



## Lambda Law Protests NSLA's Job Fair

*Student organizations disagree over military recruiters at GW Law*

BY JAMES CHANG  
Assistant News Editor

In 2006, the Supreme Court decided 8-0 in *Rumsfeld v. Forum for Academic and Institutional Rights, Inc.* that the Solomon Amendment, which ties federal funding for educational institutions to their allowance of military recruiters onto campus, was not unconstitutional.

This objection to military recruiters by the association of law schools comprising the Forum of Academic and Institutional Rights (FAIR), of which The George Washington Law School was a party, was based in the government's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy regarding homosexuals in the military. FAIR argued that forcing the schools to allow recruiters from institutions that did not share a similar nondiscrimination policy violated a First Amendment right to expressive association. This argument was not found to be compelling and military recruiters are now allowed into career events, albeit under protest by some students and with disclaimers by the school.

On October 4, the debate on this issue spilled into the halls of GW Law as the National Security Law Association

(NSLA) student group hosted a career fair in the Student Conference Center. NSLA stated that it hosted the fair to aid students in the pursuit of national security legal careers. The career fair included representatives of the Judge Advocate General (JAG) from the various branches of the military.

In protest, the Lambda Law student group set up a table with informational brochures and Lambda Law members outside the SCC. While this was a simple and straightforward protest for this single event, Lambda Law is seeking a stricter prohibition as to funding for student groups when they allow military recruiters in the future.

In August, the NSLA made invitations to all their recruiters for this job fair, including the law school's policy of disclaiming advertising by groups that did not match the nondiscrimination policy. On September 25, advisors and members of the NSLA and Lambda Law met with the administration to discuss Lambda's formal objection to the invitation extended to the JAG recruiters as violative of this nondiscrimination policy.

Ryan Mick, Co-President of Lambda Law, conceded that revocation of funding to NSLA at such a late date would

be unfair given the reliance of NSLA on that disbursement. Lambda Law does not seek to bar bringing the military for panel discussions or lectures, but objects to recruiting events like NSLA's career fair in this context.

However, Mick maintained the position that, "the funding of NSLA's career fair is out of line with GW's anti-discrimination policy, as well as the SBA's bylaws," continuing that, "Since it aligns with already existing SBA bylaws, I think a rule should be imposed that prohibits organizations from bringing military recruiters on campus."

Brooke Fineberg, President of NSLA, said that, "NSLA inclusion of JAG recruiters does not violate SBA bylaws. Under Bylaw 602(a)(9) (Requirements for Student Organizations), students organizations are required to 'conduct all activities in a manner consistent with the provisions and spirit of the University Policy on Equal Opportunity, the University Guide to Student Rights and Responsibilities, the organization's own constitution, and the Constitution and Bylaws of the Student Bar Association. NSLA has fulfilled all these requirements for conduct, including fulfillment of our own constitution, which states, as

one of its three primary purposes, "to aid members in their pursuits of careers in [the national security law field]."

Fineberg also pointed out that many members of the NSLA do not agree with the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, and that the organization would abide by a future decision by the University General Counsel to bar military recruiters. Mick added that, "there is a strong argument for law student solidarity on the issue of discrimination; that it is unacceptable and never appropriate on the law school campus." However, given the Solomon Amendment ruling and risk of losing federal funding, an outright change of this sort in university policy is unlikely.

NSLA argued that the allowance of military recruiters does not fall within the spirit of the SBA bylaws on discrimination, but that the NSLA career fair and funding constraints are being conducted openly in good faith and directly serve the specialized needs of their members. Conversely the bylaws only restrict the use of funds with regard to content when the content of the event is political campaigns; conversely the allowance of military recruiters might be argued to be a form of political speech that falls under such a restriction.

## Understanding Law Enforcement in China

BY JAMES CHANG  
Assistant News Editor

Last Monday, Professor Pamela Phan and the East Asian Law Society (EALS) coordinated to host speaker Dr. Murray Scot Tanner. Tanner is Deputy Staff Director, Congressional-Executive Commission on China and a colleague of Professor Phan's, who is teaching "Law of the People's Republic of China" this semester. His talk was on "China's Police System and the Obstacles to Building the Rule of Law," which was based on his article published in this month's *The China Quarterly*.

