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The Loyola Reporter

The Loyola Law School Student Newspaper
Volume 19, Number 9; May 15, 1996
919 S. Albany St., Los Angeles, California 90015

"Freedom of expression is the matrix, the indispensable condition, of nearly every other form of freedom."

Justice Benjamin Nathan Cardozo
Palko v. Connecticut, 302 U.S. 319, 327 (1937)

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF '96

WORDS FROM THE UNWISE DAVID PAUL BLEISTEIN '96

Rejoice! You're graduating.

You have a lot to rejoice about. You're entering one of the biggest markets for legal skills in the world. Everyone loves to complain about L.A.'s economy, but we're the envy of much of the rest of the U.S. People are still coming here, from all over the world. Many will need legal help.

There were a lot of things about law school I found unpleasant, especially the way we all learn to - ize: categorize, intellectualize, criticize, nominalize, marginalize, conceptualize until your brain nearly fries. The way we internalize habits that in other contexts might seem insane, like staying awake all night after working all day.

Nevertheless, I've found ways to salvage joy from all of this, and I'll share them with you. Some I've learned from professors, but most I've learned from other students. If you exercise at least a few of the below, I think you'll make the most of your legal education.

WORK IN SCHOOL AS MUCH AS YOU CAN. Get a job, any job. Unless you're on academic probation and the school forbids it, work. 9 out of 10 people I've talked to who've worked agree with me. Get a legal job if you can, a non-legal job while you keep looking for a legal job. Working will give you both the confidence and caution an attorney has to have. You'll gain confidence by tackling problems and getting them right. You'll gain caution by making mistakes, including some crashingly dumb ones.

You'll keep your wallet lined by your own initiative, and that always feels good. You'll meet people who can help you later, either by hiring you permanently or being a good reference for someone who can.

Jobs also keep your head out of the academic sand by forcing you to confront the realities of your actions - - and your clients' - - every working day. When a client's estranged husband is beating down her door, or another client's estranged wife has run off with the mailman - - and the joint bank account - - you're reminded how ridiculous and academic all the rules sometimes are. What's interesting about working in most private practice situations is that you get to see how often the law is irrelevant. I've dealt with many cases where the clients had good arguments, but where their payoff was too small to make it worth the bother. Once in a great while, you have someone who cares less about the money than about justice. Clients like that are rare, but they enrich us by setting a framework for institutionalizing what's right for the rest of us.

I've learned a lot from my job in a small law firm. I've re-learned my old work ethic. I've learned how to do pleadings fast, and research faster; I've learned how to do a lot of different stuff at once without ending up in a padded cell. I've even learned a few good Jewish jokes. Best of all, I've learned that you can be a lawyer and have a life; you can enjoy yourself when you're not making arguments. I've been lucky. But I was unlucky in a previous job and I decided to do the following:

DON'T JUST ACQUIRE TO MISERY. This is truly hard, especially as a lawyer. You take on paying clients who are scum, and you allow them to escape the consequences of their scumminess, and you hate yourself for it. Or, your firm may specialize in vexatious litigation, and you spend a lot of your time dealing with that.

"UNWISE," page 6

GRENDDEL GRADUATES R.J. COMER '96

Some clever developer with a knack for bilingual euphemism named the trailer park I lived in during high school "Villa del Arroyo" because it butted up against an arroyo and its flood plain. I didn't speak much Spanish, but it didn't take a genius to figure out on the first day of hard rain that the translated name of the trailer park was something like "Village by the Slough." I lived there with my mother, whom I resented for being weak, and I wreaked havoc on the "nice" high school I commuted to because I found their middle-class, hypocritical suburban sensibilities intolerably unimaginative. So I stole their cars, fucked their women, and beat-up their heroes and bullies. For a while, it was a glorious, Grendel-esque existence.

