramifications for foreign nationals on death row. More importantly, it will establish just how far the Supreme Court is willing to be led by international law and the extent to which the US is willing to honor its treaties.

- **Article 36 and the ICJ**

In the Spring of 2004, the International Court of Justice ruled that the United States was in violation of Article 36 of the Vienna Convention. Article 36 requires authorities in a detaining State to notify, without delay, a detained foreign national of his right to request assistance from consul of his own state and if the foreign national requests it, to notify that consular post of his detention. It also allows the consul to arrange for legal representation of the detainee. The United States has signed and ratified both the Vienna Convention and the Optional Protocol which says that any disputes over the convention will be settled by the ICJ.

Mexico took the United States to court over its failure to implement Article 36 in the case of 51 foreign nationals on death row. The case, Avena and Other Mexican Nationals was argued in 2003 and decided in March of 2004. The ICJ held that the US failed to inform foreign nationals of their Vienna Convention rights and that the US must provide "review and reconsideration" for convictions and sentences in violation of Article 36. Additionally, it held that the Vienna Convention gives individuals rights and that the procedural default rule under the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (the AEDPA) violates these rights.

- **Breard, LaGrand, and back again**

Since the Avena decision was reached, the Mexican parties to the suit have tried to appeal their convictions and sentences unsuccessfully. The courts have relied on old case law, particularly Breard v. Greene, and the procedural default rule under the AEDPA to deny the foreign nationals their rights. In Breard, the Supreme Court held that the petitioner (a Paraguayan) could not be granted habeas relief based on failure to conform to the rules laid out in Article 36. During consideration of the case, the government of Paraguay instituted proceedings against the US. The ICJ noted jurisdiction and requested a stay of execution until the matter was decided. The Supreme Court failed to intervene, noting that Breard could not raise his argument based on Article 36 violations for two reasons: (1) he did not litigate the matter in the state courts, therefore the procedural default rule barred him from raising it on the federal level, and (2) even if he were able to raise the claim, it would be so novel, that it would be barred under Teague v. Lane. The execution went ahead as planned and Paraguay later dropped its suit against the US in exchange for certain trade favors.

Since Breard, courts have been loathe to give any credence to claims based on Article 36 violations. The procedural default rule has been cited as the major obstacle in the way for the petitioners. One has to wonder at the logic in barring these claims when the majority of the time, the petitioners are not informed of their rights until long after the state appeals have been lost. Failure to inform a foreign national of their rights and then denying them a hearing on the merits of what is essentially the government's mistake seems untenable.

The claims raised in Breard were raised in front of the ICJ again in 2001, this time on the behalf of Walter LaGrand, a German national, sentenced to death for his involvement in the robbery and murder of a bank employee. La-

Grand and his brother, Karl, were convicted and sentenced to death in 1984. Not until 1998 were they formally notified of their Article 36 rights. Germany filed suit against the US in March of 1999 after the first of the LaGrand brothers was executed. Walter LaGrand was executed shortly thereafter, with the Supreme Court once again failing to intervene. Unlike Paraguay, the German government insisted on continuing the litigation and in 2001, the ICJ ruled that the brothers' Article 36 rights were violated and that they were conferred individual rights under the Vienna Convention. It also addressed the question of procedural default rules, but unlike in Avena, it limited the discussion to whether or not the rules violated the brothers' rights in this specific instance. The ICJ held that the procedural default rule did violate their rights but it did not say that the rule constituted a per se violation, leaving the door open for the US to continue to use the AEDPA as justification for denying any and all appeals based on Article 36 claims.

This all changed drastically with the ICJ's ruling in Avena, which held explicitly that the procedural default rule would fail to comply with their order for review and reconsideration. In response to this ruling, a number of claims have been raised in the federal courts, by Mexican nationals seeking to have their convictions and sentences reviewed. The results have been mixed and therefore the decision in the upcoming Medellin v. Dretke will provide some clarification. Of note however are two important decisions rendered by the states in between Avena and Medellin.

- **Medellin and the Supreme Court**

The grant of certiorari to Medellin signifies trouble for the Supreme Court. Medellin, convicted and sentenced to death for his participation in the gang rape and murder of two Texan teenagers, was also a party to the Avena case

and is appealing on Article 36 grounds. His appeal to the 5<sup>th</sup> circuit was denied by that court based on the idea that Breard was controlling precedent even though it was decided long before Avena. The court also maintained that the Vienna Convention does not confer individual rights despite what the ICJ says. The court says that they are bound by prior decisions like Breard until the court sitting en banc or the Supreme Court decide otherwise.

