

# The OPINION

William Mitchell College of Law Student Newspaper

October 2003

## Just Warming Up

Mitchell student Nancy Hylden runs Twin Cities Marathon; hopes to qualify for Olympic Trials.

By Lori Bower

What is a student's best stress reliever? For some, it might be a night out at Billy's, a pack of cigarettes or a deep-tissue massage. But Mitchell student Nancy Hylden (4L) has a healthy vice. Her stress reliever is running. But Hylden is not just any runner. She regularly trains and runs marathons, and is running the Twin Cities Marathon on October 5. Aside from the whole graduating from law school thing, Hylden hopes to qualify for the Olympic Trials. She's also received national media attention; an interview with her was recently published in *Runner's World*. We talked to her about her running career and her plans for the future. Here are her responses.



Nancy Hylden will run in the Twin Cities Marathon on October 5.

**O: How long have you been running?**

**Nancy:** Gosh...quite a while. I ran in 9th grade, but become serious about it only later, as an adult...maybe 12 years ago or so. I was living in Duluth at the time, and discovered that I couldn't bike home from work, so I decided to run to get into shape. My little sister inspired me to run a marathon for the first time.

**O: What races have you run in the past?**

**Nancy:** I've run Grandma's and the Twin Cities Marathons more times than I can count. They are both beautiful courses, very well organized, and close to home. In addition to a lot of local shorter races, I've run marathons in Boston, New York, Sacramento and the last Olympic Marathon Trial in Columbia, South Carolina.

**O: How do you train for a marathon—do you have a specific training regimen?**

**Nancy:** First off, I have a great coach, Charlie Mahler, who helps particularly with reining me in...I think it is common for most people to try to do too much too soon. I spent this past summer just building up to comfortably running 100-mile weeks. Now I am adding quality training, such as weekly intervals, hills, running with people faster than me to increase my aerobic capacity, and of course, long endurance runs. Depending on what I'm working on, I'll run 6-20 miles per day. Some days I take zero, although no too many. I also have some running pals that really help to keep me motivated.

**O: I heard the TC Marathon is a "warm up" for you next big marathon. Can you tell me about that?**

**Nancy:** My next big marathon is in New York City, this coming November. Six of us hope to qualify to run the next Olympic Trials, to be held in St. Louis, MO, next April. The race director has arranged to have pace runners help us through the first 25 kilometers to improve our chance at qualifying. My biggest trouble is starting out with too much exuberance. To qualify for the Olympic Trials, you have to run faster than a 2:48 marathon, which is about a 6:24-minute mile pace for 26.2 miles.

The New York City marathon is an incredible race. There are more than 30,000 people in the race, which starts on the Verrazano Bridge and ends up in Central Park, by way of most of the Burroughs. When I last ran it in 2001 (two months after 9/11), there were more than two million spectators on the route, which is amazing in itself. The New York City course is tough; windy and hilly, numerous climbs up bridges and possible nasty weather. It is not a likely race for breaking records or personal bests. My back up plan is to take one last shot at the trials in Austin, Texas, in February.

**O: Do you usually run at a particular time of day?**

**Nancy:** Yep. After work and class. It does make it tough to go back to the library to study, however.

**O: Where do you like to run?**

**Nancy:** We are really fortunate in the Twin Cities to have an expansive, connected trail system throughout the metro area. I think I know every crack in the pavement between the Franklin bridge and the Ford bridge. Summit Avenue and Minnehaha Creek are also great routes to take.

**O: What is your favorite thing**

*Continued on page 2*

## Iraq Makes Rough Roads for U.S.

By Sara Dady

A nation with substandard infrastructure looks something like this: 27.5% of bridges cannot be safely crossed by all vehicles, 75% of its school buildings are outdated, aging and overcrowded, some of its sewer systems are over 100 years old, water treatment plants are at the end of their life span and there have been 21 dam failures in the last two years while there are over 10,000 dams are "high-hazard potential"- meaning loss of human life would follow dam failure. And this humble list doesn't even begin to scratch the surface of all that is wrong with the U.S.'s infrastructure. At least something else is deteriorating faster than our civil liberties.