The vice principal and the local police finally caught up to me about midway through my Junior year and gave me an ultimatum: join the choir and stay out of trouble or finish high school at the California Youth Authority. Somehow they discovered that I had a rich baritone and could read music - - leftover talents from a minimally successful stint in musical theater when I was too young to know how uncool it was.

I took the deal. My father died a couple of years prior and Mom was barely holding it together. Being shipped off to kiddy prison would have done her in for sure, so what choice did I have?

Gene Trerise, the guy who ran the vocal music department, was one of those quiet, gentle, grounded Christian types who somehow managed to never take shit off people - - including me. Of course I resisted this alternative sentencing approach, but Trerise would've made a good warden. He had me cleaning

the choir room, distributing and collecting robes, conducting the chamber chorale, tutoring the young singers in sightreading, and composing original choral music for the Spring concerts. If I balked, he threatened to fail me, which was a nonstop flight to CYA camp. So I stayed out of trouble because I was too busy and too well-supervised to get into trouble. On the upside, there was plenty of female fodder for a tempestuous, violent, would-be felon who happened to sing like an Archangel. At least I wasn't lonely.

It sounds cliché, but Gene Trerise probably deserves as much credit for saving my life as my boxing coach does; sometimes I still wonder if they were working together behind my back. Unfortunately, I lost track of Trerise when he retired from teaching. But that's not to say that after graduating from high school my life was on the straight and narrow - - not by a long shot. The really bad times were yet to come, narcotic nights smeared with rage and despair, too often the taste of gunmetal on my tongue. Somehow I survived those demons and made it through undergrad, a couple years working, and then law school.

One morning at my big, downtown law firm gig last Summer, I was sitting in my office reading the Daily Journal and occasionally looking out my thirty-eighth floor window. And I privately rejoiced - - not over the killer paycheck and cool digs, but over having made it this far. I knew I wasn't unique; some people at school have overcome as bad or worse than me, but that just means I could relate to them and they could relate to me. This joy is separate from that, it's the

"GRENDDEL" page 6

BAR/BRI TAKES ON WEST/BARPASSERS CHALLENGE

*** Recently West/Barpassers has published numerous flyers challenging the BAR/BRI passage rates by stating that you should only trust a passage rate that has been independently verified by an accounting firm. BAR/BRI did just that with the Summer '95 passage rates and the results are in!! Now the question is where are Barpassers' results from the Summer '95 bar exam???

TOOK PASSED %PASS

Total Loyola first time takers, as published by the CA Bar Association	319	266	83.39%
<u>LOYOLA BAR/BRI</u> prepared candidates	240	204	85.00%
Non-BAR/BRI prepared candidates, by deduction	79	62	78.48%

*Statistics independently verified by John P. Wales, C.P.A.

you picked 'em THE MOST LIKELY TO:

MOST LIKELY TO SMELL THE ROSES, PICK THEM, AND GET STABBED BY THEIR THORNS

Kristin Walker

MOST LIKELY TO MARRY MONEY

Alan Kholos

MOST LIKELY TO START HIS OWN CULT

David Ackerly

MOST LIKELY TO MARRY MONEY AND STILL BE UNHAPPY

Katie Martin

MOST LIKELY TO WRITE AN ANTHOLOGY OF LURID LEGAL POETRY

R.J. Comer

MOST LIKELY TO BE A GUEST ON THE "MONTELL WILLIAMS SHOW"

Curtis Woo

MOST LIKELY TO BECOME ONE OF THOSE OBNOXIOUS RADIO PERSONALITIES WHO SCREAM OBSCENITIES AND WEAR JEANS WITH THE KNEES TORN OUT

