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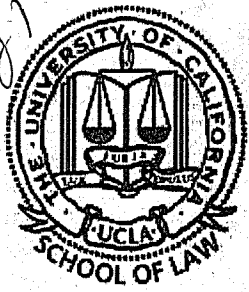
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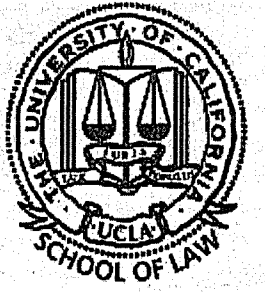
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# THE DOCKET

UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW



*Celebrating 50 years of journalism*

VOLUME 50, NUMBER 2

405 HILGARD AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90095

OCTOBER 2001

## Freedom Under Attack

Padraic McCoy  
Final year law student

Recently, UCLA held a public service in memory of September 11<sup>th</sup>'s tragic incidents in New York, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania. Unfortunate incidents that occurred at that service are worth noting, as they are contrary to all that I thought America was about.

Before the event began, a man was holding an American flag and several signs which read "bomb the taliban," "no haven for the terrorists," and "remember the innocent." A large crowd of people started booing the man because, apparently, they disagreed with his opinions. Immediately, the UCLA Police escorted the man away from the demonstration area, and the crowd began to cheer.

I quickly jumped in between the UCLA police and the man, and started yelling at the crowd, informing them that this man had every right to say what he wants, especially in a public forum, regardless of whether we may disagree with the content of his speech. First, I was booed by the crowd, and told to silence myself. I could not believe that no

one else in that large crowd came to the defense of freedom and liberty.

Members of the crowd then began destroying this man's signs. Sad. Then I was told by the UCLA police that this in fact was a *private* event, and therefore the University had every right to eject this man, and his unpopular beliefs. This, of course, is wrong. The University of California is taxpayer owned, and it is a public place.

I chose to participate in this manner not because I agree with the man's message, but because I believe the terrorist on Tuesday, whether foreign or domestic, attacked not only innocent civilians, but our way of life. A way of life built on the protection of individual political and civil liberties. It's called the "Statute of Liberty," not the "Statute of Liberty as long as your liberties don't conflict with my opinions."

The shedding of innocent blood is, obviously, senseless, and I would not advocate retaliation against the citizenry of any country. God forbid! I was simply trying to protect what was attacked that Tuesday: our freedom!

I welcome your responses. Even the ones with which I may disagree.



I may disagree with what you say,  
but I will defend to the death your right to say it.  
- Voltaire

## Law School Task Force Disbanded

Erika Woods  
2L

Earlier this month law school faculty members and student members of the Law School Community Task Force engaged in a bit of role reversal. For a little over an hour the student task force members played the role of a professor as they lectured faculty and administrators on the ways in which they can contribute to improving the atmosphere at the law school. The primary focus of the Task Force's presentation was to offer suggestions on how to handle sensitive issues that arise inside and outside of the classroom. The presentation was divided into five components: competitiveness, student created discomfort, professor created discomfort, classroom discussions, and student to student interaction outside of the classroom. Using a voluntary Socratic method, the students presented the professors with different scenarios (or "hypos") and offered a range of alternatives as answers to the hypos. The hypothetical would begin with a set of facts that were usually derived from a real life experience. The students would ask the professors to examine three of four potential solutions to the hypo, one of which was always the

incorrect 'do-nothing' method, and to discuss which solution that they felt was most appropriate for dealing with the problem. Professors would also suggest and discuss solutions not offered by the students. One of the more poignant examples used by the students on the topic of professor created discomfort was a criminal law professor who taught the People v. Goetz case without mentioning race at all. While many of the faculty members chuckled at the notion of teaching Goetz without ever mentioning race, the students used the example to show a professor's silence can be more damning or create more tension than a wayward comment.

Overall, both the students and the professors in attendance did a good job of listening to one another and trying to come up with viable solutions to some of the common problems that arise at the law school. I was particularly pleased to see that many of the professors were serious about wanting to get student feedback as evidenced by the number of professors who asked intelligent questions and gave suggestions to their colleagues on how to handle difficult hypos posed by the students. I was also happy to see one of my own professors who attended

the meeting using some of the tips suggested by the students prior to beginning her lecture.

Both the students and attending faculty and administrators should be commended for their willingness to address the problems at UCLAW. Unfortunately their efforts will make at best only a marginal improvement in the law school community. In the wake of SP1 and 2, Proposition 209, and Porngate<sup>1</sup>, UCLAW has not presented itself as a welcoming place for minorities and women. In response to these feelings, the Law School Community Task Force was formed. While the task force was created in hopes of making UCLAW a more comfortable place for everyone, it has failed miserably. Due to the overall lack of people of color and women amongst the faculty as well as the student body, the Task Force never stood a chance. Without a critical mass of students of color within the student body and without a respectable number of women and minority faculty members, the atmosphere inside and outside of the classroom will continue to be unpleasant for some students.

Moreover, the task force was never seriously committed to addressing

the issues that plague the law school community. While the student members and some of the faculty members did an admirable job of trying to make the task force work, the commitment from 'top-brass' administrators was not present, thereby making student efforts futile. According to some student members of the task force, the committee did not meet on a consistent basis at all. The onus was placed on student members to get the task force running, even though a faculty member chaired the task force. Last year the committee only met three or four times and did not have its first meeting until November, after student members of the committee complained that the committee had not held its first meeting.

Admittedly, during the first year of the task force's existence, some reports were created and there seemed to be somewhat of a commitment to making it work. However, the following year, after Porngate became a distant memory and the school had a two-fold increase in African - American students in the first year class (an increase from 2 in the class of 2002 to 5 in the class of 2003), that commitment seemed to disappear. One can only wonder if the existence of the task force was merely the

<sup>1</sup> For the 1L's, Porngate was a scandalous affair in which several members of a 1<sup>st</sup> year section complained to administrators about being disrupted by other students watching on-line pornographic clips while the professor was lecturing. Those students who complained were later harassed by the angry porn watchers.

# EDITORIAL

## In the Name of God

This editorial is in response to several asinine comments made around the law school.

In light of the recent terrorist attacks, we wanted to address the issue of extreme religiosity. First, we know it is obvious, but we feel it needs to be stated: The terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11 are not indicative of Islam.

Why is it that some people in America tend to view Islam as a single, monolithic entity whose adherents are all alike? In this country, where Christianity dominates, no one would ever think that all Christians are alike. We have diverse groups and denominations—Catholic, Lutheran, Baptist, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, and hundreds more, including fringe groups like the Branch Davidians.

Lost in all this talk of a holy war against America is the fact that the Taliban government has declared  *jihad*  against Iran. Why? In part because the Taliban are Sunnis, who have a different interpretation of Islam than the Shi'ite majority in Iran. To assume that terrorist groups like Al Qaeda speak for all Muslims is as ludicrous as assuming that the Ku Klux Klan speaks for all Christians.

Osama bin Laden and his followers certainly do not have a monopoly on perverting religion. Throughout history religious fanatics have committed atrocious acts in the name of God. Christianity, the dominant religion in America, is not without its dark moments. During the Crusades, the Catholic Church encouraged the armies of Europe to invade the Holy Land and convert the "infidels" by force. People were tortured and killed if they refused to convert dur-

ing the Inquisition. Some of the Protestant colonists who came to America, supposedly in pursuit of religious freedom, cut off the ears of those who did not share their particular beliefs. Those Christians in America who seek to point the blame for the September 11<sup>th</sup> atrocities at Islam in general would do well to remember the words of their religion's founder: "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone."

Religious intolerance is not just a thing of the past. Zealot Christians bomb abortion clinics in the name of God (apparently believing that "thou shalt not commit murder" doesn't apply to them"). And more recently, Reverend Jerry Falwell spoke out with Pat Robertson on The 700 Club (a religious network) about the cause of the terrorist attacks. Reverend Falwell declared that the attacks occurred because God has removed his protection from us. According to Reverend Falwell, the homosexuals, feminists, pro-choice advocates, and the ACLU have caused God to turn away. Pat Robertson (the host of The 700 Club) concurred with Falwell's statements.

Although these statements, and others like them, do not directly advocate violence, they do promote hatred. This seems extremely inconsistent with passages in the Bible about not casting the first stone and loving thy neighbor. It is particularly inappropriate during a time of national crisis and mourning.

Obviously, most sane people do not blame the ACLU for the attacks. Most Christians do not attempt conversion by the sword or carry C-4. And Muslims do not believe in murder. EVERY religion has zealots, but they should not be defined by them.

## Letters

Dear Editors,

Why haven't there been any letters to the editor this year? What's up with that?

- Matt Daimon

Dear Matt,

We're not really sure. Our best guess is that people just don't have any opinions this year. Because if they did, we're sure they would write into *The Docket* about it. After all, we'll publish letters about almost anything, whether it be a complaint about the school, or a gripe about something we printed in our fine publication. Maybe our readers are just slackers this year.

- Ed.