If you think the latest \$89 billion price tag President Bush has attached to Iraq is expensive, try the \$1.6 trillion that the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) says it'll take to bring U.S. infrastructure up to a satisfactory level. Satisfactory level means non-dangerous. Since the ASCE released its first report in 2001, there has been no improvement in any of the twelve categories studied. The U.S. is still sitting at a D plus grade for infrastructure. In fact, we substantially declined in seven categories—including dams, roads, drinking water and navigable waterways.

Our 25,000 miles of waterways are important not only to the U.S. economy but also to its security. Half of the nation's land locks have exceeded their fifty-year life span and maintenance on those has consistently been deferred. Our gateway port channels are too shallow for the giant container ships, which are vital to international trade. Our waterways can't handle our present level of water traffic. In addition, traffic is expected to double by 2020.

And yet, I haven't heard President Bush utter a single word about it. After September 11, 2001, the Bush Administration pledged to prevent

terrorists from using our own infrastructure as a weapon against us. My guess is either President Bush is too obsessed with dreams of Iraqi oil to notice or he is actually implementing a brilliant plan. I once went to a self-defense class where the instructor advised us of various strategies we could use to fend off an attack. The most original tactic was that of "Gross Out Your Attacker". The idea was to do something that was so socially inappropriate that your prospective attacker would decide that you were too disgusting to touch. As you can imagine, most of the advice centered on bodily functions.

Our Boy Genius may very well be playing off a variation of "Gross Out" titled, "It's All Gone to Pot so What's the Point." If we all have to start boiling our water anyway, then most poisons dropped in it would probably boil off, too. We can also get so used to dams bursting and sweeping away small towns that it wouldn't really matter if the cause were structural failure or sabotage. Also, nationwide blackouts will make it that much harder for terrorists to email each other their plans.

In order for a plan like this to be truly successful, there also has to be a decoy infrastructure that we can dangle before terrorists. President Bush has found the perfect candidate in Iraq. Ever since we've been dumping \$4.5 billion monthly into Iraq, terrorists and suicide bombers have been flocking there. It's much more satisfying to blow up spanking new buildings than ones that are falling apart. The \$87 billion that President Bush has asked for, in addition to \$79 billion laid out last spring, will buy a lot of Iraqi infrastructure to keep the terrorists busy. Americans will again be safe—except for those who live beneath dams, drive over bridges, and drink water.



### In This Issue

Just Warming Up . . . . .	1
Iraq Makes Rough Roads for US . .	1
Ruminations of a 1L . . . . .	3
Strike This! . . . . .	5
Let the Construction Begin . . . . .	6
2003-04 a Banner Year . . . . .	7
Common Cents . . . . .	7
<b>Columns</b>	
From the Editor . . . . .	3
The Opinion's Opinion Page . . . . .	6
Hearsay . . . . .	6

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### Just Warming Up

*continued from page 1*

#### about running?

**Nancy:** There are different aspects of running which I enjoy. Just running, I like the time it gives to let your mind wander. When I'm training hard, I like the sense of accomplishment I feel afterward. When I race, I LOVE the spirit of competition I find among runners.

#### O: What do you recommend for someone who would like to train for a marathon?

**Nancy:** Look up Hal Higdon on the web. He has a program for a beginner that is straightforward and not likely to lead to injuries. Outfit yourself with two pairs of good (not necessarily expensive) running shoes from Run N Fun down Randolph Avenue. Give yourself at least four months, preferably longer, to train. Find a running partner with similar ability to train with at least some days. Finally, read up on HOW to run! I see a lot of people jogging who expend far more energy than necessary because they flail or hold themselves in rigid position. There are a few tricks that make your far more efficient.

#### O: What is your ultimate goal—in terms of running?

**Nancy:** The Olympic Trials were a pinnacle, and would be wonderful to race in again. But, even if I don't achieve that, being a runner is a way of life I really enjoy. I would like to be able to run when I'm 90...make that 95. After that, I'm going to take up cigarettes.

