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The Rainmaker

Vive La Coastal!

Shannon Mau
Editor in Chief

An average Coastal student’s idea of fun summer plans don’t typically involve law school but that train of thought may be shifting. Last week the American Bar Association approved Coastal’s plans for an accredited foreign summer program in Clermont-Ferrand, France. The program is the first of its kind at Coastal and will begin offering courses this upcoming summer. “I believe this opportunity is something that a lot of students should take advantage of”, said Program Director Katharine Hartland. “I can’t think of a better way to spend a summer than to live in France, enjoy the food, people and embrace the culture while at the same time earning hours toward your degree.”

Courses to be offered include: International Sports Law, French Business Law, European Union Law and Comparative Approaches to Enforcement of Human Rights. Students may earn a maximum of six credit hours over the course of the summer program and all classes will be instructed in English. In the past, foreign summer programs were only held through other law schools then had to be approved by Coastal administration and often times the course credits did not transfer. Students may still apply to those programs and should consult with the Registrar’s office before doing so. Only 65 seats will be available for this summer program and it should be expected to fill rather quickly. Students applying must have a minimum GPA of 2.25 and completed at least 30 credit hours.

To discover more on how a summer in France can enhance your law school experience please attend the Informational Wine & Cheese Party Nov. 26 at 5:30 pm in room 550 or email Professor Hartland, KBHartland@fcsl.edu.

Hala Ezeldin
Asst. News Editor

Attention all 3L’s preparing for spring graduation: the deadline for the bar application is May 1, 2008. Director of Academic Success, Odessa Alm, says each student should start the application process at least 2 months prior to the deadline.

The Florida Bar requires students to fill out an application online but then requests that students print the completed application and mail it, along with any other documents required, to the proper address. In general, the Bar application consists of questions pertaining to places of residence, employment history, traffic tickets, military history, school discipline, mental illness, and criminal history, if any. However, each state’s questions may differ. Alm recommends that applicants read the questions carefully, and if the applicant is not sure what the question is asking, don’t make assumptions. Instead, just ask Alm. Applicants with a longer history may want to begin the application process a little earlier, especially if requesting court documents.

What if the Bar examiners request remote information, some of which the applicant can’t recall or doesn’t know how to obtain? For example, the name of the supervisor the applicant had for that job way back when he/she was 16 years old. First, try and call the previous place of employment. Ask if they have records about who the supervisor was at that time. If they don’t have that information, just request that they send you a note stating that you were in fact an employee, but that they have no record of who the supervisor was at that time. This will show at least that you have exercised your due diligence. With traffic tickets or credit inquiries, if you can’t recall then investigate. Pull driving records from each state you may have received a ticket in and pull a credit report on yourself to see if the information pertains to the Bar application question.

Alm says the biggest issue is failure to disclose. Alm stresses that applicants should “give the bar examiners everything they need to know and more. If you’re not sure as to whether to include it or not, then include it.” If the form doesn’t give enough line space to write then you can request an amendment form, which will give you more space for your explanation.

Alm said, “all that Bar examiners want to see is that you’ve been rehabilitated,” and suggests that the best advice is to read the application carefully and disclose all pertinent information. Alm said, “just get started, take baby steps.” A good place to start is to check out the Bar application checklist online at floridabarexam.org.

Tips for students taking the Bar in a state other than FL. There’s a national conference of Bar Examiners Website that has the links for each state’s website. While Florida has an early registration, not all states do. Also, in Florida you may sit for the exam before you’re cleared for character and fitness, while in other states, like Georgia, you have to be cleared for character and fitness before you can even sit for the exam.

For all: There’s a new rule for students who want to participate in clinics. Students must fill out a CCL pertaining to character and fitness, which is due by April 26th, to the Florida Bar Board of Examiners.
Are You Down with the MPRE?

GEORGE SINGELTARY
SPORTS EDITOR

Everyone thinks lawyers are a bunch of liars...right? Ironically, the legal profession is one of the only fields requiring the majority of its members to pass an ethics exam. This legal ethics exam, referred to as the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examinations (MPRE) is so important that students at Coastal take a full semester class on the subject. The MPRE consists of 60 multiple-choice questions and lasts for approximately 2 hours. The questions are based on the ABA's Model Rules of Professional Conduct. I sat down with Professor Gilda Russell, an expert on Legal Ethics, and first year professor at Coastal, to discuss the MPRE.

Q: How long have you been involved in the Ethics field?

A: I have been in the field for 27 years, starting in 1980, when I wrote my first legal article. I was a full-time professor at Northeastern and Loyola. As far as practical experience goes, I have written two Massachusetts treatises in Professional Responsibility and several Law Review Articles. Lastly, I have served as the ethics counsel for Holland and Knight for the past 8 years.

Most Trusted Professions

Doctors: 85%
Police Officers: 76%
Peaches: 74%
Jury Presidents: 70%
Lawyers: 48%
Lawyers: 39%
Lawyers: 27%
Lawyers: 26%

“Statistics taken from 2006 Harris Poll: Would you generally trust each of the following types of people to tell the truth?”

A: The test is given three times each year, in March, August, and November. The test can be taken as many times as it takes to pass. It is possible to sign-up online at the website of the MPRE. Q: How can we improve the MPRE pass rate at Coastal?

A: First, students need to know that the exam is something that needs to be prepared for. I recommend the short bar prep that is offered for the MPRE. Second, the test should be taken seriously and students should try to pass it the first time around. If one studies prior to the exam, and treats it like the bar exam, then I think the pass rates would improve dramatically. Last, I also recommend taking the test after completing the Professional Responsibility class so that the subject matter is still fresh in the student’s mind.

Q: Do you believe the MPRE has had a truly positive effect on the way lawyers conduct themselves?

A: The MPRE has at least made people in the field of law understand that education to become familiar with the ethics rules of the profession. To that extent I would answer yes, that it has had a positive impact on new lawyers’ understanding of their professional responsibilities. It is also worth noting that when lawyers face professional discipline, often as a condition to their good standing in the bar, they must retake the MPRE. States which administer the MPRE, oftentimes require lawyers to fulfill continuing education requirements such as courses in ethics and professionalism. I believe that this process has had a positive impact in general.

Academic Steroids gain popularity

CHRISTINA SHACKELFORD
NEWS EDITOR

The alarm sounds at 7 a.m. Grab some coffee and head to class. Get lunch, read for classes, back to class, then home for dinner and a night of more reading. Bed by midnight, if you decide not to brief those last few cases. This is the schedule that many law students keep, with some variation, day in and day out.

Then come finals. Just when countless hours of reading gets easy enough, it’s time to show your professors that you have been paying attention. Legal semester. Panic mode sets in and every nook and cranny in the library is claimed. Not only have you memorized every word of every lecture, but you re-read every case assigned since the beginning of the semester.

