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## The Loyola Reporter

Loyola Law School Los Angeles

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# Loyola Reporter

Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, California  
Volume 14, Number 5  
April 4, 1991

*Thought for the day:  
Three years and \$60,000  
later, graduation's  
just around the corner!*

## Confessions of a Libel & Slander Junkie

By Wendy Scholl

I'm a Libel and Slander Junkie. My involvement in Loyola's own "show of shows" began innocently enough; I was sure I'd be able to give it up any time. I kept telling myself this was not an addiction; this was merely an opportunity to participate in irreverent, sarcastic shenanigans, on a stage, with a captive audience. Little did I know that my need to slaughter the sacred cows of academia, to ridicule my favorite law school professors, to hammer away at the foundations of the very legal community of which I planned to become a member would become such an all-consuming obsession.

I told myself that last year's show, "The Phantom of the Law School," was just a fun little diversion. But it turned out to be so much more. People were singing, people were dancing, people having a great time. It mattered little to me that those people were all cast members. My addiction crystallized when a member of the audience came up to me afterwards and raved about the show. (Okay, truth be told he said, "Hey, you guys didn't suck." But you had only to read between the lines to know how much he really loved our fantastic production.) It was then I knew I was addicted; the roar of the greasepaint, the smell of the crowd (and after a few beers, trust me, the crowd roared and smelled), it all became a part of me.

I really tried to stay out of this year's show. As a matter of fact, several people desperately begged me to stay out of this year's show. But I just couldn't fight the burning desire to jeer, scorn and deride Loyola. How can I be expected to pass up the opportunity to belittle what has become my sole reason for living? Furthermore, at almost \$14K a year, it's least my sole reason

see *JUNKIE* page 2.

## New Dean on the Block

-----Special to the Loyola Reporter-----

The new Dean of Loyola Law School, Gerald T. McLaughlin, with his panda suit intact, expostulates his educational doctrine to our relentless reporter, JET.

*The Basic Facts: Dean McLaughlin graduated from NYU law school. He's taught at the law schools of Boalt, University of Connecticut, Fordham and Brooklyn. He worked in private practice for Cleary, Gottlieb, Stein and Hamilton. His specialty is commercial law, specifically letters of credit and Article 5.*

John E. Trommald: Are you related to John McLaughlin?

Dean McLaughlin: Who is John McLaughlin. I..., I have a brother named John McLaughlin.

JET: The talk show host of "The McLaughlin Group."

McLaughlin: Oh no no, not at all.

JET: What do you think of the color of the Cassassa Building?

McLaughlin: It's that sort of burnt Cinnamon color or Cinnamon color. I think its an unusual color, I must admit, but I think it does work. It works in the setting of the rest of the campus. On its own I'm not so sure.

JET: What do you think about the popular student movement to put a flagpole on campus?

McLaughlin: I haven't heard about it, but I have no objection. I assume you're going to fly the American Flag?

JET: I presume that's the idea.

McLaughlin: I assume that there is a flag somewhere on campus, isn't there?

JET: No.

JET: What do you think of the art around campus?

McLaughlin: Well, I quite like this particular painting (pointing

to a papier-mache skyline of Los Angeles). I think some of the other art is quite interesting. I must admit I'm not as much a fan of modern art as some others. I think it sits well on campus. I don't think more traditional art would sit as well. If you were to ask me in the abstract if I would prefer a Van Gogh to a more modern artwork, I would choose a Van Gogh.

JET: What are your thoughts on Loyola Law School getting President's day off?

McLaughlin: You mean Washington and Lincoln's Birthdays combined? In the abstract, I have no objections. I had no say in the making of the calendar for this year so it is an issue I haven't addressed.

JET: Do you feel like a mating Panda?

McLaughlin: I thought that was a cute way of stating that the expectations are always high, but sometimes no one can live up to those expectations.

JET: Do you think you're living up to those expectations?

McLaughlin: I'm doing my best I don't know what the expectations were, but I'm working hard to try to do what I think is the best job for the school. I'm trying to make the administration responsive to student needs. I'm open to hear any ideas from students.

JET: What are your future goals for the school?

McLaughlin: Well, I would like to make this one of the strongest academic institutions in California and in the country. I think that is an attainable goal.

see *DEAN* page 2.

## Exercise Equipment at Loyola Law Progress: The administration responds to "Students Exercise Their Right," a Loyola Reporter article (Feb-Mar 1991) demanding such concessions.

