

The INION

William Mitchell College of Law Student Newspaper

Volume 15, March 2004



William Mitchell's Future with Allen K. Easley: New President & Dean

by Tonya Brown

Along with major cosmetic changes, William Mitchell is making changes in other ways. A significant change comes in the way of the administration. With the exit (retirement) of President and Dean Harry Haynesworth, who has been with William Mitchell for nine

years, comes the entrance of Allen K. Easley.

Dean Easley arrives from Washburn University School of Law, where he teaches Civil Procedure, Conflicts in Law and a class on the Federal Courts, on July 1, 2004. At that time he will take his first steps away from teaching and towards administering a law school.

As the new leader of William Mitchell, Dean Easley faces the tide of past and present students as well as

alumni, who look to him to guide the law school into the future – the future that looks toward the advancement of legal scholarship and skills, areas the school has managed successfully for years.

With Dean Easley taking his rightful place July 1, it seems appropriate that he be provided this forum to espouse some of his views concerning William Mitchell. So without further ado, here is a little insight into the mind of Mr. Allen K. Easley.

O: Dean Easley, what was the single reason for you choosing to take on the role of Dean and President of William Mitchell?

Dean Easley: It is difficult to single out one thing that most attracted me to this position. William Mitchell has a great faculty and staff, an excellent student body, and when the current renovations are finished it will have a beautiful state-of-the-art

Continued on page 2

One L's Show Promise

By Mary Kilgus

After two or three weeks of WRAP, most first year students are crushed under the weight. Endless days of trying to figure out what day/what time your classes are, attending lectures, trying to find time for research and, (oh yeah...) the rest of your classes can feel like a combination of treading water and drowning. I suspect most 1Ls suffer silently through it, try to keep paddling, and wait for it to end.

So when I recently heard of a group of 1Ls breaking out of

the mold, I had to find out. The story of yellow t-shirts printed with the words "I love WRAP" was too good to pass up.

Patrick McGuiness, 1L, got the idea one day, and circulated an email to the other 1Ls asking if anyone wanted a t-shirt. For \$10 dollars (cost, right Patrick?), a 1L could express themselves.

You might see them around campus. Yellow t-shirts with "I ♥ WRAP" sort of stand out. If you see one, ask the wearer if it's true a large group of them wore the t-shirts to



Photo credit: Patrick McGuiness

their large group WRAP class. And don't forget to congratulate them. Not many 1Ls can get their heads out of the water long enough to have an independent thought.



In This Issue

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| New President & Dean | 1 |
| 1Ls Show Promise | 1 |
| Truth About Law Practice | 5 |
| NLG Social Justice Dinner | 6 |
| SBA Retreat | 6 |
| Common Cents | 9 |
| Willie Mitchell Interview | 10 |
| Unsung Heroes | 13 |
| Drop the Puck | 15 |

Columns

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| From the Editor | 3 |
| The Opinion's Opinion Page 7-8 | |
| Hearsay | 8 |

Dean Easley...

continued from page 2

facility. William Mitchell has an excellent reputation in the Minneapolis-St. Paul community, and it is well positioned to expand that reputation regionally and nationally. So for me, this is a really exciting time to help lead William Mitchell into the future.

O: What are your plans to keep the law school as a night school?

Dean Easley: William Mitchell started out as a night school. Many of its strongest alumni supporters attended law school as night students. The night program is part of what makes William Mitchell unique. It is important, therefore, that this program be kept intact and vibrant. At the same time, it is important to recognize that William Mitchell is no longer just a night law school. There are full-time and part-time day students who are an important part of the William Mitchell community. Indeed, in the current market for prospective law students the day program is more attractive to students than it has ever been before. But it would be a huge mistake, in my judgment, to view the current attractiveness of the day program as a sign that the night program is no longer important. The night program is part of the heart and soul of William Mitchell – that is not going to change.

O: There is concern by night students that they are being left out. For instance, many PLPs and other activities are only planned during the week in the middle of the day, effectively keeping working students out. WMCL is one of a very few law schools that actually

offer night school in this country; given this, there is concern that WMCL will decrease its night programs altogether.

Dean Easley: Actually there are a number of law schools that offer part-time programs in the evening. Whenever a law school offers different enrollment options to its students, it is important that the school do everything it can to assure that all students, regardless of enrollment option, have reasonable access to the school's programs and educational opportunities. I don't think there are any easy answers here. It just takes continued hard work and constant vigilance to make sure that programs are planned in a way that maximizes opportunities for all students.

O: An additional concern is the limiting class offerings at night. All the new classes this semester, for instance, the "Islam and the Law" class, are offered during the morning. How will you address this concern?

Dean Easley: Of course, I don't know the specifics about what courses are currently being offered at what times of day. There will always be some classes that are not in high enough demand to justify offering different sections in the day and evening. It is certainly not fair to night students if these classes are always offered in the day. Nor would it be fair to day students if these smaller-demand elective classes were always offered in the evening. Some classes can only be offered at certain times – e.g., adjunct-taught classes often can only be offered in the evening. But when there is scheduling flexibility, the college must

simply work hard to assure that a fair balance is achieved in trying to meet the needs of day and evening students.

O: As most students know and believe, WMCL is active in the dumbing down of grades to maintain a B- while the other three law schools in the area maintain a B average. This hurts students' chances in the job market. What is your understanding of this matter and what approaches will you take to lessen the job and economic impact given WMCL third tier ranking?

Dean Easley: My experience is with law firms in Kansas City, a job market that I believe is comparable to the Minneapolis-St. Paul market. In my conversations with hiring partners in major Kansas City firms, most of them understand that class rank is more meaningful than grade point averages as a measure of the quality of a student's work. So even though the four law schools that surround the Kansas City market have widely varying grading practices, and the grades at my current school (Washburn) tend towards the low end, it has not had a significant impact on the job prospects of our top graduates in the big-firm market in Kansas City. In fact, some of those hiring partners have praised Washburn for setting higher standards. Their complaint is that other law schools with high grade inflation have "dumbed down" grades by giving so many high grades that high grades don't mean anything anymore.

