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The Georgia Scrivener

A Weekly Publication serving the University of Georgia Law School Community

And the Verdict is...

by Robert "Pops" McNiff

Ed. note: Mr. McNiff has been under a lot of strain lately. Since switching partners with Ms. Cook, he's been seen stomping through the halls of the law school, chomping an unlit cigar and muttering to himself. He's also taken to wearing what appears to be seersucker suits.

Despite the following account, rest assured the Melvin J. England Mock Trial Competition was a professionally conducted affair, and all participants behaved like gentlemen and ladies. Mr. Reavis and Mr. Goldner won in a split decision over Ms. Cook and Mr. Stimson, and a good time was had by all.

"Awright, Get the Picture: Plaintiff's counsel suited up in dark navy tops and bottoms, light shirts beneath. Defense attorneys wearing much the same-dark suits with white shirts and silk ties. All the contestants sporting wing-tips or heels for this synthetic indoor surface.

Spindles of autumn light accent the action inside Hatton-Lovejoy arena. All-in-all, a gorgeous afternoon for these polemic gladiators to contest the mock trial tournament finals. We're set to go as acting judge Ronald Carlson enters the court and the spectators rise to their feet in anticipation."

Such was the scene Friday when Ryan Reavis and Andrew Goldner squared off against Sha-Lena Cook and Brian Stimson in the championship match-up of the J. Melvin England Mock Trial Competition. Professor Carlson officiated, taking a moment to conduct voir dire of a distinguished panel of jurors including Georgia Supreme Court justices George H. Carley and Harris P. Hines, federal District Court judges B. Avant Edenfield and Charles A. Pannell, the Law School's own Deans David Shipley and Paul Kurtz, and J. Melvin England-the tournament's sponsor and namesake.

Michele Harris, Ansley Bell and Madelaine Colbert from the Mock Trial Board were on hand to coordinate events and to recognize the deserving efforts of Director of Advocacy Kellie Casey and ubiquitous Diva of Advocacy Kathy Burkes.

From the moment the bell tolled the start of the contest, the rival attorneys grappled vigorously for control of the action. After a heated scramble over preliminary motions, Ms. Cook (2L) kicked-off the trial with an opening that outlined the Plaintiff's plan of attack. They would attempt to connect deep with a theory that the defendant conspired to kidnap the plaintiff's children. If that argument fell incomplete, the team would turn to the bread-and-butter of any plaintiff's playbook-the ever malleable and

accommodating theory of negligence.

Ms. Cook, physically outsize by both her teammate and her opponents, more than compensated with a remarkable combination of poise, tenacity, and courtroom savvy. Nary a dry eye presented itself in Hatton-Lovejoy as Ms. Cook described in heart-rending terms her client's efforts to deal with the loss of his spouse by "healing his own life and helping others by writing of his foster care experiences."

Following a return volley by defenseman Andrew Goldner (2L), Ms. Cook handed off to Mr. Stimson, who called on offensive threat Bryan

Baer (2L) to play the roll of the plaintiff. When Baer expressed terror at discovering the kidnapping and suggested that his children could have wound up in the Australian outback, Judge Carlson threw a flag, penalizing the plaintiff for Speculation. But the plaintiff and his attorney continued to drive ahead, executing the offense almost flawlessly.

The rivals fought for momentum as a second witness took the stand. Mr. Reavis (2L) ate up the clock with several objections, leaving the Plaintiff hard-pressed to score before halftime. But when the Plaintiff rested, Judge Carlson

overruled the Defense's Motion for Directed Verdict, indicating that the plaintiff had struck paydirt.

The second half, however, would belong to Mr. Reavis and Mr. Goldner. Mr. Goldner took control early with the first defense witness. Mr. Stimson put up a valiant fight and picked up some gains on cross examination. But for the cagey Mr. Stimson, a second-year out of Vandy, the trial would be only the first disappointment of the weekend-a weekend like those that made him callous while paying his dues on the mean and un-victorious streets of Nashville.

