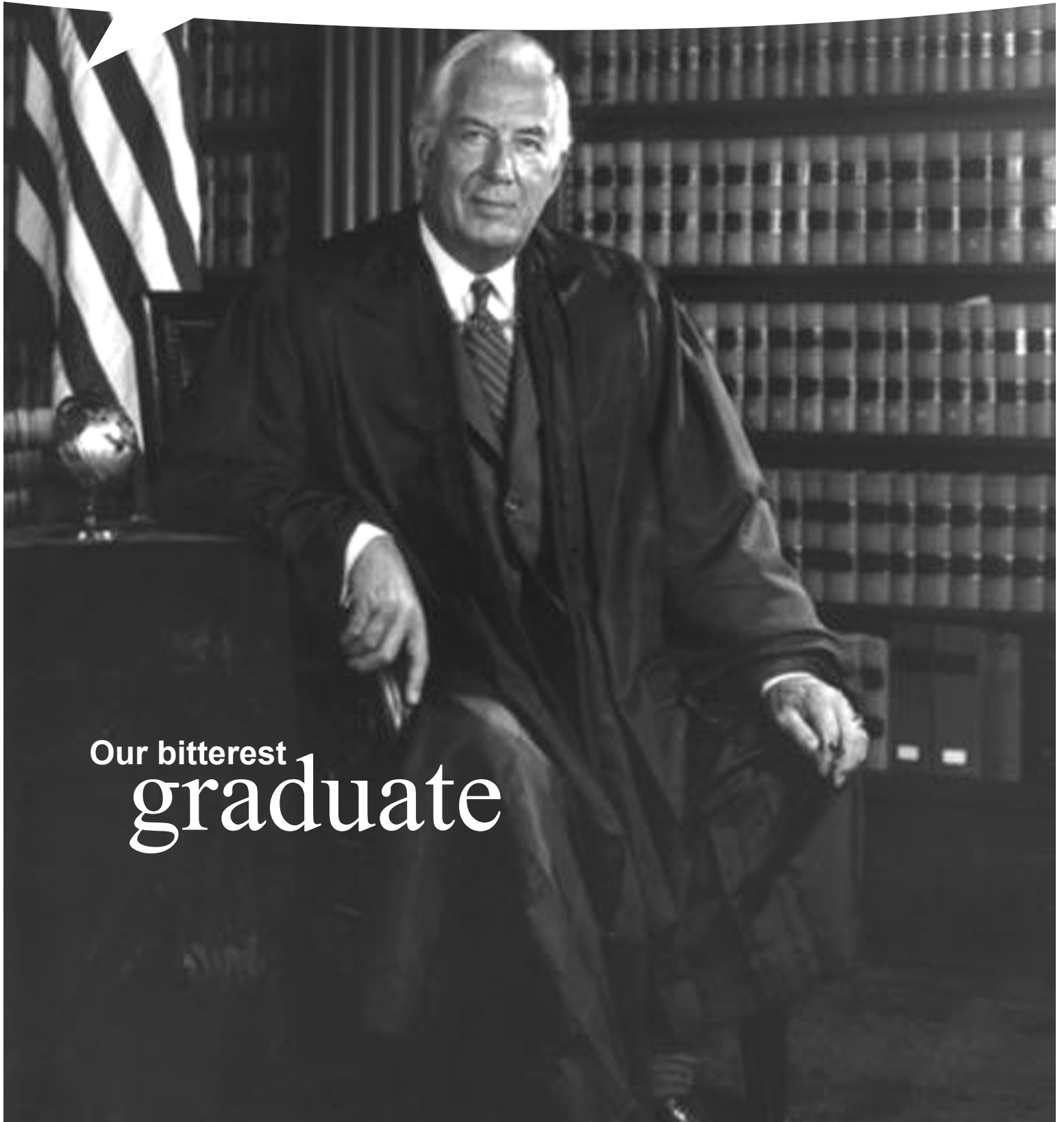


THE OPINION

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Our bitterest
graduate

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THE OPINION

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Interview with Thomasin Franken

By Kate Johansen

The Purpose

This past March, Thomasin Franken, daughter of DFL U.S. Senate candidate Al Franken, visited William Mitchell to discuss her role on the campaign. We here at The Opinion were lucky enough to catch up with her after the event. Here's what she had to say...

The Basics

Name: Thomasin Franken

(She is named after her dad's best friend and old comedy partner Tom Davis from Richfield).