Melissa Marsh

MOST LIKELY TO DEVELOP AN UNHEALTHY OBSESSION WITH CHIEF JUSTICE WILLIAM ["MR. BILL"] REHNQUIST

Vince Farhat
Eric Kingsley

MOST LIKELY TO BECOME ONE OF THOSE SENIOR PARTNERS WHO LOOKS AT YOUNG ASSOCIATES OVER THEIR HALF-GLASSES

Mark Wisenthal

MOST LIKELY TO SEEK A MUSICAL CAREER

Mike Mehal
Jim McCoy

MOST LIKELY TO SEEK BUT NOT FIND A MUSICAL CAREER

Mike Mehal

MOST LIKELY TO BECOME ONE OF THOSE ANNOYING ADJUNCT PROFESSORS WHO SET TIGHT-ASSED DEADLINES BUT ALWAYS KEEP MISSING CLASS

Aimee Belissimo

MOST LIKELY TO BECOME A DOCTOR

Vince Farhat

MOST LIKELY TO BE FEATURED IN "GEORGE" MAGAZINE

Howard Stisky
Vince Farhat

MOST LIKELY TO PARTY NAKED AND LATER TRY TO DENY IT

Greg Townsend

MOST LIKELY TO RIDE A HARLEY WHEN THEY'RE NINETY

R.J. Comer

MOST LIKELY TO BUY A VAN WITH A WATERBED IN IT

John Harrington

MOST LIKELY TO BORE THEIR GRAND-KIDS WITH TALES OF LIFE ON LAW REVIEW

Mark Wisenthal

MOST LIKELY TO GET A RULE 11 SANCTION WITHIN THE FIRST YEAR OF PRACTICE

John Harrington
Brian Fitzgerald

MOST LIKELY TO MARRY A RICH PERSIAN DUDE AND LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER

Sandra Khalili

MOST/LEAST LIKELY TO JUMP OUT OF A CAKE

Stephanie Sharp
April Walters
Miriam Schimmel

MOST/LEAST LIKELY TO CHUCK THEIR LEGAL CAREER AND BECOME A STAND UP COMEDIAN

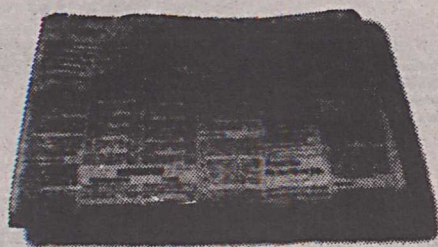
Matt Rojas

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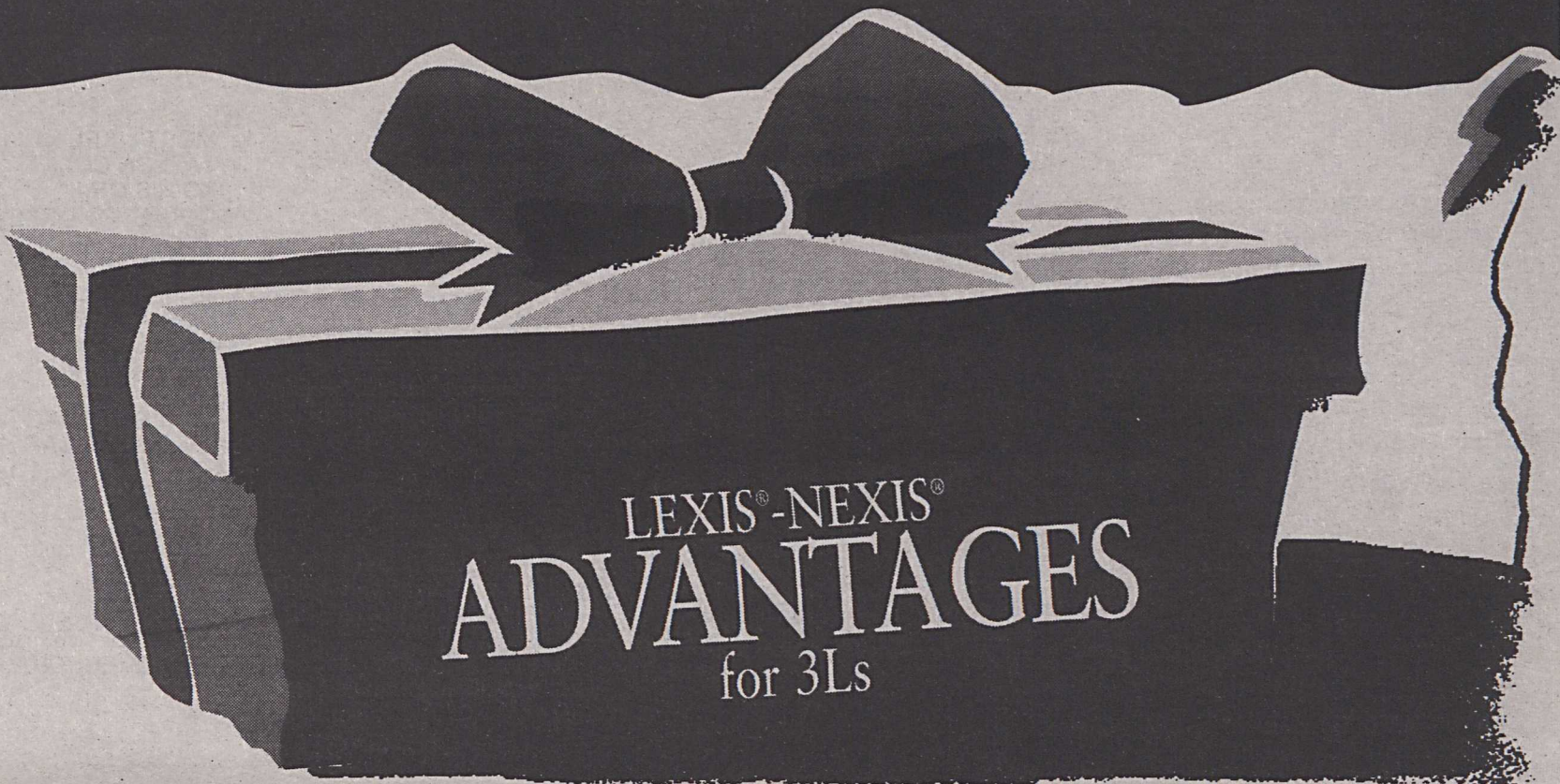
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MOST LIKELY TO:

Brian Fitzgerald April Walters	John Harrington	Melissa March	INSTEAD Paul Philips
MOST LIKELY TO DATE HIS STUDENTS Brian Fitzgerald	MOST LIKELY TO WIN AN AMATEUR NIGHT CONTEST WITH THEIR IMPERSONATION OF _____	MOST LIKELY TO START A BAR REVIEW COURSE Dave Garcia	MOST LIKELY TO WEAR A PAIR OF FUNDIES TO COURT Steve Garrett
MOST LIKELY TO FIGHT FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE OPPRESSED Meredith Brown Jordan McCollum David Ackery	[Tony Montana, "Scarface"] Steve Espinoza	MOST LIKELY TO ENJOY CAFETERIA FOOD Dmitri Tsimberg	MOST LIKELY TO INCLUDE "KEGFEST" AS PART OF A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT Jeff Roger
MOST LIKELY TO FIGHT FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE OBSESSED David Ackery	MOST LIKELY TO DISCOVER VICTORIA'S SECRET Matt Kaplan	MOST LIKELY TO TRY TO BUST OPEN WHITEWATERGATE Vince Farhat	MOST LIKELY TO RUN OVER A JUDGE ON HIS WAY TO COURT David Bleistein Lewis Adelson
MOST LIKELY TO ASCEND TO THE SUPREME COURT Aimee Belissimo	MOST LIKELY TO PIONEER THE TORT OF WRONGFUL SPECULATION Lou Cutrone	MOST LIKELY TO THINK OF THEIR TIME AT LLS AS THE BEST YEARS OF THEIR LIVES Alicia Curren	MOST LIKELY TO WEAR CHUCK TAYLOR CONVERSE ALL-STARS TO HIS OR HER SUPREME COURT CONFIRMATION HEARING David Paul Bleistein
MOST LIKELY TO GO INTO SOLO PRACTICE BECAUSE HE/SHE COULD COME TO THE OFFICE NAKED John Harrington	MOST LIKELY TO BECOME A MODEL Lou Cutrone	MOST LIKELY TO BECOME A DICTATOR IN A THIRD WORLD NATION Alex Torres -- Cuba	MOST LIKELY TO OWN A CHAIN OF RETAIL CLOTHING STORES De De Miller
MOST LIKELY TO GET KICKED IN THE [RUMP] BY A SUPREME COURT JUSTICE (WHICH ONE?) Jordan McCollum [Scalia] David Paul Bleistein [Scalia or Rehnquist] Brian Fitzgerald	MOST LIKELY TO MARRY A MODEL Paul Philips	MOST LIKELY TO GET A JOB None of us! Dawn Goldstein	MOST LIKELY TO SAVE BARNEY'S FROM BANKRUPTCY Susan Jung
MOST LIKELY TO WRITE A RESTATEMENT OF [Feminist jurisprudence] Crystal Brown]	MOST LIKELY TO BOLDLY GO WHERE NO ONE HAS GONE BEFORE John Horn	MOST LIKELY TO BECOME A SENATOR AND BOUNCE CHECKS Greg Townsend	MOST LIKELY TO PIONEER A NEW CAUSE OF ACTION SUCH AS "BAD TABLE MANNERS" Cyndi Barnes