#### O: Do you know other Mitchell students who are running?

**Nancy:** There are several folks who I know have run Grandma's, Twin Cities and Kona, in Hawaii. There aren't a lot of us, though. It's a shame, because running does so many things that law students need, like reducing stress, making you more alert, and energetic, etc. I find that it is hard to keep it up, though, just because time is so precious.

Nancy's not the only one running the Twin Cities Marathon. Other students you'll see running past you are Kate DeCourcy, Laura Kirscher-Strauss, Karen Lundquist and Shawn Webb.



# The OPINION

William Mitchell College of Law Student Newspaper

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## From the Editor

In an effort to cut costs, *The Opinion* will now be sent via email in a PDF format instead of printed. Student group budgets have been cut way back this year and we will do our part. Just so you know, you can read issues of the paper on the WM website under "publications" on the main page. (I assumed that most students perused their school's web page frequently and already knew that—apparently not.) Now, the paper will be sent directly to your email address and you can read it at your leisure. We hope this will benefit everyone.

Here's a little history of the paper for you, in case you didn't know. The *Opinion* was started in 1959, when William Mitchell was first under that name, instead of the various other names the school had worn. That's 43 years of publication as the voice of students here at WM. This is a strong tradition. I know this because very frequently, I find myself at some meeting or other, where another attorney identifies himself or herself as a former editor, writer, or business manager of *The Opinion*, and they

speak to me about the paper fondly. I even met the very first editor at a meeting last summer, a senior politician and lawyer. He was very happy to hear the paper was still going strong and wanted me to send him the latest issues. I directed him to the website, of course.

In 1959, the first SBA was formed as a body to represent the students. A few months later, *The Opinion* was formed to become the voice of the students. We shouldn't abandon this tradition in these short budget days.

As busy law students, it is sometimes difficult to find the time to write for the paper, but there are plenty of students who do. Read it when it comes to you, and you will find out the going concerns of a variety of students. *The Opinion* is your connection to each other. It provides a clearinghouse for ideas and discussion of student problems, as well as highlighting school events and issues. *The Opinion* is here for everyone. It's your connection to those around you.



### Submissions to The Opinion

Articles for the December issue of *The Opinion* are due November 15, 2003

Ruminations of a 1L

## The Funny Part

By Deb MacCauley

My dad guilted me into sending him emails every night to check on my sanity. He doesn't actually care about my sanity per se. He just cares if it's gone. Someone gave me the great idea to publish these nightly sanity checks. And then I read them. I think they're best kept private, at least until they are not shameful. The funny part is, I thought they were so inspirational when I wrote them.

I suppose all 1Ls feel like this. Suddenly the sun is no longer the center of the universe. I am. Bare naked, shivering, sweating. A guaranteed fact: you are all looking at me!

Welcome to the unadulterated confessions of a dreaded 1L.

My goal here? To actually get it all out in the open when nobody else will. I know I am not the only one here who's wondering how in hell they come up with all this. I also know I am not the only one to get, not kidding, one question right on my first quiz. I know I am not alone when my stomach ties up in knots over assigned seating. I know they deprive us of parking just to make us scramble. I am not alone here. Or am I. The funny part is, I'll never really know.

"Dad, I had a personal victory tonight. I wasn't terrified." 8-25-03

## Lawyer Joke of the Month

A lawyer is cross-examining a doctor on the stand about whether or not he had checked the pulse of the deceased before he signed the death certificate.

"No," the doctor said, "I did not check his pulse."

"And did you listen for a heartbeat?" said the lawyer.

"No, I did not," said the doctor.

"So," said the lawyer, "when you signed the death certificate, you had not taken steps to make sure he was dead."

The doctor, having enough of the lawyer's ridicule, stated, "Well, let me put it this way. The man's brain was in a jar on my desk, but for all I know he could be out practicing law somewhere."



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## Shawn Bakken's Sports

As baseball season comes to a close (or maybe not—it's hard to tell when articles get printed a month after they're written), we in Minnesota have a lot to cheer about. Like baseball season coming to a close. Sure, I root for the Twins and the Saints, but there are so many breaks in the action during a game that it might as well be football without all the physical contact.



