



AROUND NORTH GROUNDS

Never, we repeat never, trust your roommate with matters as important as call-backs. Last Thursday morning at 2:15 a.m., a second-year student was working on his Moot Court brief when he received a phone call from one of his roommates.

Roommate: "How's it going? Hey, I forgot to tell you that Trish Brown of Spears, Lubersky in Portland called about six o'clock."

Student: "Oh, that's strange. I just got a rejection letter from them."

Roommate: "She said the letter was a mistake and wants to talk to you as soon as possible. Her number is....."

Student: "It's too late tonight, I'll give her a call tomorrow."

Roommate: "No, she said that you could call her at home until midnight her time. Here's her number."

The student, exhausted from what seemed like hundreds of hours of Moot Court writing, decided to take a break and give Ms. Brown a call. One moment later, he wished he hadn't. "Portland Coroner's Office. May I help you?"

Roommates weren't the only ones doling out schlickings this week. A waiter at the Boar's Head Inn got into the act during a Richmond firm's outing for its past summer associates. The group was ordering when one of the second-years asked the waiter for a drink. "Can I see your ID?" the waiter replied.

The *Law Weekly* has heard rumblings that Around North Grounds has not announced some organizations' events. Prof. Stuntz, criminal law and boxing god, has advised us to plead not guilty. The facts are, folks, that we announce those activities that we hear about. If you would like your group's event to be noted in North Grounds, then leave a message by Wednesday in our box in Room 391.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Since the dudes responsible for the Vanguard didn't turn in their column this week, we are forced to announce their party for them. The NGSLS is sponsoring a Pre-Playoff Bash this Saturday at 9 p.m. at the Eaglehurst Farm. For directions, consult one of the flyers they put in the Beautiful Peoples' mailboxes.

The First-Year Council of the School of Law proudly presents The Great First-Year 3-on-3 Basketball Shootout this weekend and next at the North Grounds Recreation Center.

The Virginia Health Law Forum is sponsoring a talk by Dr. Crispell Monday at 4:30 p.m. in Room 104. Crispell will speak on "Hidden Illness in the White House."

Graduate Happy Hour, after a one week respite for the undergrads' Fall Break, returns today. It will take place at 5 p.m. in the Student Activities Building near Scott Stadium. Much fun will be had by all who attend. As usual, the law students will predominate in the consumption of alcohol.

Frug addresses law school students

By Holly Hexter

Feminist legal scholar Mary Joe Frug spoke on *The Politics of Gender in Legal Education* to over 75 students and faculty members in classroom 119 Tuesday afternoon.

Frug, a professor of law at the New England School of Law in Boston, teaches courses in contracts and domestic relations and is affiliated with the critical legal studies (CLS) school of thought. The organizations which sponsored her lecture, the Virginia Law Women and the National Lawyers' Guild, have been vocal advocates of introducing alternative perspectives to the law school.

Frug is perhaps most famous for having authored *Re-Reading Contracts: A Feminist Analysis of a Contracts Casebook*. 34 AM. U.L. REV. 1065 (1985). In her article, Frug analyzes the fourth edition of the contracts casebook co-authored by University of Virginia Law School Professor Stanley Henderson. (DAWSON, HARVEY, HENDERSON, CONTRACTS: CASES AND COMMENTS 4TH ED.) The casebook is the second best selling contracts casebook in the United States and is used at such law schools as Virginia, Harvard, Yale, Michigan, Stanford and Chicago.

Frug opened her lecture by pointing out that she has continued to use and admire the casebook in her contracts class since 1982. The audience laughed when she asked

"what's a mean girl like me doing to a nice guy like that?" Frug then noted that the Law School audience might be "a little suspicious of [her] agenda."

Frug focused her comments on issues of gender. Gender, Frug asserts, shapes characteristics and traits which are solely determined by biological differences. Frug claims that traits linked to women become understood only in opposition to traits linked to men. Therefore, the traits linked to women by biology are assumed to be hierarchically below those traits linked to men. "The project of feminism is to attack gender," states Frug.

Commenting on legal education, Frug pointed out that legal education is a "powerful socializing apparatus." She sees room for "change and challenge" in law schools. Frug bolstered her assertions of the need for change by referring the audience to a study published in the May 1988 issue of the *STANFORD LAW REVIEW*. This study, based on the responses of Stanford law students and alumni revealed that women participate less than men in class, interrupt their careers more often than men for family reasons, and experience more stress than men.

Frug used the results of the Stanford study to suggest that the legal atmosphere present in the modern law school is unfavorable to women. In response to a student

question, Frug attributed the differences cited in the study not to "traits inherent to women" but to the fact that "women are raised as women not as men."

Frug then turned her discussion towards legal materials—specifically, to Dawson, Harvey and Henderson's contracts casebook. "Even if a book isn't sexist", said Frug "it is a worthy enterprise to examine the effects of gender." She noted that there is "no overt sexism" in the casebook but that the book is "masculine" because it is "authoritatively neutral" and "analytical." She criticizes the "inexplicable omissions" of certain women's issues and the "curious absence of female characters" in the casebook.

