



VIRGINIA LAW WEEKLY

2017, 2018, & 2019 ABA Law Student Division Best Newspaper Award-Winner

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Wednesday, 8 April 2020

The Newspaper of the University of Virginia School of Law Since 1948

Volume 72, Number 23

Joint Statement from Dean Goluboff and Skardon '22

On Monday, April 6, at 9:09 p.m., Dean Risa Goluboff and Frannie Skardon '22 released a joint statement to the Law Weekly in response to our request for further comment from the dean regarding Michael Berdan '22's article recapping the Coffee with the Dean event. At this event, students had vigorously discussed the controversy surrounding Ms. Skardon's appeal to remain a full-time student. The joint statement is reproduced below without edits. The Law Weekly does not necessarily endorse the content or viewpoint herein published.

Statement begins:

We are reaching out jointly to express how glad we both are that Frannie's situation came to a positive resolution and to share some thoughts about the future.

We have both expressed separately but want to emphasize here together the invaluable contributions service members make to our community both at the Law School and beyond, and honor the sacrifices they make every day to protect our safety, health and freedom. They will always have a home at UVA Law.

The two of us have had productive conversations about how the Law School can improve the administration of its policies in situations similar to Frannie's. In so many ways, we are in unprecedented times—times that our policies did not contemplate. ABA standards require the Law School to develop and adhere to its policies, including how best to do that as our learning environment has changed.

Going forward, we are both committed to improving the Law School's process for implementing academic policies and finding ways to communicate policies in a manner that empowers students and increases transparency. We are eager to work with other students to hear their experiences and feedback.

Dean Goluboff has asked Vice Dean Kendrick to work with the Student Bar Association on gathering student views to make recommendations to the curriculum and academic review committees, both of which include student representatives. Together, we hope this collaboration will improve the implementation of the Law School's academic policies, maintain the high standards of a UVA Law education, increase our understanding of the hardships military students face, and safeguard the interests and welfare of our students.

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Dean Goluboff Hosts Coffee Chat in Wake of Controversy



Dean Risa Goluboff and Dean Kevin Donavon respond to student frustrations and concerns over recent controversy and the effect of COVID-19 on the economy. Photos Courtesy of law.virginia.edu

Michael Berdan '22
Staff Editor

On Friday, Dean Risa Goluboff hosted a school-wide "Coffee Break" on Zoom. After prefatory remarks, Dean Goluboff opened the floor to student questions.

A number of questions centered on the administrative withdrawal of Frannie Skardon '22, and her subsequent appeal. Skardon's National Guard unit was activated March 17 to respond to COVID-19. Skardon notified the administration of her change in status, indicating that the National Guard is accommodating her educational obligations by providing her six hours each day for study. The administration responded that Skardon cannot complete the semester while receiving full-time compensation from the National Guard, citing Academic Policy I.H., which bars students from paid employment in excess of 20 hours per week during the academic year.¹ Skardon was given two options: Take a leave of absence from UVA Law or be administratively withdrawn by the registrar. Skardon was not told about any appeal process or offered any other recourse. She independently discovered that an administrative withdrawal can, in fact, be appealed, so she elected not to take a leave of absence, and the withdrawal was enforced by the administration on Tues-

¹ <https://www.law.virginia.edu/policies/i-academic-policies-and-procedures#ig>

day, March 31.

Having received only twenty-four hours to prepare her appeal, Skardon started an online petition and submitted a letter to the editor about her situation to the Law Weekly, both of which circulated rapidly through GroupMe, Facebook, Twitter, and word of mouth among students and alumni. Although Skardon specifically requested that the media not be involved, within hours, Above the Law published a scathing report on the situation. That evening, the UVA Law official Twitter account (@UVALaw) issued a brief statement to say that the Law School is proud of veterans and that Ms. Skardon's situation is "working its way through the usual process."² Rep. Doug Collins (R-GA), retweeted the story that evening, calling UVA Law's actions "Shameful," and calling on the school to overturn Skardon's withdrawal.³ Local news media picked up the story shortly thereafter.⁴ In a since-deleted tweet, @UVALaw replied to Rep. Collins, calling the *Above the Law*

² <https://twitter.com/UVALaw/status/1245539086636630021>

³ <https://twitter.com/RepDougCollins/status/1245531120835399680>

⁴ <https://www.whsv.com/content/news/UVA-student-activated-by-National-Guard-nearly-forced-to-withdraw-from-school-569334221.html>

article "Inaccurate," and noting that the matter was still in process. The next day, April 2, after receiving over 5,700 signatures on the petition, and over 140 letters of support, the Academic Review Committee unanimously granted an exception allowing Skardon to remain a full-time student.