Tanner's presentation began by describing the general dynamic of administrative bodies in China, which gives much more authority to the Communist Party leaders at the local level of states and counties as opposed to the central level of authority emanating from Beijing. This dynamic is different than the system of most federal institutions in the United States, which, according to Tanner, is transparently vertical in establishing the chain-of-command. Tanner explained that most government organs receive directives from their central authority in Beijing, but the actual execution and administration of duties is controlled by the local government leaders, with the exception of China's equivalent to the IRS.

Tanner stated that while this organizational scheme may not seem efficient, it reflects the significant influence of tradition in how bureaucracy in

China has been enacted. In China, when some social matters have been centralized, there have been significant collapses in actual functioning.

The most striking example was the "Great Leap Forward" that began in 1958. This centralization into communes of how the institution of agriculture was run led to the largest man-made famine in history, indirectly causing 17-30 million deaths, which Tanner aptly described as one of the more painfully ironic names for any government initiative. The Chinese Communist Party experienced a similar crisis in terms of an extensive and fruitless personnel purge in the early 1930s when they centralized the department of law enforcement.

For the issue of police enforcement today, Tanner's research examined how the local level control directly affects the quality and ability of the Public Security Bureaus (PSB) to actually enforce the rule of law. Tanner drew the analogy of the chief officer of the Indianapolis FBI office reporting to the mayor of Indianapolis as opposed to the Director of the FBI to describe the form of local control over a PSB.

In China, the practical effect of this relationship is that local government officials have authority over the police force's budget, hiring policy, and over the oversight committees intended to review the PSB. Since the budget is directly related to the wealth of the local government, some PSBs are limited by the simple tax base, leading to regions

See CHINA page 2

## CLS Notes Discrimination in Drug Sentencing

BY SARAH VALERIO  
News Editor

"It's not fair, it's not working," reads the slogan for the Criminal Law Society's (CLS) recent event and also its stance on the issue. Last Wednesday, CLS hosted an event to discuss what CLS considers the "disparity and racial inequality" in the criminal justice system with regard to the different ways in which possession and use of crack and cocaine are prosecuted.

Currently, federal law punishes crack cocaine offenders much more severely than it does other drug offenders. For instance, distributing five grams of crack carries a minimum five-year federal prison sentence. An individual would have to distribute 500 grams of powdered cocaine to receive the same sentence under the disparate minimum sentencing guidelines.

CLS points out its belief that the distinct standards of punishment also amount to racial discrimination. It notes that while whites and Hispanics are the majority of crack users, this is due to the dramatically larger percentage of the overall United States population they represent. According to the panel, however, the vast majority of those convicted of crack cocaine offenses are African Americans. CLS's website traces the history of the disparate sentencing standards to the 1986 death of University of Maryland basketball player Len Bias, which it says "spurred Congress to heighten penalties for the possession and trafficking of crack cocaine." Bias

was believed to have died from an overdose of crack cocaine, but it was later discovered that his death resulted from ingestion of a combination of powdered cocaine and alcohol.

As a result of the 1986 Anti-Drug Abuse Act, a conviction for distributing just five grams of crack, approximately the same weight as two sugar packets, carries a minimum five-year federal prison sentence, while a conviction for distributing 500 grams of powdered cocaine carries the same sentence.

The 100-to-1 disparity, according to CLS, "has significant consequences for racial inequality in the criminal justice system." CLS notes that prior to 1986, the average federal drug sentence for African Americans was 11 percent higher than for whites. Four years later, after the Anti-Drug Abuse Act, the average federal drug sentence for African Americans was 49 percent higher. The result is that on average, African Americans now serve almost as much time in prison for a drug offense (58.7 months) as whites do for a violent offense (61.7 months).

According to CLS data, in 2006, crack cocaine sentences were 43.5 percent longer than powdered cocaine sentences; the average length of imprisonment for powdered cocaine offenders was 84.7 months, while crack cocaine-related imprisonments averaged 121.5 months. 81.8% of those sentenced in federal court for dealing crack were black, while 27% of those sentenced

See SENTENCING page 2

## NEWS

## NOTA BENE

2008 G STREET, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20052

WWW.NOTABENEGW.COM NOTABENE@LAW.GWU.EDU

NOTA BENE IS A BI-WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION AT THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL. NOTA BENE SERVES AS A FORUM FOR NEWS, FEATURES & OPINIONS IN THE LAW SCHOOL COMMUNITY. WE SEEK SUBMISSIONS FROM STUDENTS AT GW LAW SCHOOL. NEWS AND FEATURES ARTICLES ARE PAID AT A RATE OF \$25.00 PER ARTICLE.