And then, if that were not enough, you purchased every supplement you laid eyes on and, at 1 a.m., you have to go through hundreds of practice problems before you can feel confident that you will be prepared as you walk in to take that exam at 9 a.m. tomorrow morning. How do we do it?

Some swear by coffee. Others cling to their Red Bull. And then there are those that rely on a little something extra...Adderall. Adderall is an amphetamine commonly prescribed to people with attention deficit disorder (ADD). When used medically, prescription stimulants are a highly effective and safe medication for most individuals with ADD. Since 1996, this prescription drug has been prescribed to forty million people in the United States alone. However, according to one study, many students taking the drug are not prescribed it by a physician. The study, published in the journal Addiction, surveyed 11,000 college students about their prescription drug use. As many as one out of four students from schools with tough admissions standards reported use of Adderall and similar stimulants to boost their performance. Overall, an average of seven percent of all college students has used one of these drugs without a prescription. At some colleges, this number reached as high as twenty-five percent. Especially in the season of lengthy LP papers and tough exams, it is Adderall’s ability to increase focus and motivation that appeals to students under a lot of academic pressure. Andrew Jacobs, staff writer for The New York Times, wrote “much like performance-enhancing drugs in professional sports, the spread of anabolics among college students is raising issues of competitiveness and fairness.” Students should beware. There are serious and long-term physical dangers that far outweigh any short-term academic advantage or single night of energy. Potential side effects include loss of appetite, mood change, sleeplessness, anxiety, paranoia, weight loss, and deadly drug interactions, and many, many more. In addition, amphetamines are Class II controlled drugs, and their use by someone without a prescription is considered no different than purchasing cocaine or speed from the streets. The friend who gives his adderall away to people without a prescription is no different than the drug dealer. Not only do they risk criminal penalties, but they put others’ lives in danger. “Most people assume that if a medication is available on the market, it must be safe - even if it has not been prescribed for them,” said Dr. Lynda Ernoff, formerly of NIDA’s Division of Epidemiology, Services and Prevention Research. “A drug or other that a doctor prescribes for one person is not necessarily appropriate for another, and prescription abusers are potentially taking a serious risk,” she said. So this exam season, think of your health and try a coffee or Red Bull instead.

Barrister’s Ball a Huge Success

SAMUEL C. VADEN
STAFF WRITER

“Absolutely amazing!” “Very classy.” “It definitely exceeded our expectations.” Once again Coastal rises to the occasion. On November 9th, 2007, memories were made, pictures were taken, friends laughed, and dates danced the night away. Limousines of all types pulled up to Jacksonville Municipal Stadium in style. Ladies emerged in exquisite gowns, and gentlemen accompanied their dates tailored in suits on par with the models of GQ magazine. As students walked across the parking lot and entered the elevator to the Terrace Suite, everyone had the same question: “What awaits us up there?”

When the elevator doors opened, Coastal students were met with the panoramic spectacle of a large room filled with sharply dressed waiters serving hors d’ouves, bartenders eagerly serving their patrons. Dimmed lighting masked the vibrant excitement protruding from students engaging with each other excitedly. As students moved through the crowd, shook hands with colleagues, and grabbed drinks at one of the many bars, one sight in particular seemed to draw everyone’s attention. Seated, at the outdoor platform overlooking the end zone, was a picture that the students had not expected to see...a coffee or Red Bull instead.
Loan Forgiveness: Help Is Coming

BRIAN STRICKLAND STAFF WRITER

It’s the thought in the back of every law student’s mind. If I ever get out of law school and pass the bar, how am I going to be able to pay back all these loans? Many students graduate from law school with loans near or in the six-digit and seven-figure range, and some are burdened with more than a hundred thousand dollars. On top of that, others have loaning debt from undergraduate or other graduate school to add with those frightening numbers. With that in mind, many law students are forced to seek the highest paying job possible in hopes of paying off the loans before retirement.

This stress makes selecting a job in the public sector less attractive and, for many, it is the only option. The debt is driving many of the more qualified attorneys out of the essential roles in public interest law. With competitive pay increases matching that of the private sector not a viable option for the government, new efforts are under way for a middle ground approach to provide more incentives to law school graduates.

On September 27, President Bush signed the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 into law. The bill’s primary components focus on providing more affordable options for low-income students to attend college with more than an $11 billion increase in funding for Pell Grants. While the Pell Grant spending grabbed the headlines, another aspect of the bill was seen as more of footnote to many media and White House reports. It appeared giving more money to lawyers did not make as nice of a sound bite as an $11 billion grant for Pell. However, for law students wishing to practice law in public service, this bill offers promising incentives.

Starting October 1 of this year, the bill discharges any remaining debt for participants after 10 years of full-time employment in public service. The program requires participants to make 120 monthly payments before the remaining principal and interest are forgiven.

In addition to including the positions of prosecutor, public defender, legal advocacy in low-income housing and civil rights, and public interest positions in the legal field, the program also includes other public service jobs essential to the day-to-day operations of our country. Public safety and law enforcement officers, teachers, social workers, librarians, law enforcement officers, public school teachers, and others are included for eligibility in the program.

The Act will be funded by cutting subsidies to a sandaled student loan industry where government spending has fostered inappropriate actions by some of the for-profit loan companies currently offering loans to students.

The eligible loans for reimbursement include Federal Direct Stafford, Federal Direct PLUS, and Federal Direct Consolidation Loans. Moreover, holders in the FFEL program, Perkins, Parent PLUS, and Grad PLUS loans may have options for forgiveness.

Interested students should check as soon as possible to determine if they are eligible for the program and take the required steps to ensure they will benefit from the program.

Additionally, the bill does have some potential problems. One of these setbacks concerns the tax policy. As for now, any debt discharged may be treated as taxable income.

However, the benefits of the forgiveness should still greatly outweigh the tax burden. There is also some hope that Congress could remedy the tax problem. But to do so, they’ll need to drop the bucket for those who will still be forced to pay for a decade on federal loans, other options are in the works for individuals wishing to practice in public interest law.

The University of Florida College of Law School of Law Student Bar Association is forming a committee to research and lobby in the area of loan forgiveness here in Florida. The Committee will also work to inform students of the loan forgiveness options available to them. With the help of Dean Goplerud and student leaders from other law schools in the state, the committee will be representing Florida Coastal in an effort to provide relief and incentives for those wishing to practice public interest law in the state.

MOOT from p. 1

advanced to the quarter-finals. The brief writer on that team was Tim Moss. Oralists were Stephanie Tew and Lisa DeLong. This team was recognized for its writing skills, garnering the second best brief award at the competition.

Both teams were coached by Professor Sander Moody and Nick Martino, a Coastal alumnus and local attorney.