Siblings: one brother named Joe

Age: 27

Education:

College: Harvard with AB in Sociology (cum laude)

Masters: MS in Elementary Education from Mercy College

Grande Diplome: in Culinary Arts from the French Culinary Institute

Hobbies: cooking, baking, reading

Favorite food: PBJs, chocolate cake, Mahnommin Porridge from Hell's Kitchen
(it's the background picture on her iPhone)

Favorite place to hang out in the Cities: the campaign office

Favorite law school: WMCL (naturally)

Residence: Uptown in Minneapolis

Current occupation: serves as a full time campaign volunteer dealing with education issues; represents her dad at various events; teaches part time at an area cooking school

Campaign role: liaison to the education community, ranging from groups in early childhood to healthcare to family educator to teaching

The Questions

Why would Al Franken be a better senator than Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer or Norm Coleman: "My dad and Jack want a lot of the same things for this country: universal health care, a green economy that creates jobs while combating global warming, and an end to the war in Iraq. However, I believe my dad has the campaign with the ability to beat Norm Coleman. *Continued on page 11...*



Things No One Else Will Tell You

Roger Ackermann runs a fast mile on one exceptionally warm winter day in Minnesota.

It's Probably Worth it After All

By Allison Crandall

Despite the pseudo-snows of late, spring will be here soon enough, and it is starting to show. The couple of really nice days have brought belligerent Minnesotans running in shorts and wearing open toed shoes in the sad remaining snow banks. The air is softer, the shining sun seems more welcoming than mocking, and the birdies have begun to sing. Spring is a special time in law school, as well. It marks shift from depression to restlessness.

Winter is a hard time for everyone in a climate like ours. Add to the normal amount of drudgery the lifestyle of a law student: 8-10 hours a day in the same building, notable amounts of work, and isolation from friends (excepting

the Law School Friends- a.k.a life rafts) and you end up with someone a little burnt out (see my last column.) Spring comes, and that depression shifts into a restlessness that is remarkable, impressive, and totally distracting. When the season changes I start to think about the summer when my life will again be my own or more my own. I want to go on long walks and grill out with my boyfriend, and falling behind in reading seems less like a disaster and more like a permanent feature of my life. I am itchy for the year to end, and force myself to ignore the fact that there will be another year after this one.

This shift is troublesome, because at least for me, the exhaustion of winter leads to a distraction with potentially disastrous effects. But this spring, I have found the silver lining. I have had the opportunity to work

with a client directly for the first time, in the area of law I hope to practice. It is an exciting and dynamic experience so far. I have found, despite my solid mediocrity in law school, that it is possible that I may be a good lawyer. I really like the work, and it feels relevant to me in a way that class work sometimes doesn't.

None of this negates the facts that I have to continue on through school, and then pass the Bar. In fact, to some extent, it makes it harder because I want to be done that much more quickly. It is a comfort to me to know, however, while I stare out the window at the melting snow that the ultimate goal will be worth it. I've figured out what I want to be when I grow up.

An appearance of impropriety: THE OPINION *endorses...nobody*

By Mike Hogan

Newspapers continue to endorse political candidates every election season, even amidst accusations of bias, dwindling circulation rates and little evidence that it makes a difference. It's an old American tradition that people always look forward to reading. It shows the world where a paper stands, even if it doesn't shift any great electoral tides. That's why it's time to stop.

For much of American history, newspapers and the press have been tied to political parties in varying degrees. During the heyday of the Chicago Tribune—run under the control of Colonel Robert McCormick (the early Twentieth century's Rupert Murdoch)—the paper was an out-and-out propaganda machine for the Republican Party. In fact, it called itself the “American Paper for Americans” and endorsed every GOP candidate it could get its hands on.

The press has obviously changed a lot as it limps into the Twenty-First century. Unfortunately, one of the last remnants of the bad old days is the political endorsement. Papers feel a bizarre compulsion every election season to tell you who they'd vote for. Though this might not change the vote in your state, but it changes perceptions of that paper.

Are voters swayed based on the Star Tribune's editorial staff? Is the Washington Post granted more quality access as candidates vie for their endorsement? The answer is “no,” or to be really generous, “not really.” Voters base their views on news conveyed through the actual reporting side of the paper. Editorials, much like blogs, only serve to validate a reader's preconceived views based on that reporting. And as for access, free coverage is free coverage; access is granted even to papers that don't endorse or to other mediums like television and radio.

There's supposed to be a strict wall between editorials and the actual news side of newspapers. But it's hard to shake the appearance that one affects the other. At any rate, endorsements are very different from editorials: editorials are under a single writer's name while endorsements represent the entire organization. This distinction aside, when's the last time you said, “The editorial department of such-and-such newspaper has endorsed candidate X, yet the news reporting side, of course, remains independent.”? Usually, you just say, “The Pioneer Press endorsed Nader.”