The case is now before the Supreme Court. Numerous amicus briefs have been filed by noted experts in international law, many of the same experts involved in the Avena case. Ultimately the Court must decide just how much credibility they want to give to the ICJ and to the treaties they have signed. Supporters of Medellin argue that this case will have a significant impact on both how the world views the US and on the lives of US citizens here and abroad. If the US is to decide that they will no longer accept the jurisdiction of the ICJ nor be bound by the treaties they have signed, US citizens living abroad will be placed in a precarious position, as their rights to consular assistance will be terminated. In the alternative, opponents argue that if the Court is to accept the decision by the ICJ, upwards of 45 capital cases will have to be re-opened and re-tried, with societal and financial impacts for those in the communities touched by these cases. The courts will also likely be faced with other requests for review and reconsideration from some of the other 70 or so foreign nationals on death row that were not represented under Avena. However it seems like having to review and reconsider the convictions of foreign nationals, i.e. honor our treaties and be bound by a court we agreed to be bound by, is a small price to pay to protect our citizens abroad and ensure that we continue to play by the rules and maintain our integrity on the international scene.

## Why Conservatives Hate Freedom

By Justin Whittaker, '06

Catchy title, huh? Thank you to all the well-wishers on both sides of the political spectrum who presented their admiration of my dismantling of the Conservative Manifesto in my last piece, *The Conservative Corner's Fiction*. At last count most U.B. Law students offered support and encouragement as a result of the piece. You know what that's called, don't ya? "Mandate." And who am I to ignore such a call to service? As such, I will continue to shoot holes and burn down the bridges leading to reconciliation. Hey, I'm sorry, but it's easy. Again, I thank you for your comments; they are appreciated.

Jeff Paycheck elected to disregard the tools of creating a serious argument in his piece entitled *In Defense of Adam and Eve*, and opted rather for soft, simplistic, and conclusory rationales as to why same-sex couples should be denied the same legal benefits as heterosexual couples.

Try as one may, it is difficult to grant serious consideration to the piece's "arguments" given its cop-out disclaimer in paragraph five, which states that we should all participate in a respectful dialogue concerning the topic at hand. However, the entirety of the preceding diatribe against same-sex unions is comprised of disrespectful misconceptions and juvenile stereotypes. It was disappointing to read a piece, which was allegedly drafted with

the intent to "get the conversations started" *Defense* at para 5, where no compelling source material or support to generate the purportedly desired dialogue was introduced. Instead, the piece meekly points to Judeo-Christian rationales as to why same-sex unions should be prohibited, and that the will of the majority should dictate to whom equal protection is afforded. Mr. Paycheck misunderstands the nature of equal protection, while at the same time passing off religious ideology as conclusive fact.

The piece seeks to justify its irrational stance on arbitrary discrimination by pointing to the anti-gay marriage referendum passed by the voters in eleven states in the November election. In a response to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's "screaming" that "fundamental human rights should never be put up for a vote," the piece claims that "the people of the United States are screaming back that gay marriage is not a fundamental human right." *Id* at para 2. Note that the use of the word "screaming" rarely appears in respectful dialogues. The piece clearly rejects the established principle that *human rights is not in the hands of the electorate*. Human rights exists because majorities historically tend to define equal protection in socially convenient terms. It is puzzling that the piece takes pride in its lack of understanding of this area of law.

The Equal Protection and Due Process Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment states that:

"All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws. [emphasis added]."

The piece, through its assessment of same-sex unions, effectively advocates denying equal protection to "all persons" subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. As such, the piece seeks to define homosexuals as not being "persons" within the meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment. Again, it is difficult to reconcile this activist definition with the piece's call for a respectful dialogue, where it is evident that the piece has nothing but *disrespect* for homosexuals. If homosexuals are not "persons" within the meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment, what are they? Are they 99/100ths of a person? Are they 3/5ths of a person?

Next, the piece inquires, "should moms and dads be optional?" and then asserts that "we've seen the same results in single-parent situations and children need a mom and a dad." *Defense* at para 3. It is unclear to which results this statement refers, as no information is

provided. However, as evidence of... something..., the piece cites the conclusions of admitted homophobe Dr. James Dobson, the evangelical founder of the conservative Christian organization, Focus on the Family. Dr. Dobson is a regular favorite of fair and balanced Fox News host Sean Hannity <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,138571,00.html>, and states that "there is no civil right to deny children their mothers or fathers, which is exactly what every same-sex home does." *Defense* at para 3, citing [www.family.org](http://www.family.org). It should be noted that Dr. Dobson holds no accredited training in theology, yet professes that his alleged command of biblical teaching, justifies imposing his version of morality on secular society and government. He attempts to justify his animosity towards homosexuals by attempting to link them to societal ills, arguing that:

"...the homosexual agenda, pornography and gambling are among the front burner issues that threaten the foundation of the family." <http://www.family.org/welcome/aboutfof/a0007486.cfm#government>.