EDITOR IN CHIEF  
ANITA FARAHVALLIANI

MANAGING EDITOR  
WASIM RAHMAN

NEWS EDITOR  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR  
OPINIONS EDITOR  
WEBMASTER

SARAH VALERIO  
JAMES CHANG  
MATTHEW BROWN  
JOHN KEVLIN

STAFF

JONATHAN AUERBACH  
KUNZANG DUKPA

MARLOWE DOMAN  
JOSHUA TEITELBAUM

## SBA hits Mid-Semester Form

By WILLIAM SCHMIDT  
*SBA Communications Director*

The SBA is hitting mid-semester form with initiatives and events designed to reach all students, from helping 1Ls learn from law school veterans to increasing cooperation among student organizations, and giving everyone another chance to get together and have fun.

The Mentor Program organized an event at Buffalo Billiards last month

to give mentors and mentees another chance to get together and talk about making the most of the GW Law experience. Attendance was lower than the SBA's Mentoring Committee hoped for because of a clash with the

1Ls' memo assignments, but it was just one of several events the committee has planned for the year. Director of Mentoring Bryan Nese noted that the students who attended enjoyed the event.

The Mentor Program as a whole continued its growth in both participation and structure this year. More than 400 students are taking part, requiring the committee to reorganize some of its events to better accommodate more students. The committee also introduced an online signup form this year. Nese said this process allowed the committee to collect more information from potential mentors and mentees and make more effective matches.

The committee emphasized that the program is about more than just parties and other big events. Its main goal is to help new students connect with experienced students who can help them cope with the challenges of their first year. To that end, the committee tries to promote continued interaction

between mentors and mentees.

Nese said, "On that day when a 1L walks out of class and feels like he or she just got kicked in the face, it's nice just to have someone there to slap ice on the metaphorical bruise and say that it's all going to be okay."

Another key item on the committee's agenda is starting a weekly Thirsty Thursday Raffle with prizes like gift certificates and LexisNexis points to create another incentive for mentees and mentors to get together.

The SBA also helped student organizations show new students what they have to offer by hosting the Student Organization Fair. Student groups used the opportunity to recruit new members and promote upcoming events. The student organizations told the SBA they

thought the fair was a success.

The SBA plans to work closely with student organizations through the Gavel Club. The Gavel Club is an organization in which leaders of other student organizations meet to share ideas and discuss common concerns. So far, the club has addressed event-scheduling conflicts at the school, one of the biggest challenges student organizations face when planning activities. A new monthly calendar will list all scheduled student organization events so that the groups can try to plan around potential conflicts.

The SBA has already announced this year's Halloween Festival, and plans to share more details as the date approaches. The annual party was so popular that the SBA decided to make it a festival this year. It will kick off with a carnival on the quad on Thursday, October 25, and reach its festive height at Avenue Night Club. Ticket will be on sale starting Monday, October 8. The cost will be \$20 for the first week, and \$25 thereafter.

## CHINA from page 1.

of China with only 5 police officers per 10,000 citizens.

Tanner stated that in comparison, Beijing has about 37 officers per 10,000 people, and most American cities have significantly more.

With control over the hiring, promotion, and demotion decisions, local government officials have obvious influence over the police officers within their locality. This has led to several running abuses of authority ordering law enforcement personnel to perform non-police duties. Tanner noted the enforcement of contracts, collection of personal debts, beating up dissidents, and coercion of family planning policies as activities beyond the scope of normal police responsibilities.

Compounding the problem is the fact that the majority of, roughly a dozen, oversight bodies also report to the same local governments as the police. Additionally, because the local governments are only responsible for their own area of authority, there is little incentive for cross-jurisdictional cooperation, which leaves criminals greater breadth for operations that do not attract national attention. Tanner pointed to the work of Chin Kolin at the Rutgers School of Criminal Justice for undercover research into these cross jurisdictional criminal and organized crime in China.

**[T]he most likely way for the PSBs to gain independence would be to have control of their own budgets**

Before offering his proposed solutions to this issue, Tanner first described how social order in China since the Communists took power used to be supplemented by civilians involved in town committees that helped to watch over the daily affairs of people and maintain order. However, these township centered committees have lost membership to the point that there is effectively only

the standing official police force to take care of all civil and criminal matters.

