Re-Visiting Katrina

Spike Lee Takes Us Through the Eye of the Hurricane

Katie Tooma
3L, Editor In Chief

Thomas Jefferson was president when the United States of America acquired the territory of Louisiana in 1803. The U.S. paid approximately $15 million for this territory. Obviously, the city of New Orleans, LA was included in this purchase.

New Orleans is home to jazz, art, culture, southern food, and America’s worst disaster – Hurricane Katrina. Katrina hit Florida on my birthday, August 25, 2005, as a Category 1 storm and surged over the gulf towards Louisiana making its landfall on August 29, 2005 as a Category 3. It is estimated that the storm surge to hit Louisiana was at its highest point of 19-22 feet and much of New Orleans is below sea level; combined with the failure of the levee system, Katrina spelled out the worst disaster in United States History.

I do not know what drew me to New Orleans. I grew up in New York, NY, raised like most Sicilian New Yorkers; no manners, spitfire personality, and a strange addiction to meatballs. Nonetheless, something about New Orleans was calling to me, reaching out to me. In 2009, I drove across the country from Florida and I had the privilege of stopping in New Orleans for the night. As I traveled on I-10, I drove through New Orleans East, passed the infamous Pontchartrain Park and Gentilly Parish, and then down into the French Quarter.

My companion and I parked behind our car and got out to walk around the area. I was surprised at the lack of people. We discovered that the students attending the university in the area had to evacuate their dormitories in order to evacuate the city. I was again surprised at how quickly they were able to evacuate and get out of the city. I also discovered that many of the buildings in the area had been damaged, but the people were not affected. This was a good lesson for me, to learn more about the city and its people.

This strikes me as a significant issue in creating equality. If the military is going to allow openly gay service members to serve, same-sex marriages will have to be recognized in every state, let alone nationwide and the military is a federal institution. These spousal relationships should not be categorized as dependents, and all significant others of gay service members would be excluded from benefits.

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Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell Policy
How Repealing the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” Policy will affect the Military
Sarah Stewart-Bussey
2L, Staff Writer

It’s often said that the military is a traditional and patriarchal institution—which for the most part is true. Women are still excluded from certain military occupational specialties, and homosexual men and women cannot serve openly and disclose their sexual preference. And while this is incredibly frustrating to some people, they often fail to comprehend the changes the military would have to institute in order to accommodate these individuals.

This may be shocking, but in my experience, if you ask any service member whether they are aware of an openly gay colleague, most will state “yes.” And as many people complain that the military is homophobic, most of these service members have no problem with their openly serving colleague. Officials opposed to repealing “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” often cite that allowing gays to serve openly will impede unit morale, despite the fact that statistics actually demonstrate more than half of those service members polled disagree with this statement. Well that’s easy enough, right? If a few people know, and there are not any problems, why not tell the entire military? Unfortunately implementing the policy is not that simple, as some foundational parts of the military would have to be re-structured to accommodate openly gay service.

One aspect of military life that would have to change is the treatment of dependents. Dependents in the military are usually one’s spouse and children. The military does not recognize boyfriends, girlfriends or long-term unmarried partners as dependents; these individuals are not privy to the healthcare, educational, or other benefits provided to dependents. So what will happen if “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” is repealed, and gays can serve openly? Same-sex marriages are not recognized in every state, let alone nationwide and the military is a federal institution. These spousal relationships should not be categorized as dependents, and all significant others of gay service members would be excluded from benefits.
Students often gripe about fighting capabilities, and someone's sexual focus should be on maintaining efficient war abroad. While I caution against a hasty repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," we may find ourselves in a situation of haphazard "separate but equal" treatment of gay partners, and that certainly is not equality.