It is difficult to accept Dr. Dobson's and the piece's wholly unsupported assertions, given the results of the following study commissioned by the National Adoption Information Clearinghouse, a sub-agency of the United States Department of Health:

Continued on page 5

# Why Conservatives Hate Freedom

Continued from page 4

Continued—"Children of gay or lesbian parents are no different than their counterparts raised by heterosexual parents. In 'Children of Lesbian and Gay Parents,' a 1992 article in *Child Development*, Charlotte Patterson states, 'Despite dire predictions about children based on well-known theories of psychosocial development, and despite the accumulation of a substantial body of research investigating these issues, not a single study has found children of gay or lesbian parents to be disadvantaged in any significant respect relative to children of heterosexual parents.'" [http://naic.acf.hhs.gov/pubs/f\\_gay/f\\_gayb.cfm](http://naic.acf.hhs.gov/pubs/f_gay/f_gayb.cfm).

Furthermore, the same commission found that:

"There is no legitimate scientific research connecting homosexuality and pedophilia . . . In a study of 269 cases of child sex abuse, only two offenders were found to be gay or lesbian. More relevant was the finding that of the cases involving molestation of a boy by a man, seventy-four percent of the men were or had been in a heterosexual relationship with the boys mother or another female relative. The conclusion was found that 'a child's risk of being molested by his or her relative's heterosexual partner is over one hundred times

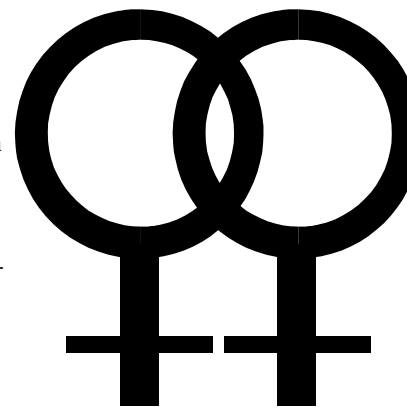
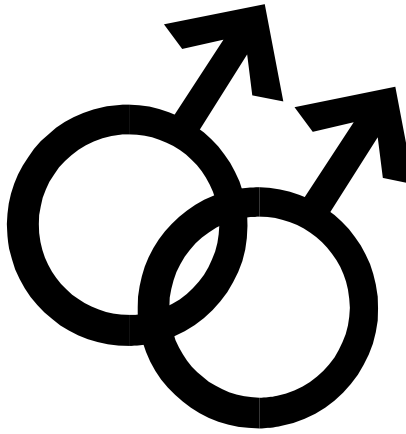
greater than by someone who might be identifiable as being homosexual.'" *Id.*

Conveniently, the piece fails to enquire into *actual* societal phenomenon, like divorce rates among heterosexual couples in the United States, when propagating it's "sanctity of the family" argument. Please consider the following inconvenient statistics:

"The National Center for Health Statistics recently released a report which found that 43 percent of first marriages end in separation or divorce within 15 years. The study is based on the National Survey of Family Growth, a nationally representative sample of women age 15 to 44 in 1995." <http://www.divorcereform.org/rates.html>, citing the 2002 United States Census Report.

Additionally, according to the conservative activist organization, Americans for Divorce Reform

"The number of children involved in divorces and annulments stood at 6.3 per 1,000 children under 18 years of age in 1950, and 7.2 in 1960. By 1970 it had increased to 12.5; by 1975, 16.7; by 1980, the rate stood at 17.3, a 175 percent increase from 1950. Since in 1972, one million American children every year have seen their parents divorce" [emphasis added]. <http://www.divorcereform.org/chilrate.html>.



Next, the piece states that "same-sex advocates are not merely seeking out marriage for themselves; they are *requiring* that everyone change their ideas about family" [emphasis added]. *Defense* at para 3. "Requiring?" Here the piece chooses hyperbole over supporting its conclusion with anything remotely substantive. Rather than engage in a serious discussion, the author elects to engage in baiting the irrational fears of those willing to buy the rhetoric. I challenge the author to take a step beyond the unsophisticated rhetoric and move in the direction of providing *objective* documented support for his assertions.

The piece asserts that the "movement" his not anti-gay, but it is merely "anti-gay MARRIAGE." *Defense* at para 4. The piece would have us believe that it is not opposed to homosexuals; it merely takes the position that they shouldn't have the same legal rights as everyone else, regardless of what the Constitution says, and regardless of the principle of "liberty and justice for all." Again, the piece justifies its assertions not with fact or legal principles, but with religious ideology.