According to Tanner, the most likely way for the PSBs to gain independence would be to have control of

their own budgets without interference from the local officials. In some respects, the PSBs are responsible for their own budgets, as occasionally predatory fines levied against citizens can make up for the shortfall in budgets allotted to the PSB. However, the likelihood of gaining this independence is admittedly low. Tanner mentioned in remarks during the reception that the Chinese judiciary was probably the organ where it would be easier and effective for this change from local to central control to occur. With a template of success to work from, the complaints of the actual police officers regarding the administration of the PSBs might lead to a real change.

## SENTENCING from page 1.

for dealing powdered cocaine were black, according to the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

The panel featured Judge Arthur L. Burnett, Sr., National Executive Director for the National African American Drug Policy Coalition; Ryan King, Policy Analyst for The Sentencing Project; Jesselyn McCurdy, Legislative Counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); Eric Sterling, President for the Criminal Justice Policy Foundation; and Jasmine Tyler, Deputy Director of National Affairs for the Drug Policy Alliance. The panel was moderated by Professor Paul Butler.

The panel discussed the disparity as well as legislative, legal and grassroots strategies to end it. The event was held in the Student Conference Center and was followed by a reception.

The disparity is also an ongoing topic of debate in Congress. According to CLS's website, "in May, the U.S. Sentencing Commission sent a report to Congress urging them to reduce the crack-cocaine disparity in mandatory minimum sentences. Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) responded by introducing S. 1685, the Fairness in Drug Sentencing Act of 2007.

The bill would reduce the difference between crack and powdered sentencing by increasing the amount of crack cocaine needed to trigger the five-year mandatory minimum sentences from five to 25 grams and the 10-year mandatory minimum from 50 to 250 grams. It would also eliminate the five-year mandatory minimum for simple possession. The bill would not eliminate the cocaine sentencing disparity but reduce it from 100:1 to 20:1. The bill also directs the Sentencing Commission

to review the sentencing guidelines and amend them if appropriate to account for specified aggravating and mitigating characteristics."

Further, CLS said Senator Joe Biden (D-Delaware) has introduced a

bill which, if enacted, would completely eliminate the disparity. CLS's website states that the bill, the Drug Sentencing Reform and Cocaine Kingpin Trafficking Act of 2007 "would eliminate sentencing differences between crack and

powdered cocaine in favor of a single mandatory minimum at the current powdered cocaine levels and eliminate the five-year mandatory minimum for simple possession of crack cocaine.

The bill would also authorize drug treatment and enforcement funds and increase fines for kingpins. S. 1711 directs the U.S. Sentencing Commission to review the sentencing guidelines and if appropriate, amend them to account for culpability and role in the offense."

The issue is also currently before the Supreme Court, which heard oral arguments in *Kimbrough v. U.S.* on October 2nd.

According to CLS's website, "Derrick Kimbrough pled guilty to possession of both powdered and crack cocaine, for which the federal sentencing guidelines suggest a sentence of 19-22 years. Citing a 2002 report by the U.S. Sentencing Commission that found that the law exaggerates the harmfulness of crack compared with that of powdered cocaine, applies mostly to low-level offenders and hits minorities hardest, U.S. District Court Judge Raymond Jackson sentenced Kimbrough to only 15 years. The Fourth Circuit rejected the downward departure."

**The panel discussed the [racial] disparity as well as legislative, legal and grassroots strategies to end it.**

## OPINION

## Talkin' John Birch Paranoid Blues

In 1959, Nikita "I-took-my-shoe-off-and-banged-it-on-the-table-of-the-U.N." Khrushchev, came to the United States. Time Magazine slammed the Soviet dictator, labor leader Walter Reuther debated him and President Eisenhower dined with him. In a reciprocal trip to Moscow, Vice President Nixon experienced Khrushchev's stalling tactics while instructing him on the wonders of consumer choice in a mock American kitchen.

President Kennedy had the red phone on his desk with a direct line to the Kremlin. Later, President Nixon went to China.

Oh, but how times have changed.

We had another bully in our backyard last week – another terrorist in our midst. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad happened to be in Columbia University's neighborhood. They invited him for Q&A. He spoke to the brightest minds of the Western World and some other kids who got 1500s on their SATs. Conservatives threw a fit.