To the person who put the anonymous note in our mailbox:

No, we doesn't give a damn about grammar neither.

- Ed.

All right. Since all you ungrateful maggots don't send us any letters to answer, we're going to start answering letters sent to other magazines.

The following letter appeared in the *Washington Post* on Friday, September 28, 2001.

I am in a serious, long-term relationship with a wonderful man. I want to get an IUD for birth control. Is it acceptable for me to ask him to pay for half, seeing as how they are rather expensive?

- Asheville, N.C.

Dear Ash,

There are other, cheaper alternatives than an IUD that would render this a moot point. My mother always told me about the old dime trick...you put a dime between your knees and keep it there. It works like a charm.

- Ed.

The following letter appeared in the *Washington Post* on Friday, September 14, 2001.

I get along great with a friend of mine. There has been slight romantic

interest on my part, big interest on his. Our friends are constantly saying we're perfect for each other. But . . . he's fat. Super fat. It'd be one thing if he started out fat, but ever since he got divorced a couple of years ago, he's packed on about a hundred pounds. That's another can of worms I won't get into. The thing is, I just don't feel like taking on the baggage, in more than a friend way, that causes that kind of weight gain. My friends say I'm a shallow jerk, I say I know my limits. So, am I a jerk or a realist?

- Boston

Dear Jerk,

You know, my sister is pleasantly plump and her husband says that he enjoys a "little cushion for the pushin'." Often times you don't know what you're missing if you set limits without experiencing. My brother-in-law says that every night he has "two tons of fun." I say get over it and try something new. By the way, make sure you stay on top!!

- Ed.

This letter appeared in a recent issue of *Cosmo*.

My first year of law school has been stressful, draining, boring. I've hated every moment of it! Being a lawyer isn't my ambition; I'm here because my mother pressured me to apply after I refused even to consider going to medical school. She claims to know what's best for me and repeatedly says her biggest regret in life is that she never had a career. I'm depressed and lonesome for my friends back home. But if I drop out of law school, Mom will forever be disappointed in me. How can I escape this no-win situation?

Dear Whiney-loudmouth-brat,

Suck it up. We are all living in hell right now. No free time, no money, no sex. You made a commitment and an investment. If you quit now, you are dead to your family. Your mother will disown you.

- Ed.

## THE DOCKET

UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW

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## JOIN THE DOCKET!

*The Docket* is an independent student newspaper that offers UCLA students an open forum to air their ideas, grievances, and humorous tales of woe and adventure. *The Docket* has an open door policy, anyone can contribute, as often as they like. We pride ourselves on the diversity of our articles. Some pieces are serious that express deeply held convictions, while others are purely to get a laugh. We would like to invite anyone interested in submitting an article to contact us at...

docket@orgs.law.ucla.edu.

In addition, we offer contributors "Dinner on *The Docket*" in appreciation of your time and interest.

# A Different World, A Better World

**Toby Bordelon**  
Editor-In-Chief

At 7:30 am on September 11<sup>th</sup>, I was lying in bed, trying to decide if I was going to wait and hit the snooze button again when the alarm went off, or if I would just get up and go for a quick run. I didn't have to make that decision, because the phone rang, which necessitated getting out of bed to answer it. It was my father, calling to tell me to turn on the TV. I didn't really believe what he told me, but then I saw the ruins of the Pentagon, just across the river from where I used to live.

My thoughts quickly turned to the people I knew in DC and New York. My girlfriend, who was a few blocks from the White House. Molly Calvanese, a third year student here at UCLA, externing at the State Department. One of my best friends from high school, Andy, living in New York now, whose office may have been in one of the towers for I all knew. Another high school friend who works for Congress. My old college roommate, who had been looking out his window, which had a perfect view of the World Trade Center, when the second plane hit. I called. Couldn't reach any of them. I finally was able to talk to my girlfriend over icq, and eventually reached the other by email. Thank God for the Internet.

My old roommate and his girlfriend had binoculars on hand. They could see the faces of people in the towers. They saw the couple jump out the window, holding hands as they fell. He told me

he regrets having seen that. It's an image he'll never get out of his mind.

Andy had a college friend from Columbia who had worked in one of the towers. He had been laid off in July. Amazing how your view of things can suddenly change isn't it? What had once been a bad day for him turned out to be perhaps the best thing that ever happened.

Over the course of the next few days, I tried to sort through my thoughts. I had been feeling restless for a very long time, feeling like I was waiting for something, but didn't know what. Like some major world change was just around the corner. It was like the universe had paused to catch its breath. The calm before the storm.

The storm has come, and it's not over yet. We're just in the eye of it now.

Just about everyone who has commented on the recent events agree that the world will never be the same. But I've noticed that sentiment has a generally negative tone. People seem to think that the world from this point forward will be a scarier place, a more somber place. Less innocent.

I don't share that view. The world is different, without a doubt. I believe it's better now. Many people have taken this opportunity to reexamine their priorities, think about what's important in life. Maybe we've decided to talk to those people we've lost touch with over the years, or make some important decisions we've been putting off.

We've seen the courage acts people are capable of. Many have risked, and

lost, their lives to save others. I think we have come together as a nation, as a world really. Whatever the future may hold, it looks like we're going to move towards it more united than we were before, and that makes us stronger.

Things are changing on the international front, too. With respect to China, I find it interesting that a day or so after the collapse of the twin towers, an agreement was reached to drastically reduce tariffs on imports to the country. Sure, this is the result of negotiations that had been going on for quite some time. But the last minute objections or obstacles one would have thought might come under normal circumstances didn't present themselves.

It's not just the major world powers we're starting to establish closer relationships with. We've lifted economic sanctions against India and our new Best Friend, Pakistan. There's a new trade agreement with Jordan. Our international relationships are shifting in a positive direction.

Whatever else you want to say about Osama Bin Laden, he has somehow managed to piss off the world's only current superpower, a former superpower, and a future superpower at the same time. Bin Laden and the Taliban have united America, Russia, and China together against a common enemy. That's rather impressive.

If this alliance that has been forged in the fires of terrorism lasts beyond the current crisis, and I think it will, the world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century will be a very interesting place. A very different

world, yes, but a better one. And if a better world is what emerges from this tragedy, then the thousands of people who died that day will not have died in vain.

My friends know that I am somewhat of an optimist. I have great faith that humanity can rise above itself, that we really can solve most of our problems, that one day we will have a world that is fairly close to paradise. Despite the horrors that occur across the globe on what seems like a daily basis, I rarely waiver from that belief. "Delusionally optimistic" one person has called me. Maybe so. But I prefer that to giving up.

The sudden realization that I might be wrong was very difficult to deal with. The idea that we would fail began to creep into my mind. Everything I dreamed about, the world I envisioned, the goals I strived to achieve, they all suddenly seemed unreachable. I knew this path was a difficult one, but I had always assumed it was at least possible. That assumption had been shattered.

On the night of September 11<sup>th</sup>, I went to bed afraid that I would wake up the next morning and for the first time in my life not believe that we could ever change for the better. It was one of the worst moments I can remember.

My fears never materialized. I woke up stronger than I have ever been. I am now even more convinced that we will succeed. After seeing the evil that we are capable of, one thought comes to mind. We are better than this. I still have my hope, and that's all I need. No one can ever take that away.

## MEDICATION TIME

JONATHAN SHIMKUS  
STAFF COLUMNIST

For those that are new here: Yes, this column appears every month. I usually will answer queries for your favorite drink so that you can make it at home, but I will not be answering the person who asked me how to make a Scotch on the rocks...

Before I get started, I need to quash a horrible rumor that's been spreading. I know, it's going to break a few hearts, but I am NOT Ben Affleck. Asking me for Matt's number repeatedly, not that funny.

In keeping with the theme currently running here at the Docket office, I'm going to get you **between the sheets**. Wow, that was a slip, I am going to *teach* it to you. No, I'm not saying you need any practice, you're great. I'm sorry. The couch? Great.

In a nice Collins glass filled with ice, shake and strain:

One ounce brandy  
One half ounce light rum  
(like the clear Bacardi)  
One half ounce triple sec  
One and half ounce Sweet  
and Sour mix (or lemon  
juice, sugar, and water).

Second, since we already had the earthquake, the **mudslides** must be around the corner. After this easy recipe, you'll never have to buy the pre-made stuff again. (Making it yourself *always* tastes better... except for sandwiches, but I don't know why that is.)

In a rocks glass with ice:

One and half ounce  
Vodka  
One half ounce Kahlua  
One half ounce Bailey's

Always stir/mix your drinks.

Finally, for all you folks that read my last column and asked "Medication time? Record? WTF?" Do yourself a favor, rent a classic, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* starring Jack Nicholson.

## Top 15 undergraduate schools represented by the Class of 2004.

In order of highest  
number of enrolled  
students.

UCLA  
UC Berkeley  
UC San Diego  
UC Irvine  
USC  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Michigan at Ann Arbor  
Cornell University  
Pomona College  
Brigham Young University  
UC Santa Barbara  
Stanford University  
Yale University  
UC Davis  
University of Arizona

Nearly 100 schools are represented by the 1<sup>st</sup> year class.