Finally, the piece defends its enumerated and dubious assertions by stating that "claiming that everyone not in agreement with you is a homophobe is not a valid argument, so please try some original rationale for your opinion." *Id* at para 5. This is a confusing statement considering that no original arguments have been pre-

sented in defense of its assertions. The piece merely presents simplistic and clichéd religious justifications with no objective support, and the unsubstantiated conclusions of Dr. Dobson, as its "original rationale." Dobson stated on CNN's "Larry King Live" on September 5, 2003 (following the *Lawrence v. Texas* decision) that same-sex couples "will destroy the family, which will destroy the nation, and I think eventually have a major impact on Western Civilization . . . The research shows that they have as many as 300 to 1,000 partners in a lifetime."

What research? Who knows?

When *Paycheck's Podium* presents anything more than myopic stereotypes and sophomoric inanities passed off as "argument," then serious consideration will be afforded those arguments. Until then the *Podium* is in no credible position to dictate the terms of what is and what is not valid discussion. Animus, ignorance, and fear directed toward homosexuals is little more than modern day Jim Crow extremism and presents a clear and disturbing picture of the modern right-wing agenda, and how out of touch it clearly is.

Try again.

- Justin Whittaker, 2L, is an Opinion staff columnist and can be reached at [pysch\\_rock@yahoo.com](mailto:pysch_rock@yahoo.com).

Send your Letters to the Editor at [UB.Opinion@gmail.com](mailto:UB.Opinion@gmail.com)

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ Happy Valentine's Day ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

**Forget your Valentines Day card?**  
**Cut & Color this one for your sweetheart!**



## Cupid Quits Love Business

By Michael J. Fornasiero, '07

After more than two millennia of matchmaking, Cupid today announced that he was hanging up his bow and arrow and filing for bankruptcy protection. In a press release, Cupid, also known as Dr. Love during the 1970s, blamed the decision on the high cost of matchmaking malpractice insurance. "As a minor deity in an era of frivolous lawsuits, I no longer can afford to provide the public with the level of service that they have come to expect," wrote Cupid. "Last year I spent more time in court than I spent behind my bow and arrow. The era of not-for-profit matchmaking is over."

In the United States, matchmaking malpractice lawsuits have largely tracked divorce rates, with more than a million such suits filed since last Valentine's Day alone.

Next week, the Supreme Court is expected to rule in favor of a Florida mother suing Cupid over "wrongful attraction" between her daughter and her cell phone. Such a ruling could have far reaching implications for Cupid, opening the courts to all manner of plaintiffs, from pets to pantsuits.

Pheromone futures soared on Cupid's announcement, and retailers across the country reported record sales for Twister and archery supplies. Meanwhile, media-related stocks plunged on worries that one of its most successful plot lines - "falling in love" - had gone the way of the Dodo.

Fresh from a meeting with Hollywood screenwriters, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger was uncharacteristically subdued. "I don't

know what were going to do. Maybe more violence," the governor said. "This changes everything. We're living in a post-2/14 world. Yes. Maybe more violence."

In Italy, a teary-eyed Brad Pitt spoke fondly of the erstwhile matchmaker. The actor, fresh from his highly publicized split from hairdo-next-door Jennifer Aniston, said, "Jennifer and I only fell in love for the publicity. I wish people would stop blaming Cupid. He had nothing to do with it. I love Cupid."

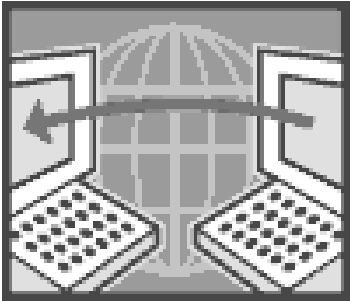
Known for his support of love-leaning causes like Habitat for Humanity and Amnesty International, Cupid spent most of last year campaigning for failed presidential candidate John Kerry. Just days before the election, Kerry was forced to distance himself from Cupid when Attorney General John Ashcroft revealed that Cupid was under investigation for his role in Britney Spears' second wedding and love in general. Critics accused the White House of playing the "love card" in a cynical attempt to mobilize conservative voters.

At a Niagara Falls' press conference early this morning, Cupid, who made his first match in 117 B.C., shrugged off suggestions that the investigation had something to do with his decision. "It's just time to move on. Maybe I'll write an advice column. Who knows? Maybe I'll fall in love with myself."