One of Frug's problems with the casebook was its treatment of *Parker v. Twentieth Century Fox*, 3 Cal. 3d 176, 89 Cal.Rptr. 737, 474 P.2d 689 (1970). She said the case could be better understood when the social context of the case is discussed.

In *Parker*, the court held that Shirley MacLaine had no duty to take "different or inferior" employment in order to mitigate damages when Twentieth Century Fox breached a contract with MacLaine to perform in the musical "Bloomer Girl" but offered her a part in the western "Big Man, Big Country" at the same wage in an effort to limit damages.

Frug suggests that if the reader knew that *Bloomer Girl* was to be a fictional account of feminist Amelia Bloomer's life and that MacLaine herself supports the women's movement, the reader would better understand that *Big Man, Big Country* was a very different part for MacLaine. She further suggests that the photograph of MacLaine (which has been changed in the new edition of the casebook) may lead some readers to believe that MacLaine won her case because she is a "sexy movie star."

One female student who has used the casebook recognizes that while it is possible to reach the conclusion that the casebook is gender-based, it depends upon the assumptions one starts with. "I do not believe that the casebook omits any material relevant to understanding the legal point of *Parker*. Nor did I find the photograph of MacLaine to be offensive. In fact, photographs in a casebook are a pleasant surprise," she said.

Frug recognizes the validity of the arguments against her position. She admits to sometimes "viewing materials with a chip on [her] shoulder." Frug seems willing to concede the point that contracts casebooks will always have gender problems because judges are male and for many years women could not legally enter contracts.

see FRUG, page 3

Quarter-finalists prepare to duel

By Bill Puckett

Oral arguments for the Quarter-final round of the William Minor Lile Moot Court Competition are presently scheduled for October 31-November 3 in Caplin Auditorium starting at 6 p.m.

Eight teams will be competing during this round which will determine who will advance to the Semi-final round which will be held from Feb 24-25. Each night the panel of judges will grade the arguments and announce the winner, said Moot Court Board Chair Nan Roberts.

The Quarter-final Round problem involves the issues of "taking" and voting rights from the areas of property and constitutional law.

The teams which have advanced to this round are Cheryl Wheatley and Jeff Smith, Kim Reed and Mike Goggin, Tom Fina and Phil Wright, Mark Loftis and Ted Xanders, Glynn Key and Patrick O'Reilly, Dane Butswinkas and Stuart Raphael, Rachel Lorey and Jeff Wheeler, Ella Frederiksen and Tom Moriarty.

On Monday, October 31, Professors John Jeffries, Robert Cottroll, and Dean Thomas Jackson will be judging the team of Lorey and Wheeler against Reed and Goggin.

Scheduled for Tuesday, November 1, will be the arguments of Fina



Legal Writing professor Ruth Buck argued in the moot court semi-finals

and Wright against Raphael and Butswinkas before Professors Lillian BeVier, Dan Ortiz and Thomas Bergin.

On Wednesday, November 2, University President Robert O'Neil and Professors Pamela Karlan and Dan Levine will be judging the arguments of Key and O'Reilly against Loftis and Xanders.

For the final argument on Thursday, November 3, Wheatley and Smith will be paired off against Moriarty and Frederiksen. The judges will be Professors Daniel Meador, Lynn Baker, and Robert

Krent.

The teams were seeded with best going up against worst from the point totals of the first and second rounds. For example, the top team is going against the last, the second against the seventh, etc.

Differences between this round and the two preceding rounds, include the ability to use LEXIS and WESTLAW for research. In addition, each team only needs to present one oral argument, as opposed to the two in the earlier rounds.

The scoring in the quarter-final see MOOT, page 4

Cafe North heads SBA agenda

By Bill Puckett

The Cafe North dining situation has seriously deteriorated, according to Student Bar Association President Joe Perkins. The decision by University Dining Services to economize on Cafe North has meant scant choice of food offerings for law students and a resulting sharp decrease in popularity.

"Though Cafe North is a convenient place for us to eat, no one goes there anymore," Perkins said. The salad bar was taken out, freshly prepared sandwiches were replaced with prepackaged ready-to-eat substitutes, and food offerings sharply cut.

He hopes that the new contractors taking over the operation in January will make some changes. However, "right now, we have no idea what the new contractors plan to do to improve the facility," Perkins added.

Suggestions about improvements to Cafe North have been submitted to the University Dining Committee by Law School Student Council Representatives Lloyd Lipsett and Glen Robertson. Ideas submitted included such things as the return of the salad bar, the need to offer

see SBA, page 3

Letters to the Editor

The Courtyard

Preston Burton

Me and my mommy!