Ask, Don't Tell, we may find ourselves in a situation of haphazard 'separate but equal' treatment of gay partners, and that certainly is not equality. By hastily repealing 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' we may find ourselves in a situation of haphazard 'separate but equal' treatment of gay partners, and that certainly is not equality. As August 2010, Spike Lee released a second documentary on the effects of Katrina titled, 'If God is Willing and Da Crook Don't Ruin.' Spike Lee takes us back to the old familiar faces of his 2006 documentary and provides updates with how they are doing. The film highlights the relief effort, what Brad Pitt and others are doing in the Lower Ninth Ward rebuilding homes with the Make It Right Foundation, the failing school system in New Orleans, the corrupt police department, and the lawsuit between the victims of the levee breaches and the United States Army Corps of Engineers. If you think human rights violations do not occur in the U.S, think again. The lower middle-class and the poor people of New Orleans are basically being kept from returning to New Orleans.

Continued from MyBluthizers

Grading process. What takes so long? After each exam, computers answers and bluebooks are checked off a master list before being given to the professor for grading. Each professor is given an exam number roster and curving information. Professors use this spreadsheet to grade the exams by number. The deadline for professors to turn in grades to Kay varies by the size of the class and the type of exam. For example, a professor with a class of 30 students who administered a multiple choice exam will have a shorter deadline than a professor with 100 students who administered a three-hour essay exam.

Once Kay receives the grades, she verifies that they meet the curve. She then enters the grades into the database. As soon as she does this and "Save," the grades may be viewed by student, professor, and then the Registrar. Kay's work is double-checked by Kim. Kim. If a data entry error is found, it will be corrected. Once all grades are finalized in the database, they are finalized, and students receive their official report card in the mail. It all depends on how soon professors get the grades in, and how quickly Kay can enter the grades and how quickly Kay's work is double-checked by Kim. If a data entry error is found, it will be corrected. Once all grades are finalized in the database, they are finalized, and students receive their official report card in the mail. It all depends on how soon professors get the grades in, and how quickly Kay can enter the grades and how quickly Kay's work is double-checked by Kim.

Grade changes: Grades can only change because of a clerical error. A professor cannot re-read an exam with the intent to adjust a student's score, because "grading is always within the context of the moment." This means professors assess the student's performance against his fellow students' performances all at the same time. If a professor re-reads an exam three weeks after they initially graded it to look for more errors, they would be unfair to the student who was graded without again re-reading the other exams to keep the answer within the context of the group. Are professors schooled in the curve? After grading is complete, if a professor finds that the grades do not meet the curve, the professor may seek a waiver. Good cause must be shown when requesting a waiver. Good cause must be shown when requesting a waiver.
by my fear of not getting a job after school, I realized that my fear of getting Going into my second year of law 2L SBA Alumni Relations Director Elizabeth Ashton interest. [Image 16x18 to 623x397] Jump start your network by Alumni Relations: TJSL Alumni Mentorship Program