In the coffee break conversation with Dean Goluboff the next day, I asked Dean Goluboff the first question, wanting to know whether the Law School will change or review its procedures in light of these events, in order to better handle emergency situations where policy leads to an unacceptable result. Dean Goluboff noted that she is always reviewing events and actions in order to improve, but regretfully declined to answer any further, citing privacy concerns.

My question was followed by a series of questions from Savannah Williams '21, asking in her personal capacity whether Dean Goluboff had personally contacted Ms. Skardon, whether individual administrators would face discipline for the handling of the matter, why Dean Goluboff did not step in and correct the situation, and why formal statements from the Law School were made that misleadingly presented the issue as an ongoing decision, rather than a final decision being appealed. Dean Goluboff replied that she had not yet contacted Ms. Skardon, but intended to do

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around north grounds

Hearts out to everyone in social quarantine. Hang in there, folks!

Thumbs down to the @UVALaw Twitter account screenshotting the Law Weekly's work instead of linking to it. Like its peers, the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, the Law Weekly values the page views that pour in when an administration mismanages a public crisis.

Thumbs up to ANG's newfound efficiency at class-work. ANG only took three days to listen to a one hour recorded lecture. ANG even took a few notes!

Thumbs down to UVA for closing the track around the lower softball fields. ANG is having trouble getting back to ANG's bunker under the softball bleachers.

Thumbs up to the Zoom session on Friday for reminding us that second-hand cringe is alive and well outside of *The Office*.

Thumbs down to gunners who still know things in Zoom classes at this point.

Thumbs up to low gas prices. ANG guesses the end times have to come with at least one silver lining.

Thumbs down to "coffee events" that don't actually provide free coffee. ANG has been really hurting for free food and drinks ever since everything moved virtual.

Thumbs up to people with custom Zoom backgrounds. ANG is proud to see people finally putting their energies towards something useful.

Thumbs down to VLR not having any news ANG can make fun of this week. ANG was going for a record, but whatever.

Thumbs up to the weather. ANG doesn't go outside anymore, but sunshine sure is nice to look at.

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so. She declined to answer the other questions, citing privacy concerns. Subsequent questions from other students about the institutional implications of these events were also not answered, although student concerns and suggestions were acknowledged.

Other questions were directed to Kevin Donovan, Senior Assistant Dean of Career Development, concerning the impact of COVID-19 on the private practice job market. Dean Donovan noted that firms actively pursue UVA Law students and that it is their interest to maintain ties they have built with the School over such a long relationship. Economic conditions could force them to choose a different path, but firms are working hard to try to welcome new associates and hold summer programs in some form. He also assured students that the Office of Private Practice is working its network of connections with firms for any information, and, over the next two weeks or so, he expects firms to be coming to more concrete decisions about this summer and communicating those to his office and to students. Dean Donovan invites students to reach out to the Office of Private Practice with any questions or concerns.

While students commend Dean Goluboff for hosting a public Q&A session directly following this controversy, members of the student body and I were dismayed that so

many questions, even those seemingly unrelated to privacy concerns, were left unanswered. In the midst of this crisis, students hoped that UVA Law would continue to hold to its human-centered values and were concerned that the rigid application of policy nearly carried the day. “I guess my primary emotion is confusion,” says Ida Abhari ’22. “I’m left wondering what is being prioritized here, given the overwhelming amount of evidence that these are not normal times and cannot be treated as such.”

Incoming president of the Virginia Law Veterans, Jordan Armstrong ’22, says his group is “grateful that the general UVA Law community... shares our commitment to the well-being of our vets and understands the value that we bring [to the Law School].” But Armstrong, while hopeful that this will lead to improvement in the Law School, also expressed disappointment: “It seems clear that the current policy hurt, most importantly, Fran during a stressful time, [and] it also undoubtedly publicly damaged the core reputation of UVA Law as a collegial institution.” Air Force Veteran Nevah Jones ’22 echoed the sentiment, saying, “[T]his issue never should have been dependent on an ‘appeal.’ It’s beyond disappointing that the initial decision-maker was either unable or unwilling to make the right call on such a common-sense question.” Admitted students who are armed services veterans were reported to be reconsidering

their application to UVA Law in light of the controversy, a feeling that wouldn’t surprise Jones, who commented, “I chose UVA Law because it has a reputation for being veteran-friendly. However, I will think twice about recommending it to fellow veterans going forward.”