Editor:

As I sat studying in Moyston Courtyard earlier this week, I realized that hardly anyone ever uses that space. Although the concerns for office space and mailboxes raise some doubts about the practicality of having a Moyston Courtyard fallow, I believe there is an even more compelling reason that we abandon maintaining the Courtyard in its present state.

Currently we are in the midst of a rigorous interviewing season. Much of our time is spent rushing to classes and interviews. Moreover, many of these interviews are with large law firms that maintain their own gymnasium. Therefore, I propose that in order to help students keep up with the rigors of the fall semester and, further, to prepare us for work in the future, that we renovate the existing Courtyard and put in some squash courts, some showers, and some changing rooms.

Peter Krakaur (3L)

The Law Weekly will publish letters of interest to the Law School community. Letters should be typed and delivered to Room 391 of the Law School by the Tuesday before publication. We reserve the right to edit for length and content. All submissions become the property of the Law Weekly

So, my mom made me get a haircut last week because I had to be her date at her high school reunion. My dad, who is normally my mom's date for these sorts of things had come down with the same flu that he seems to catch every five years that my mom has a high school reunion.

So, I drove to Pendleton Gap, Arkansas to meet my mom at Pendleton Gap High School--home of the Ring-Tailed Lemurs. Seriously, my mom's high school mascot was a Ring-Tailed Lemur which wouldn't be so bad except my mom was the team mascot and there were all these really embarrassing photos of her in a lemur costume. I spent the whole evening being introduced as "the lemur's little cub", "son of the lemur", and, sadly, "a chip off the ol' lemur".

Anyway, I had to make small talk with lots of people that I didn't know. One lady, who married an oil tycoon in Texas, was apparently my mom's rival all through high school. Equally apparent was the fact that they still kept in touch to out brag each other. According to this woman, her twenty-three year old son had just been appointed as a

U.S. District Court judge for Arkansas and had recently won a gold medal for the swimming heptathlon in Seoul. I was chuckling until she asked me how I was going to spend all the money I received when I won the Nobel Prize for Medicine last year. "Euthanasia research," I replied and I left to find my mother who had some explaining to do.

I did meet some of the people that my mom had always talked about when I was a youngster. One guy I talked to had only one hand. He said he lost it by playing with a Sears Chemistry set without following the instructions. Another guy had an eyepatch because he and his friends were just playing a friendly game of Toss the Arrow when he was distracted and got jabbed in the eye. "We were all having fun," he said, "until I lost my eye."

There was a really moving memorial during the dinner banquet for a girl who died during my mom's senior year. She drowned at a labor day pool party. "There she was," sobbed my mother into the microphone, "one minute she

was eating a pimento cheese sandwich and the next thing I knew she was diving into the pool. The cramps hit her before the lifeguard could save her."

Anyway, I made my mom happy by letting her tell people I was a doctor, but I think I blew it when somebody asked her if she was a grandmother yet and I interrupted her to say that I had just gotten my girlfriend pregnant but we wanted it to be a surprise.

I also got her pretty ticked off when we got home and I taught my four-year-old cousin how to cross her eyes. . . and they got stuck.

Best interview lie I've heard this semester: "Well, my ex-wife lives in San Francisco and I just want to see where all my money is being spent." Buy me a beer, and I'll tell you who said it.

Want something fun to do on a rainy day? Go up to the third floor mailroom and tell Pat Humphrey that you're from VJIL and you've lost your key. Wait 'til she gets good and mad and then interrupt

her by claiming that she didn't get nearly this mad the last time you lost the key.

This actually happened. A student received a concussion while playing softball. This injury somewhat hampered her ability to continue with her Moot Court research because she had severe headaches. Student Health wrote her an excuse, but the friendly and compassionate folks on the Moot Court board turned down her request for an extension. The Moot Court board is, of course, an ironic group because it's composed of the people who did not do particularly well in the earlier rounds of the competition. Of course, the members of the board all made good eye contact with the judges--a comment which will be used all too often by judges in the coming weeks of oral arguments. It is true that most major cases are decided based upon the advocate's eye contact with the panel and I commend the Moot Court judges for pinpointing this all too overlooked aspect of lawyering in its attempt to make the Moot Court process as realistic and educational as possible.

Michael Weiss

The hidden "cancer" at UVa

During the 1988 Spring Semester a study of legal attitudes at the University of Virginia School of Law was conducted. Among the control questions asked by the survey three dealt directly with how the students at the Law School felt about the Law School and the prospect of practicing law. The *Law Weekly* has been given the raw data for these questions.

The picture the students' responses paint is not a pretty one. As a general point, students are unhappy both with the Law School and with the idea of practicing law. This conclusion is drawn from the responses of 142 students encompassing, in almost equal proportions, first, second and third-year students.

The survey was conducted in an anonymous fashion. The respondents were asked to rate a given

statement on a one to seven scale. With the scale ranging from one meaning "I completely disagree with the statement" to a seven which meant "I completely agree with the statement." The scale is similar in design to other devices used for measuring attitudes called a Likert Semantic Differential. See BLALOCK, SOCIAL STATISTICS AND METHODS 131 (1977).