Professor Sanzo's began her career in trenches with. Professor Sanzo's unwavering determination and skill throughout her legal career prove that she in fact is the right person to dive into those trenches with. Professor Sanzo's began her career in the legal profession twenty-two years ago in Massachusetts. Her first few years as a practicing attorney were primarily spent handling federal criminal defense cases. A short two years after being admitted into the Massachusetts Bar, Professor Sanzo ambitiously opened her own law firm. Her career continued to progress in 1991, when she relocated to San Diego. A move to the west coast inevitably required Professor Sanzo to take the California Bar Exam. She packed her stuff, studied on the plane and took the Bar the following day. I was pleasantly surprised by her apparent lack of fear at the possibility of not passing. In response, she simply, yet confidently said, “the process is premised on intense focus and endurance.” That focus and endurance most certainly paid off when she in fact passed the Bar on her first attempt. After her admittance to the California Bar, Professor Sanzo’s first experience as a licensed California attorney included sharing an office space with a law firm who also hired her to serve as co-counsel on a variety of cases. Professor Sanzo’s career continued to diversely expand when she joined the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) Panel, a federal court appointed system. This decision facilitated more opportunity to provide clients with the best legal representation while simultaneously building a law practice, whose clients consisted of 75% criminal appointments, fairly quickly during the initial stages of her career on the west coast. Four years after her arrival in San Diego she opened the hugely successful practice, Sanzo and Associates. The firm focused predominately on criminal law in addition to family law and complex civil litigation. Three years later her career dramatically shifted gears when she was hired as the first general counsel for Todd-AO, a large entertainment company that deals with sound editing and post-production work of Hollywood films and television. Professor Sanzo's primarily practiced criminal law prior to her position as Todd-AO's general counsel because “It truly is my passion; what I love the most and where I feel extremely challenged.” However, becoming in-house counsel for a publicly traded company involves a significant amount of responsibility and civil litigation and she admits, “Was a big stretch from me.” Yet, she dove into this position wholeheartedly by learning from the CEO who hired her, “He was a brilliant strategist and negotiator and I emulated these abilities” in addition to hiring outside counsel for assistance during the initial stages of her employment as in-house counsel. A short nine months after she was hired, the CEO (a man of few words and even fewer compliments) told her, “You really got this!” A few years later, Professor Sanzo left Todd-AO and returned to private practice. The last criminal trial she that she handled was thirteen years ago, where after a mere twenty minutes of jury deliberation, her client was acquitted. I inquired as to the reason behind her decision to refrain from participating in criminal trials. “I do anything now that intrigues me and allows me to take the case and do the right thing.” Professor Sanzo’s dedication to the law and her clients is undeniable. Her undeterred willingness to navigate her career path to her own terms is admirable. Her loyalty is notably illustrated as a result of her decision to only hire Thomas Jefferson students as her law clerks. She continues to practice law and runs the successful Sanzo and Associates law firm in San Diego in addition to being an adjunct professor at Thomas Jefferson. The abundance of knowledge, intensity, charisma and optimism Professor Sanzo exudes keep students engaged from the minute they step through the classroom door. I highly encourage all students to enroll in a course under the instruction of Professor Sanzo. **Vivacious, Honest, Real: Professor Judi Sanzo** Jennifer Goldman 2L Senior Staff Writer “If you are going to be in the trenches, have recognized the importance of As the SBA Alumni Relations Chair, I noticed that one resource has been available to succeed in my task of getting a job after graduation. I recognized that obtaining a position at a law firm will not be an easy task and I must use all the resources available to succeed in my task of getting a job post graduation. There are many resources available out there, but I have noticed that one resource has been overlooked, the enormous pool of TJSL Alumni. As the SBA Alumni Relations Chair, I have recognized the importance of reaching out to the Alumni. I have also recognized how underutilized the resource has become. In a time where job hunting has become a job, we must utilize every resource we have. During the Alumni Student Outreach Events last year I noticed that many students (including myself) spent a lot of time with other students and did not take the opportunity to network with the Alumni. Yes we are there to have fun, but take some time out to introduce yourself to the Alumni, get cards, and reconnect with them later. Students must remember that Alumni are attorneys! They know a lot of people within the legal community. You never know, an Alumni could happen to be a great friend of someone you could know someone who is looking for an extern. Alumni want to see students at Thomas Jefferson succeed. They have been in your exact position and understand what you are going through. The Thomas Jefferson Alumni are vying to connect with students. Reaching out to Alumni is vital to your job search and legal career. And you never know you might just make a friend out of the deal. To assist students in connecting to Alumni TJSL has developed the Alumni Mentor Program. This program is designed to connect you with Alumni who currently work in the field of study you are looking to get into. The program can also connect you to Alumni who currently work in the location you wish to work after graduation. If you would like to be connected with an Alumni Mentor please contact the Alumni Office in the Administration Building. Whether you connect with Alumni to network or simply for support, just reach out, you never know what can come of the mentorship. **Alumni Relations: TJSL Alumni Mentorship Program** Jump start your network by connecting with a TJSL alumnus in your field of interest. Elizabeth Ashton 2L SBA Alumni Relations Director Going into my second year of law school, I realized that my fear of getting through my first year was quickly replaced by my fear of not getting a job after graduation. 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TISL Student Bar Association
Halloween Party
Habeas Corps-US
Friday, Oct 29 9 PM
Tickets $20
Sway Lounge
Downtown
432 F Street
Sway
San Diego
Things to Do in San Diego

