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# THE ADVOCATE

Fordham Law School's Student Newspaper since 1967

Vol. XXVII, No. 15

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December 21, 1995

# Dean John D. Feerick Asked to Join President Clinton on Northern Ireland Trip

Dean John D. Feerick of Fordham Law School has been asked by The White House to join the Presidential Party on the trip to Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland from through December 3, 1995. Dean Feerick will be part of a group which will participate in a number of activities with the President and members of the President's Cabinet in an effort to bolster the peace process.

Fordham Law School, with Dean Feerick as Project Leader, is currently engaged in a project to train a group of community leaders in Northern Ireland in the use of mediation techniques and dispute resolution processes. He has traveled to Ireland twice in the past 4 months to

(New York, NY, Nov. 28, 1995) meet with local officials, community leaders and representatives of the University of Ulster. The University of Ulster is acting as a partner with Fordham in this project. The Project is funded by the United States Information Agency.

> Dean Feerick has an extensive background in conflict resolution situations. He currently chairs the Executive Committee of the American Arbitration Association and has served in a number of positions to resolve disputes as a mediator and arbitrator. He is also the chair of the Ethics Committee of the Dispute Resolution Section of the American Bar Association.

#### TELEFILE GOES TO COLLEGE

Filing By Phone Available To Many On Campus

New York City - Many students attending college in the Metro Area and Long Island will be able to file their Federal income tax return directly from campus, by push-button phone, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, next year for the 6rst time.

Welcome to Telefile, the first completely automated electronic filing process. Telefile means no forms, not even the ubiquitous W-2, are mailed to the Internal Revenue Service and refunds are received within three weeks.

Ideal for collegians who meet certain requirements, Telefile is an interactive computer program that calculates and files a caller's taxes by phone in 10 minutes or less and eliminates filling out or mailing any forms.

Basically Telefile will be available to anyone who would normally file a Form 1040EZ. Telefilers must be single with no dependents, have less than \$50,000 of taxable income, and live at the same address where they filed their 1994 return.

Students eligible to use Telefile will automatically receive a special tax package that will include complete instructions. Telefilers will be prompted to input necessary information and to complete the process. There is nothing to mail to IRS. Processing of the return will begin before the caller hangs up.

IRS spokesperson Robert Kobel describes Telefile as "the latest step on the way to a totally paperless, fully automated and computerized system of filing returns, paying taxes, or receiving a refund. It should appeal to busy college students who only have a simple return to file," Kobel added.

# **Computer Lab Undergoes Upgrade**

#### Changes include new equipment and new applications

by Melba Feliberty ('97)

The law school computer lab has recently installed 31 new pentium computers, which contain 340 megabyte hard drives and 8 megabytes of RAM memory. The lab has also installed virus protection. New software includes Quattro Pro, a spreadsheet application, Folioviews, and an updated version of CALI. WordPerfect for DOS was removed because it required too much memory and most DOS user could easily convert to Windows. The e-mail system is anticipated to be upgraded in 1996.

Marjorie Martin is the Manager of Technical Resources for the law school computer lab. She manages the computer lab, the adjacent training room, CALI, the Interactive Video, the Arkenstone equipment, and the faculty laptops.

While most students are familiar with the computer labs, many have yet to be introduced to the CALI program and the Interactive Video Program. Few will have the opportunity to experience the Arkenstone.

Arkenstone is an interactive system, however, it is used especially for the visually handicapped. Arkenstone has vocal aspects that allow

the computer to vocalize individual letters as they are being typed. It can also read entire paragraphs off of the screen.

Ms. Martin noted that the Arkenstone is generally used during the exam period. It allows visually impaired students to type their answers and allows it to be relayed onto a form that maintains the anonymity of the student.

The interactive video, which includes a video disc player, is useful as a study guide or to obtain extra information for class. Discs may be checked out through the Fordham Law library reserve

Concerning computer-assisted research, all Westlaw terminals are operational as is the West hotline. There are some operational problems with Lexis, which should be corrected by the time of this printing. The computer lab is investigating a possible Lexis hotline, which has been delayed due to complications with wiring installed during renovations.