Ahmadinejad's Iran is a documented human rights violator – perhaps the world's leader in executing minors. It is likely arming Iraqi militia groups who fight American troops. And it continues to pursue nuclear weapons in defiance of international condemnation.

Now, I was not so naïve as to think that when presented with all of these facts in a debate with one of our esteemed Ivy League deans, Ahmadinejad would experience a bout of sudden doubt in his fanaticism. I knew that when faced with questions about his history of Holocaust denial, he would ignore the question and ask why Palestinians must suffer. Demagogues are often good orators; that's how they got there in the first place.

Nor do I think that Columbia's allowing him to speak in any way legitimized his ideas. Are we so afraid that when he uttered such a heresy, we would fall all over ourselves wondering

how we could be so wrong?

No. My reasons for believing that Columbia was not wrong in holding the event are far more selfish. After years of us inflating his importance in the region beyond his actual power, after years of us elevating the threat he actually poses by conflating him with his sectarian rivals and after years of us refusing to enter into diplomatic negotiations to defuse escalating dangers, I think it's time we tried something different.

By JOSHUA TEITELBAUM

### On the Left

Ahmadinejad did not disappoint. In response to a question on Iran's persecution of homosexuals (they hang them there), the President famously responded "In Iran, we do not have homosexuals like in your country. We do not have this phenomenon." The crowd erupted in laughter – a response I'm sure he does not get back home when expounding on his loony denial of human nature.

And in that surreal moment where a roomful of young people laughed in the face of evil, it was possible to feel that we could restore some confidence in our own institutions and in our own values. To a wider audience than ever before, Ahmadinejad revealed himself to be little. He was not the outsized cartoon villain of hyped, cable TV expectations.

We ought to treat him like the player he is – beholden to the religious leaders that run his country and unpopular with the people that elected him. It's time we got smart about the real challenges Iran poses rather than worrying about what crazy things its nominal, yet outspoken leader might say. And, no, Senate resolutions laying the foundation for aerial strikes don't count as "dealing with Iran."

The paranoia in American politics keeps us from clearly telling the world where we stand and what we stand for. The question last week should not have been whether Columbia should allow him to speak, but what happened to us that we even debate that question in the first place?

## A View From Jena

By MATTHEW BAILEY  
Columnist

"Free Mychal Bell." The flyer was posted by the ANSWER Coalition outside the Foggy Bottom metro. It advertised a rally at the Justice Department to protest the alleged disparate treatment of the "Jena Six" at the hands of the Louisiana judicial system.

I'm from Jena. I was one of a handful of valedictorians from the same high school where the infamous "white tree" once stood and where the beating of Justin Barker took place. While I no longer have family connections in Jena, I have been enthralled by all the media attention given my little hometown. The story of December 4, 2006, has been retold ad nauseum in news sources worldwide, so I won't bother repeating the chain of events that resulted in charges of attempted murder for six black teens.

I'll admit, Jena is a small place with expectedly conservative ways. People there do not like or adapt well to change. Except for a few families and some exchange students, you'll never see

anyone that isn't white or black - and the former holds a large majority.

There was no "white tree" when I was in school there. But there were separate areas where most blacks and most whites hung out. It was the same in the lunchroom, school assemblies, and at sporting events. It wasn't a rule, and you wouldn't get "jumped" if you broke it. Everyone usually got along just fine.

I'm not saying it was right, but it was the way it was and it didn't seem to bother anyone. So, it really didn't surprise me that much when I watched the recent events unfold. The town still hasn't grown past its old-time ways.

Are there two levels of justice in Jena? Not on purpose, I think. But when you live in an environment where most everyone still harbors a sense of "us and them" when it comes to race, it's tough to even consider things objectively.

The D.A. who charged the boys is a good man. I know him personally. I don't think he charged the Jena Six based on any personal racial animus. But I do believe there was a pervasive community belief that something had to be done about "those troublemakers." Not because they were black, I think, but

## The Devil Comes to Manhattan

Recently, Americans discovered once again the inconveniences that democracies have in dealing with dictators. We cannot control the decisions of our own citizens who inappropriately handle individuals like Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Therefore Ahmadinejad can take advantage of idiots, like Columbia University President Lee Bollinger, to spread the lie of Holocaust denial. He allowed this "theory" to be advanced in an educational forum at a prestigious American university. It was a terrible decision that should never happen again.