America’s Finest City, World's Finest Beer

Rachel Lebron
II. Staff Writer

With more than 30 breweries in San Diego, many of which have won international awards for their beers, it can be quite the challenge to narrow down which brewery to try first. While some of the breweries are worth visiting because of their restaurants or atmosphere, most are not that flashy. The good news is there is no need to seek out a brewery to have some of San Diego’s finest beer, many of the restaurants and bars proudly serve local brews. Don’t worry about not knowing the difference between a doppelbock and a pilsner, as the staff at each of the breweries is more than willing to educate a rookie. Here’s a look at some of the breweries of San Diego:

Pizza Port: For a more casual restaurant setting, grab a slice of pizza and check out the specials at Pizza Port. Even with a brand new location in Ocean Beach, the locations in Carlsbad, Solana Beach, and San Clemente remain busy as ever. They offer a wide variety of their own beers and keep other local “guest” brews on tap. Don’t be afraid of some of the unique names of Pizza Port’s beers; their Skidmark Brown and Foam Ball are delicious.

Karl Strauss Breweries: Karl Strauss’ claim to fame, the Red Trolley Ale, can be found at one of their five brewery-restaurant locations in San Diego County or at various grocery or liquor stores. There’s a reason it took the Gold Award at the World Beer Cup.

Gordon Biersch Brewery Restaurant: Located in Mission Valley, Gordon Biersch offers great dining and bar atmospheres with an interesting view of the fermenting tanks through floor-to-ceiling glass walls. They serve their own brews, but the food may be better than the beer. Be sure to try their garlic fries.

Stone Brewing Company: You may have heard of their Stone IPA or Arrogant Bastard Ale. Stone’s beers can be bought at ten different places in Old Town alone, not to mention the hundreds of other restaurants and liquor stores in San Diego County. Stone is one of the breweries that you should make the drive for.

Oggi’s Pizza and Brewing Company: With seven locations in San Diego County and locations throughout Southern California and Arizona, Oggi’s is the official pizza of the San Diego Chargers, San Diego Padres, Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, Anaheim Ducks, and Phoenix Coyotes. This means that at any of these sporting events, you are sure to find Oggi’s pizza and beer. Although known more for their pizza than their beer, Oggi’s offers a decent variety of brews, including their award winning Black Magic Stout.

ExamSoft® for Mac® Ready for Midterms

How to Manage the School Google Calendar with Yours

Josh Goodrich
II. SBA IT Liaison/Website Design

Great news for Mac users! We are happy to report that after checking with the Thomas Jefferson School of Law IT Department and Dean of Academic Administration, Kay Henley, ExamSoft will be available for Mac users by midterms, fall semester 2010. This means that Mac Users will be able to start using ExamSoft on your Mac without needing to buy Microsoft Windows® for your computer. Ms. Henley has confirmed that starting with midterms, Mac users will be able to install ExamSoft without having to use Boot Camp® and needing windows installed on your computer.

ExamSoft also issued a press release describing their new version of ExamSoft for Mac on September 7, 2010: “…the release of SofTest Mac [is] to support the growing population of Mac users.” David Schnabel, president of ExamSoft, stated, “Over the past 10 years, ExamSoft has delivered over 4 million exams, and in that time we have seen a number of changes. One of the most significant is the increase in Mac users.” He continued, “We are dedicated to supporting the needs of our clients and their users, so we are excited about the release SofTest Mac. We are particularly excited because the new release was a collaborative effort with our clients who helped us with design feedback and pre-launch testing.”