I think the key to helping William Mitchell graduates get jobs is convincing employers that William Mitchell gradu-

ates have received a first rate education. To the extent that message reaches beyond the Minneapolis-St. Paul legal community, that growth in William Mitchell's reputation may strengthen William Mitchell's position in the "rankings." Merely giving more high grades will do nothing to improve William Mitchell's reputation or ranking.

O: In its attempt to have WMCL reflect society and produce lawyers that value this same sentiment, WMCL promotes the view that diversity is essential to the success of any law school. How will you continue to ensure that diversity is not merely a theory but is actually put into practice here at WMCL?

Continued on page 5

Lawyer Joke of the Month

A university committee was selecting a new dean. They had narrowed the candidates down to a mathematician, an economist and a lawyer.

Each was asked this question during their interview: "How much is two plus two?"

The mathematician answered immediately, "Four."

The economist thought for several minutes and finally answered, "Four, plus or minus one."

Finally the lawyer stood up, peered around the room and motioned silently for the committee members to gather close to him. In a hushed, conspiratorial tone he replied "How much do you want it to be?"



From the Editor

I loved spring break for a lot of reasons: the biggest was no parking hassles for an entire week. Now if I can only maintain my even-keeled disposition long enough for the next break.

Can't come too fast for you? Admittedly, there is more stress and frustration than usual these days, what with the parking NIGHTMARE, and I don't use that word loosely. And you thought all you'd have to contend with is studying and working, huh?

endlessly around the parking lot when you simply have to drop something off?

The neighbors hate us, it's said, because we park in front of their houses without a permit and then swear at them, or threaten them with legal action if they don't hush it. I've never actually seen a neighbor, but I had the privilege of reading a note from one left on a friend's car. Amidst death threats and swear words, the writer intimated that she sat by her



Parking is hard for everyone—everyone except the construction people who get to school at 6 a.m. and park in the lot all day, that is. I bet you were wondering why, no matter what time of day or night you arrive, you can never find a parking space? But hey, the construction people aren't the only reason.

Why, you ask, did you bother to buy a parking permit when no one else seems to need one? Have you ever seen a ticket on one of these WM permitless cars in the lot, the lot you paid to park in? And how, you wonder, can visitor parking be filled no matter what time you find yourself driving

window and waited for a student to park in front of her house. Then she would call the police to send a parking enforcement officer over to ticket it, making sure to continue calling until the police sent someone, to make sure the errant student got what was coming to them.

Who's got the problem, I ask?

The other day, as I was circling the block, glancing past my useless parking permit, waiting patiently for someone to leave so I could park, it came to me: as the city grants more and more permit parking areas around this campus, sooner or later there will be no place to park at all. Students will have to

The OPINION

William Mitchell College of Law Student Newspaper

Editor-in-Chief: Mary Kilgus

Managing Editor: Carla Magnuson

Assistant Managing Editor: Rong Yang

Business Manager: Scott Kissinger

Assistant Business Manager: Jason Krause

Staff Writers: Deborah Arndell, Shawn Bakken, Tonya Brown, Steve Hennessy, Mary Kilgus, Carla J. Magnuson, Ahmed Teleb, Michael Tierney, Connor Tobin

Photographers: Melessa Henderson, Patrick McGuinness, Kristen Olson

©2003-2004 *The Opinion*, William Mitchell College of Law Student Newspaper

The Opinion is an independent publication of the Students of William Mitchell College of Law. The views expressed in *The Opinion* are those of the authors and do not reflect the views of *The Opinion* editor, William Mitchell College of Law, its employees or its Board of Trustees, unless otherwise noted.

The Opinion will always consider quality content submitted for publication. Interested authors may forward copy of not more than 1500 words to theopinion@wmitchell.edu.

The Opinion reserves the right to edit for clarity, space and editorial content.

Please contact the Editor at mkilgus@wmitchell.edu for specific questions or comments.

Parties interested in advertising space should contact Scott Kissinger at skissinger@wmitchell.edu.

Submissions to The Opinion

Articles for the April, 2004 issue of *The Opinion* are due March 30, 2004.

either get to school at 5 a.m. to get a space in the parking lot or park downtown and catch the bus to school.

Two things come to mind—doesn't the school have any pull at the city at all? Heck, we've been around for over 100 years. William Mitchell is a jewel in this city, or doesn't the city recognize that? Maybe someone should tell them. And argue all you want about whether this is a commuter school or there's actually a community, most people drive from work or home to get here for class.

Hello people!

I see no end in sight. When the new building is finished, there will be even less parking than before. If the school has no pull at the city, eventually these neighbors will "permit" us all out of parking on any street.

At least I'm graduating and won't have to deal with this much longer. I feel only pity for students who, after paying almost \$25,000/year for school, can't count on a parking space.





**Over 95%
Have Chosen
BAR/BRI—**

There Must Be A Reason Why.

**Everything You Need
To Know to Pass the Bar!**

barbri
BAR REVIEW

**33 South Sixth Street, Suite 4530, Minneapolis, MN 55402
800-328-4444 or 612-746-3141 ext. 3 • FAX 612-349-6561
mnbar@barbrigroup.com www.barbri.com**

Dean Easley...

continued from page 2

Dean Easley: First, let me say that diversity is an important value to me on a very personal level. My mother is Japanese American. My father is Caucasian. Until the 1970s, my parent's marriage was illegal in my father's birth state, South Carolina. I remember as a young child learning that my uncles on my mother's side had been incarcerated in internment camps in California and Arizona by the United States government during World War II because their race made them a threat

to national security. Only by working to ensure diversity in our educational institutions can we learn to value each other for our diversity and understand each other across our diversity rather than fearing each other because of our diversity. There are no simple answers to the question of how we assure that diversity at William Mitchell is a practice, not merely a theory. The only way to achieve diversity is through hard work and perseverance. And it is not a goal that, once achieved, can be set aside in favor of other

objectives. As you admit a new class of students each year you have to keep working at it. You have to keep working hard on pipeline issues, making sure high school and college students from communities underrepresented in the legal profession see role models who help them to understand that a legal education is within their reach – all of which helps to create a more diverse applicant pool. You have to keep working hard to encourage admitted applicants from diverse backgrounds to come to William Mitchell. You have to

continue the hard work of making sure they feel welcome in this community when they come here. You have to continue the hard work of improving the diversity of the faculty, so that the role models we present to you as students reflect the rich diversity of our society and the diversity we seek to achieve in our profession. You have to never quit.