Figure 1 presents the results of a general question designed to test the respondents overall feelings towards the school.

In this question a response of one means that the respondent completely disagreed with the statement. As the chart indicates, over 45 percent of the student body felt that they were unhappy with the Law School experience. Although

the phrasing of the question can be criticized because it "suggests" a direction, the results are still significant. Statistical tests performed by the researcher indicate that the results are significant at the .001 level. The data shows that there is a strong feeling of unhappiness among students.

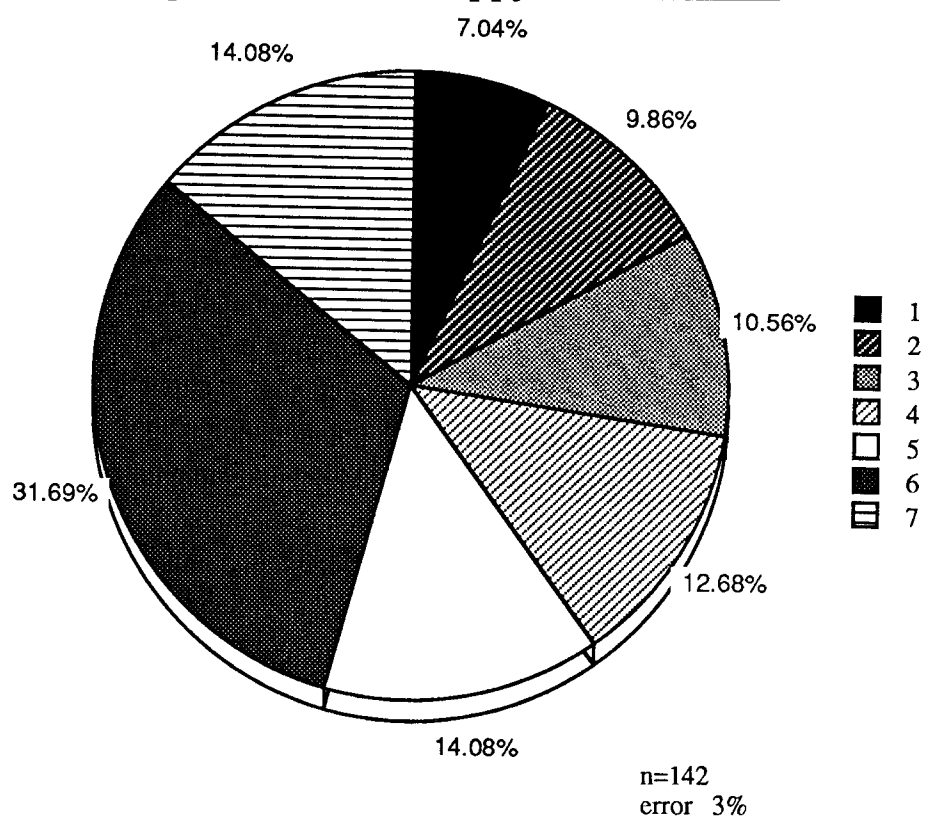
While the data strongly suggests that students at the Law School are unhappy, it does not give any indication as to what is causing this general feeling. The administration and the students themselves must identify the cause of the general unease and should combat it by engaging in an extensive program of discussion and exchange. Students seem complaisant; willing to merely bide their time till their days at the Law School end.

A cynic would suggest that the

responses observed in Figure 1 are merely artifacts and are not an accurate reflection of the general sense of unease at the Law School. The results in Figure 1 were independently tested by asking a similar question in a different place on the survey. As in Figure 1 a response of one on the scale indicates that the respondent disagrees completely with the statement and a seven means the respondent agrees completely. As with the previous data, the results suggests that the majority of students feel that law school is actually an unpleasant experience. This data gives persuasive evidence that the lines of communication between the students and the administration appear to be blocked.

The results presented in Figure 2 see CANCER, page 4

Figure 1 "I am unhappy in law school"

VIRGINIA LAW WEEKLY
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Frug

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In fact, until the passage of the Married Women's Property Act, women could not own property. Yet, for all of these problems, Frug seems to still believe that analyzing legal materials from the feminist perspective is valuable because of the lessons it teaches.

Henderson, when asked to respond to Frug's criticism, declined comment.

In addition to her criticism of the contracts casebook, Frug discussed the "tyranny of mediocrity" faced by women in law schools and in the legal profession. Her claim is that the environment in the profession exacerbates women's already low confidence. She told of a situation where a man and woman go shopping together for the man's suit. When the man looks in the mirror and sees that the jacket's sleeves are too short, the pants are too long and too tight, he calls for the tailor. The woman, however, realizes that she would have thought "my arms are too long, my legs too short, and I'm too fat."