Lawyers for fellow deity Narcissus quickly threatened to file suit.—  
 Michael Fornasiero can be reached at [mjf29@buffalo.edu](mailto:mjf29@buffalo.edu).

**The Editor's View**

This issue's unintentional focus on technology issues has the editors thinking about where the Law School is in the "wired" category amongst its peers and where we should be going. In recent years, **Dean Olsen** and Assistant Dean for Information Technology **Alex Dzadur** have taken this school out of the 1970s and brought us up to speed for the new millennium. They both deserve a lot of credit as we have set the campus standard for wireless technology in the classrooms and the Law School building. However, there is still much more to do.



Take American University's Kogod School of Business, who recently announced that they will be the first business school in the world to provide BlackBerry 7100t phones and T-Mobile HotSpot wireless broadband service to 300 of their graduate business students and faculty. Beginning February 1, graduate students who are admitted for fall and pay their tuition deposit, will receive a BlackBerry 7100t and access to HotSpot Service.

Imagine, while prospective students are weighing their options on which law school to attend, only to receive a package in the mail from UB Law with their very own BlackBerry. American University's BlackBerry 7100t will have a Real Simple Streaming (RSS) reader to access streams of Web content including, coursework, admissions information, job listings, and other internal information. In addition to providing this service for students who have yet to step foot on the AU campus, the BlackBerry and streaming information will be fully integrated into the business school's academic program.

UB's version could be a direct link to the admissions office, faculty and current students. Reading assignments could be completed "on the go" and students could receive the latest information about housing and student loans.

Sure this is a *very* expensive way to recruit top students and the only unique technology is the ability to check email and internet content wherever you may be. We say, so what? After all, what is the *real* use of wireless technology in the classrooms—except for keeping tabs on our email while professors drone on.

BlackBerrys for newly admitted students are likely way off in the distant future, but the unique programs used by business schools should make their way into our law school.

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*Jazz Night*

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Pearl Street Brewery • 8-11pm • \$10 in advance • \$12 at the door

Featuring the Faculty/ Student Band "Class Action"

**Healthcare Brought to Forefront as Student Group Looks to Form**

*Continued from p. 2*—starting in the second year of study. The concentration requires 9 hours of credit work. A clinic in Elder Law is also available.

Since a focus on health law is so particular to UB Law and something that stands out to future employers, a number of students have decided that the time is right for a Health Law Student Organization.

"The benefit of a health law organization at UB would be an organization for students who share an interest in legal issues which relate to health and the health care industry," says 1L Michelle Daubert who is leading the effort to establish the new student group.

"Participation in the health law organization will be a way for students to learn more about health law

and policy. Additionally, the focus will be on exploring career opportunities in health law. As a new organization, we hope to invite guest speakers from the community to UB, have discussions on current health law issues, and perhaps set up a mentorship program," she continues.

Daubert emphasizes that she is looking for interested students to help develop ideas for what activities and experiences the new organization could offer to those who hope to become involved in health related fields and to the school at large. She invites anyone who would like to be involved to please contact her at [daubert@buffalo.edu](mailto:daubert@buffalo.edu).

**Movie Night with the Student Bar Association presents:**

**"The Paper Chase"**

**Tuesday, February 15th  
8pm**

**Student Union Theater  
Free for Students & Friends**



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**Save the date...**

**Barrister Ball**

**April 16, 2005**

**Hosted by the Student Bar Association**

# Tara's Survey: Giving Back to the Law School When We are Rich

By Tara Pinkham '06

We are all trudging through the halls of UB Law School practically everyday. Sometimes, life outside of its four walls does not exist. It is important to think outside of O'Brian's four walls. We need to think of our monetarily rich future and rich future which will mean giving money back to UB Law. I asked several law students such a question. When you are a rich attorney, what type of "fund" would you set up in your name to improve the law school and the educational experience at UB? It must be noted that "fund" was used in the most loose sense of the word.

The most popular response was to create a permanent source of funding to public interest summer interns who work unpaid over the summer. It is obvious that I asked many people from our school's **Buffalo Public Interest Law Program**. These students, however, make a great point. **Jessica Keltz** noted that, "students have to count on the proceeds of a fundraiser for their summer pay. Lots of students come to UB instead of bigger, fancier schools in order to save money so they can pursue a career in public interest law." Other students wanted to hire a full time public interest staff person to help manage BPILP's efforts. **Robert Middlemiss** explained that this staff member will be responsible for BPILP and would focus on finding public interest opportunities for students."