The Truth About the Practice of Law

The practice of law
Legal thinking and
Is

Like a good bottle of wine
To be sipped and savored
One glass at a time


Process
Get your thoughts down
Then it's the revisions at repeat visits
That

Give the legal thinker his renown
Legal thinking

The practice of law
And

What type of lawyer your education flows
Has more to do with understanding this process
Than what's crammed into a blue book in two hours.

D. L.
A 3L who just finished her last final.




WILLIAM MITCHELL
COLLEGE OF LAW

Alumni Association 31st Annual

Golf Tournament

Monday, May 24, 2004
12:30 p.m. Shotgun Start
Olympic Hills Golf Club



WMCL Represented at National Lawyers Guild Social Justice Dinner

By Carla J. Magnuson and Ahmed Teleb

On Saturday February 21st William Mitchell students, faculty and alumni gathered together in a South Saint Paul union hall for the 2004 Social Justice Dinner hosted by the Minnesota chapter of the National Lawyers' Guild. Over a dozen students attended, many with the generous support of faculty & staff who donated student tickets. Attendance topped 300 people who filled the hall to honor AFSCME Locals 3800 & 3801, WMCL alumni and legal aid champion Larry McDonough and hear an inspiring keynote address from progressive Democratic candidate Dennis Kucinich.

After a rousing call to advocate for the working class in general, U of M student Andrew Hamilton presented AFSCME union representatives from Minneapolis and Duluth with the Social Justice award for their victorious strikes last fall. The representatives thanked the crowd and noted that the two unions of clerical workers are predominately women.

Professor Ken Kirwin and WMCL alumnus Roxanna Orwell presented Larry McDonough with the first ever Paul Marino People's Lawyer award, named for beloved, gone, but not forgotten, WMCL professor emeritus Paul Marino. Professor Kirwin acknowledged the appropriateness of the award seeing parallels in the lives of both men who have dedicated

themselves to lifting up the downtrodden.

Following the awards, Congressman Dennis Kucinich delivered an extraordinary speech to Guild members and others concerned with issues of social justice. The talk was almost uncanny, at once philosophical, spiritual, inspirational, yet political. It might have been a lecture on phenomenology or existentialism, as Dennis began with the notion that our own reality is created in being perceived by others. The being-for-itself emerges from the being-for-the-other in existential transcendence. The politically or socially "impossible" delimited from outside and "above" the self, as a child's creativity is muffled by parental no-no's, materializes when individuals find within themselves that which makes each human. Particularly referencing the current and future profession of many audience members, Dennis reminded us that "law is a social construct", not ground in stone. We can "conjure" another reality. Mind surmounts matter defeating poverty, powerlessness, or disfranchisement. The eye must first envision the impossible, as modern physics has come to terms with interstitial space, before the self realizes its promise and creates. Thus people like Larry McDonough and AFSCME locals can overcome all odds to make justice reality.



Mind-mapping at SBA Retreat

By Steve Hennessy, 1L,
Section 5 SBA representative

On Saturday, February 14, members of the Student Bar Association (SBA) snuck away from the usual duties and routines of the holiday and gave up nearly four hours of their Valentine's Day to attend a retreat on campus, suggested and organized by Interim Dean of Students, Kevin Campana.

The purpose of this retreat was to help the SBA become more effective as a voice of the student body and to lay a foundation for future action.

Despite the demanding task of guarding the henhouse, nearly all of the SBA foxes attended the retreat. The opening exercise involved three small groups, each brainstorming ideas related to the SBA and divided into two categories: "things that are working" and "things that are not working". I am sure some out there could come up with their own list, and, not

surprisingly, the "not working" list was a bit longer and somewhat easier to compile. After the lists were posted and some follow-up discussion from each group, everyone was given some colored dot stickers to be used to "vote" for some of the various ideas in the two categories. It was interesting to see which topics garnered votes.

The next exercise involved "mindmapping" which amounted to the creation of a fishbone-like diagram through brainstorming that listed topics related to WMCL and the relationships between them. For this portion of the session, the facilitators asked us to shed our "SBA caps" and come at the problem as a WMCL student not involved with SBA committees, the administration, and other tasks that provide unique information. Topics like tuition, jobs, parking and grades were all discussed. Things like the needs of full-

Continued on page 12



SBA Photo Credit: Kristen Olson

Mindmapping, a brainstorming technique, was one of the highlights of the SBA retreat.

The Opinion's Opinion Page

You Too Can Fear WMD-Related Program Activities

by C. Tobin

I will concede, at the outset, that I am no master of rhetoric, but I am no fool either. How the American public could accept that weapons of mass destruction exist in Iraq is beyond me when the proof offered by President Bush is we have found evidence of "weapons of mass destruction-related program activities." What does that mean? I doubt my professors would accept my in-class response of "I don't have the answer. I found no evidence of any assignment-related posting activities." The press seemed to also have evidence of rolling-black-out-potential-connections-to-the-Vice-President-program-related-activities (Forbes.com, for example). In fact the General Accounting Office also took interest. I noticed that was dismissed.

Whatever it means, I'm pretty sure that "weapons of mass destruction-related program activities" does not mean the cornucopia of actual, built WMDs we went to war—and young Americans died—for.

This Orwellian newspeak and double-think degrades the thought process and thought itself.

The obdurate unwillingness of Americans to have so readily believed (and seemingly continue to believe) something for which no proof exists dismays me. For the assurances these weapons existed, I think a greater

demand should be placed on leaders who sent Americans to die (over 520) for something that does not appear to be there.

I'm deeply concerned by the public's willingness to accept WMD existence when nothing—in particular the United States' own intelligence—indicated that WMDs do or did exist in Iraq and presented some imminent threat to America. A Feb. 9, 2004 *Newsweek* article quoted former U.S. Weapons Inspector David Kay before the Senate Armed Service Committees discussing US intelligence on Iraq's WMD-programs: "It turns out we were all wrong, probably, in my judgment." Not only that, but former Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neil's book revealed an apparent intent to invade Iraq from day-one of this adminis-

tration which should raise some eyebrows.