By Barbara Rostholder Saltzman

The Loyola Law School Administration unveiled a plan to place exercise equipment on the first floor of the Burns Building. The equipment, including stationary exercise bicycles, should be installed by April 30. The timing provides a perfect opportunity to boost one's cerebral circulation in time for spring exams!



## The Loyola Reporter

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# The Cost of Unbridled Sensitivity

By John Trommald, Editorial Board Member

We at Loyola are taking part in the phenomenon of institutional sensitivity. The movement on this campus is exemplified by the formation of the "Committee on the Community." This group has two functions. First, it delivers a somniferous and dogmatic two hour lecture to a captive audience of first year students. (Clearly an insensitive act on their part.) Second, it maintains a ledger to which members of the law school community can report a fellow member for being insensitive. Disciplinary action is then promptly meted out.

This in-house policing has created a disturbing effect in many of our classes. In two of my classes last year professors were accused by students for being insensitive. In the first case, the professor was accused of being a male chauvinist, racist and anti-semitic. The charge was made by a few students (out of a lecture hall size class), who sent an anonymous letter to the professor and the appropriate authorities. The class period following receipt of the letter was spent by the professor trying to figure out why these charges were made. The professor and the vast majority of the students (including me), did not agree with or even know what had precipitated the charges. After about fifteen minutes of heartfelt searching, an apparent author of the letter made clear the charge stemmed from a statement made during our discussion on undue influence. On that day, the class discussed the case of Pear. Choate and Otis Birch, a 95-year-old man with an estimated estate of \$200,000,000. In the case, Mr. Birch hired Pearl as a nurse, who then drove him to Oklahoma and married him by a justice of the peace. The newly weds disappeared to a trailer park in Texas where Mr. Birch soon died. See Dukeminier, Wills, Trusts and Estates 4th Ed. (1990), "A Pearl of Great Price" pp. 164-67.

The same day the class discussed Hoffman v. Kohns, 385 So. 2d 1064 (Fla. App. 1980). In Hoffman Mr. Kohns, 84-years-old, childless, suffering from cerebral arteriosclerosis and senility hired a housekeeper who married him two weeks later.

The professor's alleged

insensitivity occurred when he made a statement concerning the allegations of undue influence when, "a young gigolo marries an old widow or a bimbo marries a doddering tycoon." The objection came when he used the word "bimbo." After considering the context, most students became angry at the misdirected charge and its ensuing disruption.

Interestingly, no one could think of an occasion when the professor said something racist or anti-semitic, apparently those charges were just thrown in for good measure.

My other professor charged with insensitivity has worked as a Los Angeles County Public Defender for the last eight years. I suspect he was a little surprised when a student reported him as a racist. When I learned of the charge I either had to laugh or cry. I chose the former.

Ironically, I suspect both of these professors are lifelong civil libertarians with previously unblemished credentials. Several of my colleagues have told me similar stories of students charging their professors with insensitivity. Mostly, these claims involve a professor who hasn't kept up with the politically correct argot (e.g. saying "mongoloid" instead of "down-syndrome child," "Mexican" instead of "Chicano/Latino" or "black" instead of "African-American"). This new-found authority is pretty heady stuff for a tiny faction of hyper-sensitive students. They impertinently brand the subtlest comment or nuance "insensitive" thus not fit for classroom discussion. Sadly, I suspect most of these professors, who excel in their profession, will teach differently. I suppose some might consider this prospect a victory, but for the students, the institution's integrity and the learning process, it is a defeat.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Dean G. T. McLaughlin

We've moved tremendously in that direction in the last decade and I hope the progress continues. I would like to see the school move more internationally. My own particular interests lie a little in the Pacific Rim, many of the faculty also have interests there and in Latin America. I think this is the correct way to go to involve the school in the shrinking world. I would like international law to be not just a subject but a curriculum.

The continuing legal education which becomes the obligation of attorneys next year is an area I would like to see Loyola move into. To provide high level course offerings to our own alumni and to the Bar in general. This will increase the reputation of the law school with the practicing Bar.

JET: Is the fact that Loyola has such a large student body going to make it difficult to increase its academic prestige?

McLaughlin: I don't think big is necessarily bad. I see no problem with a student body of 1300 as opposed to 500. With 1300 I have 2600 hands to help me.

JET: Can you fill us in on the parking situation, are there any new developments?

McLaughlin: Well, the problem is still being studied but we should be close to a decision this summer. We have plans for a new structure to be built in the old one's place, but this is something we don't really want to do unless we have to.