An unsurprising common complaint I encountered while asking students this survey regarded the bathrooms throughout the school. **Jennifer**

**Hyatt** recognized that "It's obvious the building was designed when there was a much lower number of women in the law school. There's always a line between classes and I think it's crazy that some floors only have one, gender segregated stall." Both **Michael Mann** and **Leah Mervine** adamantly support a "renew the bathroom fund." Leah has already ambitiously planned out the designs for "The Leah Mervine Water Closets." She explained "I will donate money so that bathrooms will be renovated to include ventilation systems, new toilets and aesthetically pleasing fixtures. I will send UB pictures of the bathroom from the Mercury Lounge in the Warehouse District of Cleveland and have the person that designed that restroom to design them for UB Law!" I was worried there would be a dilemma over who we would name the bathrooms after given it's two staunch reporters. Fortunately, Mike Mann came up with a solution like he always does. He will have the boy's bathroom named after him, while Leah will have the girl's name after her.

**Sarah Redzic, Nicole Haff, and Christine King** would put their hard earned money for a law student only parking lot that is very close to the building. This would be complimented by exquisite snow removal sponsored. Christine made a great argument for a law student only parking lot. She explained that "law students have a lot more

Many students said that they create funds to make UB more aesthetically pleasing. Have you ever noticed the lack of windows in UB? **Meredith Conner** wants to remedy this problem

by giving the school a \$100,000 to "start pounding out a lot of holes." She explained that these windows created in her name better be big and "not little peepholes or skylights." **Liz Kraengel** would create a fund for the landscaping and aesthetic pleasures. Liz's fund would be greatly appreciated as it would be great to have some grass amid all these bricks.

The law school café could use a little work as well. I suggest that we have a full food selection, not vending machine slop. I would fund full-time caterers and cooks to make us wonderful food for our long studying nights. I would also fund a microwave that is self-cleaning so I would not have to look at the nasty stains left by other people's food. **Nicole Haff** would compliment my idea by creating a fund to have plastic ware and paper towels available in the café. Nicole's idea is probably the most practical I encountered while administering this survey.

There were other funding suggestions that surprised me. Like, **Greg Stein** and **Christine King** advocated for setting up a bar in the law school. Don't you spend enough time here? I would not want to hang around to socialize at school too. But Greg had a good point, "Students need a convenient place to go and get liquored up after classes." I am sure the 1Ls could benefit from an in-school bar after writing their appellate briefs.

Another bizarre funding idea came from **Brooke Kirkland**. I am sure that we have all recognized the **Hodgson Russ** classroom on the first floor. Apparently, the 2ls who were in section B

last year had too many classes in that room which spurred Brooke to scream "knock out 106 and put in one of those bouncy air-filled play pens for adults... good to let out steam and gets rid of the damn room." Do I feel a little animosity toward the Hodgson Russ room?

Who could neglect our library. A few students wanted to set up a various library funds, some for hiring full time staff to monitor the printers and hand out the print jobs. **Todd Chard** would like the library to be open twenty-four hours. Then **David Frech** would set up the "David Frech Vacuum the Library Fund." This fund was spurred by his observation that "I don't think it has been vacuumed since the mid 1980's. Maybe that's because the vacuums would get stuck on the duct tape holding the rugs together."

Other people have a more protectionist attitude toward our library. Take **Justin Whittaker**, who is angered by all of the undergrads who use our library. Upon giving the school a million dollars, he would enact the Undergraduate Student Enhancement Act (SEA), which would be better entitled "Ban All Undergraduates from the Law Library Act." In his well-articulated act, under Art. I, all undergraduate students found (a) sleeping, (b) breathing, or (c) existing in the library shall be systematically persecuted and tortured.. His fund would also hire SEA enforcement officers.

So law students, think hard! We will be out in the real world soon, it is not too early to think about giving money to UB Law. You might as well start being creative! - Tara Pinkham can be reached at [tpinkham@buffalo.edu](mailto:tpinkham@buffalo.edu).

## ♥ ♥ ♥ LAW SCHOOL (valentines Love) HOROSCOPES ♥ ♥ ♥

By Tracey Stephen '06 (Law Student Extraordinaire & Psychic)

### ARIES

(March 20–April 19):

You are confident as you drift through your own emotions and dream about the love you have or the perfect love in your future. Even if you are driven now to go out and make a relationship happen, don't do it for the wrong reasons. You only live once, and sometimes it is better to be alone than to be with someone that you are not truly happy with.

### TAURUS

(April 20–May 20):

Your mental and physical mind is being shaken by the emotions of the Moon this month. You could be persuaded to throw caution to the wind and move steadily toward making your relationship more meaningful for both you and your partner. But be wary of using others for your own sensory enjoyment without considering their needs.