“Having two teams in the quarter finals is highly unusual. On the heels of our earlier victories this year, we are very proud of our Moot Court team for prevailing in such a prestigious competition and bringing home the win," said Moody. “This high level of performance is also indicative of the strong student body that the law school is attracting.”

Other schools competing in the Chicago Bar Association National Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition included the University of Florida, the University of Wisconsin, New York Law School and the University of Illinois.

This year, Coastal teams have been victorious at moot court competitions including the E. Earl Zeh Moot Court Competition, which draws entries from law schools from the southeast and beyond.

In July, Coastal took top honors for the third year in a row at the 44th Annual Orscek Moot Court Competition, Florida’s oldest and most prestigious competition.

Many law students pursue a law degree with the hopes of helping the underprivileged in society. With rising law school tuition, these lofty goals are often diminished by the realities of repaying hefty loans.

Bar prep and job prospects are stressors shared by nearly all, but public interest students face unique challenges as the law school experience comes to a close and real life considerations draw near. Every student interested in pursuing public interest law must ask themselves, “how will that salary cover my living expenses and my student loans?”

According to a report done by Equal Justice Works last year, the average 2005 graduate of a private law school incurred over $78,000 in debt from law school loans alone. This does not include any undergraduate loans that were taken out. With the average entry-level salary for public interest lawyers ranging from $36,000 to $44,000, it’s no wonder that many of those students wind up choosing to go into the private sector.

The factors that go into that decision are unique to each individual and must be weighed according to those circumstances of life. As a 3L, I definitely feel the pressure of student loans. Even concerned friends and family question my choice to work in public interest law. Given the money, time and work necessary to complete law school, the lower salaries of public sector work just don’t compare to the potential for private practice income.

For me, I try to seek out ways to make it work. For example loan repayment assistance programs (LRAP) provide an incentive and feasible way to practice law in an area I’m passionate about, while meeting the requirements of loan repayment.

The low number of students entering the public sector has prompted the profession and lawmakers to figure out ways to keep those with a desire to serve the public on that path. American Bar Association student division leaders are lobbying for the passage of legislation designed to provide loan repayment assistance for prosecutors and public defenders.

One such is a bill called the John R. Justice Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act of 2007. This bill would provide up to $60,000 (to be paid in $10,000 annual increments) in loan repayment assistance to graduates who commit to at least three years as local or state prosecutors and/or defenders with an option to renew for an additional three years.

A second bill would completely forgive the balance of all eligible federal loans for lawyers who have worked in the public sector for 10 years and made their loan payments on time during their employment period.

So when the answer to the question, “how will that salary cover my living expenses and my student loans?” seems impossible, I think of my favorite quote by the 28th President, Woodrow Wilson: “You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand.”
Homelessness: Myths v. Reality

Kimberly A. Mitchell

The homeless – they’re scary, and they’re creepy. We try to be compassionate, but we don’t want to be crippled by compassion.” Some of you may remember this quote from the front page of October 9th’s edition. It was made by St. Augustine Mayor Joe Boles.

My initial feeling when I saw those words was disbelief. Why would a Mayor say that? My next reaction was anger, because to me what’s really scary is wondering where, and under what conditions I would be sleeping in, if I had absolutely no place to go.

Ultimately, the feeling that persists for me is one of sadness in the realization that people just don’t get it. Many of us look at the homeless through a stereotypical lens because we are unaware of the underlying causes of homelessness. The average person, if asked to describe a homeless person, would conjure up an image of a man or woman laden with dirty clothing, sitting on the street or holding a sign on the side of the road asking for money. Myths persist that homeless people are lazy or drug addicts and drunks.

Dean Jones is a Florida native who came to Coastal after a long and distinguished law career. He served as the first judge of color on the Miami Municipal Court, an appointment that ended the uniform practice of segregated courts in the south.

Dean Jones joined the Coastal community in 1998. “The job entails the building of an interactive culture between the majority and minority cultures so that each is enriched through many different programs, speakers, seminars, social events and the dissemination of information that allows all students to have a greater appreciation of student diversity,” said Dean Jones.

Dean Jones is excited to take on this new role in expanding multicultural affairs here at the school. “This a fairly new program that we’re starting here,” said Jones. “What I’ve helped to create is a ‘Diversity Round Table’ – a discussion group of heads of ethnic minorities here at Florida Coastal and in the community where we are in the process of formulating this new program.”

In looking to the future Dean Jones believes that, “Florida Coastal has the opportunity to truly distinguish itself, not just where diversity can be appreciated, but where we can create a paradigm so that it can truly be part of the student population.”

Dean Jones will be filling the new position of Dean for Multicultural Affairs as soon as someone is hired to take his place as the sole Dean for Student Affairs. The school, along with Dean Jones, is in the process of interviewing people for this position.

Homeless Advocate Sumner Gray speaks to students at a CAPIL event on Nov. 1. T. Darby

Dean Jones to Head Multicultural Affairs

Jeff Sobel

Some of you may be asking, who exactly is Dean Donald Jones? Well, he is the guy who always says hello to you in the hallway, the guy who always tries to make you laugh, even after receiving your grade for the second assignment in Torts. More importantly, he is the Assistant Dean for Student and Multicultural Affairs.

Homeless Stats

*In Jacksonville, on any given night, 3,000 people are homeless yet the city has only 1,000 beds available
*1.35 million children will experience homelessness in a given year
*Veterans make up 40% of the homeless pop.
*25% of the homeless nationwide, are employed

However, since the recent influx of students at Coastal, the decision has been made to split Dean Jones’ current role, thus creating a new position to better serve the needs of all students.

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Bent Creek
Address: 10440 Tournament Ln., Jacksonville
Location: ~30 min. from FCSL
Designer: Bobby Weed and Mark McCumber (consulting)
Rating: 8/10

Golfin' with George
GEORGE SINGELTARY
SPORTS EDITOR

golfinwithgeorge.com

UNF Golfplex
Address: 4567 St. John’s Bluff Road South Building 48
Location: ~5 min. from FCSL
Small Range balls: $6 (greens fees included)
Large Range balls: $9 (greens fees included)

Review: Did you know that you can start at FCSL, drive five minutes, and play golf for around 6 dollars? Well, you can do just that at the UNF Golfplex. Golfplex is tucked away amongst the trees, in back of UNF and has an EXCELLENT location. Before this gridiron slugfest kicks off at 1 p.m., an array of activities will be available to entertain even the hardest taste.