Think about it for a minute. If the teams are in a pitcher's duel, you get to see balls thrown and bats swung a bunch of times. Well, that's assuming you're watching the game on TV, since there's a close-up shot from behind the mound. If you're actually at the game, up in the seats where there are guys blowing horns and calling out "Riiiiii-colaaaa!", you'll be lucky if you can see anyone cracking his bat in half because of a called third strike. Maybe I'd enjoy the sport more if it got cracked across the umpire's head instead of the batter's knee, but we can't have everything we want.

Meanwhile, the outfielders are watching the game on the overhead screens like everyone in the upper decks and waiting for the inning to be over. They could just as easily take a nap and have the third-base coach come wake them up when it's time to head into the dugout and wait for another ten minutes until it's time to wander back onto the field and find that comfy spot they were keeping so warm before. I suppose Astroturf isn't as soft as grass, but if you sleep on your side and use your glove as a pillow, you'd never know the difference.

I know, that sounds kind of bitter. Maybe part of my problem with baseball is that it has so many bad role models these days. In the past, there was Babe Ruth, Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle, Jackie Robinson... and a bunch of other players who apparently weren't good enough role models for me to remember. But now who are we hearing about? Players using steroids. Players using corked

bats. Players using Visa cards. Players using Viagra. If you still need convincing that this has a bad influence on little kids, I'm just going to write the phrase, "He got the good wood on that pitch!" You can figure it out from there.

Then again, maybe part of my problem is that I got stuck playing Little League just like most kids my age whose parents wanted to keep them out of the house as much as possible—it keeps them from tearing up the furniture too much with their cleats. I was usually pretty careful about that, but when it came to batting practice in the living room... let's just say the windows in the

house didn't fare nearly as well as the couches. Hey, if I was going to play baseball, I was going to be a committed player. All I needed to do was learn the rules.

For me, at least, it didn't happen all at once. It took a couple games before I found out that I'm not supposed to slide into first base cleats-first, thinking that if I gored someone's shins, I would score a point. I didn't always know that getting more blood into my hand by swinging my arm in big circles between pitches didn't make the strike zone any bigger. I also discov-

# Strike This!

ered that when you catch the ball out of bounds, the batter is out.

That was perhaps the strangest lesson I ever learned simply because of how it happened. One bright, sunny afternoon, I was squatting behind the plate playing catcher. (I had stopped swinging my arm in big circles just in case the strike zone would have expanded.) It's really a nice position to play for a lazy person, really. Except for the potential for squatting too low and having your kneecaps burst out of your legs at just the right angle to hit both the guys playing first and third in the face at the same time.

Lazy kids didn't have to worry about flashing fancy hand signals at the pitcher back then, either (though I wonder what he might throw if you flipped him the bird... maybe a screwball). The catcher just sits there and lets the ball hit his glove, then tosses it back to the pitcher, a job I was perfectly comfortable doing. But then a batter hit a popup.

I hadn't the slightest idea what to do, so I just started wandering off to the left side of the field, looking around at the ground to see where the ball landed. All I needed was a metal detector and I could have been looking for jewelry. You'd be surprised how much stuff parents lose when they drop off their kids and bolt back to the car to try and reupholster the furniture before company arrives.

So I had my mask on, my arm was sticking out and I was wandering towards the bleachers, still looking and not finding anything. Then my hand passed over the top of an empty garbage can and the ball plopped right into my glove. "Oh, here it is." I didn't have the slightest idea why my teammates were getting so excited and patting me on the back until later. Once that happened, of course, I never caught a foul ball again. I'd end up running across two fields to go pick it up and would usually find it resting next to an absent parent's watch or necklace.

Sadly, it turns out my amazing capacity for playing baseball hasn't improved much since then—just ask the batting cage I used a couple

weeks ago (i.e., during baseball season). I was hanging out with some friends at Grand Slam and opted to use my token to show off some mad skills. I didn't have any.