Students with Mac’s should be happy to hear that unlike in past years you will not have to buy a copy of Microsoft Windows to run ExamSoft using Boot Camp. Moreover, we have looked into whether the California Bar Examiners will be allowing Mac users to use the Mac native version for those who will be taking the California Bar Exam. At this time there is nothing posted about the Mac version of ExamSoft for the California Bar Exam. Regardless, we will keep the Mac Community here at Thomas Jefferson School of Law up-to-date with regard to any announcements of such use for the California Bar Exam.

There is some bad news about the new Mac friendly ExamSoft: Like with many software programs, you must have a minimum Apple Operating System of 10.5.8 or higher (e.g., Leopard or Snow Leopard). Therefore, if you have an older version of Apple OS, you will not be able to use the new Mac version of ExamSoft.

A NOTE OF CAUTION: 10 years of IT experience has shown me one very important thing: the release of new software for Mac or Windows can create new bugs and problems. The IT department has informed us that there have been some reported bugs with this new software, which ExamSoft is currently addressing. I personally do not like to use a product right away without testing it first and especially during an already “tense” testing period. We recommend that if you install and use the new Mac version for Midterms or finals, download and install it for a practice exam.

1 http://www.examsoft.com/main/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=33&Itemid=7#news8

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1 http://www.examsoft.com/main/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=33&Itemid=7#news8

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1 http://www.examsoft.com/main/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=33&Itemid=7#news8
How I Weather the Storm

A Stress Management Guide

Lindsay Shannon-Lee

II. Staff Writer

I am probably one of THE MOST stressed people you will ever know. I began stressing myself sick at the tender age of seven when I threw up before my 2nd grade progress report. Just ask Ms. Thompson. The sad detail is, I had perfect grades. I am just inherently prone to stress. I am constantly on the alert for new and effective ways to manage and reduce stress. Like many of you, I am constantly alerted by notification tones and sticky notes to the fact that I need to do something, want to do something, should have done something, or should want to do something other than work. Thankfully, I have a few stress management staples I integrate into my life to keep me sane at the onset of stress. What follows is by no means an exhaustive list, as I probably have close to a hundred of these gems rolling around my brain.

Breathe & Stretch

1. This may be a bit unique and arguably bizarre, but I am now eternally grateful to the yogi that taught me these tricks. Put your palms under your cheekbones, firmly pressing into your “smile” muscles. Hold your hands there for at least 20 seconds, pushing as firmly as you can without causing discomfort. After you remove your hands, the smile naturally follows and the stress melts away. I used to do this often as an IP/Litigation paralegal and could catch some of the attorneys I worked with using it on stressful days. A less covert trick, but very helpful to re-focus your energy, is to do a few body stretches. Stretching gets the blood circulating and oxygen flowing to your brain.

One of the most mellow attorneys I used to work with closes his office door when things get crazy and does a few “sun salutations” which are a series of basic yoga poses that quickly and effectively gets the blood flowing. It can do wonders for your mood. A quick internet search will help you find examples.

Take Control of Your Mind

2. What does the future hold? I used to work in a camp for troubled girls. Some of these young ladies were runaways who had endured atrocities that took a special kind of person to empathize with. One way we helped these girls gain control of their lives was by changing their mindset. I encourage you to control your mindset as soon as you awake. My first thought every day is “what am I looking forward to?” It is as simple as counting down the days until a loved one visits or waiting for your favorite dish to finish marinating. No matter how small or insignificant, the focus is on the positive. Before you bound out of bed in the a.m. to simultaneously brush your teeth, check your e-mail, do a handstand, and walk your dog; ask yourself what special thing you have waiting for you. And if you think you do not have something special waiting, create something!