Mr. Reavis picked up the action with direct examination of the defendant himself. Competing with a cast on his arm, Mr. Reavis nonetheless entered the field of contention aggressively. He cut back and forth across the courtroom floor and gestured wildly, with a reckless disregard for the health of his injured limb. Mr. Reavis wrecked havoc on Ms. Cook's plans for a cross examination, throwing the plaintiff for a loss. But Ms. Cook was quickly back to her feet-the gutsy Brooklyn-ite would not be denied. In the kind of big game that kids dream about on backlots and schoolyards, no one wanted to sit this one out.

(see Mock Trial, back page)



Opinion HUMOR

"If you take out the killings, Washington actually has a very, very low crime rate."

- Marion Barry, Mayor of Washington, D.C.

Week two...

Well, here's our second attempt at this little experiment...

You may notice a certain overabundance of humor, or at the very least attempts at humor, in this week's edition. There's two reasons for that, really.

One: Well, it's been one of those weeks. The midway point in the semester has come and gone. Exams are looming, memories of summer are fading. Note topics are melting down, tempers are fraying. It's October in the law school, and fun is sometimes hard to come by.

Two: We need you to help make this thing work. Submissions are vital to the success of this publication. It doesn't have to be about the law, or school, or anything. If you can't think of something on your own, we've got plenty of ideas but little time to follow up on them. 1L's this means you. The editorial meetings are held every Monday at 12:30 in room C. Feel free to come. We need more people to get involved.

End of pleading (pleading, get it?)
Have a good week.

The Georgia Scrivener

The Georgia Scrivener is published weekly on Tuesdays and distributed to UGA Law School Faculty and Students. *The Georgia Scrivener* welcomes opinions, letters, submissions, cartoons, jokes, etc. Submissions should be placed in the Scrivener box in the first floor mail room. Deadline for submissions is Thursday noon for the following week's edition. *The Georgia Scrivener* reserves the right to edit for spelling, space constraints, and to reject anything too offensive or stupid. Also, these are personal opinions, not necessarily the opinions of *The Georgia Scrivener*, it's staff, or UGA School of Law.

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1L's, Why Wait Until May?

Calculate Your GPA NOW!!

by Roxanne Russell

By taking this quiz, you can calculate your First Year GPA and determine your legal destiny INSTANTLY!

Please mark the response that most closely matches your own and use the table below to calculate your score.

- 1) **After the teacher explained what hornbooks and reserve reading were available, you:**
 - a) Counted your blessings that wasn't part of the assigned reading. Shoo!
 - b) Took careful note and plotted a schedule for when to read the corresponding material; which you followed religiously for the two weeks and haven't looked at since.
 - c) Made a note of the material to photocopy in November, closer to exams.
 - d) Have consistently read the material before each class, and sometimes after.
 - e) Napped.
- 2) **During classes where you are not being called on, you:**
 - a) Take extensive notes, carefully follow the hypos to their logical conclusion and underline important material in the text.
 - b) Try to reread the case because you only got to skim it before class and write down what sounds important.
 - c) Picture the professor in leather pants with roach clips on his nipples holding a cat o' nine tails.
 - d) Take notes, underline what the teacher points out and pray you'll figure out what their talking about by exam time.
 - e) Nap.
- 3) **On Friday afternoon after your last class, you:**
 - a) Have carefully pre-planned so you don't even have to stop by the locker room before heading to the first bar. So long, Sobriety! See you briefly Saturday afternoon.
 - b) Head to the library where you review your notes from the day and knock out one reading assignment for Monday before heading to the bar to lose consciousness.
 - c) Hook up with your significant other for a nice dinner and shake off the week to prepare for studying all day Saturday.
 - d) Review, do your first reading of all of Monday's homework and reread all of the hornbook material for each class.
 - e) Nap.
- 4) **Your significant other/best friend/close family member says they miss you and you are too involved in law school, asking if you can spend an evening together, you:**
 - a) Make them a copy of the average starting salaries of the top 10% of the class, post in plain sight and put cotton in your ears so you can study.
 - b) Schedule a window of 1 hour to listen to their grievances and nod your head sympathetically while reviewing the elements for Subject Matter Jurisdiction in your head.
 - c) Immediately go out to dinner and a movie with him/her, thank them for reminding you who you are and try to schedule a similar evening at least once a month.
 - d) Say, "Oh, I've been partying with my section. I think that'll help me soak up some of this law school stuff better. Come join us!"
 - e) Nap.
- 5) **Your oldest and dearest friend is in a sporting accident and becomes paralyzed from the neck down, his family calls to tell you he's asking for you. You:**
 - a) E-mail your professors that you will have to miss one day of classes each and travel to visit him, taking all your books with you.
 - b) Make a mental note to pay for his lifelong membership in the "lap Dance of the Month Club" after you're an associate at King & Spalding.
 - c) Call him everyday for 15 minutes and plan a trip to visit in December after exams.
 - d) Tell all your professors he is your brother, take 2 weeks off and hang out with him.
 - e) Nap.
- 6) **You get a hold of the Honor Graduate's outlines for your exact Professors. You:**
 - a) Don't prepare your own and study her Outlines for your exams.
 - b) Put the Outlines away until exam time, prepare 2 of your own outlines and then just study her's for the rest of the exams.