Frug seemed to be suggesting that the very social attitudes that women are exposed to will effect their self-perception. This inability to properly judge their own position in society forces women, Frug implies, to be overly self-critical. Therefore objective criteria of success are seen differently by women than by men. Frug did not explain

why a society would want women to be so self-critical. Nor did she deny that many positive images of women are currently being created.

Another story related by Frug concerned her teaching experience at Villanova Law School where she was the only female faculty member. She claimed to be "tyrannized by the students." She told the audience about a "cocky third year male student" who came to see her about a decision he was about to make. The student was trying to decide whether to break off a relationship with a "mom type girl" in order to date one of his classmates. Frug said she would have better understood how to advise the student had she known about gender and sexual politics.

Frug's main point seemed to be that knowledge of gender politics and sexual role-playing can make both professors and students better lawyers and better people. Frug did not offer any concrete examples of how that knowledge might be used at Virginia. She seemed more concerned with a theoretical approach to gender politics than offering specific advice on how to deal with sexual politics.

Frug concluded her discussion advising the audience that "analyzing gender can have an important effect on our lives." It is only through understanding that the "problems haunting women" will be ironed out, she said.

SBA

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such items as frozen yogurt and the necessity of doing away with pre-packaged sandwiches, Perkins said.

"Hopefully, steps will be taken to bring people back to Cafe North," Perkins said. "We need to have a place that is convenient, but also offers good food," he said.

There is also talk by the North Grounds Planning Committee of increasing the size of Cafe North. The size of Cafe North had been a major drawback which hindered efficient, profitable operation. The small crowds being attracted to the economized version, however, make such concerns seem misplaced, Perkins said.

Not just Cafe North is on the minds of the Student Bar Association. After years of absence, the Student-Faculty Mixer will return. The first mixer of the new and hopefully long-lasting series will be held Wednesday at 4 p.m. in the Faculty Lounge. "Alumni always ask about these mixers when they come back," Perkins said.

Refreshments to be served include alcoholic drinks and cider, with some snacks on the side. However, "we want this to be nicer than a beer and pretzel bash," Perkins added.

The Student Bar Association is also working in other directions to improve student-faculty interaction at the Law School. For ex-

ample, the "Take a Faculty Member Out To Lunch Program" has gotten off to a good start this year. Perkins said that he has been personally asked for reimbursements from several groups who have successfully lunched with a professor.

The student-professor lunch program is designed to encourage informal, non-classroom discussions between students and faculty members. When a group of two or more students lunch with a professor, the SBA will reimburse the professor's lunch up to \$6.

First-years at the Law School, especially, have made use of the program to get to know their professors, Perkins said. Normally, these students do not have time to talk to their professors as a person.

Other actions presently being pursued by the SBA are recommendations to faculty members to provide advance notice of the name and edition of the textbook to be used in courses, so that students can purchase textbooks before school starts.

Perkins also announced the names of students appointed to Law School committees. Marc Williams and Charles Durant have been named to the Building Committee, Eric Foster and Bill Thro to the Library Committee and Patrick O'Reilly to the Curriculum Committee.

Perkins has also submitted several names to the Academic Re-

view Committee for consideration. This committee chooses two students from the names the President of the Student Bar Association submits. The issues handled by the Academic Review Committee include such things as students wanting to be readmitted after taking leaves of absence, and students excluded for academic difficulty, Perkins said. Usually, third years are selected for this position, he added.

The Student Bar Association is also looking into the Law School's Loan Refinance Program, Perkins said. According to the terms of this program, the Law School takes over students' financial aid loans for three years when they choose to go into public service. "It is essentially a deferral program," Perkins said. He added that he would like to see the program strengthened in the future.

The SBA has also selected Susan Nolting to fill the position vacated by Noah Mesel for SBA-American Bar Association Liaison. She will be attending the upcoming ABA Law Student Division Meeting in Gatlinburg, Tennessee next Saturday, October 29. Nolting will be representing Virginia Law at this meeting, Perkins said.

In addition, since the ABA is strongly encouraging SBA Presidents to attend, Perkins plans to make some efforts to attend, he added.

October's crop: A survey of fall films

AJ Jones

October is to the autumn movie season what Memorial Day weekend is to summer: to chance for Hollywood to show some big guns. Not only is it traditionally referred to as "Oscar Month" (because of its success with nominees), it is also a stomping ground for major commercial successes. In smash terms, *Fatal Attraction* and *Jagged Edge* both were released in October, and subtler hits like *Children of a Lesser God* and *Kiss of the Spider Woman* also share the distinction of being Oktoberfests.

Here, then, is a brief guide to the fall season of films vying for your attention. Don't say I didn't warn you.

If you just look at the ads, you might expect a laugh-a-minute comedy with *Punchline*. You won't get it, though, because the film is not a comedy at all, but a dank, even grim drama about a pathetic New York subculture - that of stand-up comedy. This is not an uplifting movie, but a tale of desperation masked by laughter. Do not think you'll leave the moviehouse reveling; more than likely you'll be devastated.