E N T E R T A I N M E N T, interactive games, autograph signings and mascots will kick off at 9 a.m. on Friday, November 30th, concluding at 10 p.m. with a spectacular firework display illuminating the Jacksonville skyline over the St. Johns River. Less than twelve hours later, the fan fest gets underway again and merges with the ACC Champion Post Game Party at 8 p.m. Boston College from the Atlantic Division has clinched, waiting to play either Virginia or Virginia Tech from the Coastal Division. Virginia, is looking to recapture an ACC Championship which it last held as co-champions with Florida State in 1995. Virginia Tech’s last ACC title came in 1994. Commonwealth teams are trying to be the teams to strike a pose with the trophy after the game.

ACC Championship to be held in Jax
CRAIG GALANTER
STAFF WRITER

On December 1, 2007, Jacksonville Municipal Stadium will play landlord to the third annual ACC Championship football game between the Atlantic Division Champion and the Coastal Division Champion. Before this gridiron slugfest kicks off at 1 p.m., an array of activities will be available to entertain even the hardest taste.

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Last year, Jacksonville and the rest of the country watched an incredible day of football which consisted of only field goals, Wake Forest hung on to win 9-6. Wake Forest’s victory brought the ACC championship to the Atlantic Division for the second straight year. This year, the Coastal Division will try to usurp the coveted championship and prevent the Atlantic Division from earning its third straight title.

Besides welcoming locals and out-of-towners with open arms to one of the most spectacular weekends in Jacksonville, the Gator Bowl Association (game host) is after more than high-fives and accolades on throwing a fun-filled festive weekend. This 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit charitable organization is specifically designed to bring economic impact to northeast Florida. For this event, the organization earmark about seven-five hundred dollars to support local education by donating this money to Jacksonville public schools to help support in-school programs.

Tickets for the game can still be purchased in the range from $60-$125. For more information contact the Gator Bowl Association at 1.800.374.BOWL or go to www.theacc.com.

SPORTS

So You Think You Can Salsa?
SAMUEL C. VADEN
STAFF WRITER

One, Two, Three. One, Two, Three. Go Forward. Go Back. If you thought that this was a familiar scene of a 1L memorizing required elements and frantically trying to cover insurmountable material, then you are well grounded in your assumption. However, this article is not a narration or a “right of passage” nightmare; rather it is an introduction to a tantalizing, intriguing, and exciting form of dancing.

It is a wake-up call for the Florida Coastal community to embrace a personal and hidden rhythm. Picture this scenario: two people, dressed in Miami’s best attire, gliding across a polished floor and letting law-related stresses fall to the wayside. Sound enticing? Welcome to the world of Salsa!

So why do we as law students and faculty care about Salsa? There are many reasons. First, dancing to Salsa (or any other form of dancing) is a huge stress reliever. While heading out to the beach and downtown seems to dominate the weekend activities of mentally starved students and exhausted faculty members, Salsa dancing provides a fun, creative, and healthy alternative. I can already hear the groans and visualize the expressions upon the faces of “rhythmically” challenged gentlemen who dare not step upon a dance floor.

Have no fear! Salsa is one of many dance forms that embrace the “beginner” by focusing on basic foot movements and cadences. Salsa is considered a “spot dance” in that it typically involves two partners who do not move a great distance across the dance floor. Rather, the two dancers stay in one position on the floor and revolve around each other by exchanging places throughout the dance. This eliminates the difficulty of other dance forms which require the dancers to traverse the entirety of the dance floor.

The word “Salsa” derives from the Spanish word for zesty sauce. Thus, the name implies the spicy flavor inherent in the dance as well as its origins in the Caribbean and Latin America. Naturally, Salsa seeks to bring out a person’s “inner spice” by forcing them to reach deep down inside and utilize body parts they would not normally use.

It would be inadequate and unfufilling to assume this article could teach Salsa to a beginner. Rather, this article was written with the purpose of introducing an amazing activity and inspiring those brave enough to take on a challenge. Dance studios, such as Kaluby’s off of Old Baymeadows Road provide an inviting atmosphere for people of all dancing abilities. I would go as far as to say that each milliliter of sweat that feeds into the flame of Salsa dancing is a healthy alternative.

However, this article is not written with the sole purpose of helping us forget about our law-related stresses fall. Rather, the two dancers stay in one position on the floor and revolve around each other by exchanging places throughout the dance. This eliminates the difficulty of other dance forms which require the dancers to traverse the entirety of the dance floor.

Go dancing!

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Go dancing!
Many of you will be going home for the holidays but for those of you who are sticking around, I’ve put together a simple Thanksgiving dinner for you whether you’re cooking for yourself or some friends.

**Stuffed Turkey Breast with Scalloped Potatoes**

- 2 turkey breasts w/ the skin left on (if your guy insists on dark meat, you can use turkey thigh meat as well – both cuts are sold at Publix)
- 1/2 white onion diced
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries
- 2 cloves garlic minced
- 1 apple (Golden Delicious) peeled, cored, and diced
- 3 celery stalks diced
- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 1 tbsp. butter
- 6 cups herb seasoned stuffing (Pepperidge Farms is good)
- 1 to 1 1/2 cup chicken stock
- Salt and pepper

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Heat olive oil and butter in pan over medium high heat. Add diced onions and celery. Sauté until onions are translucent. Add minced garlic, cook one minute, then add dried cranberries and diced apple. Sauté for one more minute and add seasoned stuffing and cup of chicken stock. Stir. The stuffing should be moist, if not, add more stock a little at a time until all stuffing is moist. Take off the heat. Debone the turkey breast and gently slide your hand under the skin of the turkey to form a ‘pocket.’ Season both side of the turkey breast and gently slide your hand under the skin to make a ‘pocket’ around the herb seasoned stuffing to make a ‘pocket’ around the stuffing. Season both sides of the turkey breast and gently slide your hand under the skin to make a ‘pocket’ around the stuffing. Season both sides of the turkey breast and gently slide your hand under the skin to make a ‘pocket’ around the stuffing. Season both sides of the turkey breast and gently slide your hand under the skin to make a ‘pocket.’

**Scalloped Potatoes**

- 6 medium sized potatoes
- 2 tbsp. chopped chives
- 2 tbsp. butter
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 1 cup whole milk
- 2 tbsp. flour
- 4 cups shredded gruyere cheese or other favorite cheese (gruyere cheese stinks but it tastes great)
- Salt and pepper

Pour cream and milk is thoroughly incorporated add 2 cups of cheese. Continue to wisk until cheese is melted and your sauce is thick and smooth. Season with salt and pepper to taste and chopped chives. One thing that will get your attention, besides the lively atmosphere at The Casbah, is the smell of fruit-flavored tobacco emanating from colorful and shapely water-filled glass pipes called hookahs. Hookahs use a mixture called shisha, tobacco combined with fruit and honey. I’m told, as I didn’t try it myself, the smoker’s senses are inundated with the essence of apple, mango, jasmine, or whatever flavor shisha the smoker has chosen. If you’re concerned about the effects of the smoke on your dining experience, I can say that the smell is more like incense than a cigarette smell.