The computer lab hopes to produce a newsletter, which would offer advice and tips from the library. Also, the lab would like to receive software input from the students, perhaps through a committee that would act as a liaison between the lab and the students.

'TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS-LAWYER'S STYLE-PAGE 2

FORDHAM LAW BARRISTER'S BOWL TEAMS-PAGE 3

**CROSSWORD-PAGE 5** 

THE FIRST YEAR DRAMA-PAGE 5



#### BLOOD DRIVE NOVEMBER 6 & 7, 1995.

The Community Service Project thanks all those who volunteered to donate blood during our blood drive. We collected 119 pints, which supplied approximately 545 patients in area hospitals.

Robert Matz

Dante C Alberi Susan M Baer Cynthia L Bailey Andrew P Beame Karen A Boyer Eric D Breitman Lea Wei Chang Nadia J Chanza Melissa R Chapnick Christina Chiaramonte Julianne Cohn Elizabeth B Cooper Catriona M Cullinane Michelle L Davidson Matthew F Davies Ivette E DeCastro Brian M Diglio Daniel G Ecker Steven R Eichel Joelle Entelis Nitza M Escalera John P Falcone Michael C Faro Maria Fazzolari Jennifer S Feeney John D Feerick Michael R Feinsod Jill G Fieldstein Adam J Fischkelta Colleen Fitzgerald David L Fitzgerald Martin S Flaherty Patrick J Flanagan Thomas J Fox Mary C Gaffney Paul C Garfinkel Howard G Glanzman Seth R Goldman Melissa A Goldstein Remo A Hammid Vivian Huelgo James L Kainen Benjamin A Kaplan Kirk P Kearney Eric L Lange Joseph A Laroski Peter T Lattman Ethan Y Leonard Paul J Lightfoot Mark A Ligos Kai S Lui Jessica R Lynn Deborah A Mallesch Richard B Marrin

Marjorie A Martin

Felicia J McCoy Mary C McKee Monica A McLaughlin Tracey L McNeil Gary R Meyer Holly T Mitchell Howard Z Myerowitz Jennifer D Nolte Stacy R North Newbert Brian M Nurse Kathryn A O'Hagan Philip F O'Reilly Judith O'Sullivan Karen M Ortiz Gregg A Paradise Elena Paraskevas Jigar S Parikh Sandra S Petit Alan S Rabinowitz Melissa G Reed Daniel C Richman Andrea J Rinaldi Donna M Rosinski Andrew E Roth Karin N Roth Alice W Ryan Brendan P Ryan Zoe B Salem Mark D Salzberg Tami S Scarola Holly T Schepisi Keri M Scherr Leah A Schleicher Beth G Schwartz Chantal N Senatus Carol S Shapiro Robye Shav! Todd H Siegel **Edward T Smith** Ali Spanakos Joseph C Sponholz Lisa A Stanger Ann E Stanley Debbra A Stolarik Robert H Sutton Kenneth E Tabachnick Christine M Tierney Rebecca M Timlin Janet R Tracy William E Uebbing Emilia K Warlinski Erica M Weihe Michael S Winderman

# Thanks are also due to all who volunteered to work during the blood drive:

Eric Breitman, Linda Cheung, Joelle Entelis, Andrea Fitz, David Greene, Rhonda Holmes, Vanessa Melendez, Brendan McFeeley, Christina Park, Melissa Persaud, Joanne Quinones, Andrea Rinaldi, Keri Scherr, Naeem Vargo, and Erica Weil

# 'Twas The Night Before Christmas

LAWYER STYLE!!!!!

Twas the nocturnal segment of the diurnal period preceding the annual Yuletide celebration, and throughout our place of residence, kinetic activity was not in evidence among the possessors of this potential, including that species of domestic rodent known as Mus musculus. Hosiery was meticulously suspended from the forward edge of the wood burning caloric apparatus, pursuant to our anticipatory pleasure regarding an imminent visitation from an eccentric philanthropist among whose folkloric appellations is the honorific title of St. Nicholas.