The Docket would like to note the absence of George Washington University, a very fine institution, from this list. This, in the opinion of the Editor-in-Chief, is a damn shame.

BETWEEN THE SHEETS

MUDSLIDE

# Attack on America

Catherine Oliversmith  
1L

Attack on U.S. is what the headlines of *The Daily Bruin* read. Immediately I was struck by the truth behind these words. The attack was more than an Attack on the U.S.; it was an attack on us. I'm not talking about the white, European, Judeo-Christian us, I'm talking about us in our diversity. I'm talking about the "us" that is tolerant of difference; the "us" that was built by a vast and unique people; the "us" that declares that we are the land of the free and the home of the brave.

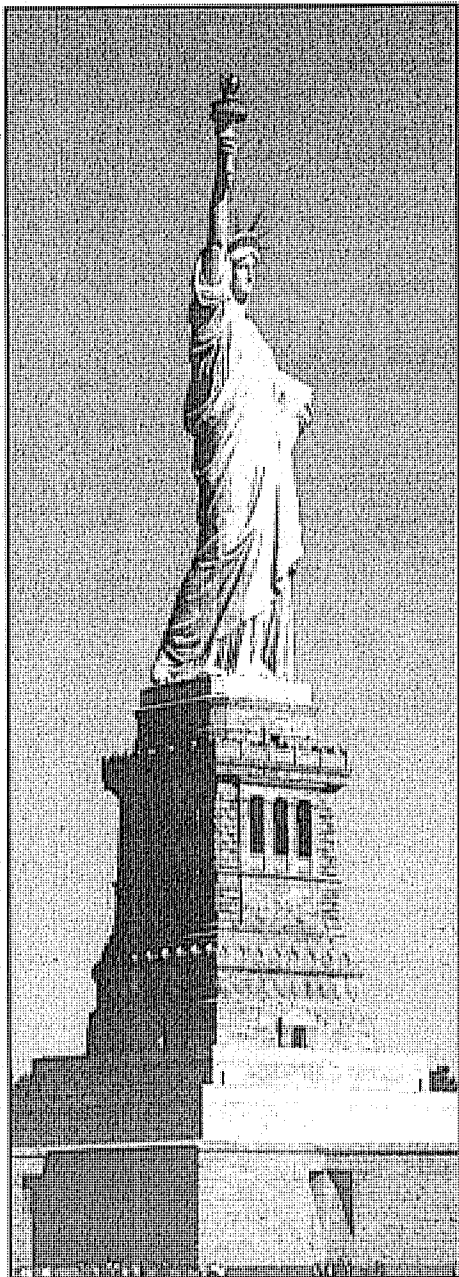
What makes us great is not our economy nor capitalism. It is the freedom of commerce and the achievement of the oft-sought "American Dream". A dream that we all fight to make a reality. One where we battle to rise above our baser instincts, to rise to a greater level together than we achieve alone, where the whole is better than each of the parts. The dream that our children will grow up to live in a world we made better and that they will make better for their children.

We do not love money, and money does not make us great. We love humanity. We are willing to accept those who don't look like "we" do, don't talk like "we" do, don't worship like "we" do. We live under the protection of our rights and we extend that protection to all, regardless of status, money, family, color, education, faith, character, politics.

We're not made great by our tall buildings or our skylines. We are great because of the ingenuity of our engineers, our builders, our financial giants and independent businesses. We are better for our inventors, healers, educators, and leaders. We are great for our cities and our wide-open spaces, our industry and our industriousness. Rather than turn our backs to new ideas, we have embraced them and benefited from their fruition. Rather than turn away those who were without a home, we took them in. Their hard work, their sweat, their dreams and their hopes combined with our own have built this country.

The attack that was made on the U.S. was an attack on our freedom. The terrorists look to curtail our freedom by making us afraid. They want us to deny the freedoms our country is built upon.

We must fight for the ideas that we hold true. We are one - one nation. A



nation that is undivided, that is indivisible. We cannot be broken apart by terrorism. A nation that provides liberty and justice for all, regardless. We recognize the value of the individual, knowing that each of us is inherently necessary to creating the country we all love. To win against the terrorism we face today, we cannot close ourselves off and shun those who come to us for our promise of a better life.

The most enduring and endearing symbol of the U.S., our lady liberty, is inscribed by the following poem of Emma Lazarus:

"Give me your tired your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to  
breathe free,

The wretched refuse of your teeming  
shore.

Send these, the homeless, tempest-  
tossed to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"  
It is this that the terrorists threaten and wish to destroy. They seek to turn us into people like them, to drag us down into the morass of hate in which they operate and by which they beat down those who would disagree.

I hear on the radio that America has never been so unified, not since the attack on Pearl Harbor. If by unified, people mean unified by hate and in our prejudice, count me out. Hating a people or even a group whose ideology is so at odds with the United States and the freedoms for which we stand gives the terrorists a victory I am not willing to concede. We can disagree with their ideology and we can hate their acts, but in hating them, we are no better than they.

The U.S. is not weak and we will not turn away from battle. We are willing now, as we have been throughout our history, to fight for our ideals and freedom. We will fight in many ways and for many reasons: retribution, vindication, protection of our lives and way of life. The war to preserve our ideals will be the supreme fight because this is the war we will wage abroad and at home, against the terrorist and against ourselves, externally and internally this battle will rage.

Our freedom and our rights, many of us take for granted because we have never been denied their protection here or elsewhere. Listening to the rhetoric and arguments of some, these rights are under attack, right here, in our beloved country. We become no better than our enemy when we strip away these rights in the name of safety and security.

Better to strip the colors from our flag.

We can preserve our country, fight for our freedom, protect ourselves from future attack without hate. We cannot become a hateful nation and believe we have won, for in becoming hateful, we are lost.

Rather, let us be victorious in our unification against hatred and for freedom. Let us turn our backs to fear. We will see our victory in the resurrection of the skyline, the survival of our ideals, the proud flying of our flag.

## Dinner On The Docket

Willow Mc Jilton and Kenny Roost

After the publication every issue of *The Docket*, we try to show our appreciation to all of the contributors by giving them free food. We thought it would be a nifty idea to review the restaurants we visit in order to 1) inform our readership of the wonderful (cheap) dining opportunities and 2) reiterate that if any of you out there would like to contribute to *The Docket*, we would be happy to treat you. Without further ado...

There is a wonderful little Cajun place called Bourbon Street on Pico and Westwood, just west of the Westside Pavilion. Every Tuesday is "Fat Tuesday" where the entrees are half price from 5 pm to 7 pm. The food is delicious. They have great shrimp entrees with a little Cajun bite. Also the blackened chicken is fabulous. They have wonderful side dishes. We highly recommend the garlic mashed potatoes, grilled veggies, and very fun corn bread wrapped in corn husks like tamales. For dessert, Bourbon Street offers a decent pecan pie, but the bread pudding is the standout.

Note that they take Cash or Debit cards only for the Tuesday half-price special.

Overall, we at *The Docket* give Bourbon Street...



When you  
participate in  
sporting events,  
it's not whether  
you win or lose,  
it's how  
drunk you get.

- Homer J.

# What Happened to Prayer?

Christopher Baker  
1L

After my first four weeks as a law student at UCLA, the concepts of promissory estoppel, mens rea and Rule 12(b)(6) still leave me scratching my head. Not to be taken as a commentary toward the quality of UCLA professors, my admitted ignorance of the law is provided as a disclaimer. Additionally, my service as a Marine Corps infantry officer for the past seven years leaves me lacking in the "political correctness" department. Neither of these obstacles outweighed the burning discouragement I felt in the midst of coping, and watching others cope, with the pure evil that spawned from New York on Tuesday, September 11, and so compelled me to make this writing.

In a tremendous step towards America's restoration and healing, President Bush declared that on Friday, 14 September, our nation would recognize a day of Prayer and Remembrance.

What happened to the prayer at UCLA?

Did you watch and listen to the memorial service held for all faiths at Washington National Cathedral on Friday morning? President Bush said, "We come before God to pray for the missing and the dead. We've always needed God...but we need him especially today. Nothing can separate us from God's love. God bless America."

I'm looking forward to next year's spirited debates in Constitutional Law class about the concept of church and state separation. While I'm sure that the

law doesn't favor my side of that debate, it saddens me to know that many UCLA law students, believers and non-believers alike, were isolated last week from what could have been an incredibly powerful source of healing, soothing, restoration and faith. It saddens me that last week, I did not hear a single call to prayer or a single solicitation for prayer requests, for those students who lost a loved one or are particularly impacted by the terrorism.