I personally remain hopeful that the administration will take steps to remedy what failed last week. Most obviously, the Law School should impose a blanket requirement for administrators to inform all students subject to withdrawal of all possible avenues for appeal. The shared values that make UVA Law both great and good require policies and administrative action structured to support students and keep them in our community. Those values were betrayed when Frannie Skardon was guided toward withdrawal without being informed of her options to appeal. In the wake of the matter’s resolution and the subsequent conversation with the Dean, students expect changes to be made to ensure that this will not happen again.

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Bar Exam Changes Leave Many Unsure of What Will Come Next

In the last month, the United States has seen drastic change in all areas of life. Be-
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Editor Emeritus



yond businesses shutting down and classes being moved online across the country, the bar exam is one area of specific concern for graduating law students. As of April 6, five states have officially opted to postpone the bar exam that was originally scheduled to be administered in July of 2020: New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Hawaii, and New Jersey.¹ The National Conference of Bar Examiners also recently announced how it plans to address bar examination issues for the thirty-five jurisdictions (thirty-three states along with the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands) who administer the Uniform Bar Exam every year. The NCBE stated, “To provide needed flexibility for jurisdictions and candidates, in addition to preparing materials for a July bar exam, NCBE will make bar exam

¹ <http://www.ncbex.org/ncbe-covid-19-updates/july-2020-bar-exam-jurisdiction-information>

materials available for two fall administrations in 2020: September 9-10 and September 30-October 1. Each jurisdiction will determine whether to offer the exam in July, in early September, or in late September.”

These announcements and changes leave many graduating law students uncertain of when they will be able to sit for the bar exam and anxious about whether a fall administration will even be possible. With delayed administration of the bar exam, those preparing to sit may face several obstacles and challenges in studying for the bar beyond the already challenging, labor-intensive study schedule that is considered par for the course. Challenges may include moving in the midst of studying, starting new jobs, running out of money to live on while they wait to be barred, studying while living in close quarters with others with whom students are self-quarantined, and, most significantly, the fear of sitting for the exam if the student has a compromised immune system. Because of the significant hardship many could be, or are facing, students across the country have been pushing for states to imple-

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Tweedledee and Tweedledum: Panopto v. Zoom

Pro-Recorded Lectures

In 1878, the first record player was created. This

Jacob Jones ’21
Features Editor



was the peak of education technology, and no further advances needed to be made past that point. Unfortunately, the Law School does not distribute physical phonograph records to us every week, which would have been my first choice for a recorded lecture method.¹ So instead, we get recorded lectures

¹ My second choice would be for the lectures to be provided over a series of TikTok videos, but the Law School has declined comment on my suggestion.

posted on the interwebs.²

Have you ever seen that Adam Sandler movie where he gains the power to stop the world around him with a TV remote? Me neither, but I think it’s a cool concept, and I definitely would want that remote.³ Well, with recorded lectures, you can, indeed, have the power of Adam Sandler in *Click* (2006), although only to a limited extent.

What powers do you get with this tool of recorded lectures, you ask? Well, for

² To my one professor who has Zoom classes: I actually do like the class’s Zoom session, please don’t be offended.

³ First order of business if I had a time-stopping remote: pause the entire world so that I could sleep-in five extra minutes and still be on time for Zoom class.

starters, have you ever wanted to rewind ten seconds because your professor is talking impossibly fast? Now you can! Have you ever wanted to make your professor gigantic and make them talk in a deeper voice and more slowly? You can do that too! You can also go in the opposite direction and make your professors smaller and talk fast!

Not only do recorded lectures enable you with special powers, they also disable professors. Ever wanted to not be called on to answer a question in class? Done! Cold-calls are a thing of the past, thanks to this amazing technology we now have. Now your professor can’t see you pick your nose when you’re listening to them! It’s the perfect crime!

Let us also not forget the real power of recorded lectures: You don’t have to interact with human beings. Forget that makeup in the morning, gals, or that hair gel, guys. You don’t even have to put on a shirt. You can eat ice cream for breakfast in bed after waking up at 3 p.m. while learning about torts and stuff. Social norms can go to heck. At the Panopto School of Law, there are no rules.

A Reluctant Defense of Zoom

I have been called by duty to defend the honor of Zoom against the alleged supe-

riority of Panopto lecture recordings. One fanciful

Christina Luk ’21
Editor in Chief



observation I would like to make before I proceed is that while the rules of professional responsibility allow one to appeal such a duty when faced with a fundamental disagreement—such as when one finds one’s client’s actions or decisions to be deeply repugnant—the Law Weekly recognizes no such rule.