**Belly Dancing at Casbah**

Kimberly A. Mitchell  
Staff Writer

The Casbah, located in Avondale, serves wonderful Middle Eastern cuisine and is a Best of Jax winner for 2006. This restaurant has a lot to offer in the way of food, atmosphere, and entertainment. The restaurant serves a variety of Middle Eastern favorites such as dolma (grape leaves stuffed with seasoned ground beef and rice), hummus (puréed chickpeas, olive oil and spices), and tebouleh (a popular salad containing tomato, cucumber, parsley, cracked wheat, olive oil, salt, and lemon juice). If you aren’t feeling quite so adventurous, and want to stick with more traditional American fare, “The Casbah hasn’t left you out. You can really play it safe and order a Caesar Salad, or take a dip on the semi-wild side with the ever popular Casbah Pizza. It’s an interesting and tasty twist on the usual version with pita bread as the base, hummus for sauce, and toppings such as feta cheese, olives, marinated artichoke hearts, and sun-dried tomatoes.

The Casbah offers a lovely patio to eat outside on a nice day or just to relax and smoke some hookah.

As if good food and hookah’s weren’t enough The Casbah also has live belly dancing Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings! If you’ve never seen live belly dancing it’s definitely worth it. So, if you’re looking for a fun, casual, and unique experience, then take a trip to The Casbah. This hip spot is open late but is usually pretty busy so plan to wait or make reservations, either way it should prove to be time well spent. The Casbah is located at 3628 St. Johns Ave. and is open from 11 a.m. til 2 a.m. To make reservations you can call them at 981-9966.
Energy Drinks Give Students Boost

Chad Moreau
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Finals time is creeping closer and many law students, including myself, are searching for the next great consumable capable of providing boundless amounts of energy and caffeine to keep themselves awake long enough to stuff their brains full of legal doctrines.

I conducted a very low-budget experiment in order to determine which drinks actually provide energy and which ones are simply carbonated “cough syrup-water” beverages. I attempted to assemble, what I think is, five of the most popular and therefore, most consumed, energy drinks that can be readily found in Jacksonville. They were as follows: RedBull, Monster Assault, Redline Energy Rush, SoBe Adrenaline Rush, and RockStar.

The first drink that I tested was the timeless classic, RedBull. RedBull comes in an 8.3 oz can for a cost of around $2. Compared to the rest of the field, the cost to size ratio is the lowest. The active ingredients in a RedBull are Taurine, Caffeine (duh), Glucose, and B12. They generally all do the same thing, which is to provide the drinker with some well-needed energy throughout your day.

In my opinion, RedBull has the best test out of all of the tested drinks and tastes similar to melted Smarties candy; however, the energy provided by one of these little cans had VERY little affect on me. I felt a small buzz a few minutes after drinking it, but it quickly dissipated, leaving me just as tired as I was before and $2 and some change, poorer. From what I have heard, RedBull does mix great with some adult beverages, but it would be against my better judgment to recommend not drinking it for it’s intended purpose. I would have to rate it a 5 out of 10.

Second, I decided to try another very popular drink, RockStar energy drink. A single can of RockStar is loaded with 16 oz of liquid energy and only costs $2. This is right around the average of the cost to size ratio of the field. RockStar tastes very similar to RedBull, so if you enjoy the taste of the former, then you will most certainly enjoy the taste of the latter. The active ingredients of a can of RockStar include Taurine, Guarana, Ginseng, Caffeine, Milk Thistle, B2, B3, B5, B6, and B12. That is a pretty large list of active ingredients, which is why RockStar packs such a large punch and apparently makes you “party like a rockstar.”

I felt a large rush a few minutes after I finished the entire can (apparently there are two servings in one can, but I decided to take the whole thing like a champ). This buzz lasted for a majority of the morning and wore off right around noon. The crash the resulted from the drink wearing off is not as bad as you would think, but it is still noticeable; I was still able to fully function for the remainder of the day. My rating: 9.5 out of 10.

Third, I decided to drink what I had heard was the most potent energy drink ever created, RedLine Energy Rush. Big disclaimer: This drink is VERY dangerous and you MUST follow the label when drinking it. RedLine Energy Rush only requires you to pay $2.50 for an 8 oz bottle of liquid hell.

If you want to feel like you have a baby kicking where your heart is supposed to be, then this definitely the drink for you. The active ingredients include caffeine, green tea, liquid red, carmine red, and also many “products,” such as Evoburn (pure Evodiamine), N-acetylcL-tryptophan, Yerba Mate, Vinpocetin, and Yohimbine HCL. These ingredients are basically equal heart attack. The bottle itself is a warning label, which states that you should not drink it unless you are over 18 and that it is highly potent.

The rush received from this drink felt equivalent to what I imagine having a deffibrillator used on your own body would feel like. I did not enjoy this by any means; it felt like my body was completely flipping out, including cold sweats, clammy hands, the chills, and the jitters. If feeling like you’re going to die is cool, then I was Miles Davis. I felt this way for the entire day and could not fall asleep until around 3:00 A.M. the next morning. Other side affects include nausea and loss of appetite. Apparently you are only supposed to drink half the bottle, but in the instance of fairness to the other drinks, I consumed the entire thing; probably not the best idea. This is one drink that, if you value your heart at all, I would stay far away from.

RedLine’s rating = FAIL.

Thursday rolled around and, still feeling the after effects of what I drank the day before, I opted to go with something much easier to handle: Monster Assault. This drink is similar to RockStar in that the amount of caffeine per ounce for the amount is the same ($2 for a 16 oz can), the active ingredients (caffeine, taurine, ginseng, carnitine, guarana, inositol, B2, B3, B6, and B12) but dissimilar in that it tastes excellent, not even like an energy drink in fact. The energy rush granted by this drink was just like RockStar as well, in that it lasted for a majority of the morning, but the crash was much worse, making me crash harder than a Jacksonville driver on I-95 in the rain. I was pretty much ready to end my little experiment by the end of Thursday, as my heart had definitely had enough trauma inflicted upon it to last the rest of the year, but I still had one more drink left, SoBe Adrenaline Rush. Since I like RockStar’s name better, I’ll give this a 9 out of 10.

Lastly, I have no classes on Friday, so I decided to leave the least potent drink for a day that I could finally attempt to rest my battered heart. Although the SoBe has a very angry name, its bark is far more worse than it’s bite. It costs the same as a can of RedBull and the can is the same size as well ($2 for an 8.3 oz can), however, the taste leaves much to be desired. While the initial taste is something along the lines of Sunny Delight, the aftertaste is extremely musky and tastes likes things I can only imagine. It has a small list of active ingredients, including the staples of energy drinks, Taurine, Ginseng, Caffeine, guarana, B6 and B12. The energy rush was in the middle of RedBull’s and Monster/Rockstar’s. It hit me relatively quick, lasted for about two (2) hours and then dissipated without any real crash. This is a drink I would recommend if you needed just a quick pick-me-up without worrying about having a crash later. Survey says...8 out of 10.

