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CAVEAT

GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

VOLUME XXVI, Issue 1

September 1995

City of Angels: From Bangkok, with love...

by Jeffrey J. Speed
Special to the *Caveat*

One's first impression of Bangkok is part horror and part fascination. The pollution from cars, motorcycles, trucks and tuk-tuks is truly choking. People wear surgical masks, or put handkerchiefs to their faces as they stand on street corners. The heat is constant; 95 degrees with 85% humidity is just another summer day in the City of Angels. The thought crosses your mind that it is just not healthy to live here, and even if you don't smoke, you may as well.

Then, your body begins to adjust to the heat and humidity, and you learn to avoid serious traffic and pollution traps. You carry a hanky, or a menthol inhaler, just in case you do get caught in the thick of the smoke. You start to figure out the bus routes, and find out that if you really need to get across town in a hurry, hopping on the back of a motorcycle taxi is your best bet, and sometimes they even give you a helmet that fits.

The other students on the summer law program at Chulalongkorn University come from all over the world. Mostly other U.S. law schools, but there is a group from UVic (Victoria, British Columbia) law school, a few from University of Melbourne, Australia, and L.L.M. students from Japan, Germany, Thailand, Vietnam, Nigeria and Indonesia. Almost everyone is staying at the YMCA, which begins to resemble an international student dorm, with a swimming pool, of course. Information is pooled, you find out where you can get a decent cup of coffee, where the supermarket is, where you can hear something besides Thai pop music. A Canadian student is heard to remark, "This place is one huge barbecue!" Food stalls line the streets, selling delicious hot, hot, Thai food at great prices. Bangkok isn't so bad after all...

The university is huge, but all your classes are in one air-conditioned classroom, so its impossible to get lost (although some do). The Thai professors speak English well, and the Dean of the law faculty is a key advisor to one of the prime minister candidates in the upcoming national election. You're reading the *Bangkok Post* or the *Nation* every day, and realize that Thailand is a rarity in South East Asia; it has a democratic government with freedom of speech. The Thai economy is growing at an annual rate of 10%, which is apparent from all the construction going on in Bangkok. You can't look up without seeing another skyscraper being thrown up by crews working around the clock. Sometimes at night, you get an eerie feeling that you're walking through the movie-set for *Bladerunner*.

The weekends are for traveling; take a bus and a ferry to Ko Samet or Ko Chang, two islands only a few hours from Bangkok. Or if you have more time, grab a sleeper compartment on the night train to Chiang Mai for a trek into hill tribe country or an elephant ride. Go snorkeling or diving off tropical islands in the Gulf of Thailand, or visit the old capital cities of Ayuthaya or Sukhothai. Thailand is bigger than you thought and there's so much you want to see...

By the time the law program is over, serious travel plans have been made; some

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Recycling Bins Being Ignored

By Dan Orseck, ELS President
Special to the *Caveat*

The members of the Environmental Law Society (ELS) are wondering why people insist on throwing away their soda cans. The school has provided dozens of recycling bins, yet you cannot walk out of a classroom without seeing at least four cans in the trash. Unlike dropping a soda can in the trash on the street, where it will most likely be collected by someone who will redeem it for a nickel, cans thrown away in this building are going to be thrown out for good. The problem that the ELS has with this is that each time a 12-ounce can is recycled, 12-ounces of petroleum are saved. Thus, each time a can is thrown in the trash, 12-ounces of oil is being thrown out as well.

It really does not take that much effort to recycle a can. Nothing needs to be sorted, no staples need to be removed, there are no labels that have to be peeled off. All that needs to be done is for the person who drinks out of a can to be a little bit responsible and drop it in one of the bins instead of the trash. So please, do everyone a favor and recycle.

Remember, a can, like your mind, is a terrible thing to waste!!

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VIEWPOINT:

Working toward peace in Bosnia

By Paul D. Addis
Special to the *Caveat*

For the past three years, in front of the entire International Community, a genocidal argument over dirt has claimed thousands of lives in the former Yugoslavian republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Sanctions issued by the United Nations have had absolutely no effect on the murderous rampage by Bosnian Serbs, nor has the U.N. been able to afford any protection to the people who were formerly sheltered in the "safe areas" of Bihac, Gorazde, and Zepa. Indeed, the Serbians overran those areas in recent months and systematically exterminated the male inhabitants of the cities. The U.N. has not even been able to keep Sarajevo's airport open on a continuous basis. With all of these failures, the likelihood of a U.N.-brokered peace agreement in the area seemed increasingly remote.

After all, what motivation did the Serbs have for making any peace? Serbian President Slobodan Milosovic and Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic were exercising the common war philosophy of, "He who comes to the peace table with the most land loses the least," and no one in the International Community was willing to do anything to stop them. Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance tried, in vain, for two years to negotiate peace in the Balkans. On the military front, the E.C. and U.S. postured, bluffed, and sabre-rattled, but when the Serbs called the bluff, the International Community came up empty. It seemed that no country in the world was ready to put their fine young boys on the line to halt a slaughter that was happening in a country that was not only far away, but was of little strategic or economic value.