Anyway, Zoom is clearly the superior of the two services being offered by Law IT for purposes of online learning. One need only to look at the additional software one is strongly encouraged to download and install in the sanctity of one’s personal computer. As reasonable people know, more is better, and therefore more software means a better system and experience. Sure, online lectures may be accessed by some nifty app, but the amount of storage that app takes up is a pittance compared to Zoom’s computational demands.

It’s true that some may complain about connectivity problems, but what is that except to say that Zoom is the most compelling reflection of the problems of our modern day? Zoom is, in microcosm, our lived experi-

ences. Who among us has not worried about the impossibility of true human connection? In a world where we can never be sure if we have been seen or heard, Zoom’s connectivity problems give us something else to focus on. Now, when someone cannot understand us, it is a mechanical failure rather than a personal fault. There is no philosophy or grandeur to Panopto’s connectivity errors, only inconvenience and impotent rage.

As for Zoom’s oppressive watchful eye—the gaze that cannot be avoided or predicted and the digital panopticon—there is a wonderful feature called the off-button. I would encourage anyone who feels the need to change clothes or who wishes to raise from their seated position, having forgotten they did not put on pants, to utilize this clever and remarkable function to its fullest extent. Can Panopto be turned off? Well, yes.

I would be remiss not to mention what some of my peers consider to be Zoom’s greatest strength: the chance to see the adorable pets of our professors and peers. I have mentioned this.

Thus concludes my cogent and sincere defense of Zoom.

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Picture: Frances Densmore (left) recording Blackfoot chief Mountain Chief (right) on a cylinder phonograph for the Bureau of American Ethnology (1916). This is the pinnacle of sound-recording technology. Photo Courtesy: Wikipedia.

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ment an emergency diploma privilege that would allow graduates of American Bar Association-accredited law schools to be admitted without taking the bar.

²Law students are not the only individuals pushing for issuance of diploma privileges; law school administrators are fighting on behalf of students as well. The deans of all fifteen of New York's ABA-accredited law schools signed a letter "urg[ing] the court to adopt a system whereby 2020 law graduates would be able to practice for up to 18 months under the supervision of a licensed attorney" and sent the letter to Chief Judge Janet DiFiore of the New York State Court of Appeals (New York state's highest court) on April 1.³ In a school-wide Zoom call with UVA Law's very own Dean Goluboff, one student asked whether Virginia's law school deans have discussed the possibility of a similar letter in Virginia. Goluboff replied that a meeting with all the Virginia deans was set for later in the afternoon that day.

² <https://www.law.com/2020/03/30/amid-more-bar-exam-delays-push-for-diploma-privilege-grows/>

³ <https://www.law.com/newyorklawjournal/2020/04/02/fall-bar-exam-gets-pushback-from-ny-law-deans/>

No further information has been disclosed at this time.

The legal profession also stands to suffer hardship with the administration of a postponed bar examination. While many students face delays in starting legal positions that are contingent on passage of the bar exam, those planning to hire them may also suffer as work piles up with fewer people staffed to handle it. And with many court systems not hearing cases beyond those that are urgent or time-sensitive, mounds of work await those planning to enter offices involved in the courtroom. Many students planning to work in these roles also cannot practice in a courtroom without bar licensure or a practice certificate, most of which usually expire shortly after the results of the July exam were set for release. This means those students will be legally unable to perform certain aspects of the jobs they have accepted for the fall, leaving fewer attorneys and more work than usual to be done.

Even if an emergency diploma privilege option is given, further questions exist for students planning to sit for a bar exam in one state with plans to waive into another jurisdiction shortly thereafter. Wisconsin is the only state at this time that regularly offers a diploma privilege option whereby students who attend a Wisconsin law school and meet certain requirements will receive admission to the state's

bar without having to take an admission exam. However, this privilege does not allow Wisconsin attorneys to transfer this admission to other states where they may like to practice, meaning students who went to school in Wisconsin but want to practice in Virginia (for example) would need to sit for Virginia's exam to be able to do so. Thus, as students and administrators advocate for a change in policy, the many complications and questions that exist beneath the surface add to the challenging decision facing bar licensure groups across the country.

These challenges, along with others, will continue to grow and manifest as the impacts of a delayed bar exam become transparent. The difficulty at the forefront for those planning to sit in July 2020, however, is the uncertainty of what will happen next. Many graduates begin studying for the July bar in May after their graduation, but whether that is advisable or not cannot be known until more information is released by various jurisdictions. As students advocate for alternative means of getting barred and worry about the challenges they face in sitting for a traditional bar exam, they have to set plans now for their future when what their future actually holds is very uncertain.