The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace's 2004 Report, *Weapons of Mass Destruction: Evidence and Implications*, indicated that while Iraq's *determination to obtain and willingness to use* chemical and nuclear weapons posed a long-term danger, but "they did not pose an immediate threat to the United States, the region, or global security." And while Iraq had an interest in acquiring the material, "there was no evidence it had done so."

Statistical research on quelling terrorism has revealed that these sorts of strikes may deter terrorism in the short-term, but they create no long-term deterrent effect (look at Israel and Palestine).

Furthermore this cowboy-attitude towards foreign policy amounts to the United States crying wolf. Maybe the Bush administration is attempting to make-up for its embarrassing debacle with China after she downed a US plane. While this opinion piece may be decried as pacifist, one, its author is not a pacifist, and two, I am far more concerned with realistic threats than chasing phantoms and politically expedient targets.

A Feb. 4, 2004 *New York Times* article reported Pakistani military official were at least tacitly involved in selling information on building nuclear weapons to both North Korea, Iran, and Libya. While we're still waiting to see where that leads, the international community will be far less likely to lend its support when a true threat exists and the wolf is knocking at the door.

If there are actually WMDs, fine, but accepting that they exist when nothing there as justification to violate international sovereignty, while decreasing our prospects of help when we need it, strikes me as double-plus ungood.



**The Opinion
wants to know
YOUR opinion.**
Tell us what you think:
theopinion@wmitchell.edu

Applications for editors, business manager and staff writers for 2004-2005 are being accepted. Please forward your resume and a writing sample (if you're applying for an editor or writer spot) or just your resume and a letter indicating your interest (if you're applying for business manager) to theopinion@wmitchell.edu. Applications due by April 1, 2004. If you have any questions, contact the editor at mkilgus@wmitchell.edu



The Opinion's Opinion Page

H E A R S A Y

Put on a PLP; get investigated by the government. Sound farfetched? Granted, a whole day conference on non-violence is a bit more involved than a PLP, but the NLG students at Drake U Law School who had their agenda and membership list subpoenaed would tell you it's not as farfetched as it sounds.

An aberration? Probably. Then again, consider this from the University of Texas: "Students at UT-Law are being investigated by US Army Intelligence for their participation in a conference entitled *Islam and Sexism*. The conference was rather secular, and analyzed issues of Islam and Sexism with regards to Islamic Law and cultural traditions. The National Lawyers Guild UT Chapter co-sponsored the conference. The Intelligence officers claim that some conference attendees were under investigation, and as such, the officers need a list of people who attended." (quote from an e-mail sent out by one of the students).

This could be a trend. The imagination reels. What next...?

Lavender Law charged with inciting civil disobedience by remarking publicly "Isn't San Francisco lovely in February?"



ACS hosts a debate entitled "*Second Worst Supreme Court Decision Ever: Plessy v. Ferguson or Bush v. Gore?*". The list of those who voted for *B. v. G.* disappears mysteriously.

PLP stalwarts, the Federalists receive a friendly visit from an Administrative Law Judge after a seminar entitled "*Regulation Smegulation, Abolish Executive Agencies; They're not in the Constitution*".

SIPLA meeting evacuated. Apparently an agenda item related to IP and bio-hazards was misinterpreted by a bio-terrorism task force.

During a film retrospective sponsored by BALSAC called "*Just Denzel: The*

Actor in Legal Roles" a spectator comments, "That Malcolm X made some good points." Entire audience is detained and questioned.

Throwing all caution to the wind, figuring they're bound to be under surveillance anyway, NLG develops traveling road show: "*How to Overthrow the Government —The Legal Way*". Strangely no authorities stop the production. Road show attracts cult following among Men In Black.

Ridiculous exaggerations, yes. We here at *The Opinion* regularly use hyperbole to make our point. Then again, the scenarios are not completely outside the realm of possibility, beyond the pale where they belong. This should give us pause.

Fortunately in the Drake case, after a motion to quash and nationwide public outcry, the federal authorities withdrew the subpoena of the student records. You've got to love our First Amendment.

Unfortunately, for those of you who haven't done your PLP's yet, this trend does not excuse you. Diversity has yet to be outlawed.

Fortunately if you are struggling to get your PLP's done, the Multi-Cultural Office has been known to find PLP credits in unofficial non-WMCL experiences. Don't wait until the State decides it needs to screen and sanction the topics for your safety and on your behalf.

Common Cents for the Broke Law Student *presents*

WMCL vs. Reality: Thoughts to Ponder

*“Common sense
often makes
good law.”*

—William Orville Douglas

Deborah Arndell

In this world of fast-paced news and ever-changing world events, it is sometimes too difficult to sort out the facts from the fiction, or to truly understand what you should think or what opinion you should have [Vote Kerry]. With that in mind, I posed a challenge to a few friends, asking them to come up with three questions [one each] that if they had time to sit down and really mull over, they would want to know something about. For my part, I was to turn these questions over in my mind, do the research, break down the giant pieces into tiny, deliverable chunks, and serve it up Dave Letterman style. That way, you get the news and answers you want [Vote Kerry], in a format that fits your busy lifestyle, and without having to do any of the work.

Now, I suspect from the questions that they were trying to stump me, but nothing can combat a little wit and creativity. I've even tossed in a bonus for all of you holiday junkies. Until next month, keep the candles away from your delicacies, double check your Mitchell accounting statements, and if you're going to pick someone up at a bar, remember these words: “Before you commit, make sure it's well lit.” Party on!



CLASSES VERSUS HOT UNDERWEAR

Deborah's Top Ten Reasons to Stay at Home and Light Your Underwear on Fire, Instead of Attending Class:

Reason 10: “Are my Superman Underroos really flame retardant?” It's all about product liability.

Reason 9: It's always easier to start a fire than it is to put one out.

Reason 8: You can learn a lot more about toxic torts from your underwear than in environmental law.

Reason 7: *iTunes* just released Kid Rock for your downloading pleasure. Mitchell just released its best Dean.

Reason 6: You can always get out of your underwear.

Reason 5: Torching oneself makes more sense than WRAP.