### GEMINI

(May 21–June 20):

You Twins are surely the cleverest in all of law school, and now you need to add a new trick to your bag of magic. It's time for you to learn how to be more sensitive and sympathetic. Although this knowledge can hurt you, it is important for you to be more open to letting in the pain of someone you love. Don't allow yourself to be distracted by the first thing that comes along. Let your emotions swirl around vividly in your mind, even if they do make you a bit uncomfortable.

### CANCER (June 21–July 22):

You may be in your stay-in-and-chill mode of thinking; however in the long run, you probably won't be content to just let the world pass you by. There's a part of you that sees an opportunity to

get what you want. There could even be a voice in the back of your head reminding you what will happen if you don't go for it. Listen to that small voice. It has your best interest at heart.

### LEO

(July 23–August 22):

You would benefit from sitting quietly thinking about what you most want out of life. Even if you feel self-indulgent, don't negotiate away your heart's desire for temporary enjoyment. Even these short moments of deliberation can be beneficial to your mental and emotional state.

### VIRGO

(August 23–September 22):

It's hard to ask for what you want, especially in a developing romantic relationship. You are so interested in making everything just right that you inadvertently set aside your own needs. Ask yourself what you are really worth, and then lay your needs on the table. The benefits may not be immediately obvious, but the stage is being set for what follows.

### LIBRA

(September 23–October 22):

Don't slip back into your old tricks of self-denial as the feelings ramp up an-

other notch this semester. You are now on the receiving end of intense waves of passion. You can try to bury them deeply within the ocean, but they're going to boil and steam until you bring them closer to the surface. This is your stuff and you need to become inspired by it rather than being fearful.

### SCORPIO

(October 23–November 21):

Your feelings are growing as Valentine's Day approaches. It may also feel as if your emotions are somewhat stuck. Worse yet, old issues that you thought were fully processed can come back to haunt you. On the positive side, opportunities for new conquests -- both professional and emotional -- are present, but you may not be ready. Don't be so hard on yourself. You'll know when the time is right.



### SAGITTARIUS

(November 22–December 21):

Too much indulgence isn't good for you as the second semester of law school gets under way. Since you aren't likely to take advice now, you can overestimate your capacity, so it's important to watch your limits as you eat, drink or "be merry." Remember, your judgment is fuzzy because your attractions are

being magnified. Keep reminding yourself that what you see is not what you will get.

### CAPRICORN

(December 22–January 19):

Don't make assumptions now, for they will get you into trouble later in the semester. You think that you know what is motivating others, but you probably will overestimate their interest in your project or in your life. It's not that they won't participate; it's just that it will be better if they act out of their own free will rather than responding to your coercion.

### AQUARIUS

(January 20–February 18):

Don't rely on others for too much or you may end up being disappointed. If you are not independent in your thinking and actions you may look back and realize that you are just cloning the person you are with or desire to be with. Being truly happy means accepting that not everyone is going to enjoy your quirks. Accept this reality, and your confidence will shine through!

### PISCES

(February 19–March 19):

Others may see you as more energetic and outgoing than you feel. You are motivated now toward extravagance, big plans and sensory fulfillment. In other words, you may be feeling lazy and self-indulgent, but the only path you see for yourself involves expending energy with others. Go ahead and play the game, even if you aren't fully into it. Results will follow and then you can rest.

Have fun this Valentines Day, hopefully you will spend it with someone special.

## Legendary Guitarist Steve Vai to Perform on Campus April 4

BUFFALO, N.Y. -- The Center for the Arts at the University at Buffalo will present Steve Vai at 8 p.m. on April 4 in the Mainstage theater in the Center for the Arts on the UB North (Amherst) Campus.

Vai is best known for his self-composed, performed and produced guitar instrumental music, but he also has played on the recordings of several other rock acts. Vai made his name playing "stunt guitar" with the legendary rock performer, composer, music producer and publishing mogul Frank Zappa. In the early 1980s he replaced Yngwie Malmsteen as lead guitarist in the band Alcatraz. Then he joined former Van Halen front man David Lee Roth's group to record the albums "Eat 'em and Smile" and "Skyscraper." Vai also recorded with British rock legends Whitesnake.

Vai continues to tour regularly, both with his own group and with his one-time teacher and fellow Grammy award-winning guitar instrumentalist Joe Satriani (on the G3 series of tours).