The prepubescent siblings, comfortably ensconced in their respective accommodations of repose, were experiencing subconscious visual hallucinations of variegated fruit confections moving rhythmically through their cerebrums. My conjugal partner and I, attired in our nocturnal head coverings, were about to take slumberous advantage of the hibernal darkness when upon the avenaceous exterior portion of the grounds there ascended such a cacophony of dissonance that I felt compelled to arise from my place of repose for the purpose of ascertaining the precise source thereof.

Hastening to the casement, I forthwith opened the barriers sealing this fenestration, noting thereupon that the lunar brilliance without, reflected as it was on the surface of a recent crystalline precipitation, might be said to rival that of the solar meridian. itself - thus permitting my incredulous optical sensory organs to behold a miniature airborne runnered conveyance drawn by eight diminutive specimens of the genus Rangifer, piloted by a minuscule, aged chauffeur so ebullient and nimble that it became instantly apparent to me that he was indeed our anticipated caller. With his ungulate motive power traveling at what may possibly have been more vertiginous velocity than patriotic alar predators, he vociferated loudly, expelled breath musically through contracted labia, and addressed each of the octet by his or her respective cognomen - "Now Dasher, now Dancer..." et al. - guiding them to the uppermost exterior level of our abode, through which structure I could readily distinguish the concatenations of each of the 32 cloven pedal extremities.

Ås I retracted mg cranium from its erstwhile location, and was performing a 180-degree pivot, our distinguished visitant achieved - with utmost celerity and via a downward leap - entry by way of the smoke passage. He was clad entirely in animal pelts soiled by the ebony residue from oxidations of carboniferous fuels which had accumulated on the walls thereof. His resemblance to a street vendor I attributed largely to the plethora of assorted playthings which he bore dor-

sally in a commodious cloth receptacle.

His orbs were scintillant with reflected luminosity, while his submaxillary dermal indentations gave every evidence of engaging amiability. The capillaries of his malar regions and nasal appurtenance were engorged with blood which suffused the subcutaneous layers, the former approximating the coloration of Albion's floral emblem the latter, that of the Prunus avium, or sweet cherry His amusing sub- and supralabials resembled nothing so much as a common loop knot, and their ambient hirsute facial adornment appeared like small, tabular and columnar crystals of frozen water.

Clenched firmly between his incisors was a smoking piece whose gray fumes, forming a tenuous ellipse about his occiput, were suggestive of a decorative seasonal circlet of holly. His visage was wider than it was high, and when he waxed audibly mirthful, his corpulent abdominal region undulated in the manner of impectinated fruit syrup in a hemispherical container. He was, in short, neither more nor less than an obese, jocund, multigenarian gnome, the optical perception of whom rendered me visibly frolicsome despite every effort to refrain from so being. By rapidly lowering and then elevating one eyelid and rotating his head slightly to one side, he indicated that trepidation on my part was groundless.

Without utterance and with dispatch, he commenced filling the aforementioned appended hosiery with various of the aforementioned articles of merchandise extracted from his aforementioned previously dorsally transported cloth receptacle. Upon completion of this task, he executed an abrupt about-face, placed a single manual digit in lateral juxtaposition to his olfactory organ. inclined his cranium forward in a gesture of leave-taking, and forthwith effected his egress by renegotiating (in reverse) the smoke passage.

He then propelled himself in a short vector onto his conveyance, directed a musical expulsion of air through his contracted oral sphincter to the antlered quadrupeds of burden, and proceeded to soar aloft in a movement hitherto observable chiefly among the seed-bearing portions of a common weed. But I overheard his parting exclamation, audible immediately prior to his vehiculation beyond the limits of visibility: "Ecstatic Yuletide to the planetary constituency, and that self same assemblage, my sincerest wishes for a salubriously beneficial and gratifying pleasurable period between sunset and dawn."