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Tiger King: Questions Asked and Answered

As Virginia Governor Ralph Northam ordered residents to stay at home until at least June Sam Pickett '21
Columns Editor



10, the state, and really the world at large, wondered what they would do with all this time at home. And it was in this time of chaos and insecurity that Netflix gave us the show we didn't know we needed: *Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem, and Madness*. This is a show that is so wild and filled with chaos that it doesn't even address the fact that one of the main characters, Carole Baskin, is suspected of killing her husband and feeding him to her tigers until the very end of the second episode. While you could spend an entire series investigating that type of mystery, as many Netflix shows do, *Tiger King* addresses the mystery only briefly before promptly moving on to bigger and crazier things. What does it say about a show where someone who murdered her husband¹ is somehow the most moral person in the show?²

¹ She did it. Let's just settle that right here. If you don't think she did it then I would like to know what show you were watching.

² Shout out to Jacob Jones '21 who brought this question up.

Rather than review the series, which would be a boring and lame use of the 800 words that the *Law Weekly* for some reason continues to give me, I am going to answer a few questions that keep me up at night. ***I feel like here is where I should put a spoiler disclaimer, but honestly we have been under quarantine for three weeks and we have been CR/NC for a one and a half weeks, so you should really be caught up by now or else you're clearly not socially distancing appropriately.

(1) Here I will rank Joe Exotic, Carole Baskin, and Doc "Bhagavan" Antle based on who is the most entertaining: Joe, Carole, and Doc.

Joe is an easy choice for this—he describes himself as a "gay gun-toting redneck," he had three husbands, two of whom he was married to at the same time even though they were by all accounts not gay, and he has run for both President and Governor of Oklahoma. Joe is a born entertainer and it clearly shows.

The real controversy in this ranking is between Carole and Doc. But here's the thing—Doc is not entertaining, he is really just creepy. Did you ever laugh when he was on camera? I can't remember when I did. Did you ever squirm whenever you saw him? Yes. Every time. His beard and his weird little pony-tail made me viscerally uncomfortable. Meanwhile, Carole's

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Entirely Accurate World News: Coronavirus Edition

Namaste, my friend. It's been some time since I was able to send a transmission.

Will Palmer '21
Special Projects Editor



Sorry about that. Took a while to get the aerial rigged up above the bunker. All set now, though—so pull up a camp chair, crack open a tin of Spam and a room-temperature malt beverage, and settle in for an update from the Plaguelands.¹ Let's start with...

Education

Many public high schools have set up "remote bullying" sessions so that unpopular students don't miss out on the crucial life experience of be-

¹ Specifically, Northern Virginia. Exciting, I know.

ing verbally abused by their peers. Universities and graduate schools country-wide have transitioned to online classes and ordered students to return home. Unfortunately, many of those same students stopped in Florida for Spring Break on the way back and now we're in a version of *28 Days Later* where the infected are sunburned bros in "Reagan/Bush '84" tanks instead of angry Brits with great cardio.

The Economy

As we all know, China made a margin call and sank the stock market harder than the Lusitania. Airline investors wept openly in the streets, and major Netflix shareholders argued with their spouses about which private island to buy. A number of Americans, acting under the impression that COVID-19 causes some sort of gastric extinction event, took

to hoarding toilet paper in tremendous amounts. Frantic individuals went to great lengths to obtain "plumbing supplies;" people in the author's own neighborhood have taken to ordering electric bidets off Amazon so they can powerwash their taints free of anything even remotely resembling a microorganism.

Government Efforts — At Home and Abroad

In order to curb the spread of disease, police in India have been making use of the time-honored "carrot and stick" method, only without the carrots. Citizens outside past curfew have been aggressively pursued by moped-riding avengers wielding what can best be described as "bigass sticks," like some sort of low-budget version of *Mad Max*. In Italy, local government officials have responded to the country's health crisis by patrolling the deserted streets and verbally annihilating all who cross their paths like they're the protagonist of *Skyrim*.²

These aren't the only countries utilizing aggressive containment measures. North Korea shot their guy. Kim Jong-un is over there, twirling his pimp cane while he looks at us and says, "Hey, we shot our dude. What did you do? Switch to takeout? Wimps." Then again, this is the same guy who got gut from eating

² Give yourself five points if you got that reference.

too much imported cheese, so maybe we shouldn't be using the "Kim Jong-un standard" for our health care.³

...which brings us to the American response. Mike Pence, in his position as Coronavirus Tsar, has been working feverishly to enact a controversial electroshock therapy program that allegedly "converts" coronavirus carriers into "practitioners of a godlier lifestyle." Examples of other government responses to the pandemic include CIA black sites transitioning to the use of Purell instead of water for the "enhanced interrogation" of the teenaged goat herders we've recently abducted, and federal legislators frantically stuffing envelopes with approximately \$2,000 for every American adult in an attempt to stop our complaining by giving us bidet money.