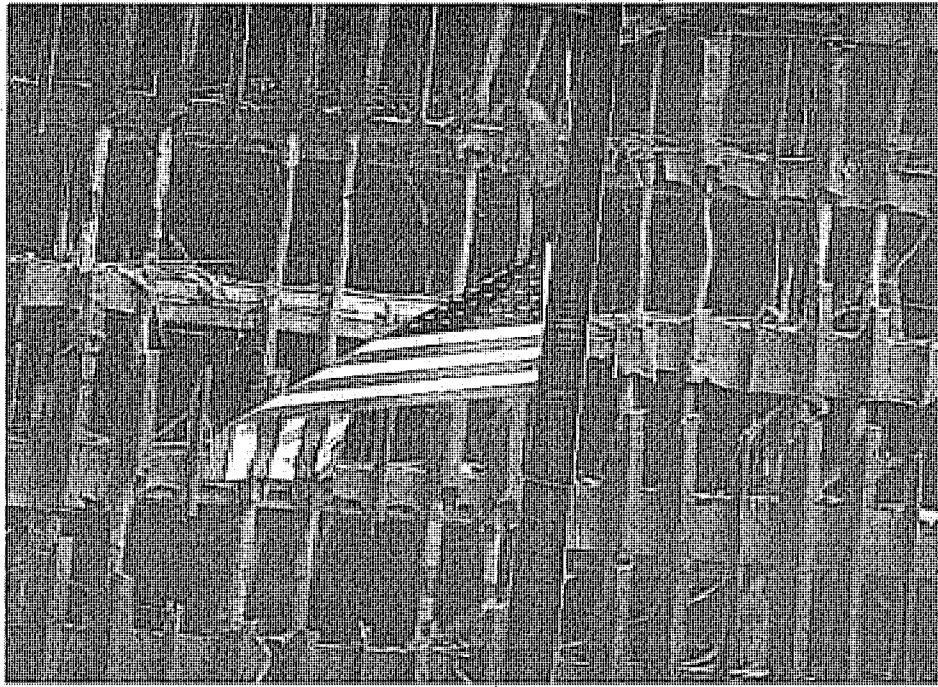
One Saturday morning while stationed at Camp Pendleton, a Marine of mine purchased a pistol, walked to the top of a hill in our training area, and shot himself in the head. Six days later, a search team from my company found Corporal Amend's body, rotting in the sun and surrounded by crows. The Ma-

rines who found him needed comfort and solace; they found it in a chaplain.

Another Marine of mine received a Red Cross message that his grandfather had passed away. After absorbing the news about the father figure that had raised him, I asked Lance Corporal Gillis if he wanted to speak with a chaplain. He thought about this idea, told me that he wasn't a Christian ... but would like nothing more than to see the priest.

When my platoon boarded a helicopter from amphibious shipping and flew 60 miles over the Yellow Sea to train on the west-coast of Korea, I asked the ship's chaplain to pray with us while we waited on the loading platform. Some of my men bowed their heads, some took

SEE PRAYER, PAGE 10



The red, white and blue flying in front of the remnants of the WTC.

## Inter-Organizational Senate Winter Carnival

Presented by Inter-Organizational Senate  
"Winter Carnival"

**Halloween, October 31, 2001**

Food & entertainment provided by  
UCLAW student organizations.

Folks are encouraged to wear costumes.

Student groups please note the part about food and entertainment being provided by UCLAW student orgs. If the orgs don't step up and help out with this, then its gonna be a pretty lame carnival, so get those plans in motion. Contact Songhay Miguda-Armstead (miguda@2003.law.ucla.edu) for more information.

## TASK FORCE

FROM PAGE 1

administration's way of paying lip service to the idea of improving the law school community. This is especially true when you consider the fact that the school has chosen to disband the community task force and to allow the committee responsible for reaccreditation to handle any issues that the community task force would have handled. Now that the community task force no longer exists, students who have suggestions about improving the law school community are "encouraged to speak with a faculty member or administrator" who will pass their suggestions or complaints on

to the appropriate person.

I've heard, or maybe it's just an urban legend, that UCLAW used to be one of the most diverse and inclusive top 20 law schools. If we are ever to regain that reputation, it is going to take a sincere effort by current students, faculty members, and administrators. I believe it is possible to fight the side effects of prop 209, but in order to do that we must abandon the status quo and look for real solutions, not just pay lip service to the idea of improving the law school community.

## To the People Who Jumped

*What could you have thought?  
Could your mind have grasped anything  
at that moment?*

*Tears fill my eyes when I reflect  
on the incredible courage-  
And the underlying sense of utter horror-  
You must have had  
In being forced to make the sick choice  
Of which way you were going to die.*

*What could you have done?  
When escape was no longer an option,  
And your own mortality stared you in the eye?  
You knew you had to come together as one  
If not to defeat the prospect of death,  
To ensure that you would not have to face it alone.*

*How could we have helped you?  
Could we have done something, anything,  
Besides playing the role of helpless onlookers,  
Witnessing a nightmare of human suffering  
And being able to take no action?*

*I don't know you at all, but my heart grieves for you  
As if you were my own friend  
And part of me sincerely wishes  
That it could have been me instead.*

*But lest you believe  
That you will be forgotten,  
Amidst the swirling flames of destruction  
And ashes of despicable hate that  
brought you to that juncture-  
A misulce speck against the gigantic steel  
form of the World Trade Center-  
Fear not, my friends.*

*Your life had limitless meaning and immense purpose  
For which those of us who survive  
will struggle on your behalf  
Because I simply refuse to accept the motion  
That you died in vain.*

— a 1L  
9/12/01

# Techno-illogical Security in the Wake of the Terrorist Attack

**Jeff Kahane**  
 Editor-in-Chief of the  
*Journal of Law and Technology*

On September 11, in the most horrific attack on our nation in its history, terrorists assaulted freedom. In attempting to plunge their knives into the heart of our nation, the terrorists missed. Now however, our government is attempting radical surgery to save our nation, but with tools resembling chainsaws rather than scalpels or lasers. Our government is now attempting to save our nation from further attacks by using two technologies that are already in place: Echelon and Carnivore. For more information, see the story dated September 21 on [cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com/2001/US/09/20/inv.terrorist.search/index.html). <http://www.cnn.com/2001/US/09/20/inv.terrorist.search/index.html>. These tools, like carpet bombing, are indiscriminate in their use—and are not designed to be targeted at specific individuals.

Echelon is a worldwide telecommunications listening technology. Us-

ing Defense Department ground-based radio antenna and satellites already in place, our government can monitor microwave and other electro-magnetic broadcast devices and *has in place* the computer capacity necessary to record and flag suspect transmissions. For more information, see <http://www.aclu.org/echelonwatch/faq.html>.

Cellular phones are microwave transmissions. So are many long distance phone calls. Have you ever made a phone call where you discussed something illegal? Maybe you offered to copy some MP3s for a friend. Did you discuss with your significant other the best way to reduce your tax burden? If so, then if our government is allowed to use those technologies, the records of your admission of your (possible) misbehavior will be noted and logged on a government computer sitting in the National Security Agency. However, while this is disturbing, it is not the limit of the possible damage to our freedom.

During the 1960s, the FBI followed suspected "subversives" like Dr. Martin Luther King, like Paul McCartney, and like Cesar Chavez, and compiled files on all of their activities, including details of their private lives which were not illegal, but could be used by the government as leverage to control their activities. I do not believe at this point that the government would necessarily use the information gathered from Echelon in this manner against ordinary citizens, especially those of us who remain *apolitical*, but it is frightening to know that they have the capability to do so.