However, the straw that broke the camel's back finally came a few weeks ago, when a Serbian artillery round killed 37 innocent civilians in a crowded Sarajevo marketplace. For the first time since the conflict began, international condemnation was going to be something more than just words. This time, NATO was coming to dinner.

The NATO air campaign against Serbian military targets has been the most effective tool yet in getting the Serbs to the peace table. The NATO strikes come at a critical time. Serb supply lines from the Krajina region were cut off when rebel Croats captured the area. Bosnian Serbs could no longer rely on a continuous replenishment of their weapons, food, or fuel. NATO air strikes on Serb military targets have left the Serbs crippled; weapons stocks have been destroyed, communications centers have been wiped out, and other military supplies have been eliminated. For the first time since the beginning of the Bosnian war, the Serbs are losing their upper hand.

The natural question regarding the NATO action is: was this trip really necessary? The answer is yes. The Serbians have had plenty of time to sit down and hammer out a peace accord that would have been more beneficial than the one that Slobodan Milosovic agreed to in principle last week. Under the Geneva agreement, Bosnia will become an independent republic that contains a Serb state. The breakdown of the land distribution will be 51%-49%. This plan is hardly new, but until NATO put the squeeze on the Serbs, Milosovic and Karadzic had no intention of settling for an agreement that would leave them with less than half of the land in Bosnia. This is what has made prior U.N. peace talks fruitless.

"Peace talks" usually bring to mind a congregation of diplomats who sit around a table, sip bottled water, and mug for CNN. Behind the closed doors, these diplomats try to write the poetry of peace from the cacophony of voices that emanate

Please see Bosnia, page 3.

Reporters Needed:

The *Caveat* needs your help!
We need people interested in reporting and writing to volunteer some of their time and help publish Golden Gate University School of Law's student newspaper.

No experience is necessary. Those interested should attend the next staff meeting on Monday, October 2, at 12:30 p.m. in the Student Lounge, or contact Robert Bae or Travis Whitfield at the *Caveat* office, Room 223-B in the Student Lounge.

THE CAVEAT

Published by the students at Golden Gate School of Law, the *Caveat* mission is to provide a forum for the law school community. Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor and in by-lined articles are those of their authors, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the editorial staff, the Student Bar Association, or the School of Law.

Submit to the *Caveat*! The submissions envelope is on the door of room 223. The deadline is the 15th of every month. Submissions to the *Caveat* are subject to editing for grammar, punctuation, and space considerations.

STAFF

Administration.....Travis Whitfield
Production.....Robert Bae

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student input. While Dean Pachkowski is a current student, his situation is certainly not typical. I asked 15 first-year, second-year, and third-year students, and the average cost of books and supplies this semester reached \$350. Some second-year students had book costs alone reaching up to \$430 for just this semester.

Finally, the Financial Aid office seems to no longer be concerned with their role as a student service. As first year students, we were told that we would get work-study in our second and third years in school. I have received many complaints from second and third year students that there was much less work study money awarded this year than in previous years. Many students went out and obtained possible work study jobs for this year, but were unable to accept these positions because of the lack of work study money awarded. This year the Financial Aid office changed the Work Study allotment policy. In previous years, the office budgeted over the Federal allotment, recognizing that typically students did not spend their full awards, leaving the University under budget in the end. This year, the policy was changed to budget within the Federal allotment, which has the effect of reducing the overall Work Study award base. This has greatly hurt a number of students I have spoken with who now cannot find any other paying legal jobs in the area.

However, there is a bright spot. Every student I spoke to commended the work of Florence Spinks. Often students have found her to be very sympathetic and understanding of students' needs and concerns. Further, students have stated she treats students with the respect that is deserved, understanding that Golden Gate students are not like the typical student. We are older, many of us have had professional careers before coming to law school, and many of us have families and children to support. She has been straight, forward, and honest with students.

Furthermore, after addressing these concerns with Dean Pachkowski, he is willing to work with the SBA's decision to set up a standing Financial Aid Task Force Committee to find solutions to these problems and prevent others from happening. The SBA will also be doing a departmental survey of the Financial Aid office in the coming weeks. We hope to get student input regarding the procedures and the staff of the Financial Aid office.

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from the warring parties. Interpreters struggle to make sure that points are understood and that nothing is lost in the translation. Sometimes, the right interpreter is needed—someone who understands the nuances of a warring party's language. In this case, that interpreter is NATO.

Now that the International Community and the U.N. are, via NATO, speaking to the Serbs in a language that they can understand, the long road to Bosnian peace may be approaching the end. The Serbs finally understand that the International Community is willing to take military action to bring about an end to the Balkan bloodbath. The World has simply had enough. This is the understanding that has taken Milosovic and Karadzic so long to arrive at. It is an understanding that would not have happened but for the military intervention of NATO. It is the understanding that could make a U.N.-brokered peace deal a reality.

Although it would be naive to expect a Balkan peace accord immediately, the fact that the formerly immovable Serbs have come to the negotiating table in good faith and agreed, in principal, to a peace plan demonstrates that the Serbs are, at last, serious about making peace. Achieving peace from war is a slow process. But as NATO's action has so vividly demonstrated, sometimes more is achieved by fighting a fire with an inferno than with a hose.