Entertainment

The next James Bond film, *No Time to Die*, was delayed because, as it turns out, we do have time to die before we see Daniel Craig lose yet another onscreen girlfriend (spoiler alert for a movie that hasn't been released yet). NTTD was hardly the only production that was affected: *Fast & Furious 9: This Time Vin Diesel Has a Brother* had its release

³ Not going to lie, though... gout is a pretty baller disease. Like, if you're going to get an old-timey illness, gout is the way to go. Way better than scurvy. Trust me.

date pushed back a year, and a number of films, such as *Frozen II*, *Emma*, and a bunch of other sh*t I'm not going to see were released on demand instead of in theaters. Everyone in America simultaneously decided to binge-watch *Tiger King*, a delightfully original live-action spin-off to the animated Disney classic *The Lion King*.

Interestingly, not all recent cancellations have been due to coronavirus fears. Ultra, Coachella, and other popular music festivals across the nation have been canceled to combat what has been described by horrified health officials as "a syphilis outbreak of biblical proportions." I'm not pointing any fingers, but has anyone checked on Anthony Weiner lately?

I'll end with this—in a global pandemic scenario, it's important to stay mentally healthy by engaging in a variety of activities and hobbies. For example, I've been spending my time practicing the mandolin and drawing extremely erotic cartoons of [name of major religious figure redacted, but you know who it is]. Make sure you're staying mentally active and pursuing pastimes you find enjoyable!

Until next time — stay healthy and stay sane!

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Pictured: Brutus, the happy chinchilla. Phot Courtesy of Kolleen Gladden '21.

Love in the Time of Corona

As both society and the Law School adapt to the new realities and challenges that coronavirus brings, many aspects of life that once seemed a given are in flux. From online classes and grocery shopping to grabbing a drink with friends and hitting the gym, activities as we know them are changing before our eyes due to quarantining and social distancing. So too are love and modern romance. In this serious and anxious time, the staff at the Law Weekly thought it would be intriguing, pleasantly distracting, and (dare we say it) heartwarming to hear how couples and singles alike are handling romance in light of all these changes. You've heard of Love in the Time of Cholera, but get ready for Love in the Time of Corona.



navirus brings, many aspects of life that once seemed a given are in flux. From online classes and grocery shopping to grabbing a drink with friends and hitting the gym, activities as we know them are changing before our eyes due to quarantining and social distancing. So too are love and modern romance. In this serious and anxious time, the staff at the Law Weekly thought it would be intriguing, pleasantly distracting, and (dare we say it) heartwarming to hear how couples and singles alike are handling romance in light of all these changes. You've heard of Love in the Time of Cholera, but get ready for Love in the Time of Corona.

This week's guests are Nick Roberti '22 and his girlfriend, Melat Kiros, a 1L at Notre Dame Law.

Hi Nick and Melat! Welcome to Love in the Time of Corona. Let's get some background, how did you meet and get together?

Together: Thanks for having us! So, we went to the same college, but we actually didn't meet until we went on a study abroad together at the University of Oxford in the summer of 2017. The first time we saw each other, we entered into a spirited discussion about the different political issues that we were studying. Needless to say, it was "debate at first sight." We found that we actually had a lot in common and we became a lot closer. In a few weeks, we started dating, and it's been great ever since.

Sounds SPICY. What were your first impressions of each other?

Nick: My first impression of Melat was that she was a strong

and passionate person. From what I had seen and heard from her time as student body president of our college, she always fought for what she knew was right. When we first met and we had that debate, I got to see it first-hand. Suffice it to say, I'm relieved that I don't have her on the opposite side of me during oral arguments.

Melat: My first impression of Nick was that he was incredibly easy to talk to and get along with. Our entire study abroad group really enjoyed our time together and I think it had a lot to do with Nick wanting to make the best of everything and making everyone feel comfortable.

I don't know, Nick, Zoom is the great equalizer with all that lagging. Let's get some COVID-19 details covered. Where are you both right now?

Melat: I'm in Colorado now and Nick's at UVA, but I'll be returning to my school soon. Unfortunately, we will probably be apart until the virus cools down, but we're super excited to see each other when this is all over!