This rendition was anonymously written

## Fordham Barrister's Bowl Teams Dance Their Way to State Finals

You've heard about the Barrister's Ball. You even know what a "barrister" is. But for ten points, what is Barrister's Bowl? If you guessed that it's a game played with ten pins on a wood court, you'd be wrong. If you guessed that it is a bit like a cross between the multi-state bar review and Jeopardy, you wouldn't be too far off.

Two teams from Fordham Law School qualified for the statewide Barrister's Bowl tournament, to be held on February 4, 1996. Both Fordham teams were among the top six finishers in a legal and general knowledge quiz competition held on November 12 in New York City.

Captained by Herb Detrick '97 and Rob Cohen '96, the Fordham I and II teams competed against teams from New York University, Cardozo, and several other downstate law schools.

After besting Touro I and Columbia I by scores of 320-150 and 290-260, respectively, both Fordham teams advanced to the second round of competition. Fordham I went on to qualify for the statewide finals by eliminating Cardozo I 320-200. Fordham II lost its quarterfinal match to Columbia II by 330-250, but qualified for a wild card spot in the February 4 tournament on the strength of total points scored.

The members of the Fordham I squad are Detrick, Tom McCormick '96, and Phil Parziale '96. The Fordham II

squad includes Cohen, Tim Dockery '97, and Scott Jaffee '98. Chuck Loesner '97 is the alternate.

The Fordham teams were selected following on-campus try-outs in late October. Nearly twenty students participated in mock scrimmages, complete with electronic buzzers and sample questions prepared especially for the occasion. The Fordham Law School Student Bar Association (SBA) helped to organize and provide administrative support for the on-campus event.

Barrister's Bowl questions test the legal and general knowledge of participants. To prepare for the regional tournament, Fordham team members quizzed each other on topics ranging from recent sports milestones to famous court cases. The practice sessions clearly paid off.

"Some of the questions in the tournament were real easy for us," said Herb Detrick, who collected sample questions for Fordham's intra-squad scrimmages from team members, and from Fordham law librarian Janice Greer.

"In practice, we had a question about Cal Ripken, the baseball player who just broke Lou Gehrig's record of 2,130 consecutive games played. In the regional tournament, there was another baseball question, and the correct response was Cal Ripken. I don't remember who it was, Phil or Tom, who answered, but they jumped all over it."

Others questions were more diffi-

cult. "There was a 100 question written examination before the single-elimination tournament," Detrick said. "Each three-person team was asked to name a particular 19th century case that dealt with a problem encountered by a mill in England. I remembered the case from my contracts class with Professor Malloy. But very few of the other participants knew the right answer. What made the question so difficult was that our only real clue was a line excerpted from the case."

While not all of Fordham's players were able to identify Hadley v. Baxendale as the source of the quote, "The shaft is broken," they clearly worked well together. Each Fordham team had at least one player with a good knowledge of either sports trivia, geography, science, or the humanities. And every player also participated in a pre-tournament briefing that covered recent Supreme Court appointments and other current events.

Commenting on the skills of the players selected to represent Fordham in the tournament, third year student Rob Cohen noted that both Fordham teams were well-balanced. "We were very pleased at how each team member showed a breadth of general knowledge and an expertise in certain areas," Cohen said. "Even though we had a third year, a second year, and a first year in my group, it was a real team effort. During our first game against Columbia I, we each buzzed in and answered between eight and ten questions correctly."

Another participant also expressed optimism that at least one of Fordham's two teams will make it to the final round of the competition. "With the good showing at the regionals, we're confident that we will do well at the state level," said Tom McCormick. "The way the final brackets have been set up, we might even see a Fordham I versus Fordham II showdown in the championship match."

Fordham students may have a chance to see that showdown come to pass on February 4. The six downstate finalists, including teams from Columbia, Hofstra, Brooklyn and N.Y.U., and two upstate teams from S.U.N.Y. Buffalo Law, will compete in a single-elimination tournament, starting at 10 a.m. in the McNally ampitheatre. Fordham I is seeded to play Buffalo I in the lower bracket. Fordham II's first game will be an upper bracket grudge match against top-seeded Columbia II.