Reason 4: Hospital bills are cheaper than books.

Reason 3: Rescue workers will make you lie down, not stand up.

Reason 2: Private humiliation is always better than public humiliation.

Reason 1: If you're going to be scarred for life anyway, physical deformities are often harder to pick up.



STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION

Deborah's Top Ten Global Reasons to do Away with the Student Bar Association:

Reason 10: There was less arguing going on at the UN over the invasion of Iraq.

Reason 9: There was less conflict generated in the Middle East between Palestine and Israel than between the SBA and its members.

Reason 8: I'd rather use my student fees to fund terrorism.

Reason 7: When the word “morass” is used, I won't get confused.

Reason 6: Even George W. Bush's fiscal misguidance is less offensive.

Reason 5: Because it's easier than trying to figure out exactly what it does.

Reason 4: Saddam Hussein in a spiderhole would be a better leader.

Reason 3: Drunk people can't dance anyway.

Reason 2: Ricin packs more power.

Reason 1: Jon Schindel graduated.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Deborah's Top Ten Reasons to Celebrate St. Patty's Day Instead of St. Valentine's Day:

Reason 10: It's closer to the NCAA tournament.

Reason 9: Money is green. Green is good.

Reason 8: It's nicer to get hammered at a bar with a shot, than shot in the ass with an arrow by some half-naked, diaper-wearing, willful and capricious child.

Reason 7: Better to slay a snake than sleep with one.

Reason 6: Leprechauns go away when the day is over—significant others don't.

Reason 5: Beer is better than chocolate.

Reason 4: Beer is better than red roses.

Reason 3: Beer is better than jewelry [unless the jewelry comes with a receipt so it can be returned for cash].

Reason 2: Shamrock shakes.

Reason 1: There are thousands and thousands of different beers, but millions and millions of ugly people. You do the math.

Continued on page 14

An "Interview" with Willie Mitchell

This is something *The Opinion* staff discussed at the beginning of the school year: how cool it would be to talk to Willie Mitchell of the



Shawn Bakken's Sports

Minnesota Wild after their impressive performance in the playoffs. After all, he plays hockey in Minnesota, his name is kinda like William Mitchell, and he might have hired one of us to be his agent after graduation.

Alas, it didn't happen. I don't know whether we dropped the proverbial puck, no one bothered to return our phone calls or maybe our people got into a fistfight with their people and the refs gave everyone 5-month major penalties—now they're all in the box, they're not talking to each other and we're stuck without a chance for an interview.

I think we should change that. I think the students at William Mitchell have the right to know a little more about Willie Mitchell, the man, the myth, the legend, and a guy I'll probably never meet in person. That's why I opted to take an alternative route: I'm making it up. I hope he appreciates the results—I could use a job after passing the bar.

SB: Glad you could make it, Willie.

WM: Who are you? What am I doing here?

SB: This is an interview. I'm supposed to be the one asking the questions. Now

just relax, give us a few answers and we'll give you a lift back to your place. We'll even let you ride in the back seat instead of in the trunk this time.

WM: Right...

SB: Great. Glad to see we're both on the same page. Now the first thing I'd like to do is congratulate you on the success you and the Wild had during last season. Making the playoffs in the team's third year of existence, coming back from 3-0 deficits in the first two series—it was all really amazing.

WM: Can I at least go to the bathroom or something?

SB: No.

WM: <Sigh> Fine, do your interview. I can hold it.

SB: Great. What I wanted to ask first is how you won so many games last season. What do you attribute your success to?

WM: Scoring goals.

SB: ...That's it? No defense or teamwork or slamming their good players into the boards so hard that their blood sprays across the ice or the internal hemorrhaging kills them? Just scoring goals?

WM: Whenever you score more goals than the other team, you win.

SB: Oh.

WM: Besides, it can be really hard to draw blood unless you're whacking them across the face with your stick. Normally, you just end up doing this.

SB: Hey, whoa! C'mon, man, put your teeth back in your mouth! That's disgusting!

WM: What are you whining about? I can only take out

five—there are plenty more that people can knock out later this season. Besides, I can use them to tell little kids that I have psychic powers.

SB: Excuse me?

WM: Sure, I tell 'em it's like those old chicks who use chicken bones to tell the future. I just roll these across the table like so... uh-oh.

SB: What? What do they say?

WM: Nothing. Nothing at all. Let's keep doing the interview. Just, um, be careful when you're flossing tonight.

SB: Okay... Here's another question I had. You normally play defense, right?

WM: Right.

SB: Have you ever considered playing prosecution?

WM: ...

SB: You know, prosecution? Defense and prosecutor in a courtroom? Ha ha ha!

WM: ...

SB: Okay, no more lawyer jokes. Ah, here's something the readers might like to know. What was it like growing up in rural Ohio as a child?

WM: I lived in British Columbia.

SB: You did? Lemme check these notecards again. Um, okay, sure, you lived in British Columbia. But what was your childhood like?

WM: Cold. Very cold.

SB: I see. What did you do when it was so cold?

WM: We played hockey.

SB: Sounds like Minnesota. Lots of kids around here play hockey during the winter-time.

WM: We did it year round.



Willie Mitchell lays a hit on Shawn Bakken during a recent game.

SB: Oh.

WM: And we could throw water up in the air and it would be frozen by the time it hit the ground.

SB: Yeah, that sounds pretty cold, all right.

WM: And to get trees warm enough to grow, we had to light them on fire first.

SB: Okay, I get the point. So you played a lot of hockey when you were a kid?

WM: No, actually, I was really into checkers for a lot of years.

SB: Checkers?!

WM: Oh, sure, you get to tell crappy lawyer jokes, but hockey jokes aren't allowed.

SB: Oh! Ha ha ha! Checkers! Good one!

WM: Don't patronize me.

SB: Right. Sorry. But what was it like growing up in a hockey-filled environment?

WM: It was fun, mostly because I was good at it. I wouldn't have wanted to be Chunk.

SB: Who's Chunk?

WM: He was the chubby kid in the neighborhood. I suppose we could have put him in goal since he was wide

Continued on page 11

Used Law Books!

Cheapest Used Books In Town!