People every day forgo one paper over another (or papers altogether) because of bias. That perception of bias comes directly from the editorials and endorsements. But in the process, the good reporting that

paper does is dismissed too. Even the appearance of bias is too much to tolerate.

Despite all the droning about the press being too liberal or too conservative, neutrality is an ideal for journalists to live up to. Of course, sometimes the press never gets near it. But it's still a high bar that should remain high. There certainly are politically slanted newspapers still out there, but compared to the analytical pre-school that is cable news these days, the Wall Street Journal and New York Times are models of objectivity. Newspapers are still one of the most thorough and substantive means of getting your daily news.

Political endorsements give conservatives and liberals ammunition to continue ignoring newspapers like the Wall Street Journal, New York Times and even the Star Tribune en masse, dismissing them as inherently slanted. While the critics will probably grumble no matter what the media does, there's no reason to confirm their views. Instead, everyone should be shown that however unattainable objective journalism might be, at least it's a standard that the best newspapers should try to reach.

All I Really Need to Know I Learned in ~~Kindergarten~~ Law School

By Stephanie Gruenhagen

Everyone is familiar with the poster telling you that everything you need to know you already learned in kindergarten. They are the nice little things that people seem to forget as they grow up and it reminds us of the warm and wonderful days of childhood. I can't help but think that the hard time we put into law school at least deserves a poster. As my law school education draws to a close and I'm thinking about everything I learned, I find it important to remind everyone that "All I really need to know I learned in Law School."

These are the things I learned...

Nothing in life or in court or in the classroom is fair.

It doesn't matter that you read every single page and did every single problem and studied and reviewed and you think you deserve a good grade, it's possible to get the same (or better) grade reading a Gilbert's cover to cover. It can be inferiorating to see people do a lot less work and get a better result, but know that sometimes the cards or verdict may fall in your favor when you didn't expect it (or maybe didn't deserve it).

Eat, Sleep, Exercise, and Relax.

They may seem like things you can't forget to do, but trust me- you will. When your stomach stops growling and starts screaming, feed it. It doesn't care that you're on footnote 84 of your long paper and you're almost done. Eat. Sleeping will seem like a luxury; it is. Value it. When you have huge highlighter spots on your PJs and blankets because you keep falling asleep reading, that doesn't mean that Dukeminier's Property casebook is boring; it means you need some sleep. Find something that you like doing and remember to do it. Whether it is working out, watching football or maybe spending time with the people you used to know (friends, family), find time to do it. Even if you seriously have to pencil in breakfast with your grandma.

Life interferes.

You have to accept it and learn how to deal with it. Be adaptable and remember that if you can muddle your way blindly through first year, you can get through almost anything. You will never get sick when it is convenient for you, your computer might crash during finals and people will have the nerve to get married, have babies or pass away, all while you are trying to get work done. It's ok to let life interfere. Remember life is an all encompassing word; it's everything you do, not just work or school.

*Read and Prepare for
(almost) Everything.*

You will learn a balance of what has to be read and what can be put into notes care of Lexis briefs before class. You can't prepare for everything; just do the best you can and learn how to think on your feet and have the confidence in yourself to trust your judgment.

*When all else fails, the answer
is... it depends.*

This may have been the most frustrating answer a professor gave you during your first year, but you will learn that you can answer almost anything with "it depends." It can buy you time to think about how you want to answer almost any question. It works just as well for when an esteemed colleague asks what you think about the recent trends in the state taxation of pass-through entities, as it does when your friends ask if you want to go to law school prom. It depends.

While the traditional kindergarten poster is filled with wonderful thoughts and nice ideas, we have all learned that you need a little more than milk and cookies to get through law school and life. What else do you need? Well... it depends.

2008 SBA Candidate Statements



Landon Ascheman (*SBA Presidential candidate*) / **Kelly Ruddy** (*V.P.*)

The Candidates

Landon Ascheman (2L), has amassed quite a resumé during his time at William Mitchell. As a 1L, he worked on the SBA Student-Faculty Committee and volunteered through MJF with Tubman Family Alliance. He has coordinated Blackacre and Greenacre, as well as the always popular weekly social event known as Bar Review. This year he serves as a 2L SBA Representative and Officer of ILSA.

Kelly Ruddy (1L), through her positions as ABA and MJF representative, has devoted a tremendous amount of time and effort to realize her vision of unity and cooperation for the William Mitchell student body.