Vai's "Real Illusions Tour" features an all-star band includ-

ing: Billy Sheehan, Tony MacAlpine, Jeremy Colson and Dave Weiner. Bassist and Buffalo native, Sheehan, rose to cult status in the 1980s with his Buffalo based band Talas, and was recruited by David Lee Roth when Roth left Van Halen in 1985. He recorded two platinum selling albums with the former Van Halen front man before setting out on his own to form Mr. Big in 1989. The band achieved a Billboard No. 1 single in the U.S. and 14 other countries with "To Be With You" from their second Atlantic Records album release "Lean Into It." Sheehan has performed over 4,000 live gigs on nearly every continent.

Tickets are \$29, and \$25 for UB students. Tickets are available from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday in the Center for the Arts Box Office and all Ticketmaster locations, including Kaufmann's. To charge tickets, call 852-5000; in Canada, call 1-416-870-8000. For group sales, call at 645-6771. For more information call 645-ARTS. The Center for the Arts is a Ticketfast location.— *UB Newswire*

## National Tour of "Rent" to be performed at UB in February

BUFFALO, N.Y. -- The Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning landmark American musical *Rent*, written by Jonathan Larson and directed by Michael Greif, is coming to the Mainstage Theatre at the Center for the Arts at the University at Buffalo for two performances, Feb. 22-23 at 8 p.m.

Tickets for all performances are on sale now and can be purchased from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday in the Center for the Arts Box Office and all Ticketmaster locations, including Kaufmann's and Ticketmaster.com, or by phone at 852-5000. For group information, contact 645-6771.

Inspired by Puccini's "La Boheme," "Rent" is a joyous, breathtaking and often bittersweet musical that celebrates a community of artists as they struggle with the soaring hopes and tough realities of today's world.

"Rent" is taking the country by storm. Sweeping all major theater awards, including the 1996 Tony Award for Best Musical as well as the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, *Rent* captures the heart and spirit of a generation.

The show received its world premiere off-Broadway at New York Theatre Workshop on Feb. 13, 1996, to ecstatic reviews. It rapidly became a sold-out hit. The show transferred to Broadway on April 29, 1996, and continues to play to standing-room-only audiences. On Feb. 10 this year, "Rent" surpassed "Fiddler on the Roof" to become the 10th-longest running show in Broadway history.

The most honored musical since "A Chorus Line" in 1976, "Rent" is only the fifth musical to ever win both the Pulitzer Prize and the Tony Award.

The success of "Rent" is always tempered by the death of its creator, Jonathan Larson. Larson died unexpectedly of an aortic aneurysm on the morning of Jan. 25, 1996, just hours after "Rent's" final dress rehearsal off-Broadway, and 10 days before his 36th birthday.

Tickets are \$49, \$43 and \$37. Additional show information can be found at [www.rentthetour.com](http://www.rentthetour.com).

—*UB Newswire*

Submit info on your event to:  
[UB.Opinion@gmail.com](mailto:UB.Opinion@gmail.com)

# The Docket

Who: **"Jazz Night"—Sponsored by BPILP and the SBA**

When: Friday, Feb. 11, 8-11pm @ Pearl Street Brewery

Scoop: Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door, should be great to see professors hanging out with students, raising money for a good cause and well, beer.

Who: **Movie Night w/ the SBA presents "A Legal Cult Classic: 'The Paper Chase'"**

When: Tuesday, Feb. 15, 8-10pm @ Student Union Theater

Scoop: This is a FREE event, I repeat FREE! Every law student has been asked if they have seen the "Paper Chase," now you can say yes!

Who: **SBA Welcome Back Bar Night**

When: Thursday, Feb. 17 from 9-12am at "Quote," Downtown Buffalo

Scoop: Never miss an SBA bar night...they are craaaaaazy...

Who: **Buffalo Public Interest Law Program 10th Annual Auction**

When: Friday, Feb. 25 from 7-11pm at the Rich Renaissance Niagara Atrium

Scoop: Tickets are \$25, well worth it after last year's auction. What do you get with top shelf alcohol + the ability to bid on cool items?

Who: **UB Madden 2005 Football Tournament on Playstation 2**

When: Friday, March 4 from 7-1am at Alumni Arena & other campus locations

Scoop: For \$5 dollars you get to show all those trash talkers who REALLY is the best at Madden.

Who: **University of Virginia Law School Annual Softball Tournament**

When: April 1-3 at venues around Charlottesville, VA

Scoop: SBA is putting together at least one team to compete in against law students across the country, keep your eyes open for more info!

Who: **Students of Color Dinner**

When: Friday, April 8 at the Marriott Hotel in Amherst

Scoop: One of the premier events at the law school, wouldn't miss it and neither should you!

Who: **Barristers Ball 2005**

When: Saturday, April 16 at The Statler Hotel, Buffalo

Scoop: How can you miss the prom? Be there or be square.