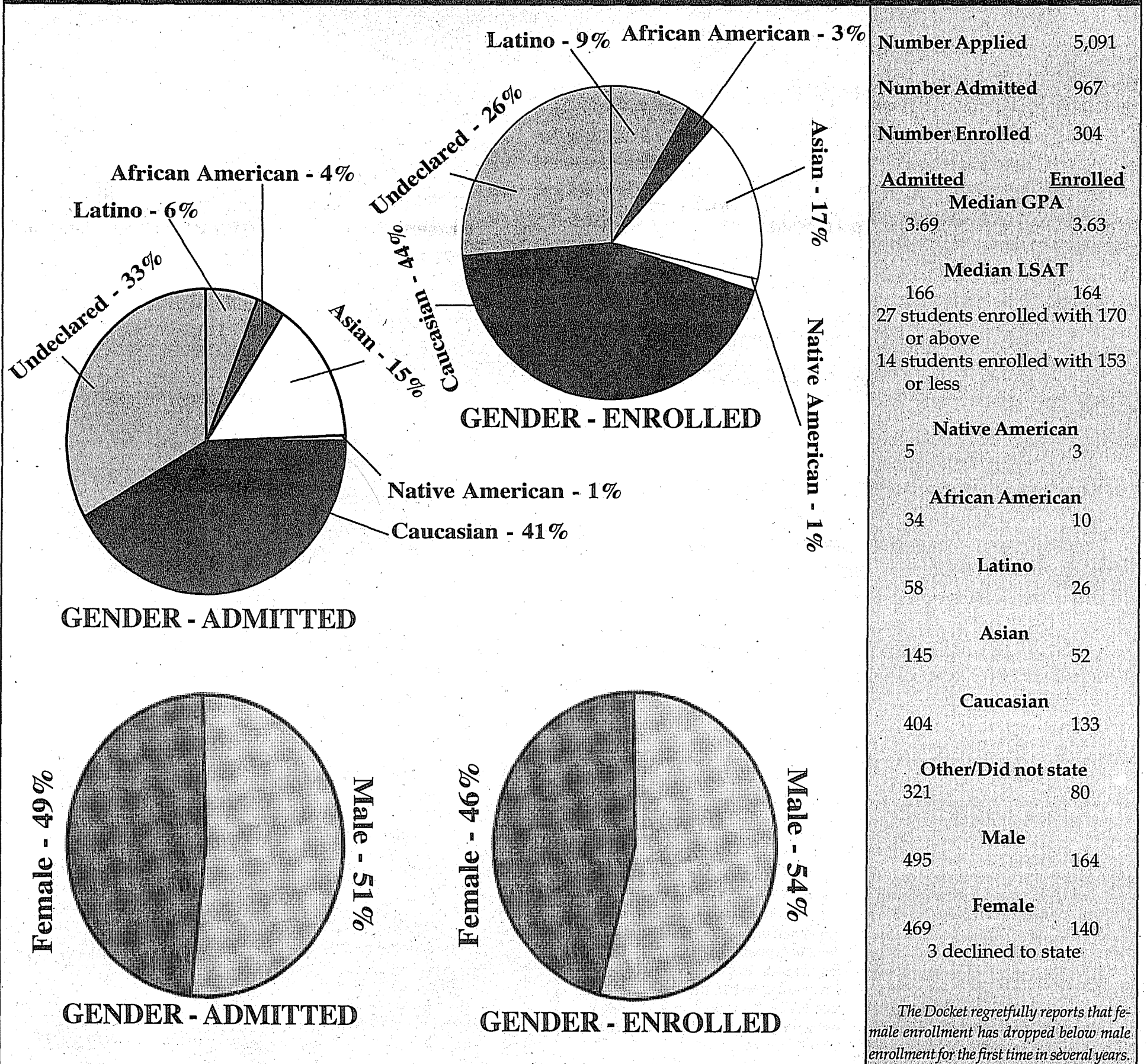
Similarly, the FBI uses Carnivore to track the Internet activities of ordinary citizens. It is an FBI server that is set up between the servers on your Internet Service Provider ("ISP"), and the clients, like you, that are served by the ISP. It tracks every single packet which goes upstream and downstream between you and the ISP. Every piece of email, every graphic image downloaded, every music file, and

every website served to your browser. For more information, see <http://www.aclu.org/congress/1072400a.html>.

Do you like MP3s? Adult entertainment? Are you having an affair via email? If Congress authorizes the general use of Carnivore, the government will know. Again, it is not simply the fact that the government will know that is a problem, but that the potential for misuse will lie in the hands of an underpaid bureaucrat sitting in the bowels of the NSA that is the problem. Security agency access to personal information, which Americans have traditionally considered private, is a long step down the road to a 21<sup>st</sup> century police state. As noted above, our own government history is replete with examples of government abuse of power.

The terrorists attacked freedom but failed. Now our government in a misguided attempt to secure those freedoms may instead destroy them. Is that logical?

## Class of 2004 Admissions Summary



# Message from the SBA

Dear Students:

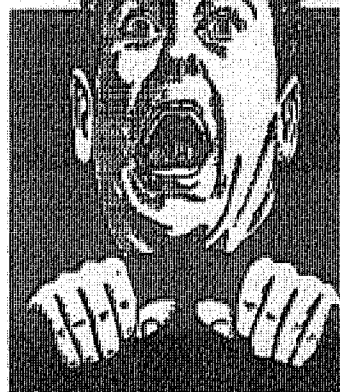
By now, you know that your law school's governing body is your Student Bar Association. In that capacity, your SBA is here to serve you. Our primary mission is to enhance your law school experience by doing what we can to make the UCLA School of Law environment the best it can be.

You should feel comfortable in the community in which you live every day. If you have any issues, questions, or concerns about the environment here at the law school, whether inside or outside of the classroom, we would like to hear them. You can e-mail any member of the SBA Representative Council, put a note into one of our mailboxes in the lounge, or drop a note in the SBA suggestion box (coming soon). As the SBA becomes aware of these concerns, we will address them at an SBA meeting, communicate the issue to the administration if appropriate, and do what we can to improve the situation.

This is your SBA, and we are here to serve your needs. Thank you.

2001-2002 SBA Representative Council

## Don't Let Law School Drive You Crazy!



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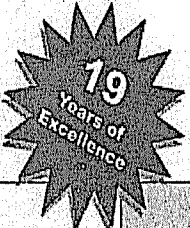
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- Learn How to Use Public Policy Analysis
- Learn the Relationship Between the Casebook and Legal Exams
- Learn How to Get the Most Out of Class and Study Time
- Learn How to Write the Superior Answer

Schedule of Seminars:

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p><b>SAN DIEGO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Saturday, September 22, 2001: Noon-6 pm</li> <li>Sunday, September 23, 2001: Noon-6 pm</li> <li>All Sessions will be given LIVE in the Auditorium at California Western School of Law, 350 Cedar St., San Diego.</li> </ul>  | <p><b>ORANGE COUNTY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Saturday, October 20, 2001: Noon-6 pm</li> <li>Sunday, October 21, 2001: Noon-6 pm</li> <li>All sessions will be given at Hope International University, 2500 E. Nutwood at Titan, Fullerton (across from Cal. State Univ., Fullerton), Room 215A. VIDEO PRESENTATION</li> </ul> | <p><b>RIVERSIDE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Saturday, November 10, 2001: Noon-6 pm</li> <li>Sunday, November 11, 2001: Noon-6 pm</li> <li>All sessions will be held at California Southern School of Law, 3775 Elizabeth St., Riverside, Room TBA. VIDEO PRESENTATION</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>SAN MATEO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Saturday, September 29, 2001: 9 am-4 pm</li> <li>Saturday, September 30, 2001: 9 am-4 pm</li> <li>All sessions will be given LIVE at the Villa Hotel, 4000 S. El Camino Real, San Mateo.</li> </ul>  | <p><b>VENTURA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Saturday, October 20, 2001: 10 am-4 pm</li> <li>Sunday, October 21, 2001: 10 am-4 pm</li> <li>All sessions will be given at the Ventura College of Law, 4475 Market St., Ventura, Room 9. VIDEO PRESENTATION</li> </ul>  |   |
| <p><b>ORANGE COUNTY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Saturday, October 6, 2001: 9 am-4 pm</li> <li>Sunday, October 7, 2001: 9 am-4 pm</li> <li>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.</li> </ul> | <p><b>SACRAMENTO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Saturday, October 20, 2001: 10 am-5 pm</li> <li>Sunday, October 21, 2001: 10 am-5 pm</li> <li>All sessions will be given at America's Books, 725 J Street, Sacramento. VIDEO PRESENTATION</li> </ul>  |   |
| <p><b>LOS ANGELES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Saturday, October 13, 2001: 9 am-4 pm</li> <li>Sunday, October 14, 2001: 9 am-4 pm</li> <li>All sessions will be given LIVE at the Ramada Hotel, 6333 Bristol Parkway, Culver City, in the Projection Room.</li> </ul>   |   |   |

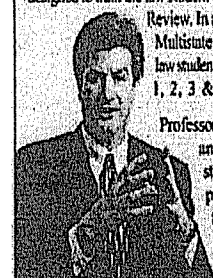


**COURSE LECTURER: PROFESSOR JEFF A. FLEMING**  
Attorney at Law • Legal Education Consultant

For the past nineteen years Professor 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.

Professor 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, Professor 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.

Professor 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. Professor 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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 Law School \_\_\_\_\_  
 Current Year/Semester \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Workshop Location/Date to be Attended \_\_\_\_\_

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# DOCKET OCIP CONTESTS

It's interview time again, and to mark the occasion *The Docket* is sponsoring two little contests, with prizes and all!

## CONTEST #1

The biggest loser with the most OCIP rejection letters gets a **Dozen Kripsy Kreme Doughnuts**.

The runner up loser gets 20,000 Indonesian Rupiah (or the equivalent in US dollars). Contest ends October 26.

## CONTEST #2

The person with the lowest GPA who gets an OCIP offer will receive an invitation to eat "**Dinner on *The Docket***" as our guest of honor. (Call it the kick-ass personality award, for being such a cool person that grades don't matter.) Contest ends November 16.

Here are the rules:

- One rejection letter per firm. Signature must be in real ink. (This is to stop you cheaters from making photocopies).
- Only rejection letters from initial interviews count.
- Rejection letters from callback interviews are not eligible.
- You get no sympathy from us if you pass the initial screening criteria only to have the firm discover you're not a "good fit" because, for instance, you vomited on a partner at dinner.
- For all you losers still holding on to rejection letters from last year's OCIP, too bad. Only rejections from OCIP Fall 2001 will be counted.
- All ties will be settled via the old coin toss.
- Any ambiguities in the rules will be resolved by *Docket* staff.
- Names of winners will only be published with permission of the winner, however, final tallies are fair game.
- Email *The Docket* at [docket@orgs.law.ucla.edu](mailto:docket@orgs.law.ucla.edu) if you think you've got the right stuff.