Sally Field and Tom Hanks star as Lilah and Steven, comics trying to "make it big" - that is, get on TV, a shot at *The Tonight Show*. Their dream might be the same but motives are very different. Lilah simply wants mere diversion from dreary New Jersey housewifedom; Steven is doing this for his very survival. We are presented the story of their various methodologies, their (few) highs and (very bad) lows.

As the middle-aged Lilah, Field tackles her most mature role to date with conviction; she does a top-notch job.

But it is Hanks, in a flashier per-

formance, that you will remember. In *Big*, he proved a formula movie can be enlivened by a sincere and energetic performance; here, he combines a gift for comedy with a schizophrenic mania for drama with outstanding success.

Under screenwriter David

Judicial Review

Punchline

9

Memories of Me

1

Gorillas in the Mist

7

Alien Nation

6

Seltzer's precise direction, Hanks delivers one of those rare bravura performances - riotous, creepy, painful in turn - that only comes along once in a lifetime, often less than that for a comedian. It is such a remarkable star turn that you shouldn't be surprised to see Hanks walk away with the Oscar this year.

But don't go just for Hanks and Field. Seltzer's jewel of a screenplay is expertly crafted, his direction exactly on point, his craft ele-

ments blended together perfectly. *Punchline* by right should be the season's blockbuster.

With luck, God will peer down from the heavens, catch a glimpse of *Memories of Me*, and send hell-fire and damnation upon those responsible for this travesty.

How many of you saw Tom Hanks and Jackie Gleason in *Nothing in Common*? Good, you are excused; you've already seen this film, only a better version of it. The rest of you, with any luck, will be able to catch that one on video and steer clear of *Memories*.

Son Billy Crystal, who has yet to take on a starring role in a film which matches his talents, plays straightman to the unfunny father Alan King, an actor known as "King of the Extras" because he has had so many non-speaking parts in movies. They are estranged. They get back together. It has a bittersweet ending. Aww.

Director Henry Winkler (that's right, The Fonz has made a movie) must have thought the script was a melodrama since he does not direct with any awareness for comedy.

Not that the screenplay is funny. Co-written by Crystal, it is a rehash of old jokes, sight gags, and sappy schmaltz. It runs like one of those bad TV movies from the '70s you're glad you missed. What can be said of a movie that is visually uncreative, narratively trite, and cheesily made which you haven't read before? How 'bout this: *keep away!*

Director Michael Apted has had a pretty lousy career: who else can make boring movies starring the likes of Dustin Hoffman and Vanessa Redgrave (*Agatha*), William

Hurt and Lee Marvin (*Gorky Park*), and Sting playing himself (*Bring on the Night*)? And yet he has done it.

Which is one reason why *Gorillas in the Mist* is such a delight. Though clearly laden with the bags and baggage Apted has not learned to dispel from previous flops, he succeeds in eliciting a first class performance from Sigourney Weaver.

Based on the true story of naturalist Dian Fossey's struggle to preserve the rare mountain gorillas of central Africa from poachers, *Mist* mixes the best elements of *A Passage to India*, *Out of Africa*, *The Mosquito Coast*, and *Silkwood* into a believable tale passion and principle. Add to this stunning photography (from John Seale, who imbues a three dimensional sense in all his weighty, impressive films, like *Witness*) and the sublime beauty of the gorillas in their habitat and all of Apted's other misstep (of which there are a number) pale.

Weaver is making her second Oscar bid with *Mist*. Although her character's transformation comes somewhat abruptly, Weaver's horse sense as an actress makes every act, every emotion ring true. For her alone this film gets a thumbs up.

A more guarded recommendation is needed for *Alien Nation*, although it passes the intermediate scrutiny test of being watchable and generally exciting. Produced by Gale Ann Hurd, it retains some of the best qualities of her two prior hits, *Aliens* and *The Terminator*, but suffers from not a having a director as good as those films (Hurd's husband James Cameron for both).

The clever premise puts us into the near future where aliens have

come to America from outerspace and assimilated into society very quickly. The prejudice against them (a theme never wholly developed, as it was in *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*) leads many to drink ...sour milk, which affects them like alcohol. But many, such as George (Mandy Patinkin, a good actor even in heavy make up), not only survive but succeed: George is the first newcomer to make it to detective on the police force. He is paired with a gruff bigot, Matt (James Caan), and together they try to solve a series of murders, all the while coming to understand one another better.

The 48 HRS "unwilling partners" motif is old hat, and no new twist gets put in here, and case is too easily cracked. Additionally, some middle parts seem missing (the movie runs less than 90 minutes so that's very possible) and the title of the flick is inextricable since the aliens are basically good guys.