What are the biggest ways the virus has impacted your relationship, if any?

Melat: We've been long distance for almost two years now, so, thankfully, not really much of an impact.

Nick: Exactly. The silver lining of being long-distance is

that we're used to this.

That's a great attitude! Let's keep it fun. Describe each other's spirit animal, with a brief explanation.

Nick: That's a good one. . . hm. I'd say a koala bear because May loves to sleep.

Melat: Definitely a dog! For no reason other than that he's my best friend.

That may be the most heartwarming answer I've ever heard, Melat—I'm not crying, I just have something in my eye. What's been your favorite memory together?

Nick: Mine's simple but, to me, it's the epitome of the competitive side of our relationship, which is my favorite part of us. We were on vacation and we found this one secluded area of the resort where there was a bar and a pool table—basically, all one ever needs in a happy life. We played pool and drank mojitos there for a few nights during our stay. We're equally good at billiards, so we would just compete for a bunch of games for four or five hours. I won't say who won, but it was a really wonderful time.

Melat: Nick and I were lucky enough to go to Italy last summer and one evening we got to have dinner with some family of mine. My cousin's grandfather doesn't speak very much English but he's very outgoing and he wanted so badly to spend

some quality time with us before we left. I just remember looking over and seeing that him and Nick were having an incredible time talking and laughing together. It just reminds me of how amazing Nick is and how perfectly he fits into my family.

Che brava! Let's ride this feel-good wave. What's the very first thing that comes to mind when you think of each other?

Nick: The feeling of relaxation. Melat's my person, so when we get to see each other we can just kind of "turn off" and be ourselves. It's a relief, especially given the stress of law school.

Melat: The smell of toast and nutella. When we first started dating it was his favorite snack, so we had it all the time.

I don't know if it's because this is Day Twenty-one without human contact, but these answers are hitting me in my feels, guys. Let's jump back to coronavirus. What's been the biggest challenge for you two as a couple during this ordeal?

Nick: For now, the time change. We try to FaceTime every night, and since we are on different time schedules, it can be tough to find a time that works for both of us. But, given that is our biggest problem during this ordeal, I'd say we're quite lucky.

Melat: I'd agree with that. A two-hour time difference can be hard to plan around but I think we do our best to make it work.

with these challenges?

Nick: Apparently, it takes more than two law students to solve the time zone difference. We might need to employ a Darden student to solve the issue.

Melat: Hahaha, but we are planning on starting a new TV show together soon! (*Tiger King!* Yes, we're very late to the game). Last year, when we were long distance, we watched a show together and it helped us feel much closer.

They'll have to schedule you in with all their networking, Nick. Speaking of scheduling, what's the first activity you'll do or place you'll go together once the social restrictions lift?

Nick: Go out to a restaurant. We label ourselves as amateur restaurant connoisseurs, mainly to justify the fact that we eat out so often, so the fact that we have been deprived of our hobby has been quite devastating.

Melat: Yes! I can't wait to make it back to Charlottesville and eat at First Watch!

What is something you'd like to say to each other, in front of the vastly increasing Law Weekly digital readership, immortalized forever in print? (No pressure.)

Melat: Not a statement, but this picture needs to be immortalized forever in print. I hope you look as adorable walking to class as you did in this old picture of you! Love you, hun!

Nick: Well, May, setting aside our intense billiards rivalry and



Pictured: Nick and Melat violating the six feet social distancing rule. Photo Courtesy of Nick Roberti '22.

Can you share any creative ways you've coped

CORONA LOVE page 5

Faculty Quotes

J. Fischman: "Just think for a moment about what life was like before flexible packaging materials."

wouldn't apply it's own law? Why be holier than the Pope?"

K. Ferzan: "We want to introduce evidence Ferzan watches *The Masked Singer* to prove Ferzan is lame."


S. Ballenger: "These guys get to invent their own clients... what a business!"

A. Bamzai: "[The organization's name] is probably not the one I would have chosen if I wanted federal courts to take me seriously."

A. Coughlin: "What happens when you get your lawyer? Your lawyer is going to say 'SHUT YOUR MOUTH' and hand you a nice business card that says 'SHUT YOUR MOUTH.'"

M. Collins: "Why apply sister-state law if the state

heard a good professor quote? Email editor@law-weekly.org



Virginia Law Weekly

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CORONA LOVE
continued from page 4

your distribution of my baby pics, I'm truly excited to see the awesome lawyer that you become. You've done amazing things in your life, and you're going to keep on doing great work. I'm excited to be along for the ride!