# The Definitive Guide to Crappy Grades

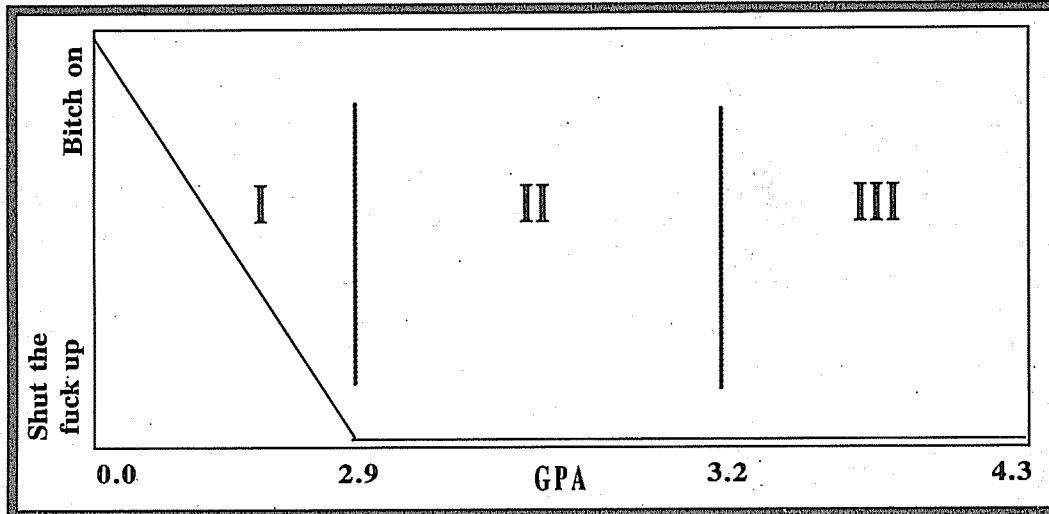
# You Might be a Child of the 80's if...

Bryan McMichael  
Production Manager

OCIP has made me realize that there's a lot of confusion out there as to what constitutes a crappy GPA. I've heard an overwhelming amount of bitching from numerous people about how bad their respective GPAs are. As a representative of Group I, all this whining pisses me off. I can no longer bitch about my own GPA and get any sympathy. All you whiners with decent grades are stealing my rightfully deserved pity. I heard one OCIPer exclaim, "Oh my god, I'm never going to get a job with my 2.994." Shut the fuck up. I'd kill for those grades (and I know where you live).

In my world there are three types of GPAs. The Group III losers, who have a 3.2+. The Group II duds with a 2.9 - 3.2, and the Group I studs with less than a 2.9. There is a longstanding debate that the Group I/II cutoff should be 3.0 instead of 2.9. I choose 2.9 because it resolves the 2.994 problem. Come on, if you're going to drop out because you're .006 away from the magic 3.0 number, then leave already. I don't respect you and I don't want you part of the elite Group I.

**Group III:** Shut the fuck up. You get call backs the day after you interviewed. When a firm tells a Group Ier, "We'll let you know in 2 weeks", that means, "If a janitorial position opens in the next 2 weeks, we'll let you know." Group IIIers never wait 2 weeks. I even



heard one firm whisper to the Group IIIer who interviewed before me, "We're not supposed to tell you this, but you'll get an offer." What the fuck! Why even interview? Just walk in, slap down your transcript and say, "I got 10 firms after my dumb-ass and I'm gonna milk this for all it's worth. Let the ass kissing begin." And kiss your ass they will. One recent Group III grad milked a weeklong all-expenses-paid trip to a firm's London office, just because he could. But that's fine. Group Iers don't care. We're above that... because we know where you fuckin' live.

**Group II:** Shut the fuck up. Your life may not be as sweet and rosy and a IIIer, but you're gonna get a job. So what if the firms don't come to you? Who cares if you're not gonna make \$2500 a week? \$15 - \$20/hr too little for your lazy ass? It sure as hell beats minimum wage at the McD's across the street. Besides,

firms will at least pause for reflection before burning your resume and transcript in front of your face. Group Iers print their resumes on flash paper so they don't have to watch that humiliating experience time and time again. I still haven't figured out why it is that when a Group Ier hands over his transcript, the interview just doesn't stop there. It may as well have. When a IIer tells the firm of his grades, the interview goes on. But to a Ier, we get a laugh and the conversation turns to the World Trade Center or football, neither of which have shit to do with getting a job. Firms should just keep rejection letters on the table, and just like they give their business card to a IIer, they should issue a rejection letter to a Ier as we're pushed out the door.

**Bottom line:** Shut the fuck up unless you have the right to bitch about your grades. Group Iers are a tight knit circle and we know who we are.

- 1) You have deep, personal relationships via computers with people you've never met in real life before.
- 2) The phrase "going courting", to you, means fighting an unjust traffic ticket or playing tennis.
- 3) You know, by heart, the words to any "Weird" Al Yankovic song.
- 4) The Brady Bunch movie brought back cool memories.
- 5) Songs by Debbie Gibson still haunt you to this day.
- 6) Three words: "Atari" "IntelliVision" and "Coleco". Sound familiar?
- 7) You remember the days when "safe sex" meant "my parents are gone for the weekend".
- 8) You remember "Friday Night Videos" before the days of MTV.
- 9) You ever owned a pair of "Pop-Wheels" - that handy little combination of shoe and roller skate that lasted about a year on the open market.
- 10) A predominant color in your childhood photos is "plaid".
- 11) You're pissed that you couldn't really participate in the 60's, pissed that you were a part of the 70's, think you wasted too much time doing stupid, meaningless things in the 80's, and still have no clue what the 90's are all about.
- 12) You see teenagers today wearing clothes that show up in those childhood photos, and they still look bad.
- 13) While in high school, you and all your friends discussed elaborate plans to get together again at the end of the century and play "1999" by Prince over and over again.
- 14) You remember when music that was labeled "alternative" really was.
- 15) You were shocked and horrified at the Challenger explosion (which you were probably watching in school at the time), and yet, when someone mentions the name "JFK", the first thing you think of is "Oliver Stone".
- 16) You, yes you, sat down and memorized the entire lyric sheet to "It's the end of the world as we know it".
- 17) You can't remember when the word "networking" didn't have a computer connotation to it as well.
- 18) You took family trips before the invention of the mini-van. You rode in the back of the station wagon and you faced the cars behind you.
- 19) You knew all the words to Billy Joel's We Didn't Start the Fire, but it really didn't hold any meaning for you until about the third verse.
- 20) You've ever conversationally used the phrase "Jane, you ignorant slut".
- 21) Schoolhouse Rock played a huge part in how you actually learned the English language.
- 22) Kids that work in restaurants and supermarkets are starting to piss you off by calling you "sir" or "ma'am".
- 23) "Celebration" by Kool & the Gang was one of the hot new songs when you first heard it at a school dance.
- 24) The first time you ever kissed someone at a dance fell during "Crazy for You" by Madonna.
- 25) There were at least three people in your school that voluntarily went by the names of "Skip" "Buffy" "Muffy" or "Dexter".

## Study Released: Law School Kills Your Sex Life!

Willow McJilton  
Managing Editor

The Institute for Active Intercourse released a study confirming the link between law school and a depleted sex life. "The evidence is undeniable. Those attending law school experience a severe decrease in sexual activity." Says Dr. Lotta Booty, the institute's head researcher. The institute studied law students at various universities across the country and found that as the semester progresses, sexual contact severely decreases. Researchers did note that there was a surge of sexual activity around the twelfth week. Scientists attribute this upsurge to an overload of pent-up sexual frustration that reaches maximum capacity after such a long duration of celibacy.