Still, director Graham Baker (who is responsible for trash like *Impulse*, which also was resolved too quickly, and *The Final Conflict*, the last chapter in the *Omen* series) fashions a exciting string of chases, and he knows that even if this is not a "new" buddy movie it is at least a good one. You can get wrapped up watching *Alien Nation* without really admiring it, or even praising it. Not a bad thing to say about a movie.

Change bold to ital, and Run a ratings box:
10 - Highest recom
9 - extremely high recom
8 - high recom
7 - recom
6 - recom, w/ reservations
5 - not recom'd or not
4 - not recom'd
3 - strongly not recom'd
2 - of the poorest quality
1 - avoid this!

Cancer

Continued from page 2

are all the more striking for the wording of the question. The direct cause of the unhappiness in the first question is identified. A

general attitudes students hold towards law school.

The most striking results presented by the data is found in Fig-

not kept under control, unhappiness and unease can grow like a cancer. The administration must engage in preventative medicine

Figure 2 "Law School has been an unpleasant experience"

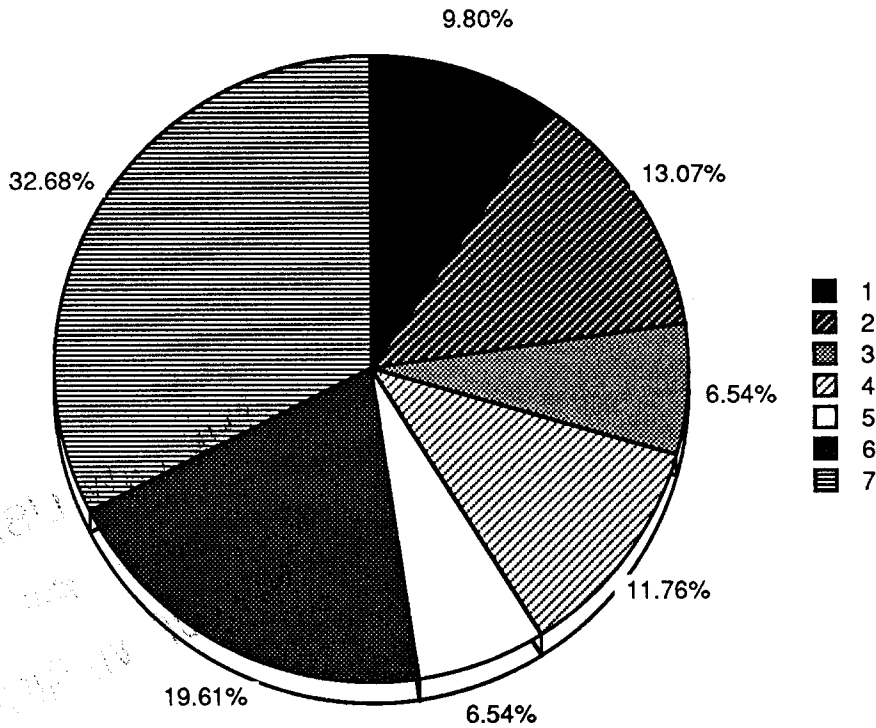
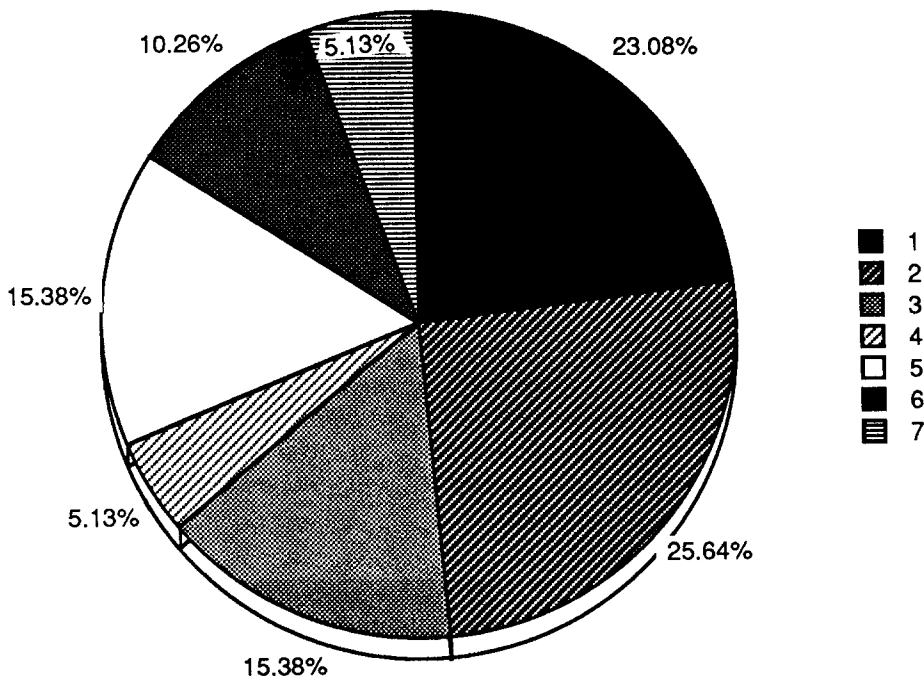


Figure 3 "I am confident that I will enjoy a legal career"



respondent's answer to the general unhappiness question is strongly correlated to the respondents answer to the unpleasantness question. The results are significant at the .001 level.