I never got the good wood on any pitches, primarily because it was an aluminum bat. Plus the machine was aimed way too high. If I had leaned across home plate too far, it would have broken the ball over my head, but we can't have everything we want. That's what my friends were saying, anyway—I was too busy swinging the bat and making loud swooshing noises in the process. (Some of you might be wondering about that whole "windows in the house not faring well" comment I made earlier. All I can say is that over the years, my grip has gotten stronger and it's a lot easier for me to hold onto objects as they make loud swooshing noises.)

After a multitude of baseballs bounced off the net behind me, I opted to move back from the plate about five feet. At least that way, I only had to swing at about chest level. Things didn't improve. I occasionally managed to hit a ball, but the net at the far end of the cage never had to worry—most of them got driven straight down into the floor. The others generally shot off at angles that could have hit guys playing first and third base in the face. Now, if I could have managed to hit them both at the same time in that batting cage, that would have showed some mad skills. As it was, the skills weren't there and I was just pissed off.

Okay, so maybe I hold a bit of a grudge against the sport of baseball. Would I ever play again? I suppose it's possible. Just so long as I can hit the umpire in the head with the bat. And slide into first base, cleats-first. And play in the outfield so I can find a comfortable place to sleep.



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# THE OPINION'S OPINION PAGE

## Hearsay

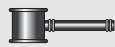
Our hearts go out to the family of William Mitchell graduate Richard Fredrickson, who was shot at the Hennepin County Court House September 29. He was just doing his job, as a conservator of an estate, when he found himself at the mercy of a violent family squabble.

This should remind us all that the adversarial nature of our court system can be dangerous for officers of the court. Courtroom attorneys and court personnel frequently get used to the proceedings and forget that the plaintiffs and defendants aren't generally used to it.

The main concern here, after thinking of the fellow attorney and his family, is why didn't the courthouse have security? Anyone who has been to Hennepin County knows that it's a very busy courthouse, with defendants, plaintiffs, and counsel wandering around together in one big mish-mash. Didn't it occur to someone that maybe trouble would brew out of that pot?

It turns out they did think of that. The Hennepin County Board of Commissioners decided not to fund security at the courthouse because it was too expensive. In these days of budget cuts, too often the only question is the bottom line. This event painfully proves that sometimes, the main question should be people, not dollars.

We'd like to ask the commissioners, "How expensive is it now?"



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## Let the Construction Begin

The Campus Enhancement Project is just about ready to begin. The exact dates are still being finalized but here is an approximate timeline:

### During the week of September 22:

- Soil removal will begin in preparation for the temporary link to run between Hachey Commons and what has been the waiting area in the Accounting Department.
- Construction of temporary walls will begin in Hachey Commons and the Accounting Department in preparation for connection to the temporary link.
- The Portland Avenue parking lot will close for at least two days as Xcel Energy can run a new power line to the college.

### During the week of September 29:

- The third floor link will close permanently so it can be prepared for demolition.
- Later in the week the first floor link will close permanently so it can be prepared for demolition.
- The Portland Avenue parking lot will close. Faculty and staff will begin parking in the Grotto lot.
- The Portland Avenue entrance will close until the construction project is completed.
- Demolition of Room 125 will begin.
- Formal bond closing on construction bonds will take place on Oct. 1.

### During the week of October 6:

- The new temporary link will open.
- The second floor link will close permanently so it can be prepared for demolition.
- The official Groundbreaking Ceremony will occur near the

Portland Avenue entrance at 11:30 a.m. on October 7; Mayor Kelly will be here along with other distinguished guests.

We are making every effort to minimize the extent to which the construction will affect classes and activities. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions please contact Kevin Campana at (651) 290-7501 or [construction@wmitchell.edu](mailto:construction@wmitchell.edu).

For further updates on the Campus Enhancement Project, please check the new "Construction Update" button on the right side of the William Mitchell web site ([www.wmitchell.edu](http://www.wmitchell.edu)).