- c) Read the Outlines once a week until exam time. Prepare your own. Check with hers to see if you missed anything, then study your own.
- d) Copy the outlines and put them in a folder to study, but lose them and never prepare your own because you spent all your time looking for them.
- e) Nap.

7) In the hour between classes, you:

- a) Re-read the notes from your previous class and consult the hornbook for questions you have flagged, then review for the 3rd time all material for the next class and do the appropriate reserve reading.
- b) Check your e-mail, then review your briefs and the reading.
- c) Check your e-mail, play Fantasy Football or send e-cards to the friends you are neglecting, then finish the last few pages of the reading and write a quick 5 line brief.
- d) Try to find out what the assignment is and hold your book open to that page while you chat with your friends.
- e) Nap.

8) You came to law school because you:

- a) Made the mistake of getting a Liberal Arts Degree.
- b) Want to eventually rule the planet and all its idiotic inhabitants.
- c) Want to help people.
- d) Want to carry on the tradition of legal pride in your family OR believe being a lawyer is a noble and rewarding profession.
- e) Woke up from a nap and found yourself here.

9) Your motto is:

- a) Even if you win the rat race, you're still a rat.
- b) Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
- c) Real life sucks losers dry, if you want to soar with the eagles you have to learn to fly.
- d) Beer before liquor never sicker, liquor before beer never fear.
- e) Ahh... to sleep, perchance to dream.

Calculate your GPA:

"Hey baby, what's your GPA?"

Add up your score according to this chart:

- 1) a) 1; b) 4 ;c) 3; d) 5; e) 1
- 2) a) 5; b) 2; c) 1; d) 3; e) 1
- 3) a) 2; b) 4; c) 3; d) 5; e) 1
- 4) a) 5; b) 4; c) 3; d) 1; e) 1
- 5) a) 3; b) 5; c) 4; d) 1; e) 1
- 6) a) 2; b) 3; c) 5; d) 1; e) 1
- 7) a) 5; b) 4; c) 3; d) 2; e) 1
- 8) a) 4; b) 5 ; c) 4; d) 4; e) 3
- 9) a) 2; b) 2; c) 3; d) 2; e) 1



Place a decimal between the 2 numbers of the total and you have your First Year GPA!! (If you didn't end up with 2 numbers, it's cool, go back to sleep.)

Class Cluster Ranking:**WINNERS OF THE "YOU OWN 2L FALL INTERVIEWS" AWARD:**

- 4.3-4.0: Congratulations! You really know what law school is all about: Domination- Self-discipline. Whiny babies out of the way.
- 3.9-3.3: Now's the time for you to feel redeemed, Oh bright Super-Studier. You may now reap the benefits of your dedication all those years that your college roommate who never studied and barely showed up for class would make the same grade as you on the test you studied hours for. You are now a Law School Super Star!