Surprisingly, many law students have already identified this hor-

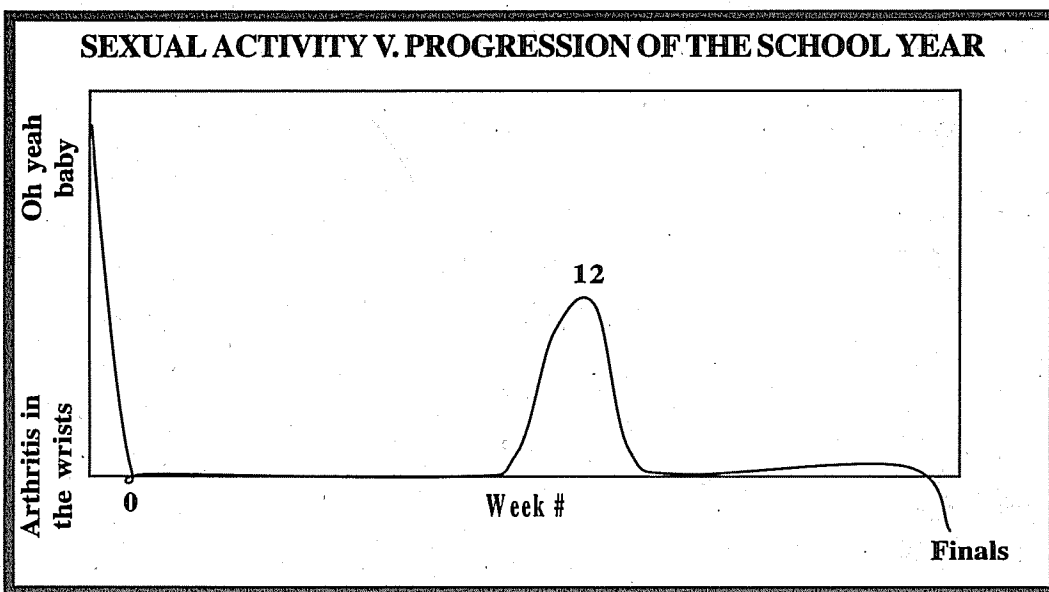
rible trend. Dismayed 3L Debbie from Dallas stated "Before law school, my husband and I were like rabbits. Once I started law school, there was just no time

I am going to get is seeing the law school women dressed up for OCIP."

Experts say that there are steps law students can take to ensure that this

does not happen to them. The first recommendation is to incorporate your law school studies into your sex life. "Hey honey, we were studying *Bowers v. Hardwick* today. Let me show you the

facts of the case." Or, try adding coed-naked study groups to your stressful day. Another recommendation is to "buddy up" with other members of your class to ensure that everyone has a potential partner, as meeting people during law school is nearly impossible. Finally, watch for sales and stock up on hand lotion or batteries.



or interest on my part. We start to get into the mood and all I can think about is the Rule Against Perpetuities!" 2L Dirk Diggler is also struggling to keep his sex life alive. "I have no time to meet anyone. And due to financial constraints I had to end it with Bambi at (900) HOT-BABE. It looks like the most action

The last words of H.G. Wells:  
"Go away... I'm all right."

# ATTENTION UCLA FIRST YEAR STUDENTS

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BAR REVIEW

# PRAYER

FROM PAGE 4

a knee, others stepped aside while chaplain Uhall prayed for our safe passage, safe training, and courage in the face of the miserable winter conditions we were soon to endure.

Serving as a Marine for the past seven years, I have become used to seeing a chaplain almost every day of the week, whether at services, in private counsel, or simply in passing during a busy day. Last week at UCLA, I missed the reassuring presence of a chaplain while we attempted to console each other, offer hope, maintain faith and try to make sense out of the nonsense. I wish that on Friday, in the provision of student psychological counseling services and availing of Red Cross workers to sign students up for blood donation, our Chancellor had made mention of the local churches that offer shuttles for UCLA

students to their Sunday worship services.

Why wasn't the word "prayer" mentioned a single time during Friday's memorial service at UCLA? I have a very uncomfortable feeling that we are afraid to offend, afraid to mention God, afraid to cross that line.

But why?

After all, President Bush called Friday a "National Day of Prayer". During his short speech at the national service, President Bush, the Chief Executive, our Commander in Chief, mentioned "God" no less than a dozen times.

At the risk of being ridiculed by the legal defenders of liberty at the ACLU, I'd like to suggest some things you might try to speed the process of your own recovery. In addition to praying with friends and classmates, the Bible provides some words of comfort that may

renew your spirit: in 2nd Corinthians ("...don't lose heart...as momentary affliction is preparing us"; and Matthew 17:19 "...Why couldn't we drive it out? He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Outside of scripture, Harold Kushner wrote a book titled "When Bad Things Happen to Good People." I first read this book during my last year as a midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy, when a classmate of mine, while driving home from a football game, was crushed and killed instantly after a bolt of lightning struck a tree and it fell onto her car. I read the book again several years later when my 34-year old cousin died suddenly of a stroke. While no earthly words

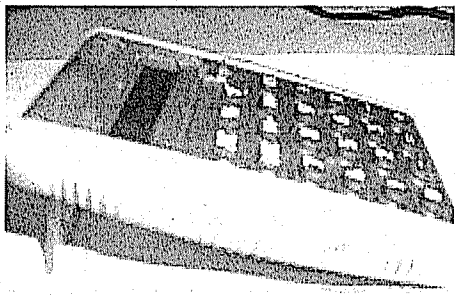
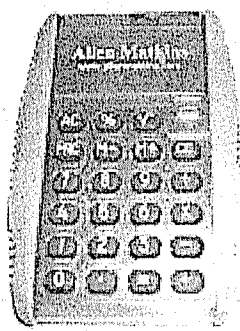
can fully heal, or answer the questions that we are left with in the aftermath of last week's evil, Kushner's words may help you to move forward.

I doubt that we will ever completely recover from this tragedy, as individuals or as a nation. I am hardly a disciplined Christian myself, or well practiced at my faith. Still, I'm certain that in the weeks ahead, my prayers will be for those who perished, for those who bear the pain of suffering, and for our government leaders who, God willing, will exact the justice required to eliminate further threats to our nation. I pray that you, too, are comforted and healed. Keep faith.

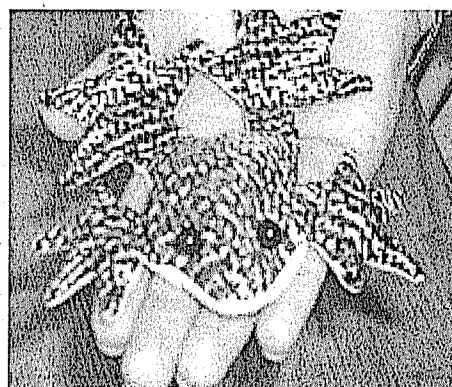
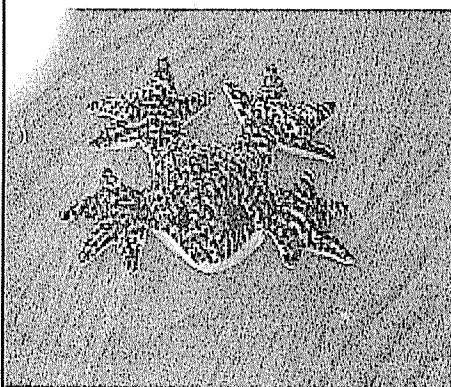
NOTE: the author is interested in any feedback you may have regarding this essay; feel free to e-mail him at bakerc@2004.law.ucla.edu.

## Gee-Sir, I'd Prefer a Job, But Thanks for the Crap!

Yep. It's that time of year again. OCIP. Where several firms compete with each other to see who can give out the coolest toy. After all, I want to dedicate the rest of my life to a firm that gives me a functionless stuffed star (see Paul Hastings).



This year, *The Docket* has selected Allen Matkins as the winner. Their calculator has a really cool flip down top. Just think, I was about to give up the rest of my youth to some high paying firm with low-billable hours, but not now! Pay me in calculators and I'll be a happy employee.



The runner up was Fish & Richardson, with their beanie baby-like froggie, which was issued in several different colors. The froggie seems to bring happiness to everyone who has one. We're not sure why, but its enough for us to give them a mention here.

## Top Ten Coolest People on the Planet

- 1) Samuel L. Jackson
- 2) Tom Holm
- 3) Natalie Portman
- 4) Billy O'Connor
- 5) The Queen Mother
- 6) Matt Groening
- 7) Aaron Sorkin
- 8) Julia Roberts
- 9) Florence Henderson
- 10) John Woo

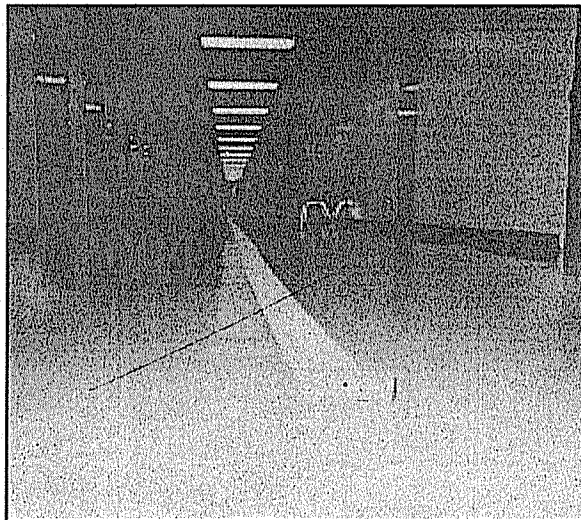
## CHILD OF THE 80'S

FROM PAGE 8

- 26) The phrase "Where's the beef?" still doubles you over with laughter.
- 27) You're starting to believe that maybe 30 isn't so old after all, and it's those people over 40 you have to look out for.
- 28) You have begun to lust after women (or men) that it would be socially inappropriate for you to date due to their age.
- 29) Your hair, at some point in time in the 80's, became something which can only be described by the phrase "I was experimenting".
- 30) You've ever shopped at a Banana Republic or Benetton, but not in the last five years, okay?
- 31) You're doing absolutely nothing with anything pertaining to your major degree.
- 32) Going to keg parties no longer involves hiding out in the woods when the cops show up.