*Drawings adapted from www.wmitchell.edu.*



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## Halloween Horror



Sitting at home with an empty DVD player on Halloween? Poor you, but no! Gather some friends and watch *The Opinion's* selection of Horror films. Turn off the lights, settle back and have fun.

*Note to aficionados: of course there isn't space here to do Horror films justice, so you'll have to do with a few suggestions and categories.*

New to Horror? The best way to initiate anything is to start at the beginning. **Dracula**, with Bela Lugosi, is especially chilling. There's something about black and white film that creates a feeling of connection to the film's dark, dank and dreary castle.

Way past that? You must see the cult-classic **Night of the Living Dead**, directed by George Romero. Made on a string shoe-string budget, this film is also black and white. There's something about Zombies in black and white that gets ya.

If real evil is your thing, you must see **The Exorcist**. Some laugh, and others say it's absolutely the scariest movie they've ever seen. See what you think.

Happy Halloween!



*"No man is above the law  
and no man below it."*

— President Theodore Roosevelt

# 2003/2004 To Be A Banner School Year

By Michael Tierney

When the decision to go to law school was made by us, each for our own particular reasons, one thing we all shared in common was an image of the lawyer that we would aspire to one day. This isn't by any means to say that we all had the same images in mind. But it is to say that preconceived notions of lawyering, and of incomes large or small, did affect these decisions. The important position that attorneys hold in our culture and society is a real thing, though. This year as co-chair, with Warren Ortland, of the Mitchell student chapter of the Minnesota Justice Foundation, I hope that we can come together as a community and as professional attorneys-to-be and develop the dynamic personalities that we aspire to become.

Two University of Minnesota law students who had a strong investment in the principles of public interest law formed the Minnesota Justice Foundation just over 20 years ago. Their goal back then was to promote and encourage the practice of legal volunteerism in Minnesota. As an objective of this goal they aimed to create a law student community with a 100% participation rate of volunteer activity in the area of legal council to clients in Minnesota to whom representation would otherwise be

unavailable due to financial, linguistic, or other barriers.

The main question that MJF wants to present to the William Mitchell student body this year is what contribution will we make to the image of the attorney, as we would like it to be? There is no denying the importance of the skills that we are acquiring through our studies. Of course, at times we wonder why we are in one particular class or another. Sometimes we'll wonder if it is worth the money we're spending. But the founders of MJF believed, as do I, that there is no better way to achieve our individual professional goals than through a balanced legal experience, which began when we first took the LSAT and continues for the rest of our lives. If you're still not convinced of this, just think of how out-of-whack life gets during finals. Balance is important. Balance in your outside-of-school life is essential, of course. It is also important to get some balance in your professional life.

Volunteer work is good for at least two reasons. First and foremost it feels great to help someone who would have no help, except for you. Just so there are no illusions, helping other attorneys to help underrepresented people is one and the same as helping those peoples directly. Secondly, volunteer work is great

practical experience. Surely everyone loves the games we play with the Socratic method in class, particularly the popular "what's in my pocket". But getting out in the real world is probably the best way to ground yourself with regards to the work that we'll soon be doing and it gives you the professional experience and balance that I spoke of earlier.

Doing something for someone for free with no strings, or bill attached feels great and can be inspiring when it isn't your life but is instead something you do just once in a while when you have the extra time. It's like Christmas; you give something to someone for free, and it feels good, especially when they like the gift. But you don't do it every day.

With funding down for public interest work, both at the federal and state level, as well as here at Mitchell, MJF will be working with the other organizations on campus to create a stronger community where we can better pursue our personal endeavors in the law. We will do this by bringing a diverse range of speakers to campus, and organizing events like picnics where like minded students can get together and meet, or the big, annual Res Ipsa hockey game in the Spring against rival Hamline where we test the mettle of the cream of our hockey crop against

theirs, as well as other events like food drives and community work. This will only happen when we work together to make these events successful. Through your efforts, the efforts of all of our student organizations, and with the particularly important efforts of people like those at the Opinion who get information out on campus, we will be stronger attorneys, better able to fulfill our role in society.