Landon and Kelly firmly believe that a group is greater than the sum of its parts, and that all students have unique talents and abilities that when used together can help ensure the success of all students. By working together towards the common goal of success in law school, current William Mitchell students can eclipse the success of their predecessors and set a new standard for classes that follow. *Continued on page 7...*

Landon and Kelly continued from page 6...

Their Vision for the SBA

The SBA should be a resource for people who need answers or contacts. Currently, few people know what the SBA does, and greater effort needs to be made to ensure its presence and purpose is known. The SBA needs to be available to the student body to help students find others with similar interests and at the same time make the William Mitchell administration aware of the needs of students.

The first goal is to help people find what they need. If a student has interest in a particular area of law, grade concerns, or questions about the Bar Application, the SBA should help guide that student in the right direction.

The second goal is to emphasize the importance of networking and provide a way for students to develop and hone their networking skills. An

SBA committee should be created which is dedicated specifically to networking, not only for student/lawyer relationships, but also student/student relationships. The function of this committee will be to expand awareness and participation in existing networking activities, as well as creating new opportunities. To this end, the existing student mentoring program should be formally adopted and expanded.

Finally, there are several smaller but still important projects that need attention in order to improve the functioning and effectiveness of the SBA. Among these projects: establishing a dedicated open hour per week for PLPs; allowing organizations to plan events and increase attendance with less impact on class schedules; reorganizing the SBA budget allocation process; introducing committee turnover binders to assist future SBA members; improving awareness of SBA meetings to encourage attendance; and introducing an RSS feed for the Docket.

Britt Kringle, *running for ABA Representative:*

My name is Britt Kringle and I am a 2L running for ABA Representative. As a 1L, I was elected the ABA-Law Student Division rep for Section 2. This year, it was my great pleasure to serve as Chair of the ABA-LSD at Mitchell with a very talented, creative and driven group of officers. Throughout my service with the ABA I have enjoyed the opportunity to create and coordinate successful PLPs, networking opportunities, and fundraising and service activities. I have been engaged with the ABA at William Mitchell and at the national level. I look forward to continuing that service on behalf of Mitchell students as I represent our student body through the national ABA-Law Student Division. I will keep students informed of ABA news and events and will help coordinate efforts between the ABA and the SBA. Thank you for your consideration.

Hello everyone, My name is Jessica Hulbert

and I am a 2L full time student. *I am running for the position of At-Large Representative*, and I am asking for your vote. This past year I have been a 2L-Full Time SBA Representative and have taken on the responsibilities as SBA Secretary as part of the Executive Board. I believe that the SBA ought to be a mechanism through which the interests and needs of the students, faculty, and staff of William Mitchell can be met. Next year, I would like for the SBA to better serve the needs of student organizations and give them the ability to bring more events to campus through a reworking of the budget policy. In addition, I want to open up more avenues for students to contact and work with SBA officers and with Dean Janus. I bring experience and dedication to this election and I will put in the work necessary to bring about the changes you wish to see.



I'm Jayme Meyers,

a part-time first-year student and I have served as 1L Section Representative for the last year. I am on the Faculty Relations Committee and have worked as Vice Chair of the Social Committee. In addition to the SBA, I am involved with many student organizations. I have volunteered for Mitchell as a Student Ambassador as well as for MJF, carrying out legal research for the MN Coalition for Battered Women. As someone who is already very familiar with the procedures and workings of the SBA, I will be able to step in and make a smooth transition into the new academic year.

I'm Danielle M. Kranz,

a full-time second-year student with two years of experience on the SBA Board of Governors. I was elected as a section representative my first year, serving on the Faculty Relations Committee and as Vice Chair of the Budget Committee. This year, I have worked within SBA in my capacity as Vice President and I look forward to utilizing my two years of experience to tackle the issues students of all walks face, from allocation of student funds to opening the lines of communication among the students, faculty, staff, and SBA. There are a number of great things already happening at William Mitchell, but there is always room for improvement; with your vote, I will continue to work toward that improvement.

As SBA President and Vice President, we will strive to successfully implement programs that will both assist and enhance our law school experience. Some of these programs would include: (1) setting up an anonymous comment/feedback form on the SBA website; (2) establishing monthly roundtables with Dean Janus where students can voice their concerns and suggestions; (3) building stronger relations between the SBA and the student organizations; (4) revising the budget policy, allowing for a more efficient allocation of money; (5) publishing a President's/Vice President's report; and (6) developing a stronger connection with the ABA-Law Student Division to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the SBA. Finally, we will continue to expand the success of programs such as the reduced-fee bus passes, in addition to pursuing a student discount card for local businesses. *Continued on page 9...*

Danielle and Jayme continued from page 8...