MOST LIKELY TO CREATE TORTIOUS ARCHITECTURE LIKE CRAZY FRANK Bruce Erlich	MOST LIKELY TO WORK FOR A LIVING Daniel Boyle	MOST LIKELY TO KEEP THEIR BOOKS FROM LAW SCHOOL Mia Thompson	MOST LIKELY TO GO TO COURT WITH HIS DRESS SHIRT OPEN AND CHEST HAIR HANGING OUT Raffi Shanian Ammar Kubba
MOST LIKELY TO SIP A BOTTLE OF FRANGELICO AND EAT A DOZEN BISCOTTI BEFORE AN EXAM AND GET AN "A" ANYWAY Melissa Marsh	MOST LIKELY TO SWALLOW LIVE GOLDFISH Jan Harrington	MOST LIKELY TO SAVE THEIR OUTLINES FOR THEIR KIDS Shawn Dibby	MOST LIKELY TO NOT STOP SMOKING AND DRINKING EVEN WHILE IN COURT Allison Vose
MOST LIKELY TO BECOME A WORLD CHAMPION BUNGEE JUMPER Shawn Clark	MOST LIKELY TO TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN Randy Mendelson	MOST LIKELY TO SKATEBOARD TO WORK Scott Pregerson	
MOST LIKELY TO HAVE THEIR LIFE PORTRAYED ON "LIFESTYLES OF THE RICH AND FAMOUS" Raffi Shaliman	MOST LIKELY TO MISS THE FOREST BY FOCUSING ON THE TREES Ted Waldman	MOST LIKELY TO REQUEST THAT THEIR BODY BE DELIVERED LATE TO THEIR OWN FUNERAL Veronica Toole	
MOST LIKELY TO LOSE IT ALL IN VEGAS Raffi Shaliman	MOST LIKELY TO HAVE THE WINNING LOTTERY TICKET AND LOSE IT Mark Wiesenthal	MOST LIKELY TO REQUEST VEGIMITE AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO LEGAL SERVICES Veronica Toole	
MOST LIKELY TO HAVE THEIR LIFE PORTRAYED ON "AMERICA'S MOST WANTED" Adam Ross	MOST LIKELY TO DEAL CARDS IN VEGAS Allison Vose	MOST LIKELY TO BE IN ADAMS FAMILY III Nadia Davis	
MOST LIKELY TO SORELY TEST THE BOUNDS OF FREE SPEECH Linda West	MOST LIKELY TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND LOSE Curtis Woo	MOST LIKELY TO BE UNINTENTIONALLY LATE FOR THEIR OWN FUNERAL Priscilla Peralta	
MOST LIKELY TO GET STONED BY AN ANGRY MOB	MOST LIKELY TO DEFEND THE MEDELLIN DRUG CARTEL Heather McConnell	MOST LIKELY TO OWN A NICE CAR AND NEVER DRIVE IT Bobby Beneviste	
	MOST LIKELY TO MARRY THEIR SECRETARY Justin Walcott	MOST LIKELY TO IMPOSE A "PREPPY" REQUIREMENT ON HIS CLIENTS Robert Lazar	
	MOST LIKELY TO TAKE OVER THEIR PARENTS' BUSINESS	MOST LIKELY TO NOT PRACTICE LAW AND JOIN BARBIZON	