With Finals right around the corner, I know that I’ll be stocking up on RockStar for all my energy needs. RockStar definitely ranks at the top of my list, closely followed by Monster Assault, SoBe Adrenaline Rush, RedBull, and in far last, RedLine.

RockStar is simply the most affordable drink for its size, and the taste and energy rush is pretty much perfection in a can. The products encompassing the rest of the field all have their own share of problems, such as low energy rush or damaging your health.

I’ve heard rumors of various other methods of achieving extra energy and added concentration ability, but I have no idea just how much truth those rumors hold.

I wish everyone a healthy and productive Finals period and please, stay safe while drinking your Costco size pallets of RockStar.
Kanye may live the good life, but is he stronger than a fearless foursome of pop-punkers? Mr. West could learn a few tricks from his own hometown heroes – Patrick Stump, Pete Wentz, Joe Trohman and Andy Hurley. Together they form Fall Out Boy, one of the hottest bands to potentially corrupt the MTV-generation.

With the enlisted help of opening acts from Wentz’s label, Decadence Records, the Young Wild Things Tour took downtown Jacksonville by storm on October 30th. Unfortunately, only a third of attendees were old enough to understand the tour’s symbolism. Jokes aside, the boys once again impressed the crowd with their pyrotechnics, clever lyrics and overall entertaining performance. For a mere forty bucks, I scored a sexy, yellow wristband and a two-by-two spot on the dance floor with my fellow general admission-ers.

The show opened at seven with up-and-comers Cute Is What We Aim For and Plain White T’s. Each played a short set with a few songs, but it was clear that most people were too busy downing their drinks to pay attention. The crowd finally opened their mouths to belt out “Hey There. Delilah,” the heartwarming (and overplayed) anthem of the summer.

Fun fact: “Delilah” was actually written three years ago about a Columbia grad student and Olympic hopeful who caught the eye of T’s front man Tom Higgenson. A fired-up Travis McCoy of Gym Class Heroes then hit the stage, opening with “Cupid’s Chokehold.” McCoy’s consistent energy and facial expressions were enough to drive the little girls crazy. McCoy made it hard for fans who snuck in cameras by constantly flailing his arms and running from one side of the stage to the other during songs. Devoted fans (including myself) were disappointed in the set choice, with missing tracks such as “Scandalous Scholastics” and “It’s OK, But Just This Once.” However, “Travie” and the boys definitely made up for it by performing “Shoot Down the Stars,” “The Queen and I,” and their newest chart-topping single “Clothes Off!” featuring FOB singer Patrick Stump.

Fun Fact: “Clothes Off!” is an eclectic cover of the late one-hit-wonder Jermaine Stewart’s “We Don’t Have to Take Our Clothes Off (To Have a Good Time)” from 1986. “It turned out great and really showed how talented the whole band is,” said Ashleigh Land, 2L, about the boys’ acoustic version of “Nobody Puts Baby in a Corner.” Overall, the boys gave a riveting performance but the feedback from the amplifiers could have been better maintained. Notably missing in the lineup were fan favorites “Bang the Doldrums” and “Tell That Mick He Just Made My List of Things to Do Today.”

Fun fact: FOB closed the show with “Take This to Your Grave’s” “Saturday,” Wentz’s all-time favorite track to perform live. Overall review: Two enthusiastic thumbs up! Venue review: Good size arena for seating and acoustics but parking prices need to be improved.
**Historical Variety at a Fair Price**

**STAFF WRITER**

**Entertainment Editor**

Traveling has always been in my blood but has not always agreed with my wallet. Many students here at Florida Coastal can probably agree that getting out of Jacksonville is a necessity at times. If you fall into this class of people, you should consider taking a day or weekend trip to St. Augustine. St. Augustine is nearby, but far enough away that you can forget about all law school headaches and still have some leftover money in your budget.

A short, roughly 45 minute, drive on I-95 south will bring you to the town with a Spanish flare. While traveling to the heart of St. Augustine, you can make a pit stop at the Outlet Mall. On either side of I-95, there are stores that can meet anyone’s shopping demands. St. Augustine Premium Outlets consists of 85 stores including Coach, Gap, BCBG, Brook’s Brothers, Nike, J Crew, Sun Glass Hut, and even a food court. To check out the complete listing of stores go to their website at www.premiumoutlets.com.

After you get rid of that shopping bug, continue down I-95 and exit at St. Augustine beach in order to arrive in St. Augustine. Here, you will be met with a variety of restaurants, pubs, quaint stores and some tourist traps including horse and buggy rides that can satisfy almost anyone.

If history is your past time, you can fulfill your interests in downtown St. Augustine by walking the cobblestone streets of what is known as the “ancient city” since it is the oldest city in the nation. Two main monuments include the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument and Fort Matanzas. These two monuments represent the Spanish empire in the New World. Both national monuments offer tours including Ranger talks, museum exhibits, historical weapons demonstrations, and special events. To put a little spook in your life, you can get your history lesson through a ghost tour. There are also many different tours available along the way.

One is the Ghost Augustine Haunted Pub Tour and it tells the story of the most haunted spots in St. Augustine while stopping at many of the local pubs. To take it a bit further, you can go on a Hearse Rides Ghost Tour. It takes you on a hearse ride around town which stops at creepy destinations including the location of the 1974 murder of the mayor’s wife. Both tours claim that you can come into contact with the “paranormal!” along the trip and some people have taken pictures to capture these moments.

St. Augustine is a very historical city, but it also offers the most famous restaurants in the Columbia. This restaurant offers excellent arroz con pollo (Chicken and rice), sangria, and flan. There are also many other Spanish themed restaurants throughout St. Augustine along with several seafood restaurants along the water’s edge such as Caribbean-themed, Conch House. After eating a nice meal, you can grab a drink at one of the “alleyway” pubs or stroll through a local artist’s gallery.

With the holidays around the corner, you can find lights strung downtown and window displays to get you in the holiday spirit. Throw in a horse buggy ride and you have the perfect date spot. If you have time to spend more than one day in St. Augustine, there is a great beach to visit that offers many water activities including kayaking, para-sailing and beach volleyball. They even offer an eco-tour that is the most educational environmental outing in St. Augustine and the surrounding areas.

For more information about what St. Augustine has to offer, you can visit http://staugustine.com Remember the next time you just need to get away and relieve the responsibilities you have in Jacksonville, think about taking a short drive down I-95 and visiting St. Augustine.
Republican Dark Horses Paul and Huckabee Sneaking Up in the Polls

Texas Congressman Ron Paul (Left) and former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee (Right) square off in a September debate as both candidates vie for the coveted Republican nomination.