RESEARCHERS NEEDED!

Hastings Research provides an array of legal services to law firms and attorneys. Applications are being accepted now. A "B" in Writing and Research is required.

Bangkok, continued from page 1.

students are going to Cambodia and Vietnam, some are off to Bali, and others just want to hang on the beach for a few weeks before going home to another year of law school. The students that landed summer jobs in Bangkok law firms are staying on, and other students have to get back to the States. E-mail addresses and phone numbers are exchanged along with promises to keep in touch. Then, the diaspora begins and you're off with friends or on your own with a backpack and the *Lonely Planet* guidebook.

Now, your Asian adventure is over and you're back at school in the good, old USA, sitting in Corporations and trying hard to concentrate on what the professor is saying. But your mind keeps wandering back to Asia. Life is back to "normal" but you can't help thinking about going back. There are just so many places you didn't have time to go to, and you heard Sumatra was amazing, or you just want two more weeks in Thailand. You try hard to snap out of it and take notes but your mind keeps coming up with strategies to get you traveling, again. Slowly, the urge diminishes and you fall back into the routine of the law student; borrowing too much money and drinking way too much coffee. But the memories linger, and sometimes you're in Bangkok or Saigon, and you just want to call up a friend from the trip and talk about what a great time we had there.

ENVIRONMENTAL ALERT!!

Tired of wasting so many paper cups on all that coffee you've been buying from the new Plaza coffee stand? Here's an inexpensive, environmentally conscious solution to your problem: purchase a reusable coffee mug from the Environmental Law Society! Mugs are on sale now from ELS members.

From the President

By David Roth
SBA President

FINANCIAL AID BLUES

I officially took over the office of President back in April of last year. It is usually understood that the SBA is closed for the summer. Unfortunately this was not the case. Over the period of July 10th through the second week of school, I received exactly 41 letters and 156 phone calls, all from students complaining about problems with their financial aid.

Law students are generally concerned with three things when they come to a Law School: 1) The academic credibility of the school; 2) The school's reputation in the legal community, which translates into the ability for students to get a job after they graduate; and finally 3) Their financial and personal well being during the three or four years while in Law School. This year it would be safe to say that the Financial Aid office has failed students in this final aspect. The office has failed in three particular ways: first, students are continuously misinformed while in the office in order to get them out the door; second, the office has not sought any student input regarding any of the policies or procedures of the Financial Aid office; and third, the Financial Aid office has abandoned the concept of serving the student and instead has become bureaucratic nightmare.

Complaints started in July when students attending summer school had still not received their financial aid money. This was half-way into the summer school session. Most of the students I spoke to had turned in their loan applications either before or during Spring Semester finals. When students went to Julie Moreno at the Financial Aid office regarding the status of their loan applications they were told they had been sent off and were then quickly ushered out the door. Most of these students followed up on this information and learned that the lenders did not receive the applications until the first or second week in school.

The same problem has recurred this semester. The loan applications turned into the Financial Aid office seemed to sit in the office for quite a while. Again students were misinformed, being told that their applications had already been mailed, when in fact the lenders had yet to receive the applications. This delay is evidenced by the fact that students are only now receiving their financial aid checks. Most students have stated that they felt they were being rushed out the door, and their concerns were not being followed up on.

The concern I have is for the students' well-being. Our loan checks are the sole means of our survival; as students, we rely on these checks to pay our rent, buy our food, and to buy our books and supplies. It was disturbing to hear that students had to stay with friends, with no actual place to live, because they relied on misinformation that was given to them from the Financial Aid office. If students were given the proper information, or if their concerns were actually addressed by the office, then students would have had the opportunity to make adjustments knowing their checks were coming late. Instead, the office seemed not willing to face up to their own mis-management and admit to the delay.

Over the summer the Financial Aid office made adjustments in our student budget to appease lenders who are getting distraught over GGU's default rate. These adjustments were made unilaterally by Dean Matt Pachkowski, who is in charge of the Financial Aid office. The most ridiculous adjustment was that our budget for books and supplies was only \$200 per semester. When Tim Critzer, SBA Treasurer asked Dean Pachkowski about this decision, Pachkowski stated, "I made the decision based on my own personal experience," and he did not think he needed

Please see Financial Aid, page 3.

Editor's Column

The *Caveat* invites all students and faculty members to submit stories on any topic for publication. Articles may be current, or may be summaries of previously written essays. For students interested in writing, this is a perfect opportunity to sharpen writing skills and get published. For faculty, this is another forum in which they may communicate with students.

Submissions should be submitted on computer diskette along with a hard copy of the story, and dropped off either at the *Caveat* mailbox on the 14th floor, 49 Stevenson, or at the *Caveat* office, room 223-B in the student lounge. Also, students interested in other aspects of newspaper publication should contact the *Caveat* staff for more information.

A newspaper needs the support of its community in order to survive. The *Caveat* hopes it can rely on the Law School community in order to keep it alive. Thanks!

24 Hour Nautilus

The SBA has four-month passes on sale now for \$125. Look for SBA representatives on the 3rd floor on Tuesday and Thursday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.