"UNWISE" from 1

If you find yourself in a situation where you hate the people you work for, plan to leave. But, plan, then leave. You're parachute will work better if you're flying high, than if you're on the verge of crashing.

If you aren't working, **INTERVIEW.** OCI is a waste of time for most of us; it's really a cattle-call disguised as interviewing. Most LLS grads don't get positions that way; they find them on their own. They hunt them down the way Indiana Jones found the Lost Ark; by patience, perseverance, chasing the odd long-shot, and a general refusal to sell themselves short.

Even if your grades are lousy, you can still get a job in law school. **Make yourself do it.** Do a resume, and aim where your strengths are. Everyone here has strengths somewhere. Tell employers about them. Keep your hair neat, your interview suit clean, and [where appropriate] your beard or mustache trimmed. *Then, just interview.* If you must, at first, interview for the sake of interviewing; you'll get used to the process. Then you'll be able to adopt that confident but not cocky attitude that'll get you a job.

DO NON-ACADEMIC THINGS. Lawyers do lots of stuff; they schmooze, lobby, persuade, dissuade, scream, whisper, make deals, run for things, run things, scheme and dream. They also write and study; the point is, don't be a study gnome. Participate in things. Go to SBA meetings [even if all you do is heckle]; take part in Libel & Slander; write on to a

journal; do moot court; start your own group; participate in the school's student newspaper; take a seminar on something that interests you because and only because it interests you. But stop whining, or better, don't start.

DON'T BECOME GRADE-OBSSESSED. I suppose it's reasonable to worry about your GPA if you're either defending your # 1 class rank, or fighting to avoid academic expulsion. Notice that I didn't say, "don't care" about your academic record. Just don't abandon your spouse, job or life in general for that extra point. For the overwhelming majority of us, it isn't worth it.

OPEN YOUR MAIL. This sounds really stupid. But I heard, with my own ears, just how reluctant some people are to open mail. "I don't have the time" they say. Nonsense. The average lawyer gets about forty pieces of mail a day. Some of items are junk; others are notice of pleadings and the Statute of Limitations is running now! Some of it's even checks from clients. The only way to know for sure is to open it.

TAKE TIME OFF. Recharging your batteries as a human being will enhance your academic performance. Happy people almost always perform better. And who knows, you may bump into your next employer on the ski slopes.

Goodbye, and take care.

"GRENDL" from 1

immense joy one feels when squeezing out the sunlit end of that narrow tunnel called self-improvement.

So I was sitting there and I hear this vaguely familiar voice.

"Is this Robert Comer on the nameplate the same Robert Comer who used to sing in my high school choir?"

My stomach constricted with the time-warp G-forces of seeing Gene Trerise standing in the doorway of my office. He was wearing one of the teal t-shirts all the guys who cared for our office plants wore, and I wondered if that's what happens to teachers who retire. Then came smiles and hugs and various exclamations on the diminutive nature of the world. It turned out Trerise had started the plant and landscape company and had the contract to service the plants at the law firm.