I can think of very few people in this world whom I despise more than Ahmadinejad. I was going to simply refer to him as a dog or a pig for the purposes of this article. However, I would never want to insult dogs and pigs by comparing them to this garbage. It will suffice for me to say that Ahmadinejad is sub-pig and sub-dog.

A paranoid anti-Semite, Ahmadinejad pushes the lie of Holocaust denial. This is a sign of extreme evil or extreme stupidity. If you have doubts that he suffers from severe mental disorders, consider his much-publicized quote: "In Iran, we don't have homosexuals..."

Point proven!

Elie Wiesel, a Noble Laureate and Auschwitz survivor, has described Holocaust denial as the first step toward Holocaust II. The theory is an expansion of the fictitious Jewish conspiracy for world domination. Ahmadinejad's lie pushes the idea that Zionists concocted the Holocaust to create international sympathy for a Jewish land-grab in Palestine (which is also a fiction).

Fortunately, most of the public still considers Holocaust denial a fringe position. But the scary part to the equation is the more conventional idea that Israel's land was somehow "stripped" from the Palestinians at the end of the Second World War. This preposterous lie has become a common belief. Many people do not know that Jews had been immigrating to Palestine for over half a century before World War II. They had bought a huge amount of land in the Palestinian Mandate and received the promise of homeland from the Balfour Declaration and the League of Nations.

How scary is it that in less than fifty years people have forgotten this? These lies have contributed to the cowardly behavior of Western countries. They refused to support a democracy under attack by vicious terrorists.

because some of them had been causing trouble for some time.

Of course, this view does not fit within the story of Jena that has been so neatly packaged by the media and accepted by activists. People in Jena, and even I to some extent, are aggravated with its oversimplification.

The ANSWER Coalition and so many others want to "Free Mychal Bell," but why? Because the D.A. overcharged him in the first instance? It was wrong to charge the boys so severely and I also agree, from the facts I can gather, that the whites involved in hanging the nooses and in other community incidents did not face fair and equal prosecution.

But that doesn't change the fact that Mychal Bell is a troubled teen and convicted criminal. I don't care that he was a star football player or an honor roll student.

The next step in destroying Israel is to promote the idea of Holocaust denial. Convince the world that Israel was created due to a Zionist plot, and you can convince more people to support the destruction of the nation. This is the main thrust of Holocaust denial.

This murderous agenda shows the reason for not permitting Holocaust denial within the halls of education. I am not questioning anyone's right to stand

By MARLOWE DOMAN  
On the Right

on a street corner and propound this absurdity. However, just as Don Imus should not have a right to make racist statements via a CBS microphone, neither should Ahmadinejad have a right to a Columbia University forum.

Recently, I heard a radio interview with a survivor of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. She said that she felt it unfair of Columbia to invite Ahmadinejad while refusing to invite her or other survivors to counter his accusations. I agree that it is wrong of Columbia to permit one viewpoint without a rebuttal, and I admired her willingness to go onstage with a blazing lunatic. But I found myself even angrier at Bollinger for putting her in such a position.

Concentration camp survivors should not have to explain themselves to anyone, period. Could anyone imagine the sight of this madman taunting her or others, accusing them of lying?

Imagine: "Is it really true that you saw your father and mother get shot? Did the Nazis really beat you or were they just disciplining you when you behaved badly? You're a Zionist conspirator, aren't you?"

No one could acceptably debate this subject. That alone shows that this it should not be permitted at a university.

What scares me most is that one day we will no longer have any Holocaust survivors. Will Holocaust denial become a legitimate theory then, like the conventional wisdom surrounding Israel? Human stupidity is vast and lies can become truth very rapidly.

I hope that despite Columbia's bad example, Western universities can have the policy that Holocaust denial will never be permitted into an educational forum. I believe that we can distinguish between legitimate controversies and propaganda designed to awaken old bigotries and incite violence.

For this reason Ahmadinejad should not have the chance to speak at an American university ever again.

He had been in trouble with the law before and was on probation. He violated it more than once, and thus deserves punishment.

You may not agree with me. But have you attempted to think about it fairly? Most people heard one version of this story through an email forward or Facebook group and immediately accepted it as the truth. I would hope that law students would be intellectually curious enough to make sure they had the facts right before developing a strong opinion of "Free the Jena Six."