Live With Intention

3. School does not come first; YOU come first. Your parents, professors and loan distributors might disagree with that statement but before an angry mob rallies at your doorstep, hear me out. Do you ever have a day that you swear is genuinely the worst you have ever had? Maybe you realize that you forgot to wash the conditioner out of your hair just as you find a parking spot at school. Or maybe when you try and answer a professor’s question in class, somehow forget basic English, and accidentally doodle on yourself. The day continues on, snowballing until you are absolutely friggin’ edge. I often get caught up in what some have already labeled the Sneaky Hate Spiral (http://hyperboleandahalf.blogspot.com/2010/05/sneaky-hate-spiral.html). I highly recommend checking it out). Fellow fringe-edge’s, relax. There is a way to catch yourself and prevent further damage. My all-time favorite lawyer once told me that you must “live your life intentionally.” The first step to fulfilling this is simply being aware of yourself. Employ a little trick called “meta.” Whenever you are about to explode into an agro mess, simply stop and ask yourself “what exactly is wrong?” You might think you already do this, but a quick self evaluation would most likely tell you that more often than not, that you just allow the weight of the world to crush you. When my heart beat speeds up to a mouse’s pace and I feel like throwing a casebook out the window onto the freeway, I catch myself and ask, “Hey Lindsay, pumpkin... What is really wrong?” Try not to think of it as talking to yourself, but rather as a cleansing emotional ipecac where you take control of your thoughts. Then journal, breathe, scream into a pillow, or talk to yourself just get it out.

“You” Time

4. Set (enjoyable) reminders and allow yourself some “you” time. My father was in the U.S. Army for 30 years. He taught me a lot about time maintenance. Though our family vacations may have been mapped out to the last bathroom break, (literally: 05:30 A.M. Wake up, 05:47 Breakfast, and so on) his scheduling skills have proven to be a lifesaver. I used to have a hard time stepping away from my studies and purposefully dedicating a few minutes to decompressing. After taking some tips from Colonel, I now schedule some time for a mental recess where I move away from my desk, always set a reminder alarm, and enjoy! A reminder helps me completely relax knowing that I have not lost track of time and drifted off course from the most important task at hand, success in law school.

Enjoying “You” Time

5. Once the reminder is set, take full advantage of your play time. As busy as you might be, make sure to still ensure that your desires are appeased for certain activities. For example, I satisfy my obsession for Chef Gordon Ramsay and his shows even without having a very accommodating schedule. As soon as the allotted time comes, I am dicing, mincing, broiling, sautéing, and marinating right next to Gordon. This activity is twofold in benefit. It satisfies my desire to be entertained and also allows me to cook for my diet, an area of our lives that we often neglect when stressed. I cannot emphasize enough how integral a healthy and balanced diet is to your scholastic comprehension. The point is, whatever activity you long for, set aside time for yourself and prevent further damage. My all-time favorite lawyer once told me you must “live your life intentionally.” The first step to fulfilling this is simply being aware of yourself. Employ a little trick called “meta.” Whenever you are about to explode into an agro mess, simply stop and ask yourself “what exactly is wrong?” You might think you already do this, but a quick self evaluation would most likely tell you that more often than not, that you just allow the weight of the world to crush you. When my heart beat speeds up to a mouse’s pace and I feel like throwing a casebook out the window onto the freeway, I catch myself and ask, “Hey Lindsay, pumpkin... What is really wrong?” Try not to think of it as talking to yourself, but rather as a cleansing emotional ipecac where you take control of your thoughts. Then journal, breathe, scream into a pillow, or talk to yourself just get it out.

Enjoying “You” Time
Hey 1L’s You’re Not the Only One!

If you can’t get out of it, get into it.

Amanda Pollard
1L Writer

“Congratulations, you’ve made it. You are part of the elite.” As a first year law student we have heard this several times. We have all been told that the hard worked has paid off; that not many can do it and that we are special. Does anyone else feel like a fraud? Yes, I know I’m smart; I have something to offer, and have potential, but elite? Really?

On our first day of class we all heard the same thing- that it’s going to be hard, even torture at times, but if we keep our nose to the grindstone we can make it - we can even succeed! Looking around at everyone nodding their heads I cannot help but wonder if I am the only one who just does not get it. Our teachers are brilliant! Far smarter than I can ever think I will become. But I mean, I’m a future lawyer, and things are flying right over my head- something must be wrong! I thought I was the only one.