BAR/BRI, which supplied the questions for the regional matches, is sponsoring the final tournament. The bar review organization will also award a \$1000 cash prize to each member of the winning team. Another \$2500 will go to the SBA at the winning school. Prizes of \$500 to \$250 go to players at schools placing second through fourth.

That's the kind of cash that anyone would dance for!

#### **CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL**

### BARRISTER'S BOWL<sup>TM</sup> PARTICIPANTS

#### FROM

#### BAR/BRI BAR REVIEW

#### WHO WILL WIN THE 1996 BARRISTER'S BOWI

COLUMBIA II 1.

**BUFFALO II** 

NYU II 2.

3. **BUFFALO I**  HOFSTRA I

FORDHAM I 6.

7. BROOKLYN II

FORDHAM II

(teams are listed in order of seeding)

ALL LAW STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE FINALS.

DATE: FEBRUARY 3, 1996

12:00 PM - 7:00 PM TIME:

FORDHAM LAW SCHOOL PLACE:

> MOOT COURT ROOM 140 WEST 62ND STREET **NEW YORK CITY**

PRESENTED BY

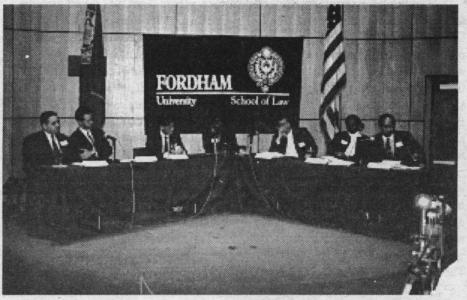


# LALSA/BLSA/APALSA Joint Venture Symposium **Addresses Minortiy Law Firms**

By David Bowen ('96)

On November 16, 1995, the Black Law Student Association in conjunction with LALSA and APALSA, hosted an symposium entitled, "Minority-Owned Law Firms at the Threshold of the Twenty-First Century." Six panelist represented a wide spectrum of minority owned law firms: from solo-practitioners to a corporate law firm in direct competition with mainstream law firms.

Dean Feerick started off the event with greetings; he further stated that the importance of minority owned firms will only grow due to the fluctuations in today's legal market. After an introduction of the panelists by Dean Escelara, BLSA secretary and panel moderator Toni Agard, started off the discussion by asking the panelists what would be a good theme for the discussion. The responses of the panelists boiled down to one common theme: one has to



The panelists, from left to right, were, Jose Camacho, John Stanton Carro, Alexander P. Moon, Benjamin Gim, Jill Pilgrim, and Paul T. Williams. Toni Agard ('97), Secretary of BLSA, (center) served as moderator.

innovative in order to survive.

Paul T. Williams, Jr. stated in order "to survive and thrive weh have to be smarter than ever" and better than most other law firms, given the current hostile climate against affirmative action. The "wholesale attacks on affirmative action" have an effect on private affirmative action efforts. He further contended that the black male is under attack in the media, and that professionalism, excellence, and entrepreneurism are not portrayed in the media. Also, he noted that no minority laws firms are recognized as primary counsel to any you must "look for opportunities and be Fortune 500 companies. He closed with

the comment that "African-Americans, in the struggle for survival, have to be smatter than ever, better than ever, and more determined to suceed."

Jill Pilgrim of Pilgrim and Associates echoed a different response by stating that "the white law firm is not exactly the best model." She also believes that there is alot of opportunity for minority firms, and that all they have to do is to provide quality legal services to their perspective minority communities. She also calls for lawyers to be more creative and to stay on the cutting edge of new technology.