Justin Barker was jumped from behind, knocked unconscious and kicked in the head repeatedly. Whoever participated should be charged fairly, represented adequately, and if proved guilty, punished

See BAILEY page 4

## OPINIONS

## BAILEY from page 3.

for that act – not set free and held up as a victim.

A few days ago, a video was posted online of a group of Louisiana college students reenacting the beating. They had covered themselves in mud so as to be in “blackface.” The girl who posted the video on Facebook said, “We were just playin in [sic] the mud and it got out of hand.” Some say this shows the racial insensitivity that pervades Southern culture. I say it shows that too many parents are raising selfish, irresponsible kids.

Another problem is that some are appropriating the Jena Six story for their own advancement or notoriety, spinning it much like the media did to fit into the soap opera mold that makes it easy to sell. John Mellencamp, the washed up

singer-songwriter, released a song called “Jena” that tells the town to “take your nooses down.”

He and others should be ashamed for using this story to sell their wares while wrongfully painting the entire town as racist.

There is obviously something wrong in Louisiana and across the country. The rallies and the media attention, while not always fair, have uncovered societal problems that we all have to face and fight with courage. But the fight must be an intellectually honest one, not one in which the truth is exploited to advance someone’s cause.

Our cause should be the search for equality and truth – not promoting our own agenda at someone else’s expense.

## Address Alcohol Abuse With Awareness, Not Restrictions

During the planning of the Halloween Festival (coming up on Oct. 25th), the SBA took a long look at the alcohol policy here at GW Law. It’s hard to ignore the significant role alcohol plays in our law school experience.

Whether it’s going to a Thirsty Thursday hosted by a student group, an alumni event hosted by the Law School, or a diversity reception hosted by a law firm, our students are regularly given opportunities to drink alcohol within the Law School environs. Given the documented issues of substance abuse in the legal community, the Dean’s Office is reassessing our current practices. As the voice of the students in the Law School, the SBA has been working closely with the Administration to ensure that any course of action is taken with the students’ best interests in mind.

The SBA is acutely aware and sensitive to the dangers that alcohol abuse presents to our students, and we recognize the need for a new direction. However, whatever direction our alcohol policy takes, we feel it is very important that we do as much as possible to preserve the community we have in place at GW Law. Our community of camaraderie and collegiality is not only one of our most effective tools in attracting prospective students, but it also helps to keep our current students happy. (Well, relatively happy.)

It is our belief that events such as Thirsty Thursday, Bar Review, and Barrister’s Ball allow our students to get out of the Law School and get to know their classmates in a more personal way. It allows us all to build relationships on shared experiences of laughs and stories, rather than on shared readings of Penoyer and Palsgraf.

It would be easy for GW Law to adopt a stringent alcohol policy, effectively

eliminating any school-related events that serve alcohol. This course of action would have at least three significant drawbacks. First, as discussed above, this would severely disrupt our culture here at the Law School. Second, a policy such as this does not profess a great deal of trust in our students, and in effect would punish the majority of students for the potential actions of a few. Third, and probably most important, this type of policy would fail to address the actual problem.



BRYAN KING

### Hail to the King

**It would be easy for GW Law to adopt a stringent alcohol policy, effectively eliminating any school-related events that serve alcohol. This course of action would have at least three significant drawbacks.**

Substance abuse is an issue that will affect our students long after graduation throughout their legal careers. Instead of avoiding the problem, we should instead be focused on educating our students on how to deal with the problem. We believe the way to accomplish this is with the institution of an alcohol awareness program at GW Law. Similar to the program for legal ethics, alcohol and substance abuse awareness should be an essential element in our training for the legal profession.

In addition to an alcohol awareness program, we feel that any changes to the alcohol policy should focus on student perceptions of alcohol, rather than limiting their ability to consume it. The SBA is dedicated to this precept, and the Halloween Festival (coming on Oct. 25th) is the perfect example of the direction we would like to take. The Halloween Festival, formerly just a party, is now a day full of games, food, and prizes, and guarantees to be a great time. The costume party that night at Avenue is but a fraction of the overall event.

The SBA truly believes that what makes these events such an important part of our culture are the events themselves, and not the fact that alcohol is being served. We feel focusing on the events, and not the alcohol, will be the most effective way to respect our students as the legal professionals that they are, while also addressing the issue of alcohol abuse.