Brian Strickland
Staff Writer

In a crowded field of Republican Presidential Candidates for 2008, many Republicans are having difficulty relating with top tier candidates like Giuliani, Romney, or Thompson. The conservative base of the Republican party that was energized in the latter part of the 20th Century by the so called “Moral Majority” movement, are feeling somewhat alienated by front-runner Giuliani’s moderate views on abortion and gay rights.

Romney, who moved to the right on social issues just prior to having announced his intention to run for the nomination, has the appearance of a flip flopper that reminds too many voters of the famed wind surfer John Kerry.

The perceived savior of the party’s base, Fred Thompson, has yet to awaken voters with his lackluster campaign appearances and debate tactics.

As a result, the Grand Ole Party faithful continue to await the triumphant black horse appearance of the Reagan conservative. After nearly every 2008 Republican debate, Ron Paul leads the post debate polls on performance.

Despite the inference that he is wooing voters by out performing the top tier candidates, a better explanation for these polls is the non-Republican voters watching the debates who find refuge in a candidate who bucks the system by supporting a surrender mentality on international conflicts.

While Paul is extremely out of touch with the Republican base on Iraq, he does play extremely well on economic issues. Over the past decade, Republicans, due mainly to issues of National Security, have been very amp to issue blank checks for the government.

The party sees a candidate like Giuliani as a safe choice who will win the Republican base on Iraq, Rudolph Giuliani appears early on to be the only candidate who can prevent the socially conservative regime from occupying the White House. Despite this, don’t prematurely count out the potential influence of Huckabee and Paul.

Giuliani may allow Huckabee to appease some of the base by adding him as Vice-President on the ticket.

Paul, on the other hand, has the potential to swing the entire election by picking up 2 percent of the popular vote in a northeastern battleground state while running as a third party candidate.

This excessive spending is concerning many in the party who fear the idea of passing such debt along to other generations. Most of these concerns, however, are trumped by concerns over National Security.

The base of the Republican Party believes that Paul’s non-intervention foreign policy will not work in a post-9/11 world. Mike Huckabee, on the other hand, has seen a recent surge in the national polls and is now running second in some Iowa primary polls.

As other low tier conservatives like Brownback drop out of the race, Huckabee will likely continue to see a slight rise in his polling numbers. But despite his recent surge, Huckabee does not appear to have the time or money to convince the Republican voter he is a legitimate candidate who can take on Hillary Clinton in the general election.

The Republican Party appears at to be at a crossroads. With candidates alienated over the conflict in Iraq, the base continues to be disappointed by the party’s lack of success in leading on issues such as immigration and government spending.

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Sympathy for the Law Student

ASHLEY DUBOSE
OPINIONS EDITOR

Q: What do you call 1,000 lawyers at the bottom of the ocean? A: A good start. But at least you would be there with your friends, right? I am not advocating study groups today (but they are a great idea!). Instead, I’m going to point out an obvious fact: We Are Not Alone...here at Coastal. Every student that walks through the doors is going through the same stress and anxiety that you are dealing with. And the truth is, the only people right now that can really understand what is going on are your fellow law students, or former students. Those not lucky enough to come from attorney parents or be in a relationship with another law student are probably nodding their heads right now. They love us, they really do, but they just cannot understand what is going on with our lives, because law school is such a unique experience.

How many other career paths start out on a C curve? How many other career paths beat professional responsibility into students’ heads while setting up a stifling atmosphere of competition, eavesiveness, and yes, even backstabbing? To be here, you have to focus and work, and make them happy. The worst part is that they mean well. They love you, after all. But you cannot just withdraw and ignore your family in favor of school. It might sound like a good idea every once in a while, but you will probably regret it later. So we just have to suck it up. Go home for the holidays if you can, if not, at least give them a phone call. And if you are married to a wonderful person who puts up with you when stress makes you moody, sick, sulen, silly, grumpy, dopey, sleepy, bashful, sneezy, or Doc, go home and give them a giant hug and make them happy. But when they get on your nerves, grab a Coastal friend and rant. It will make you feel better and they can relate, because they are living the law school life, too. They cannot understand the type of stress you are under, because they have never gone through it themselves. Law school is a world unto itself, and only its residents can really know what is going on. But when the family does not get it, they can bring on the guilt. You are tired, overstressed, and in desperate need of some down time. The big “F” word is lurking around the corner, so more stress is on the way. But what are families talking about right now? The holidays!

Are you coming home? When? How long are you staying? Are you cooking? What do you mean, studying? Everyone is coming, and they all want to see you...And on and on and on. Sigh. The worst part is that they mean well. They love you, after all. But you cannot just withdraw and ignore your family in favor of school. It might sound like a good idea every once in a while, but you will probably regret it later.

So we just have to suck it up. Go home for the holidays if you can, if not, at least give them a phone call. And if you are married to a wonderful person who puts up with you when stress makes you moody, sick, sulen, silly, grumpy, dopey, sleepy, bashful, sneezy, or Doc, go home and give them a giant hug and make them happy. But when they get on your nerves, grab a Coastal friend and rant. It will make you feel better and they can relate, because they are living the law school life, too.

Life from the Bottom, a 1L Perspective

By Jessica Lindblad

We all knew when we entered law school that it would be tough. But did you really comprehend just how difficult it would be? I thought I had, but now I know I had NO idea. I had heard all the horror stories too about the unrelenting stress and the difficulty of the classes. So basically I thought I was prepared. But now I know that law school is one of those situations in life where you just have to be there to completely understand what it is like. Although the semester is not over yet, I think we should all take the time to congratulate ourselves on making it this far. Surviving three months as a 1L has been anything but easy. And if your lives have been anything like mine, which I can bet they have been, then I can believe you are about as ready for a break as I am. Unfortunately, we still have one major obstacle to overcome before we are free for an ENTIRE month...final exams. And if midterms are any indication of how difficult final exams are going to be, then I think we are all in for two weeks of glorious stress and numerous days of non-stop studying. And that doesn’t include the month of preparation before final exams begin.

If there is one good thing that has come out of all of the hours spent on campus, it is the indescribable relationships I have developed with some people in my section. When I first came to FCSL I had heard all about the competition that arises within a section and so I had become prepared to duke it out for my grades. But after orientation week it became evident that there were a group of people who truly understand your stresses and anxiety. The 1Ls, 2Ls and 3Ls on this campus can relate to the importance of friendship because they have been through this experience alone and not do I want to. Friendship is important in all aspects of life, but I believe it is incredibly important in such a trying and stressful experience such as law school. During a time when a lot of people in your life can’t comprehend the pressure you are under, it is nice to look at someone familiar and say “I am so stressed” and have them completely understand. I guess it is comforting to know that there are 600 other people who completely understand your emotions because they are going through EXACTLY the same thing you are.