So as the first part of the effort to become a stronger and more accountable community we have to make sure to budget our time so that we can participate in campus events. We've got to make sure that we stay abreast of what is happening on campus, and we need to keep in touch with the world that goes on outside of campus as well. The year is just getting started. Events like those I mentioned above will be happening soon, and many have already begun. What we do this year will affect the life of the William Mitchell campus community for years to come, and what a great opportunity that is, eh?



## Common Cents for the Broke Law Student

By Deborah Arndell

There are those mornings, fearless as I am, that putting feet to floor becomes analogous to holding out a minnow to feed the gaping jaws of a 20-foot Great White.

It's not the pile of law books stacked in the corner that scares me. I've ignored those many times, and they certainly don't catch my attention most days until a few minutes before class. It's not even the thought of trudging off to work in corporate America so I can swim with another group of sharks. And it has never been the daunting task of looking in the mirror naked, only to discover that your body shape has changed from a banana to a pear, and is quickly closing in on an apple. So if it's none of these things, then what is it that prevents me from leaping out of my bed in the morning when the sun is shining, filled with outright glee to be alive? What stops my zealous run down the street to grab my coffee, smiling at all of those who pass? Do you really want to know? Then come closer. No, closer. It's you. Yes, that's right, it's you.

Okay, so maybe it's not really you, but it's someone that looks like you: a person with two legs, two arms, two eyes, two ears and absolutely no concept of space and direction. It's someone who immediately loses her/his senses the minute the front door closes. From the time the first foot hits the stoop, to the time that same foot finds its way to its destination, it upsets my feet, who no longer want to get out of bed. Why you ask? Do you really want to know? Then



come closer. No, closer. Give me your ear for just a moment, and I will share with you, the eternal traveler, about how to behave when you leave your house.

First, we walk like we drive, assuming that we know how to drive. This entails the following:

- Do not stop in the middle of the sidewalk or the skyway or the street. Keep going until you are safely out of the way of all traffic, and then pull off. You can stand off to the side all day long if you like, but stay out of the way of other commuters;
- When you turn left into another passageway, you need to stay to the right. Swing wide, young man. Unless you're a blind dog who walks along walls, you should be able to muster the small amount of memory it requires to do this repeatedly;
- When you reach an intersection, do not panic. This is a simple exercise in judgment. Stay calm, proceed with attentiveness and be mindful and courteous. Once you've mastered this, you're in the clear. Remember, even little

Girl and Boy Scouts can direct traffic in crosswalks under the guise of Safety Patrol;

- When you are coming out of a building and entering the main thoroughfare of traffic, look both ways before you enter. Remember *Frogger* and proceed with caution. If I could get a Mini in the skyway...;
- Do not walk in the middle of the thoroughfare. You don't drive on the lines, so pick a side. If you're fast, stay on the left. If you're slow, stay on the right [See *Speed Limit* bullet below];
- We don't drive on a two-lane highway with four cars next to each other on each side. You don't need to have all three of your friends walking right next to each other, taking up both lanes. You can go single file, or even two people close together, but you are not so important that you need the whole width of the "road." And since the conversation you're having with these people is generally not very interesting (trust me), we would like the opportunity to pass;
- No sudden stops are allowed. As interesting as meter cops and construction are, they do not warrant rubbernecking or interruptions to the common flow of things. And that penny on the floor—let it go;
- Do the speed limit. If you are going slow, stay to the right, but be aware of the guy gaping at construction, tarring city crews, or the woman walking by;

- If you're going to gawk at a woman, at least have the courtesy to do it while she's approaching you, and not after she passes. Better yet, don't do it at all—it's rude;
- If you happen to be stopped, look around before proceeding. The whole, "look left, then right, then left again" approach works. Merge tactfully; AND
- Reading while you're walking is the equivalent of sleeping while you're driving—pay attention.

Second, if you think these rules don't apply to you, then perhaps you need to slap a blinker and some brake lights on your ass, because you are the problem.

Coming next month:  
Classroom Etiquette for Dummies



*"Common sense often makes good law."*

—William Orville Douglas

# “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,

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SCORE  
190**

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