We believe in the social justice and diversity of William Mitchell and its continuing goal of promoting legal excellence, and we will actively pursue these goals. We will work with the faculty hiring committee to make more concerted efforts to hire diverse faculty and staff members as well as increase diversity in student leadership positions. Through promotion of conversation, education, and outreach, we will further William Mitchell's commitment towards social justice and diversity.

Through our substantial experience, commitment, and drive, we will continue to work for the improvement of William Mitchell and the benefit of all students. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact either Danielle or Jayme. We respectfully ask for your vote during the elections April 2 through April 4.

I would greatly appreciate your vote for **Erich Hartmann** *as 2L Full-Time Representative.*

As an experienced SBA Representative, I understand the needs and functions of the SBA—as well as the students and on-campus organizations we serve. As a member of the Faculty Committee and Bookstore Committee, I have also developed a working relationship with Dean Thompson and many of the WMCL faculty members. I am always willing to work on your behalf to make WMCL a better place to learn.

This year, the SBA has made some significant contributions to the quality of student life at WMCL. Some of the many improvements include: the SBA arranged to make discounted bus passes available to students, WMCL hired an Academic Advisor, and the SBA provided funding for growing student organizations while balancing a limited budget.

The SBA has several specific projects underway that we would like to complete. If you want to talk about them, please contact me at erich.hartmann@wmitchell.edu. More importantly, I want to hear your ideas about how to improve WMCL.

Regardless of the tasks at hand, an effective representative must have excellent interpersonal skills, refined communication skills, and experience advocating for others. Please consider the following when casting your vote for 2L Full-Time Representative:

- I have made a concerted effort to meet as many students as possible and I look forward to working with more of you one-on-one in the future.
 - I have solid oral and written communication skills. My communication style focuses on actively listening to others' perspectives, not talking at people.
 - I have served in student advocacy positions throughout my educational and professional career. Professionally, I represented a startup company in the national marketplace and I also represented a 160-person architecture and engineering firm. I have further honed my listening and advocacy skills through volunteering at HOME Line and Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness.
 - Finally, even though my name sounds like Eric Cartman when said out loud, I am a serious advocate and will continue to work diligently and vigorously for you.
- Please vote for Erich Hartmann. Thank you!



My name is Elise Peterson and I am running for SBA President.

I enjoy working at Mitchell to provide students with useful experiences and opportunities. I am running because I want to institutionalize the work I do/will do on campus, and to make sure that each year students can effectively access the opportunities previous students accessed. The SBA is the appropriate place for these opportunities to be institutionalized, because the SBA is supposed to serve as a conduit connecting students to the offices on campus, and in my opinion to off campus opportunities as well. I have been able to access some wonderful opportunities throughout law school, which have enhanced my legal education and career, I would like all students to be able to easily understand and access the opportunities available to them. See my blog at www.EliseForSBAPresident.blogspot.com for a list of some opportunities I have been able to access.

I am dedicated to improving our campus. This means gathering information on what William Mitchell is doing well, and also what can be improved. Wade Abed, my VP, and I will be working to 1) gather information on what can be improved at William Mitchell, 2) figure out how to improve it, 3) work to improve it, and 4) update the student body

through-out these processes. We will be tabling every Monday next year in order to bring information to students about the work we are doing, and more importantly about opportunities both on campus and in the legal community. We have several parallel strategies for implementing our improvements, stop by when we are tabling (this spring and next year) to take a look at our binder of the work we are currently or will be doing on campus, and how we will be, or are, doing it. You can visit our table or e-mail either of us with any thoughts, ideas, suggestions, or questions. We look forward to talking with you.

Our most important work is The Excellence Initiative for William Mitchell. Professor Sonsteng has worked with us to form this new initiative in conjunction with his recently launched Legal Education Renaissance. To develop the Excellence Initiative Wade and I will be working with Professor Sonsteng, Dean Iijima, Sally Zusman, Jane Evans, Bridget Kenadjian, Dell Jacobs, Professor Dube, Professor Juergens, Professor Byrn, and various other Professors, with input from Deans Janus and Thompson and of course -students-. The Excellence Initiative focuses on developing academic excellence, legal writing excellence, and career excellence through-out the law school experience. We are excited to work with students, faculty, staff, and administration on these initiatives.

We will work on any issue that students bring to us, and will report back to the student body on all of the work we do. We will work with anyone, and we welcome ideas and partnerships through-out the processes. We know how to get things done! A vote for us is a vote for action, connection, accountability, and opportunities. E-mail Elise.Peterson@wmitchell.edu with any questions.

My name is Wade H. Abed II, I am running for SBA Vice President.