Dean Cooney: if we have to tear the old structure down and build a new one then that would be a good year to skip school.

McLaughlin: We are unable to build on top of the current structure, add new levels, but we might do something with the

empty lot next to the structure on Albany Street. Also, we could renew our parking contract with the building on Union Street or we could buy parking spots in other nearby buildings. This is a major decision and a lot of planning must go into it. Like I said we'll know more about our parking options this summer.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Junkie for Libel & Slander

for working, and in holding that ominous position I feel it is well open to ridicule.

Now, as I walk around the school and see the advertisements for Libel & Slander's "A Lawyer's Line" I can hardly wait for April 6, 1991 at 8:00pm when the curtain will rise at the Wilshire Ebel Theater and once again I will have the opportunity to make a fool of myself in front of my peers. I justify indulging in my addiction by balancing its evils against the benefits our "Not Ready for the Bar" players provide to this law school community. For only six dollars (eight at the door), law students (and anyone else who enjoys a good time) can experience comedy, drama, poignant introspection, and (most importantly) free food and beer. (For maximum enjoyment of the show we of Libel & Slander recommend getting to the theater at 7:30 when you'll have the opportunity to load up on free food and beer.)

Oh, I know I should give it up. I hear the concerned comments mumbled behind my back like, "Gee, she should really get a life." and "It is so sad that one so utterly without talent should spend so much time on this show." Someday I'll be able to turn my back to this show and go on with my life, but I'll always look back with fond memories of Libel & Slander, the show that made my 3 years at Loyola memorable.



-Comic credit, L. Reeks.

# COMICS

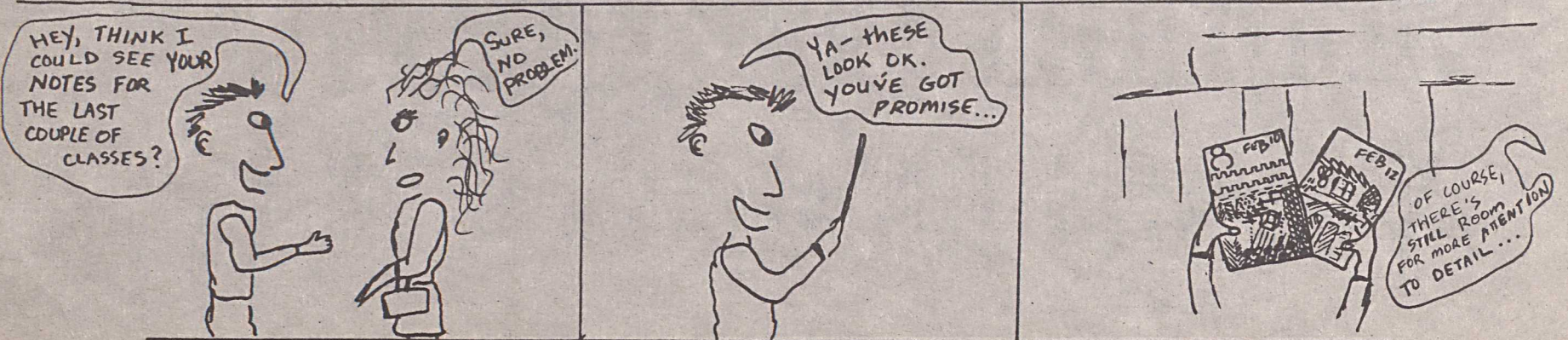
For the Bar:

Illustration by L. Reeks

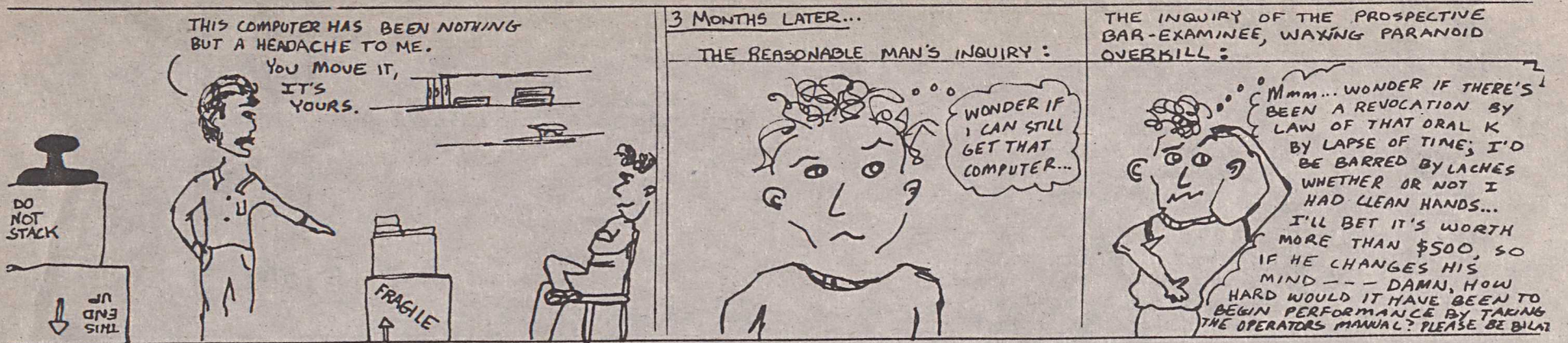
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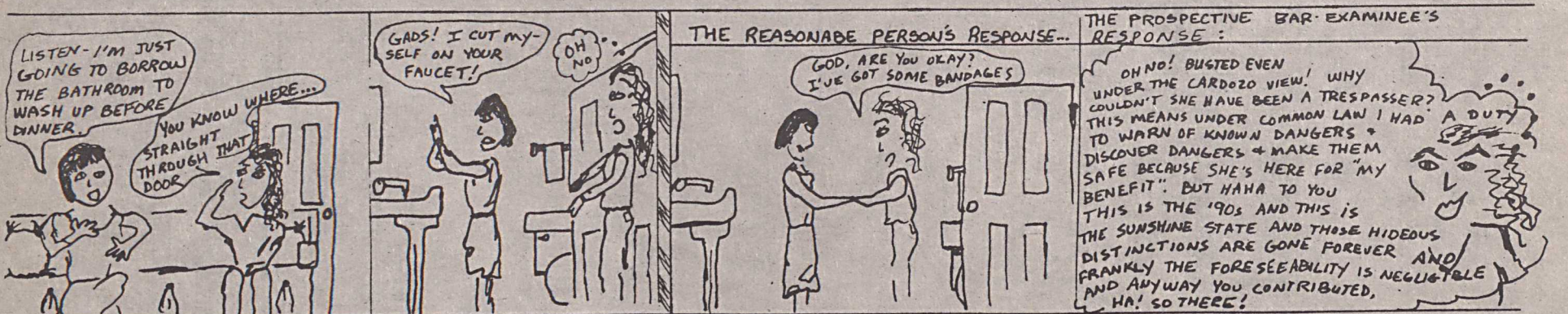
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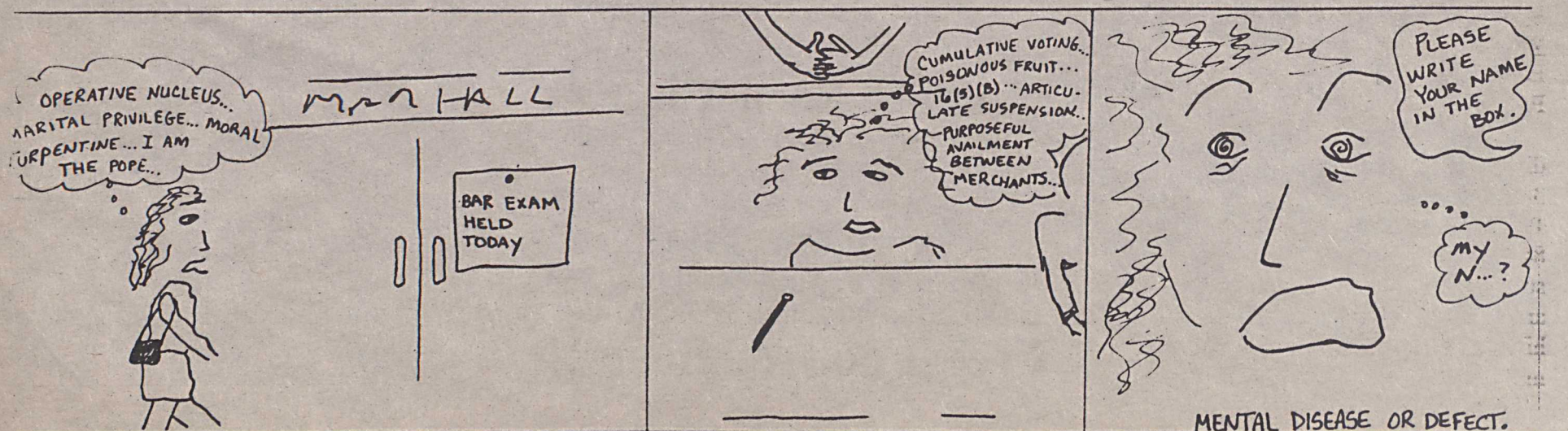
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## Prepared: part II