## That Guy in my Fantasy Football League

Recent studies show that Americans waste approximately 200 million work-hours every day checking their fantasy sports teams, a net loss of approximately \$45 trillion. Luckily, our corporate leaders exported fantasy sports over to Europe in 1989, so the effect has been minimal. With football season in full swing, the fantasy football sites have been humming loudly in offices and schools across the country (yes, guy who sits next to me in Complex Lit, I see you checking your team every 10 minutes. Guess what? You’re still in last place). Fantasy veterans primarily devote their time to one league, which they will refer to as “my league,” implying that they really don’t care about the league that you both are members of (known as “my other league”).

With multiple leagues come multiple exposures to the various fantasy sports personalities, and I have broken down these personalities based on their real-life counterparts in my league for your entertainment.

The Commish: In some leagues, this position is mainly ceremonial, like the Queen of England, except without the money, celebrity status, and state dinners. In fact, it’s a lot like being a regular person except you can make people call you the Commish in real-life situations (I think Michael Chiklis used to do this back in 1995). Other commissioners take their job as seriously as (and often to the detriment of) their real job. They spend days pondering whether to make a change to the scoring system and set up the league website in the middle of July. They send you urgent emails reminding you that you haven’t paid the \$11 yet and why can’t you just send the money, you lazy bastard, it’s only \$11! Our Commish recently told me one night that he regretted not decreasing the scoring for QB touchdowns to four points each this season, so I called him a cab so he could sulk at home by himself. Nobody likes a downer.

The Rivals: No sports rivalry, save perhaps South Florida-Central Florida, can match the hatred that these two individuals have for each other. Though they have never met and most likely don’t even know what the other person looks like, the Rivals’ sole focus from September to December is beating the other individual to a bloody fantasy pulp. The origin of the rivalry has sadly been misplaced in the pages of history—a.k.a. our league message board from two years ago was deleted. I think it had something to do with the fact that Rival 1’s first and last names rhyme, and this irritated Rival 2 to no end.

He would often post messages at 3 in the morning after coming home from work drunk, insulting Rival 1’s manhood and female family members. Rival 1 would then respond with an equivalent exchange of obscenities and so forth. Things seem to be on the mend between the Rivals however, as Rival 1 recently asked Rival 2 to be an usher at his wedding.

The Newbie: The newest person in the league is usually a fantasy sports rookie or a new friend of one of the current members. Lacking familiarity with fantasy sports or the other league members, he stays off the message board and makes very few moves. This is often mistaken as apathy, and sometimes the other members will pushback angrily or try to take advantage by proposing a lopsided trade. The Newbie in our league this year is hardly a



JONATHAN AUERBACH

### Left-Wing Lock

newbie in the traditional sense. He was a founding member of the league back in its initial season, but was summarily banned the following year after the current Commish seized power in a bloodless coup. The reasons for this ban are the stuff of legend—namely that the Newbie started hitting on a girl that the Commish was talking to in a bar and both men ended up going home alone that night. Either due to the Commish’s new found maturity or because he kicked his brother out of the league last season, the Newbie was reluctantly welcomed back into the fold.

The Idiot: This individual is first identified during the draft when he makes a boneheaded pick (like picking the Bears Defense in the third round. He will then follow up this savant-like pick by drafting Adam Vinatieri in the sixth round and then a second defense with his 10th pick. This guy is basically a fantasy train wreck, but we keep him around because he is an easy win for the rest of us. Full disclosure: I recently lost to the Idiot in my league, making me the uber-Idiot. See below.

The Guy Whose Team Never Pans Out: TGWTNPO is a frustrated individual. Blessed with a high draft pick and a cursory knowledge of player value (i.e. he tore out the player rankings page from a fantasy football magazine in Barnes and Noble), this person relies on getting the best available in a certain round by checking average draft position religiously. Of course, in three months, no one will remember that the guy he picked in the sixth round outperformed most of the fifth rounders, but this fact will comfort TGWTNPO as he loses his fifth straight week and is heading towards another consolation bracket.

### NOTA BENE SEEKS WRITERS

Nota Bene is currently recruiting news, features and opinions writers. News and features articles are paid at \$25 per 800 word article. Contact NOTABENE@LAW.GWU.EDU for information.