I am running for office to help improve the legal education and number of opportunities for all students regardless of academics or experience. We all have something to offer our community and there are plenty of people out there for us to help with our legal education, compassion and personalities. I believe I can facilitate those connections for our students.



I fervently believe, along with my President, Elise Peterson, that we have an initiative that will revitalize the student body and bolster the reputation of William Mitchell locally and abroad. The Excellence Initiative for William Mitchell focuses on working toward excellence in academics, legal writing and your career.

Additionally, I believe the mentality that Elise and I share is one of open communication with the student body. It is imperative that the students have an idea of what the SBA is doing throughout the year. Elise and I will have a true open door policy. We will be accessible to discuss our activities, meetings and ideas with the entire student body at all times.

I have held leadership positions in college and my career. My past experience gives me the knowledge to understand the commitment that comes with a leadership position and how to work in a team environment. Please join Elise and I in our pursuit of excellence for the William Mitchell student body and "VOTE FOR ACTION!"

Please do not hesitate to contact me or visit Elise and I at our table to discuss your ideas and suggestions. My contact information is wade.abed@wmitchell.edu and (612) 384-2068 (mobile). Thank you!

Franken Interview continued from page 2...

And while he's certainly not a Washington insider, he does have relationships in Congress to make change and get things done more effectively. Furthermore, in comparison to Norm Coleman, he's on the right side of the issues on Iraq and healthcare, and he will not sell out to special interests."

What should people know about Al Franken?

"He's dynamic, hard working, intelligent, and sincere."

What will the major education issues during the campaign be?

"They will be No Child Left Behind, early childhood education, and affordable higher education."

Which is cooler: being a comedy writer and performer or being a U.S. Senator?

"Being a U.S Senator."

How do you feel about politicians using their families to campaign?

"If the family wants to be involved, that's awesome. My mom and I volunteer full time on the campaign."

What are your favorite stories from the campaign so far?

"There are a lot. Being with kids at campaign events is fun. Also, there was one event in Freeport with my mom. We went for a coffee meeting, and eight people showed up. It was a conservative area, but everybody was really nice."

What's your favorite childhood memory?

"There are a lot. When we were little, our dad was working in Saturday Night Live, so he had Sundays off but worked late on Saturday. So, at 11am on Sunday, our mom would send us in to wake him up with coffee and a newspaper, and we would have to watch Meet the Press with him." (While Thomasin says she didn't like it then, she now loves Meet the Press.)

If Norm Coleman had been your father, would he have let you get a pony?

"I don't know. My dad didn't let me get a pony though."

LAWSUIT WATCH: WHEN YOU'VE JUST GOTTA KNOW WHO'S SAYING "FUCK YOU" TO WHO WITH A LAWSUIT.

By Shmuck Maccallister

PARENTS SUE MTV OVER NEW SEASON OF TRY THIS AT HOME – A class action lawsuit was filed with the 6th Circuit yesterday against Viacom, MTV's parent company, over injuries sustained by teenagers attempting stunts shown on the new MTV program. The suit was filed by the organization Parents of Stupid Teenagers Alliance (POSTAL). The complaint specifically mentions a January 16, 2008 episode where the lead persona rides a Schwinn bicycle down the center line the wrong way down Interstate 39 Northbound. After completing the stunt, the persona looks at the camera and says, "Remember kids, helmets are un-American." Teenager Barry Johnson was recently hospitalized after attempting this very stunt without a helmet. Johnson commented, "Dude! That was wicked wild!" He then attempted to convince a doctor to race down a steep flight of stairs on a gurney. When asked if she would join POSTAL in the lawsuit, Johnson's mother said, "Are you calling my kid stupid?" In a press release yesterday afternoon, Viacom's attorneys stated, "MTV in no way encourages teenagers to commit these senseless acts with the show Try This At Home. MTV has had nothing but the strictest pattern of promoting responsibility and respect for rules amongst its teenage audience." MTV will be premiering its new show Glorious, Glorious Injury this fall.

AMERICAN LAW INSTITUTE NAMED AS DEFENDANTS IN PRODUCTS LIABILITY SUIT OVER THIRD RESTATEMENT OF TORTS – William Mitchell College of Law is suing for injuries

sustained while reading the Restatement 3d of Torts. The law school alleges that when students open up to the "Products Liability" section, a hand emerges from the pages and slaps the reader across the face. A spokesperson for the American Law Institute explained, "We were seeking to be ironic. I think we were successful, and that's what's most important." William Mitchell is suing for six million dollars in actual damages, and fifty-five million dollars in punitive damages.