Although law school is the most difficult experience of my life, I would not trade it for anything. Because if I hadn’t of made the decision to attend FCSL then I wouldn’t know the amazing group of friends that I have met. My life would be a lot more boring without them in it. We all knew when we entered law school that it would be tough. But I don’t think that I would have been able to make it this far without them (Do you have a pen? Bugs Bunny and Wiley Coyote v. Roadrunner anyone? Sorry, I just had to...)

And although I am writing about my friends, I am sure every one of the 1Ls, 2Ls and 3Ls on this campus can relate to the importance of friendship in law school. I can’t imagine going through this experience alone and nor do I want to. Friendship is important in all aspects of life, but I believe it is incredibly important in such a trying and stressful experience such as law school. During a time when a lot of people in your life can’t comprehend the pressure you are under, it is nice to look at someone familiar and say “I am so stressed” and have them completely understand. I guess it is comforting to know that there are 600 other people who completely understand your emotions because they are going through EXACTLY the same thing you are.

Although law school is the most difficult experience of my life, I would not trade it for anything. Because if I hadn’t of made the decision to attend FCSL then I wouldn’t know the amazing group of friends that I have met. My life would be a lot more boring without them in it. P.S. To all 1Ls: Good luck on your open memo. P.S.S. To all FCSL Students: Good luck on your final exams. P.S.S.S. And to all 3Ls who are graduating this December...Congratulations! I am very jealous...
Some quick research by your lowly columnist shows that 10,761 users, or 22% of all users on Facebook have the Stephen Colbert for President application. In the 2003 California gubernatorial election, pornographic film actress Mary Carey ran 10th in a field of 135 candidates. (Don’t laugh, if she was at Coastal, she’d be on the Dean’s List).

Celebrities in American politics is not really a new thing. Although American Presidents tended to be celebrities by how many people they killed in a famous battle, not by how many books they sell. George Washington and the battle of Yorktown, make way for Barack Obama and the Audacity of Hope!

Actually, celebrities don’t perform as badly as you might think once they get into office. Arnold Schwarzenegger cruised to victory in his re-election as governor of California, and Jesse Ventura was a popular governor of Minnesota. Ronald Reagan was a former movie star and was twice elected as President. Here’s the kicker, almost every serious candidate running for President has some sort of governmental experience, whether its being a governor, senator or Vice President. If Barack Obama gets elected President, he’ll probably be the least “politically” experienced politician that America has seen since Dwight Eisenhower. And the only thing “Ike” ever did before he became President was win the greatest war the world has ever known.

So what does this have to do with you or me? Everything. Nothing’s fast enough damnit! We’re the generation amazed by a forty one second clip of a guy getting tasered while shotgunning a beer, or two turtles on our televisions telling us that our internet isn’t fast enough. Lets see a quick slideshow of random students on our LCD screens! I sure don’t know who they are or what they’re doing with Fred Thompson, but wow, that caught my attention! (Full Disclaimer: Your handsome/a author is apparently in one such slide) Wireless internet? Not fast enough! Lets install a better network at school! (Which makes you wonder what was clogging it in the first place—maybe a whole bunch of students were researching the fledging political careers of pornographic film starlets—or something.)

So what do we get? Candidates that speak in twenty second soundbytes. Looking for the next Federalist Papers? Get ready for a ten-page gloss unoriginally titled “Where I Stand”. Looking for a “Fireside Chat”? Be prepared to hear a scripted all-candidates debate where candidates are judged by how often they look at their watches or sigh loudly. Society’s given us everything we’ve wanted. All we need is a reality series titled “The Next President” or better yet “Celebrity President” and we’re all set.

What I’m trying to say is that America needs a leader that is intellectually able to re-connect America with its allies and multilateral institutions. Another Woodrow Wilson if you will. But that’s a story for another time. I just don’t have the patience to do it here.

Democratic In-Fighting Could Cause Primary Problems

COREY LEWIS
 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Last May, the Republican-controlled Florida Legislature passed a measure to make the date for the Florida Presidential primaries up to January 29. The rationale being that Florida deserves more influence in the Presidential nominating process. Florida can be looked to as a gauge of how the nation feels. It has a large sprawling population and has been a key battleground state since the 2000 election, where Florida tipped the election in favor of President Bush.

Problems have arisen for both parties with the primaries date being moved up. Both the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and Republican National Committee (RNC) are the ones who set up their party’s primary schedule. Both parties do not come to an agreement with those schedules, penalties will be imposed. The RNC will strip Florida of half its delegates, but that is the extent of the Republican’s problems.

The DNC will strip Florida of all its delegates that would have been sent to their convention, where the Presidential nominations are finalized. In essence, “Their primary won’t count,” said Chairman Howard Dean when talking about Florida’s early primary date.

In addition to Florida being stripped of its delegates, a major penalty that could be imposed by the DNC will be against the people of Florida. Most Democratic candidates have agreed to not campaign in states that do not follow the DNC’s primary schedule. If a Democratic Presidential candidate campaigns in Florida, they will lose any delegates that they could possibly win in the primary election.

Basically, the DNC is attempting to deny Florida of some much needed interaction between the Democratic Presidential Candidates and the people of Florida. It is possible that candidates who stay away from Florida could be awarded with some of Florida’s delegates. The Republican Party has not pressured their candidates to stay away from the state of Florida and it has paid off for them. Florida is being touted as a key primary state for candidates such as Rudy Giuliani. Rightnow Giuliani is leading in most national polls among the Republican field and leading in Florida polls. His campaign feels that if they are successful in Florida they will be making a major statement even if they do not finish first in Iowa or New Hampshire.

So if the Florida Primary is meaningless and candidates could be penalized for campaigning here, why should Democratic candidates care about Florida?

All candidates that are running for President have a serious about contending for the White House cannot disregard Florida. Republican candidates are campaigning hard in Florida and the Democrats need to keep up or it may cost them 27 key electoral votes. The campaign of Senator Hilary Clinton has vowed that they will campaign in Florida, no matter what happens. Most Democratic candidates will probably not campaign in Florida because they know the consequences of doing that.

Within this fight between the national and state wings of the Democratic Party, the Presidential candidates cannot afford to forget about the people of Florida. In an election year that favors the Democrats, a confusing battle over the scheduling of a primary does not bode well in the eyes of the voters.

Most Florida voters will not understand what is going on between the national and state parties, but what they will believe is they are being disregarded. Republicans have and will continue to use this advantage that the Democrats have created for them unless the DNC and Florida Democratic Party can get in sync.