WINNERS OF THE "AT LEAST YOU MADE TOP HALF" AWARD:

- 3.2-3.0: You have done exceptionally well. Even though to some it may not feel like it. Your numbers will qualify you for any job you want. Because you wouldn't want a job with one of those firms that only accepts resumes from the top 10%. Why not? Because you're a little too attached to your personal life. Don't worry, that's a good thing.
- 2.7-2.9: You too have done very well. But you're sure not used to this cluster, are you? It's OK, you've learned an important lesson: When it comes to work and life- you like a little balance between the two. Luckily a good golf game may just land you a high paying client more readily than a position on the Law Review.

WINNERS OF THE "DAMN THE BELL CURVE" AWARD:

- 2.6-2.0: Law School really bit you where it hurts, huh? Damn that bell curve. Well, you know you're a smart, capable individual. Remember you're in the top 75% of a class full of people who were mostly in the top 25-50% of their undergraduate programs. No shame in that.
- 1.3-2.0: Time to wake up, get sober and pay attention. Unless you're the smartest joker out there and you're just using the bell curve to your advantage- They don't like to fail law students, do they? Even the last guy on the podium walks away with the J.D., right?



Trotsky 2000

A candidate who *really* has nothing to say (anymore).

Paid for the committee to elect Leon Trotsky (yes we know he's dead).

Calendar

The Federalist Society

presents Dr. Michael Greve: *Cooperative v. Real Federalism*
 Monday, October 23, 12:30pm
 Room J

Dr. Greve will be speaking about the differences between real and cooperative federalism, and why cooperation between the federal and state governments will not work. Dr. Greve is the John G. Searle Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C. where he serves as the Director of the Federalism Project. His research and writing cover American federalism and its legal, political, and economic dimensions. For more information, see <http://www.federalismproject.org/outlook/9-2000.html> or the information in the steno pool.

Christian Legal Society

Bible Study
 October 18th, 8:30 am
 Room E

General Meeting/ Bible Study
 October 23rd, 3:30 pm
 Room D

Why isn't your organization's stuff in here? Drop calendar listings into the Scrivener box in the mailroom or email to scrivener@bellsouth.net

GET YOUR FREE TOASTER

The Outing of Ellen in the most greatly publicized sitcom event of 1997 highlighted the ridiculous stereotypes attached to gay, lesbian and bi-sexual members of our communities. In particular, that they're out to recruit you into their homosexual club. Well, the Gay and Lesbian Legal Network here at the UGA School of Law is trying to do just that. Only they don't want you to change your sexual orientation. Instead, they welcome all members of the law school community, gay or straight, to join in their efforts to debunk homophobic misconceptions in the straight community and to continue to fight discrimination against all minorities. The current membership is eclectic, including gay, straight, bi, and lesbian students. For example, Molly Lewis joined because her two brothers are gay, exemplifying the goal of the club to advocate issues that affect us all as family members and friends of gay and lesbian citizens. This club provides a gay and lesbian presence in the law school community that will bring attention to the legal and social issues facing future "out" professionals and families. Their plans this year include presenting a multi-organizational forum, advocating the creation of a class devoted to gay and lesbian legal issues, establishing a recruiting program to attract gay and lesbian undergraduates, and providing a network of "out" mentors in the Atlanta legal community. Please contact Melanie Wallace (melwall@compuserve.com) or Kelly Stapler (kstapler@arches.uga.edu) for more information or to join. Or come by next time they advertise a meeting- all members of the law school community are welcome.

Mock trial

from front page

In closing, Mr. Reavis insisted that the defense had constructed an "impenetrable defense". The jury agreed, and the top prize was awarded to Mr. Goldner and Mr. Reavis. Following a post-trial reception, the throng of participants and spectators spilled from the rotunda. Pandemonium ensued. No shrub, no bleacher, no goalpost could be secured against the wiles that afflicted the crowd. One bow-tied reveler was seen clinging to an upright, a look of menacing determination on his face as he sought the demise of the inanimate field equipment.



Judges and participants

Zippo

(the world's most crudely drawn and most boringly stupid comic strip character ever...)