## The Importance of Mettle

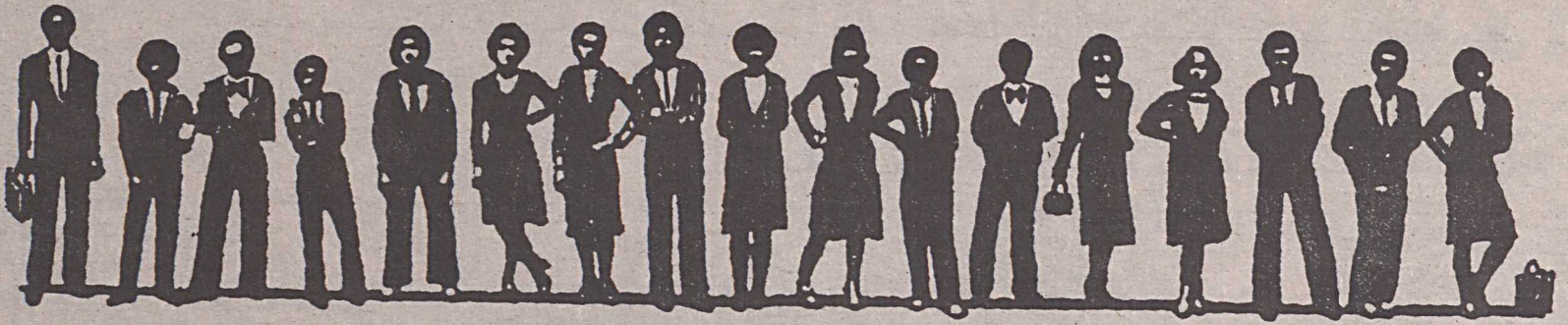


MENTAL DISEASE OR DEFECT.

**PMBR**  
presents  
Loyola Law School's

# Libel & Slander '91:

## A LAWYER'S LINE



## A LAWYER'S LINE

PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY  
Larry Zerner

MUSICAL DIRECTOR  
Tal Finney

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS  
Patrick Sullivan Wendy Scholl

WRITTEN BY:  
Samantha Blake Barry Bookbinder  
Lori Davis Tal Finney  
John Hammond Marcy Lyon  
Ken Markman Wendy Scholl  
Patrick Sullivan Lisa Washington  
Larry Zerner

PERFORMERS  
(The Not Yet Ready For The Bar Players)  
Kathryn Atkins Barry Bookbinder  
Samantha Blake Robin Carter  
Tal Finney Cynthia Floyd  
John Hammond James P. Hart, Jr.  
Mary Jenkins Julie Kaufer  
Patricia Laiacona Julie Longjohn  
Ken Markman Ann Sato  
Libby Schaaf Wendy Scholl  
Sue Shapiro Jennifer Smith  
Julie Stanton Fred Stern  
Patrick Sullivan Peter Veregge  
Lisa Washington Larry Zerner

FLY KIDS  
Harold "Jink" Duffie  
Stanley "Frankie D." Duffie  
Earl "Okie Doke" Duffie  
Jameelah Booker  
Trisha Jenkins  
Kari Jenkins

CHOREOGRAPHY  
Libby Schaaf Mary Jenkins

MUSICIANS  
Dave Blau..... Drums, Vocals  
Ann Byun..... Piano, Accompaniment  
Cathy Cavella..... Cello  
Dan Hanlon..... Guitar  
Mike Mattern..... Bass, Vocals  
Steve Mattern..... Keyboards  
Steve Weinberg..... Guitar

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR  
Bill Breidenbach

CREW  
Paul Gerst Ed Valachovic  
Leigh Kirmsse

SPECIAL THANKS TO:  
PMBR  
Daniel DeSario  
Sue Shapiro  
Cathy Cavella  
Jeff Chean  
The Loyola Reporter

## A LAWYER'S LINE

**Wilshire Ebell Theatre**

4401 W. 8th St. (3 Blocks West of Crenshaw)  
Los Angeles, CA

**April 6th, 1991**

7:30 pm: Subs & Suds; 8:00 pm: Show  
Tickets: \$6.00 in advance, \$8.00 At the Door

**Free Food & Beer!!!**