At the SBA Bookstore, a consignment bookstore run by the Student Bar Association at William Mitchell College of Law and is open to Hamline and U of M students to buy and consign their old books. We make only 20% of the price of books, definitely a good deal for students. You can consign your books ANYTIME and we're open all year round. Students often save hundreds of dollars! **Credit for Books Sold!** We are proud to offer in-store credit for consignees. You may now apply the proceeds from any books sold towards your next purchase and no more two months of anxious waiting.

Lockers

Only \$10 a semester for Mitchell students

Discount Movie Passes

We have cheap movie tickets to General Cinema (\$5.50 to HamMar, Mall of America, etc.), and Mann Theatres (\$4.50 to Grandview, Highland, Eagan, Cottage Grove, Hopkins, etc.).



"the nation's premier conquistador museum"—Minnesota Law & Politics

"dredge up memories of your parents' rec room or a tacky family restaurant."
—Highland Villager

"brimming with bordello kitsch masterpieces"—Minnesota Public Radio

Regular Hours:
3-7 p.m. M,Tu,Th
Wed.: 12-4:30
Fri: Noon-5 p.m.

Sports...

continued from page 10

enough to cover up most of it, but the guys wanted to see him skate. He couldn't.

SB: So what happened?

WM: Every time he fell, he'd make this really odd yell, kind of a loud groan or something you might hear out of a foghorn. It was pretty funny. At least for a couple minutes.

SB: Was it because picking on him got old really quick?

WM: No, that's when the moose would show up.

SB: Excuse me?

WM: Yeah, moose. Apparently that moan of Chunk's sounded a lot like a female going into heat, so there'd be a stampede of bull moose out onto the lake looking for a quickie.

They generally weren't thrilled when they showed up.

SB: Then what would happen?

WM: They'd charge. And lemme tell you, when you've got a bull moose charging at you full speed, high sticking, cross checking, slashing—all those penalties go out the window.

SB: So what did you do?

WM: Punch them in the head as hard as possible.

SB: Did that knock them out?

WM: No. No, throwing punches probably pissed 'em off more than anything. If you were lucky, you could stun them enough that they wouldn't trample you to death. Chunk usually wasn't that lucky.

SB: Wasn't that lucky? Are you saying this kid came back from the dead to play hockey?

WM: Hey, it's Canada. Hockey is our life. So we'd put his body in front of the goal, he'd be playing hockey, therefore...

SB: That has got to be the most screwed up logic I've ever heard.

WM: Hey, it worked.

SB: Because you're Canadian?

WM: What are you trying to say?

SB: Nothing! Nothing at all! But what was the point of playing hockey all the time if you knew the moose would be coming eventually?

WM: It was good practice for when we'd get into an actual rink.

SB: Why?

WM: Have you ever been trampled by a bull moose?

SB: No.

WM: Getting slammed against the boards hurts a lot less in comparison.

SB: I see. Well, it looks like we're almost out of time.

WM: Good. Where's the bathroom?

SB: One more question. Did your parents name you after William Mitchell College of Law?

WM: No.

SB: Just checking.

WM: If that was supposed to be a hockey joke, I'm going to hurt you.

SB: Ooh.



SBA Retreat...

continued from page 6

time students, part-time students, relationships between the faculty and students and administration were also mentioned. Again, colored dots stickers were distributed and everyone voted for the topics of highest concern.

Next everyone found a partner and then shared a story about the most productive, inspirational, successful board-type experience ever encountered. The partner who listened to the story had to report back to the group. From these stories, three larger groups formed a list of

five elements common to all the stories. From these elements, four main topics were derived. Everyone divided into four groups, each group finding themselves with the task of writing a statement, set in the future, which might govern the SBA regarding that topic. I can now sympathize with legislators having to draft statutory language.

Finally, everyone was able to add to a "hit list" of tasks, broken into short-term (achievable this semester) and long-term (anything longer than this semester). One final time, the colored dots were passed out and everyone voted on the tasks that were

most important as deemed by each person.

The outcome of this retreat was a ton of ideas, and a renewed effort to make a list, check it twice, and see what can be achieved this year (despite the vibrations, closed stairwells, narrow doorways, diesel fumes, and other distractions). The SBA is focusing on addressing the students' needs and Dean Campana is committed to getting the attention of the administration so our needs can be best met.

If you have questions, feel free to contact your SBA representative for more information.



They Said It!

Law school taught me one thing: how to take two situations that are exactly the same and show how they are different.

—Hart Pomerantz

Canadian lawyer &

Hollywood comedy writer

What's in it for U?



**WE HAVE THE
LARGEST
SELECTION OF
USED
TEXTBOOKS**



**WILLIAM MITCHELL
COLLEGE OF LAW
BOOKSTORE**

**875 Summit Avenue
(651) 290-6334**

Visit us at  **follett.com**
bookstore network

Unsung Heroes

By Melessa Henderson

Hero: "1 a : a mythological or legendary figure often of divine descent endowed with great strength or ability b : an illustrious warrior c : a man admired for his achievements and noble qualities d : one that shows great courage."

—Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary

Heroes. They come into our lives and bless us in one way or another. Some are rugged knights in shining armor. Others are mild, but dependably there when you need them most. Here in our little WMCL village we have many heroes that amongst the stress and ruckus make life here more enjoyable. This article introduces you to five of my favorite WMCL heroes who are exceedingly helpful and invariably serve this campus with a smile.



Photo by Melessa Henderson

Larry James Lorence – A/V Hero

Over and over I have heard many a professor herald **Larry James Lorence** their hero as he saves them from audio/visual melt down in front of a classroom full of eager students. Not only is Larry an audio/visual guru, he is experienced and well read on an expansive breadth of topics. Larry has worked at WMCL for 13 years, and grew up in Minneapolis. He graduated with a B.A. in speech communications, and a minor in philosophy from the U of M.

Before his career with WMCL, he was a Producer/Director for a network. When asked what he likes best about working here he responded "The students. I have a good group of student workers that I supervise." Regarding his family he said he is "single, and I co-own a house with my younger sister. We have a Siamese cat named Daisy." When asked if he is excited about the new construction he responded "Yes. I think with the new construction and technology the college will raise the bar. No pun intended." As for the future Larry says he hopes to "get the slice out of my tee shot in golf," and that for the last three years he's "been taking art school classes: the oil painting method is based on the school of Atelier discipline," and that he hopes to "enter the federal duck stamp and other contests." Thank you Larry for keeping our class periods running smoothly with your technical genius!