While students appear to perceive law school as an unpleasant experience, there does seem to be a positive side to the results presented in Figure 2. Although the distribution clearly indicates that the majority of students feel that law school is an unpleasant experience, the variance of responses indicates that this phenomena is not stable. If the administration engaged in a prophylactic response, they would probably have a significant effect on the

ure 3. The data suggests that students are generally not looking forward to their practicing their chosen profession. An overwhelming number of students did not feel confident that they would enjoy a legal career. However, these results were not strongly correlated with the respondent's score on the previous questions. That result suggests that regardless of the respondent's feelings towards law school, the average student is not anxiously awaiting the commencement of legal practice.

The causes of this unease is unknown. Regardless of its source, this festering sore must be excised from the body of the Law School. If

and discover the source of this previously unknown discontent.

These results are not meant to be an exhaustive examination of attitudes towards law or law school. Rather, they are meant to provoke debate and exchange between the students, faculty and administration. The data, albeit flawed and incomplete, conclusively demonstrates that there is anxiety and unease among the students. The administration and the student body must discuss these feelings and they must discuss it in an open and non-confrontational manner. Knowledge is always the first step to action. We should pin-point the problem and then solve it.

Moot

Continued from page 2

round is based evenly on the brief and the oral argument (50%), but the oral argument sometimes is given more weight by the three faculty judges.

The competition continues in January with the semi-finals and another new problem for the remaining four teams. This round is judged by a panel of three judges, usually from the Federal District courts, or the Virginia Court of Appeals. Scoring is as in the Quarter-final round. This season's Semi-finals will be held Friday evening, February 25, and Saturday afternoon, February 26, 1989.

The two remaining teams will compete in the Final round, to be held Saturday, April 8, at 4 p.m. Here, no new problem is researched and no briefs are prepared, Roberts said. The judges are given the participants' briefs prepared for the Semi-final round to familiarize themselves. Participants develop their oral arguments from the problem in the previous round, and present them before a three-member panel of distinguished judges. This year, the panel will be chaired by Justice Charles S. Russell of the Virginia Supreme Court. Justice Russell received both his B.A. and his L.L.B. from the University of Virginia and has served on the Virginia Supreme Court since 1982.

Even as the competition for the third-year Moot Court participants winds down, the competition is starting up again for members of the second-year class. Their brief

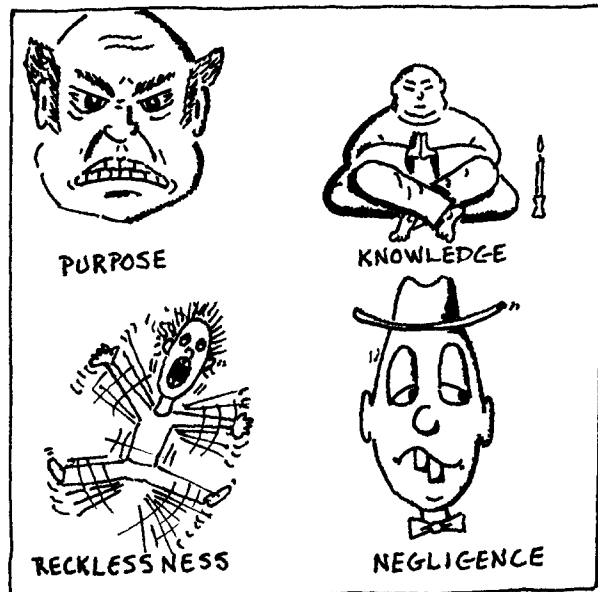
writing for the first round is almost over, Roberts said. At the last count, 109 teams were competing. Each two-person team has conducted extensive research, either as petitioner or respondent, on one of three legal problems assigned by the Moot Court Board.

The Moot Court topics typically include a procedural and a substantive issue, facilitating the division of labor among the parties. The teams will be giving two oral arguments on their side from October 31-November 10.

Judges are drawn from the Moot Court Board and from the third-year class. The oral arguments will each be worth 30 percent of a team's total score and the brief worth 40 percent, Roberts said. Scores are normalized, since some judges will score more stringently than others.

Thirty-two teams advance to the second round, which is conducted in the middle of spring semester. The procedures in the second round are identical to those in the first, except that all of the participants research the same legal problem and the judging is done only by the Moot Court Board. The scoring is also modified, placing more emphasis on the brief. It is worth 50 percent and each of the oral arguments is worth 25 percent of a team's score, Roberts said. From the 32 teams, eight are selected based on their second round scores to proceed to the Quarter-final round, which is conducted in the fall of the third year.

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