- 33) You're starting to get that "why aren't you married yet" spiel, not just from parents, but now from friends that are married.
- 34) (mostly guys on this one) Sex is still as much fun as it used to be, and you're still really interested in it, but you just want to make sure there's nothing really good on cable that you'd be missing first.
- 35) You ever used the phrase "kiss mah grits" in conversation.
- 36) You remember trying to guess the episode of the Brady Bunch from the first scene.
- 37) You remember "Hey, let's be careful out there".
- 38) You know who shot J.R.
- 39) This rings a bell: "and my name, is Charlie. They work for me."

(Courtesy of an email that circulated the internet a few years back)



*Docket* scientists discover that a single roll of T.P. is capable of spanning the entire basement hallway in Dodd. Lead researcher, Dale Studmeir, hails this achievement as nothing short of miraculous. Studmeir reveals the secret behind his success, "At four A.M., the security in Dodd is practically non-existent." What does this beckon for the future? Studmeir claims, "Hell if I know. I'm just glad I didn't have to pick up that mess."



If you're buying overpackaged or throwaway products, you're essentially buying trash. That means some of what's on your shopping list wastes energy, wastes natural resources and even increases pollution. So the next time you're in the store, look for less packaging, and choose stuff that's refillable and reusable. What's in your cart could make a world of difference. For a free shopping guide, please call 1-800-3-RECYCLE. BUY SMART. WASTE LESS. SAVE MORE.

Ad Council www.environmentaldefense.org

# ENTERTAINMENT REVIEWS

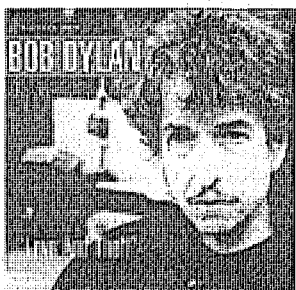
PRESENTING MUSIC REVIEWS OF BEN FOLDS, BOB DYLAN, TORI AMOS, STEREOLAB AND BJORK

BY KENNY ROOST  
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR



**Ben Folds**  
*Rockin' the Suberbs*  
84/100

Break-ups break hearts; mine wasn't spared when Ben Folds Five disbanded a year back. News of Ben Folds returning with a courageous solo album didn't console me because I figured the release would, frankly, suck eggs. Before his group broke up, Folds put out a previous solo album under the pseudonym Fear of Pop, and it sucked eggs, albeit in bizarre ways. I mean, the album's highpoint was a spoken word performed by William Shatner! In any event, throw my figuring out the window because *Rockin' the Suberbs* is superb. The whole album features fantastic and dense harmony in addition to fun and sporadically beautiful lyrics (especially on *Still Fighting It*, a song from Ben to his son). The opening track, *Annie Waits*, is a perfect pseudo-80's pop hit replete with claps, chorus, and irrepressible catchiness. The middle of *Gone* features an ephemeral and gorgeous duet between Ben and his wife. *The Ascent of Stan* boasts a glitzy quasi-techno chorus conducive to grooving. *Carrying Cathy* has Loveboat-esque rich strings buoying everything. Every song pleasantly sounds like a Ben Folds Five cut. The difference is that Ben plays virtually all the instruments on *Rockin' the Suberbs*, through the magic of overdubs. The result is more plastic than his previous group, which essentially recorded live in the studio. Also, Robert Sledge has tons more balls and skills on his fuzzy bass than Ben, and the same goes for Darren Jesse's drumming. Finally, Ben has sadly ceased pounding his piano like a lead guitar with solos and sonic dominance. The few solos present are handled by synths; the exuberant title track entirely lacks piano, but makes up for this via an overdose of cute lyrics that put Offspring's *Pretty Fly (for a White Guy)* to shame. In conclusion, *Rockin' the Suberbs* lacks the dynamics of a band, but this is hardly noticeable when absorbed by the largely fantastic and fantastically performed songs. It's not *Whatever & Ever Amen* (as there are a few slow and aimless moments sprinkled in here and there), but it's still "rockin'."



**Bob Dylan**  
*Love and Theft*  
27/100

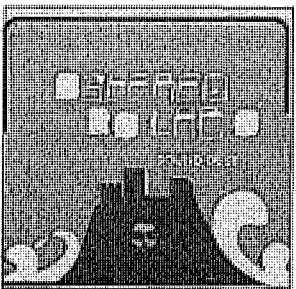
People joke about Bob's voice being terrible, but it never rang true with me until now. The legend has unleashed another fresh onslaught of material. Unfortunately, his golden tonsils are as rotted as his liver; he sounds like a guy who died in the latter stages of syphilis with piles of blood and mucus clogging his throat, only to be revived in a disastrous Frankenstein-related experiment to sing twelve 12-bar blues songs. To compound the debacle, these twelve songs are – for the most part – intensely unoriginal and uninspired. The alternating fast and slow ditties of incessant throat-clearing (alternately interpretable as singing) altogether feel like a set performed by a group of dusty guys hired by somebody's grandfather to lend atmosphere to a tragically formal and dated wedding. Bob's tastefully cruel and humorous wits remain, and the musicians are stellar. If you're a die-hard fan, as I am, you'll enjoy this album – you will even catch yourself shaking your money-maker to it as you endure the pilgrimage to and fro school, which is impressive given how sleep-deprived you are. But this album is not recommended to innocent bystanders: you folks will be much safer sampling the nearly artsy *Time Out of Mind* or some classic output like *Blood on the Tracks* – easily my favorite.



**Tori Amos**  
*Strange Little Girls*  
8/100

I love Tori, but these "Strange Little Girls" suck like a nuclear-powered vacuum cleaner (which my apartment could, incidentally, use). Not only does Tori sound like she's simply going through the motions, but she got her ass musically kicked by the original performer of every track on this album. The best cover she'll ever do is still *Smells Like Teen Spirit* (a classic B-side from the *Crucify* single). And the only good cover album I've ever heard is still Bowie's *Pinups*. *Strange Little Girls* is electronic and produced in the modern, bass-heavy vein of *To Venus and Back* (another largely cruddy outing, leading one to conclude Tori has, at least temporarily, lost her excellently sharp edge). The only track receiving Tori's traditionally sensitive acoustic piano treatment is *Enjoy the Silence*; and the piano sounds great, but you simply cannot harmonize a Depeche Mode song without Martin Gore's sexy tone and British accent. This cover album's best moment is on the chorus of *Strange Little Girl*, in the way Tori aggressively enunciates "really" when singing, "You really should...you really should be going." Beyond the fun of hearing that word, every moment is quite lackluster. I dare you to make it through *Strange Little Girls* in one listen – it's THAT damn boring.

\* Rage Against the Machine's *Renegades* is fun, but impossible to call a cover album as it bears no musical resemblance to any previous songs.



**Stereolab**  
*Sound-Dust*  
85/100

If you wanna impress that special someone (and by "special someone," I mean "me") with your ridiculously cool and esoteric music taste, get this album. Consider it slightly sinister electro-lounge with a jazzy flavor. The lead singer is a French woman who sings in both French and English, but uniformly sounds sweetly exotic. She married a British guy who fills out most of the rest of the sound. The bouncy, occasionally brass-infused music is equally perfect for raving, driving, drugs, sobriety, or Christmas. There are no standout singles worthy of exceptional applause. Instead, *Sound-Dust* maintains a steady, inexorable flow of good, diverse, shifting and groovy tunes.



**Bjork**  
*Vespertine*  
18/100

The Icelandic diva's latest is dramatically more one-dimensional and dull than her usual. There are no great songs – just many slow and somewhat lovely symphonic-electro tunes in line with *Selmasongs* that seduce one rapidly towards sleep. *Vespertine*'s opener, *Hidden Place*, is a loopy and highly repetitive bore filled out magnificently with an eerie choir and thick strings. *It's Not Up to You* is a tedious song with a snazzily elegant chorus which whips you to your feet for an energetic stint of haphazard ballroom dancing – at least that's what happened to me... Characteristic of Bjork, there are beautifully climactic, sexy and cool moments aplenty to be found on *Vespertine*, but they require some panning.

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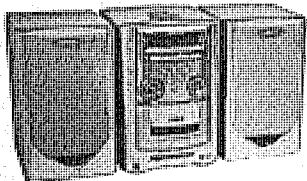
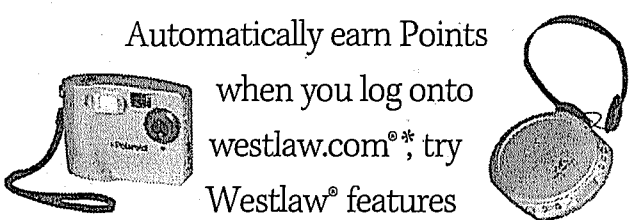
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