The second week starts and we begin the long journey into becoming comfortable with the uncomfortable. I mean do young adults in other professions get used to living on two to three hours of sleep? How about living and breathing contracts, torts, legal writing and God knows what else? Our heads swim, our dreams are filled with hypothetical situations and case briefs…and questions we can not seem to find answers to. Then, on Tuesday of the second week I fell into a discussion about food! Yes, oh so comforting and familiar. The very welcome distraction was about the various food deals available in San Diego. With several of my classmates we headed to Fred’s, just down the street from school, for Taco Tuesday. Two margaritas in, I discovered that I am not the only one! We are all scared, being pushed to our minds end, and most feel at least a little bit lost. Some of my peers thought I had all the answers in class while I thought they did. As it turns out, as first year law students, everything is new to us and we are all feeling lost.

Many of us are new to San Diego as well and only know the roommates we were set up with or the one friend from orientation. But, take a look around, (as we were told during orientation) it is very possible that we are meeting our future husband or wife or making friends that will be our bridesmaids and groomsmen. You never know, you could be meeting the person you call after you get your bar results back and maybe someone you will practice with one day soon.

As I sit in class (forty-five minutes early because yes, I am that person and more than 75 percent of my classmates are too), I realize that this is exactly how I want it to be. Most of the people in this room are incredible. They are interesting and funny, smart and witty and I would not mind including quite a few of them in to my future. I have figured out that even though I may not always feel like I belong here or know what’s going on and where exactly things are headed, I would not change it for anything. We will all fall behind and feel a little bit lost at times. As a class we should reassure one another. So take a deep breath and look around…you’re not the only one.

Weird Legal News

An update on some of the crazy legal related issues around the world.

Brandi Haefs
3L Senior Staff Writer

1. Recently a man in Germany finally consulted a doctor after having a headache for 5 years. He recalled getting into a drunken scuffle with an acquaintance on New Year’s Eve in 2005 but did not know that he had been living with a bullet in his head this entire time. The bullet was successfully removed by puzzled physicians but now the man is trying to locate and bring suit against the former acquaintance.

2. In Texas a wrecking crew was ordered to demolish a house but by mistake they knocked down the house across the street instead. This did not sit well with the owner who is now suing the company. The date the original house that was slated to be demolished has yet to be re-planned.

3. A 68-year-old Florida man was arrested after having a loud argument with his bicycle outside a gas station. The man was arrested and charged with disorderly intoxication.

4. British Airways recently had to apologize to passengers after an emergency message warning them that they were about to crash into the sea was played by mistake and many of the 275 passengers on their way to Hong Kong are seeking to file suit for the distress.

5. A Japanese man drove down the wrong side of the freeway and busted through five police blockades before he was finally arrested. He claims he did this all because he was upset his cat died.

6. In German elementary schools children are typically given a cardboard cone filled with sweets, but this year they opened their cones to find pornographic pens which project erotic images. Angry parents demanded answers and it turns out that the pens were purchased from a discount store sight unseen with the description that the “pens lit up at the push of a button”.

7. A court in Brazil temporarily suspended a law banning the ridiculing of political candidates within three months of an election. The law even prohibited publishing jokes with fines of up to $57,000.

8. An Edmonton man admitted he was late for an appointment with a probation officer so he stole a bicycle and rode it to the station to make the meeting on time.

9. Christian Hernandez, a matador, was in the bullfighting ring when suddenly he got cold feet, threw his red cape down and ran out of the ring. The organizers of the event were none too pleased and so they had him arrested for breach of contract.

10. In Alberta a 19-year old student insisted on wearing a kilt to his high school graduation ceremony, but the school said no because the rules required men to wear pants. Finally after protests from all over the world they finally allowed him to wear the kilt to the ceremony.