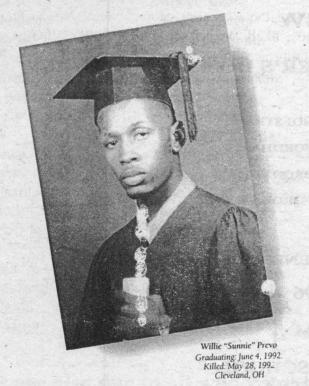
Jose Camacho, an attorney who started his law practice about six month out of law school, reflected an similar sentiment by alluding to the fact that there is alot of business in the coomunity from bodegas to hip hop groups. All one has to do is to network in order to tap into the business. He also said "you must be confident because there are a lot of people trying to intimidate you."

Alexander P. Moon said "the key of being a minority owned firm is being a good firm." He admitted that he never thought about the fact that his was a "minority law firm." He also commented on the fact that there are many minorities who will not hire minority law firms. His firm, Moon & Ikeda, handles banking transactional work.

John Stanton Carro stated that



Rhonda Holmes ('97) Vice Chairperson of BLSA talks with one of the panelists



If you don't stop someone from driving drunk, who will? Do whatever it takes

FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK







Dean Nitza Milagros Escalera addresses the crowd during the opening remarks

aggressive to develop skills." Originally, Mr. Carro started the firm a year ago with the notion of competing with the large mainstream firms but now the firm serves the community. Mr. Carro stated that "you have to be strong in your own backyard."

Benjamin Gim, a top immigration lawyer, believes that the white shoe law firms "may go down with the dinosaurs" and that "minority law firms are the only firms that can survive." Moreover, Mr. Gim states that today "the old general pracitioner cannot survive" therefore, lawyer must specialize in two or three fields. He began his career at a time

when there were "three Asian lawyers in New York, and probably on the east coast." He suggested that general practice is a "dinosaur," and that those seeking to set up a firm should specialize in two or three fields. Also, those setting up firms should keep them small, adding that "maybe smallness is the key to sur-

This theme of survival resonated throughout the rest of the discussion while the panelists wrestled with various questions. Although attendance of the event was a bit smaller than expected, the discussion was a tremendous success.

# CROSSWORD

#### CROSSW RD® Crossword

**Edited by Stan Chess** 

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## THE FIRST YEAR **DRAMA**

by M. Paulose, Jr.

Studying for a law school exam is like trying to swim through molasses. There are rules upon rules with exceptions within exceptions above one or more legislative policies. Resorting to the case book will get you a 'B'; memorizing the Restatement will get you a 'B+'; acknowledging the professor's law review article pushes you tiredly to an 'A-'. How to get an 'A'? I asked around, but no one knows for sure and Mathew Bender refuses to take my phone calls.

So the law school outline becomes everyone's illusionary hope. In tiny size nine Arial font, every rule of law, precedent, policy, and brown nosing note crawls across a stack of white paper like an army of black ants on a disorganized stampede. There is so much information on these outlines, I am sure that if we all get-together one of these days we will come up with one of the best law school casebooks the world will ever see. After which, of course, we will quit our respective firms and live off West's money for the rest of our lives....

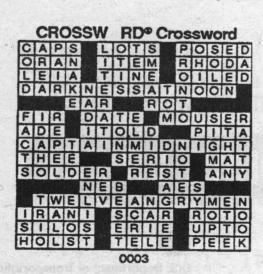
There are a few students, however, who prefer to use a second hand outline. There is no difference, per se, save for the fact that those who scrawl their own outlines get one extra shot at memorizing--the correlation between reading and writing to long term memory is a timeworn gospel truth. Nevertheless, these people will most likely do just as well, considering there are some outlines out there comparable to a work of

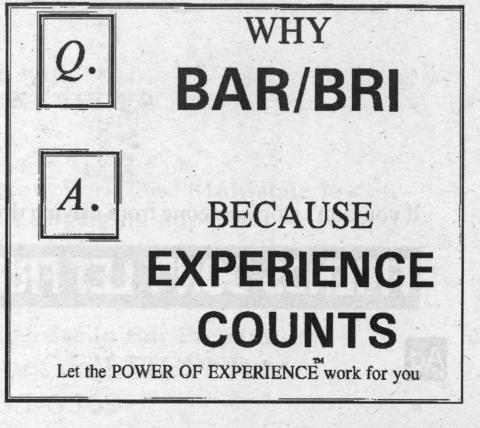
art. Take for example: floating around is a Torts outline for Professor Hollister's class that dates back some twelve semesters. Over the years, so many students have marked up the margins (~~ -9 with their own notes, that a magnifying glass is needed to decipher 'res periit domino' from 'let's order Domino's.' There is another Torts outline, dated a year back, with a cover! What was that second year thinking?