BIG NAME LAW FIRM SUED FOR OVER BIG NAME – A lawsuit was filed today in Minneapolis against one of its intellectual property firms for using several names without permission. The law firm of Smith Jones Foster Jacobson Vogel Marion Johnson Aronson Goldberg Jameson Mathis O'Connell Marbury Madison Gideon Wainwright Morse Frederick Pennoyer Neff Texas Johnson Heller Keeton Hustler Magazine and Mickey Mouse., Attorneys at Law were named as defendants. Allegedly, the law firm only contains four attorneys. Making up for the rest of the names include the janitor, the postman, and several names taken at random from a phone book. Disney, a plaintiff, is seeking the death penalty for using the name Mickey Mouse without permission.

This article is sponsored by THE PEOPLE'S COURT- Like porn for lawyers.



Pursuant to the divorce settlement agreement, Christ will get to keep his favorite bong, while the Church will get to keep its false sense of moral superiority.

Christ, Church, to Divorce: Cite “Irreconcilable Differences”

By Jeremy Byellin

The Church, responding, said, “Can you really blame us? I mean, for the first few hundred years, it was cute how He would go on His little rants about ‘loving your enemies and neighbors as yourself’ and ‘giving all of your possessions to the poor.’ It was one of the things that attracted us to Him in the first place.

“But that gets to be a drag after awhile. No one wants to hear things like that. It was a real buzz-kill that quashed our numbers, especially after we made it big time [referring to 313’s Edict of Milan].”

“That year was really the beginning of the decline,” Christ reminisced. “At first, it seemed great that we didn’t have to hide our relationship, but after awhile it seemed a lot less meaningful. Now the Church cares more about making friends than actually trying to make this relationship work.”

One reporter pointed out Christ’s own words regarding divorce: that it is acceptable only when adultery is involved. Christ embarrassingly revealed the Church’s on again off again relationship with capitalism.

“It really cuts me deeply. I first suspected something a few hundred years ago when that interest thing came out. Now, the Church doesn’t even try to hide its flirtations with capitalism.

“Capitalism and I are nothing alike. What does that say about the Church that it could even be interested in someone like that? Who does it think I was talking about with that whole ‘Two Masters’ thing?”

Christ was unsure about what He will do after the divorce, but He’s “certainly done with religion.”

“The Church kind of pushed that on me from the start. I was never happy with it.”

When asked about its life after the divorce, the Church expressed relief: “He was really smothering us. How could we be expected to keep up in today’s world with his constant nagging about selflessness and pacifism? We’re really looking forward to the freedom we’ll enjoy.”

Earlier this morning at a press conference, Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Lord and Savior of all Creation, announced plans for divorce with the Church, ending a nearly two millennia long relationship.

The Church, which includes the Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant Churches, is “saddened by the situation,” but ultimately thinks “it’s for the best.”

When asked about what precipitated it, Christ talked of a gradual failure of the relationship. First, He described a “communication breakdown.”

“We don’t really have conversations anymore. All I get from the Church now are cheap compliments, and it only hears what it wants to. I’m not so insecure that I need a mass of people singing me praises while waving their hands in the air and clenching their faces like they have some kind of bowel blockage.

“Frankly, it’s embarrassing to both of us. And you know, I talk about other things besides ‘forgiveness’ and ‘eternal salvation,’ but somehow that’s all it hears.”



EXPERTS AGREE: TEENAGE GIRL'S LIFE IS "TOTALLY OVER": LOCAL TEENAGE GIRL GETS STOOD UP FOR PROM, LOSES FUTURE

By Mike Vogel

Yesterday, psychiatrists, life coaches, school counselors, administrators and teachers concluded a five-day summit over the future of 17 year old high school senior Marie Smith. While the group was dispersing, a spokesperson announced: "Oh my God, Marie is, like, totally ruined." The main goal of the summit was to strike a deal with Marie Smith's parents on what she was to do for the rest of her life. The deal stipulates that Marie Smith is required to become a hated recluse.

Two weeks ago, Marie was stood up for her senior prom. She was set to go with the schools star quarterback, Jim Pickens. Three days before the event, Jim told Marie that his Aunt died and he had to go away for the funeral. Marie, a nominated member of the "Prom Court" decided to go alone. Upon arriving to the event, she saw Jim locking arms with fellow "Prom Court" member Janie Crane. Upon the sight, Principal Barry Jameson immediately directed all those in attendance to give unflattering looks directly at Marie, in accordance with Minnesota state law. Later that night, Pickens and Crane were named Prom King and Queen. Immediately following the announcement, all the prom attendees tarred and feathered Marie. The school put her on indefinite suspension, pending the outcome of an investigation into her "incurable unpopular status."