Bill Weiss was really my hero one 40-below night last winter. I had left my car lights on at 8 am upon arrival at WMCL, and 12 hours later, go figure, the car was dead as a door nail. I had to confess my absent mindedness at the security desk, and rather than flog me with deserved sarcasm Bill said with a smile "No problem, we'll get you taken care of!" Little did he know that would entail twenty minutes of him trying to charge the little Honda with the school van, to no avail. He then brought out some super charger and after what seemed like hours of watching him suffer out in the bitter cold, the Honda sput-

tered to life again. Bill has been at WMCL over six years, and grew up in Minneapolis. When asked what he likes best about working here, Bill responded "The people you meet, and get to know." Bill says he has been "married 23



Photo by Melessa Henderson

Bill Weiss – Security Hero

plus years to an understanding wife, [has] two sons and a dog who makes us whole." Regarding the new construction, Bill says that it is a "major change [that] keeps us on our toes." In the future Bill hopes to "see my boys graduate from college and or trade school." Thanks, Bill, for making WMCL a safer place to learn!



Photo by Melessa Henderson

Bob Payne – Kitchen Hero

Bob Payne is truly one of the kindest people here on campus. When I was organizing a pie social last year, he was so generous to offer space in the kitchen refrigerators to keep the pies cold. I was in and out of his way all afternoon, however he always was so friendly and helpful. Bob has worked at WMCL for 13 years. He graduated from the University of Minnesota, and

majored in music. When asked what he likes best about working here he said "in my years working here I have made hundreds of friends from the students and staff and faculty. You never know when you might need a lawyer someday. Now I have quite a list to choose from!" When asked about his family he said he's been "married four years to [his] wife Ginger," and he has a new "daughter Ellen born last April." I asked Bob how he feels about the construction going on, and he said "although it isn't going to affect the kitchen much, I think that the students will have some much nicer areas to eat and relax." Bob hopes in the future "to be able to have a good balance between work and home so that I am able to stay employed and spend quality time with my family." Next time you see Bob in the commons, be sure to say hello and ask about that beautiful new baby girl of his!

Peter Foley has only been at WMCL four months as an I.T. Intern, however he is quickly becoming a hero to many. There are those that are high-tech, there are those that are low-tech, and then there are those of us who are no-tech at all. I fall in the last category, and therefore have been in to visit Peter often. Peter mans the ship at the new I.T. satellite office located in the library copy center room. Whoever thought to put him there was brilliant. Time is of the essence here, and computer problems abound. It is such a nicety to be able to take the ol' lap top down to

Continued on page 14

Common Cents...

continued from page 9



ST. PATRICK'S DAY TRIBUTE

Here's a little drinking song for all of you non-Bostonians who will be celebrating this March in the good ol' Irish tradition. I place this here for two reasons [and no, one is not to advocate drinking, b/c I don't]. The first is that it's a great song by a great band, Seattle's *The Gits*, which emphasizes good drink and good friends. Second, it's a tribute to Mia Zapata, the band's lead singer, who was raped and murdered in July 1993. Last year, in January, her killer was finally found in Florida and the Seattle music scene can now breathe a little easier. As a tribute to her, Joan Jett performed this song live on an album created to raise money for a private investigator. That album was *Evil Stig*, which spells *Gits Live*, backwards.

THE DRINKING SONG

(Kessler/M. Zapata/
M. Dresdner/S. Moriarty)

I tend to drink too much
sometimes

I fall a little drunk on my face

I get up I brush up and head
to the bar

For another round with all of
my friends

CHORUS

Here's to 'em To all of my
friends

Here's to 'em To all of my
friends yeah

Here's to 'em To all of my
friends

Here's to the bastards, the
best of my friends

Step up to the bar we tip the
bartender first

Keep 'em filled to the rim

There might be a bit of a
brawl that breaks out

But we always leave when we
should

CHORUS

So with this pint I toast to
you to all of my friends

Keep healthy and good I
clench it tight and

I raise it high May the spirits
runneth over

And drinks never be denied

I know work is the worst part
of the day

But when you get out the fun
will pay

So now drink with me to no
end

'Cause here we are with the
best of our friends

It's all I got left in the end are
my friends

God love 'em, my effing
Friends

(From the album, "Evil Stig")



Unsung Heroes...

continued from page 13

Peter where he fixes her up
again with ease. Peter grew up
in St. Paul, and went to Brown
College to get a B.S. in
Information Technologies.
When asked what Peter likes



Peter Foley – I.T. Hero

best about working here he
said the "very friendly, open"
atmosphere, and that "people
take the time to know others."
Peter's wife is from Mexico. His
parents live in St. Paul, and he
has three brothers. When
asked if he was excited about
the new construction he
responded like a true winner
"It's difficult to find parking,
but it is a small sacrifice for a
better learning environment."
As far as his future goes, Peter
says that "his wife has sacri-
ficed a lot to be with me in
the U.S. My dream is for her to
finish her education when I
graduate in December." Next
time you need help in the
library with your computer, be
sure to welcome Peter here,
and thank him for all he does
to keep us no-techs from
dithering in technological
frustration.

Last, but definitely not
least, is **Rex J. Turner**. I
remember in my first week of
school here, I lost my car
keys. At my point of greatest
desperation, Rex came up and
put his arm around my shoul-
der and encouraged me "don't
worry, everything will work
out fine." That's pretty much
how things are when Rex is

around; they just seem to
work out fine. Rex is the jewel
in the crown of this school.
His gravely voice and gnarly
looks would scare away the
most threatening of thugs...
that is of course if they don't
catch him giving one of those
Rex's original smiles as he
peers over those black bi-
focals. Rex began work at
WMCL in July of 1990. He



Rex J. Turner – Security Hero

grew up in Oklahoma and
Texas, and graduated from
NYU with a B.A. in
Government. What I found
very intriguing about Rex is
that he received his law
degree from the University of
Oklahoma. Before WMCL he
worked in management at a
retirement facility. When
asked what he likes best
about working here he
responded, "the people and
the short drive (walk) to
work." Rex says of his family
that he has been "married to
Catheryne for 40 years," and
has two daughters. Rex's
dream for the future is "to
stay in good health, live to
see peace in the world, and to
have friendly people to talk
with." Well, as anyone might
agree, especially by the last of
Rex's comments, he is indeed
a WMCL treasure.