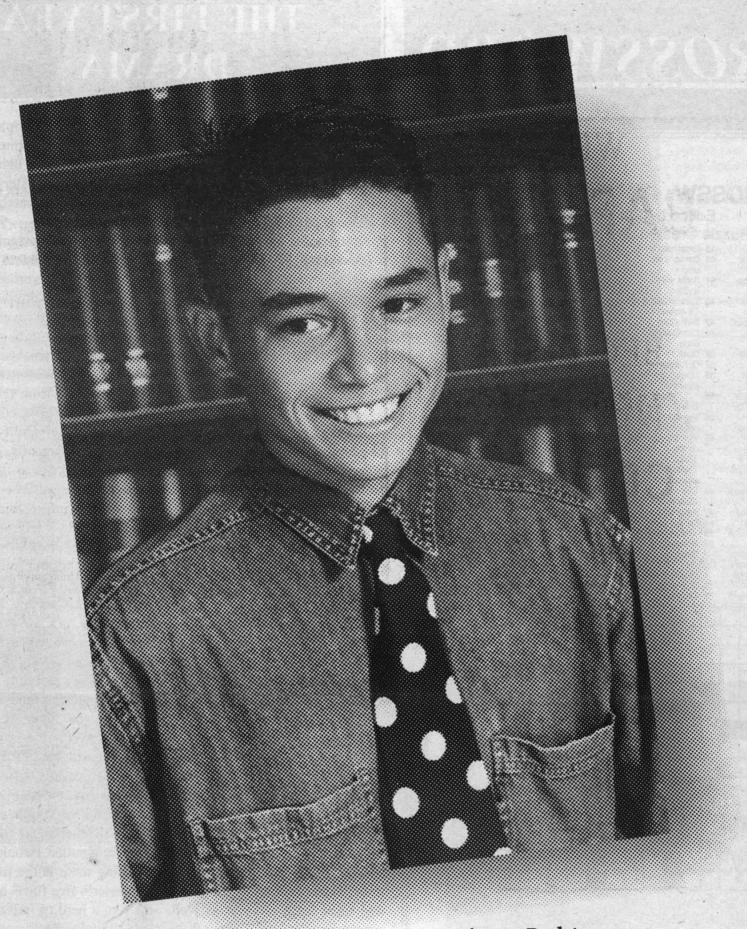
In the end, what you have matters very little. We will all know the law. The men from the boys, the ladies from the girls, will stand out, rather, from their ability to manage time, write coherently, be imaginative, and be keen to those hidden issues. These attributes, much of the time, are innate, mingled with a bit of luck (they tell me more luck than anything else). So there is never a point in burning out, shedding tears, losing friends. Be relieved in knowing that no law student ever fails; in fact, failure is not even in the same vocabulary as that of a law student's. Since you've made it this far, it follows naturally that you've been doing everything right so far.

By the time this article is printed, every first year will have completed their very first law school exam. Hopefully, afterwards, we will have had the energy to walk out to the front steps, light a smoke, and pat each other on the back. A sufficient celebration, I would think, considering there is the furor of next semester's five finals approaching us like a herd of buffaloes on the run. Relation-back: good luck.

#### Solution to Last Issue's Puzzle







Aaron Rodriguez
Ballplayer freshman year.
Little League Coach sophomore year.
Killed junior year.
December 28, 1993
San Antonio, TX

If you don't stop someone from driving drunk, who will? Do whatever it takes.

FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK.





Q.

WHY BAR/BRI

*A*.

BECAUSE

EXPERIENCE

COUNTS

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