When asked for comment, Jim Pickens explained, "Janie pulled a total power play one week before the prom. I tried to maintain dignity and moral values when lying to Marie, who has been saying nasty things about Janie for months. Janie is popular, and Marie was totally wrong about her." Marie is currently under investigation from the States Attorney's Office for violations of Minn. Stat. § 625.FU, which makes it a crime for any high school student to call the popular girl "a total bitch." If convicted, Marie faces up to three years in prison. *Continued on page 16...*

As part of her punishment, Marie's dad will show up to every social event she attends.

Profs Say the Darndest Things

We've all been there. You are sitting in class, innocently taking notes, when your professor says something hilarious. While this effectively prevents many of us from learning for the rest of the day, it is also, undeniably, one of the best parts of law school. As a public service, The Opinion will publish these gems of legal education.

*****Send us your profs' quotes!*****

"We need to suck the marrow from this life experience."

"Just the idea of a photograph of a face sitting in a dumpster somewhere kind of freaks me out."

"I'm a doctor; I perform abortions."
(taken way out of context)

"I downloaded my first ring tone and it's "Shorty got low low low." It's a very catchy tune. And I was in a meeting; it was a very formal setting. And it went off and I was very embarrassed."

"The government is constantly not giving me a billion dollars...my crayon is down to a nub. I'm running out of napkins!"

"What is a tax attribute? It sounds painful. Is it a medical procedure?"

"Justice Brennan used to be in the majority. Now he's dead."

"You know, you've got to protect girls from being seduced by older men. Drawn-on mustache, gold chains. You know, I've always pictured the Kenny Rogers type. Too much cologne."
(referring to statutory rape)

"Administrative law is the rule of love. The law... is, well, the rule of law."

"People think that they have the right to say anything that they want. Yeah, you do... until someone punches you in the face."

"They say that the unexamined life is not worth living. But then sea otters don't examine their lives, and they have great fun!"

"Everyone close your laptops. (waits until students close laptops) Now do you guys all feel naked? That's how I felt when I realized my zipper was down."

"You want to avoid a shark effect." -Student

"That reminds me of jump the shark, which reminds me of when the Brady Bunch went to Hawaii." -Professor

Experts continued from page 14...

Up until this incident, Marie was considered by school administrators and teachers to be “intelligent,” most importantly, “popular.” She received straight As, had at least a dozen close friends, a loving family, a cute little kitten, and was admitted into Harvard University. After hearing about the prom, Harvard University has rescinded her admission. A spokesperson for Harvard explained, “We had no choice. She had become a social outcast, and we just can’t have that at Harvard University. Our longstanding and prestigious reputation for admissions is not based on grades, character, or the student’s overall ability to think. It is whether the student is popular.” The average GPA for students accepted into Harvard this year was 1.2. Marie’s friends have also abandoned her, her family withholds hugs, and Marie was forced to run her kitten over with a car.

The deal struck at this past summit strictly states that Marie is to maintain her status as a “despised hermit” and remain in her parent’s basement. She is only allowed to see the sun or show her face in public under the strictest of circumstances, and is required to write on a piece of paper “nobody loves me” fifty times every day.

Remember to vote for the
2008 - 2009
SBA candidates
April 2- 4 on TWEN

OPINION AND PERSPECTIVE AND CONTEXT CORNER

With: Shmuck MacCallister: Conservative
Putz MacCallister: Liberal
Yourmotherisugly MacCallister: Moderate

TODAY'S QUESTION: SHOULD THE U.S. SUPREME COURT BAR A MUNICIPALITY'S RIGHT TO BAN AN INDIVIDUAL FROM OWNING A HANDGUN WITHIN ITS CITY LIMITS?

Conservative:

Yes.

Shmuck MacCallister is a columnist for the Daily Polarizer.

Liberal:

No.

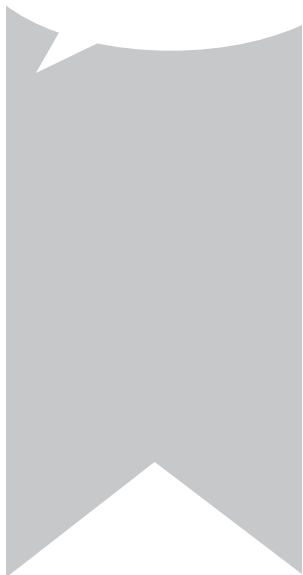
Putz MacCallister is also a columnist for the Daily Polarizer.

Moderate:

Maybe so.

Yourmotherisugly MacCallister is currently under investigation by federal prosecutors for failing to have a polarizing opinion during an election year.

THE OPINION



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