Next time you see Larry,
Bill, Bob, Peter, or Rex make
sure to say "Hi" and thank
them for all they do to make
the WMCL community a very
special place to be!



Photo by Melissa Henderson

Photo by Melissa Henderson

Drop the Puck



By Mickey Tierney

OK, hockey fans, this is going to be my second to last installation of your William Mitchell Fighting Hockey Eel Pout updates for the 2003-2004 season. The hockey season is coming to a close and spring is on its way in earnest, to the great anticipation of us all here in law school. February was quite a month for your team in black, though, as the squad finally started to look like a real championship organization.

The month began on February 5th when the Eel Pout took on the perennial doghouse police team, the Piglets. After riding high on a two game winning streak, the Eel Pout were well recovered after a much-needed Winter Break.

"We were pretty lucky to get those first couple of wins after coming back," said team veteran Michael Welch. "This is my fourth year on the squad and it never fails—finals come and the team starts to slump. But, I've never seen the team rebound from the 'finals slump' so quickly in my three previous seasons!"

Ready to play and inspired by the feisty east coast style of fourth year veteran, Steven Cahill, the Eel Pout pounded the gritty Piglets 9 to 3.

When speaking to Mitchell goaltender Brian Howard after the game, he revealed that he had big plans for a shutout that night.

"Yeah, I was ready to play for this one, especially. I'd heard how bad this police team was (one of three in the league) and heard that it's been years since we've had a regular season shutout, so I wanted to do the school proud. But what happens? First shot and they get one by me. It was a low burner from the right side that just slipped under my pad. I blame team GM, Ross Hussey, though. He put the jinx on me for that one. Thanks, Ross."

Apparently Hussey had skated past Howard only seconds before the game and actually bet him that the first shot would score. Ross, Ross, Ross...

With the Eel Pout's win on the 5th, there were only two more games in the regular season. Both would pit your Pout against a top ranked team in anticipation of the playoffs.

In Game One of the rundown, the Eel Pout faced a local alumni team from Cretin-Derham Hall, ranked number one. It was the hardest game of the year.

"I grew up playing with a lot of these guys in the city league here in town," said Mickey Tierney. "They're pretty rough, but that's the way it's played around here in the rinks that taught Herb Brooks to play". And a gritty game it was. Within the first five minutes, the two teams had already squared off in

two brawls, one of which resulted in an ejection for both teams. That's sometimes how it goes towards the end of the year. The Pout went on to lose the game by one goal, after losing rookie all-star Dan Gallatin in the first period to skullduggery. With just over three minutes to go, veteran Mike Welch got one by the Cretin goalie to bring the Eel Pout within a single score. The Pout would pull their goalie with 47 seconds left in the game and sustain ferocious pressure for the duration only to come up short and without a point.

In Game Two, the last game of the season, there was a repeat of the prior game. Facing The Enforcers, tied for third in the league, and another police team, the Eel Pout again were shy by just a goal. With mere seconds on the clock at the end of the game, Gallatin, looking for redemption for being ejected in the last one, had a chance to tie the match on a desperate shot. He received a blind pass at the top of the slot after a heroic effort from line mate and 1L, Rob Dolan. Off balance and surrounded by a throng of police officers specially trained in the art of Kung-Fu, Gallatin spun around in a 360, went to rip off a shot at a wide open net, only to fan on the puck.

"But it was a heck of a game. We've really come a long way as a team, and I think that in the last two games we proved we can play with any team in the league, and I think we're finally ready for the playoffs," said the team's coach in a year end press conference.

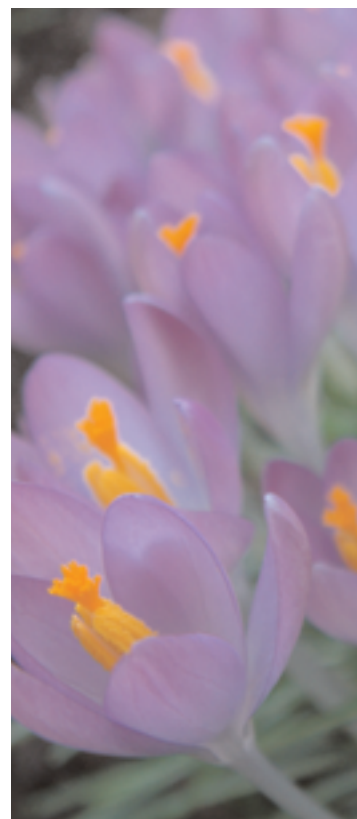
The St. Paul City Playoffs

began on Sunday, February 29th, an auspicious day. Stay tuned to learn the success of this year's William Mitchell Fighting Hockey Eel Pout.



By the age of 18, the average American has witnessed 200,000 acts of violence on television, most of them occurring during Game 1 of the NHL playoff series.

— Steve Rushin



“You Have To Be Crazy...

December 3, 2002

Dear PMBR:

I just received my July bar exam results and I am thrilled to report that I achieved a Multistate score of 190 which apparently was the **HIGHEST MBE score in Texas**. Upon the recommendation of many of my lawyer friends, I took PMBR as a supplement to my general Texas bar review course.

The PMBR program was “fantastic”. Your questions were right-on-target and covered the obscure mortgage and criminal procedure areas that my Texas review course did not address.

My recommendation to future law grads is simple: After investing a fortune in your legal education, you have to be crazy not to take PMBR!

Thanks for a great course.

Anthony Glenn Buzbee
University of Houston,

**MBE
SCORE
190**

Not To Take PMBR!”



***pmb*r**
MULTISTATE SPECIALIST

A Membership benefit of the



*Absolutely, Positively
A Necessary Multistate Supplement!*

NATIONWIDE TOLL FREE: (800) 523-0777 • www.pmbr.com