Trerise and I spent some time catching up and he promised not to tell the partners about my car-thieving, ass-kicking, hole-chasing past. And then I realized that his appearance symbolized an Aristotelian unity, that his re-emergence may have been coincidence, but a coincidence thick with meaning and messages about the rightness of path and perseverance.

I realized that there is no such thing as a self-made man (or woman). If someone tells you, "I did it all myself; no one helped me get where I am," turn away. You are dealing with a person who is ungratefully blind or demented with delusions of grandeur. I have never met a self-made person. There are people helping all of us get where

we're going, some grandly, some subtly. Anyone with an ounce of soul acknowledges this. Whether it's Gene Trerise or the D.C. fruit vendor two Summers ago who fronted me a couple of bananas each morning when I was hungry and too poor to buy, this Grendel-esque former felon is grateful. I want to go on record as admitting that I didn't get here by myself.

Now, sixteen years after I took that fateful deal, I have just finished my last regular class session in law school and, if I pay my library fines, I will graduate. Mom made it back into the world long ago by joining the Defense Department, becoming an unlikely cog in the top secret wheels of national defense. She even graduated from college, earning her Bachelors from the University of Arizona when she was sixty-five years old.

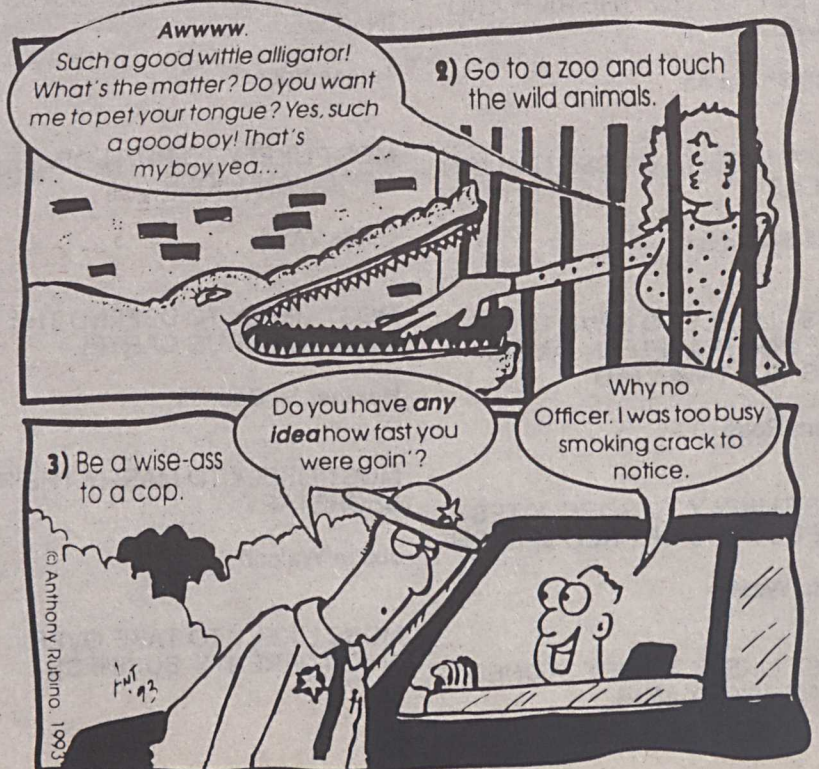
Grendel still thrives in my soul, and occasionally rears his fanged head when confronted or provoked, but Grendel has followed a path away from the slaughter and tedium. On this path, Grendel found love, a future, and a modicum of peace. The trail is littered with the corpses of demons and the unfortunate, but still standing are all those people who kicked his ass, encouraged him, befriended him, loved him, and supported him. He thanks you; he lifts a clawed hand to the ashen sky and waves farewell.

Wild Kingdom

By Anthony Rubino, Jr.

"Misfortunes, when asleep, are not to be awakened."—English Proverb

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July 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20/21, 22, 23

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