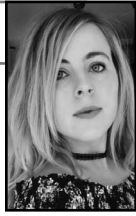
Pictured: Nick being absolutely adorable. Photo Courtesy of Nick's Mom, probably.

Many thanks to Nick and Melat for helping to spread the love on *Love in the Time of Corona*! Are you a couple that's been separated or getting creative during this social isolation period? A single who's desire to mingle has been curtailed by COVID-19? A platonic friend or member of a family who wants to share how you've been making it through this together? Love comes in all shapes and sizes, and we want to hear about it! Email bes4cf@virginia.edu if you or someone you know might like to be featured on *Love in the Time of Corona*.

Lessons from a Falling Sky

As the COVID-19 pandemic whips its way across the globe, I find myself reminded of my

Kolleen Gladden '21
Photographer



own personal experiences with the uncertain and life-altering. At fifteen, a natural disaster transformed my sleepy hometown into international news, prompting a media frenzy and a visit from President Obama, forever immortalized by a photograph of the President standing next to a farmer amidst the destruction.

Ironically, Joplin through the eyes of the world was Joplin thoroughly unrecognizable to its residents. There is no textbook for the end of the world as you know it. Nobody can pass you an outline to serve as a guide. Loss will never be convenient; grief can never be one-size-fits-all. I cannot claim to have any answers, but I do

know what it is like to be confronted with an instant and permanent change of plans, to have school canceled, memorials taking its place.

It is Sunday, 5:30 p.m. on May 22, 2011. Storm sirens are blaring relentlessly from all directions. The sky is blanketed in an unusually cloudless darkness. My dad is barreling down Range Line with the barest regard for traffic laws. We pull up our driveway and bolt into the garage in tandem amidst a power outage. When the storm had subsided, we ventured back towards that same street we'd just left behind. I vividly remember seeing that the massive Sutherland's billboard had been halved and letting out a silent gasp. We drove over the hill to a city on fire.

The tornado that tore through Joplin, Missouri that day was the worst in modern history. In the span of ten minutes, 158 people were killed, thousands were injured, and

over 1,200 were missing. A town was razed to the ground; an entire region's economy flatlined. Among the destruction was one of the area's only two hospitals; medical personnel scrambled to accommodate the influx. With cell towers destroyed, the moments in the direct aftermath were perhaps the most horrific live demonstration of Schrödinger's thought experiment; every person you love is both alive and dead, and you're torn between praying for just one bar of service and wondering if it's better not to know. As the days crawled by, one particular name among the missing that loomed in every person's mind was Will Norton, a beloved high school senior who'd been accepted to an elite film school. He had a sizable YouTube following and an infectious personality. The powerful vortex had pulled him out of a car through the sunroof, his father shattering every bone in both arms trying to hold him in place. I had been at his house just the week before. His mom sat across from me, listlessly stirring her coffee, before looking up and saying, "He's just so busy that we rarely get to see him these days. I am looking forward to the summer when we finally get to spend time together again." When they finally found him nearly a week later, those words haunted my mind. His funeral was standing room only.

When we are faced with unimaginable difficulty, we are

given a rare opportunity for unimaginable growth. Such moments have shaped me, and I will carry the wisdoms imparted to me for as long as I breathe. Perhaps they can offer some comfort to you as well.

1. I could be great at my job and they could still replace me if needed. There will always be someone smarter, more charismatic, or more driven. My focus is squarely on the areas where I cannot be substituted. My family and friends would rather have the real Kolleen than a K 2.0 with better organizational skills and a lessened dependency on caffeine (or so they claim). Nine years ago, every person in that packed chapel left with a Will Norton-sized hole that will never be filled or replaced. Find these places where you are indispensable and prioritize them.

2. The thing you can control in life is how you react. Things can change in the blink of an eye. Coming to terms with the uncertainties of life brings a sense of peace.

3. On that same note, do not put life hold for the undetermined future. While making present sacrifices for things to come is necessary and wise, make note of the things that make life worth living and keep them in your routine.

4. Internal motivators go much further than external acclaim. When circumstance wipes away those extraneous



Pictured: President Obama stands with residents after the harrowing tornado. Photo Courtesy of the Obama White House, posted on Youtube.

FALLING SKY page 6

HOT BENCH



Hayley Hahn '21

Hot Bench with Hayley Hahn '21

Outgoing President of American Constitution Society

Hi Hayley, welcome to Hot Bench! Please tell all our readers where you're from and where you went to college!

I was born and raised in Fairfax, Virginia. I went to college at William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Which organizations are you involved in at UVA Law?

I am the outgoing president of the American Constitution Society, a fellow in the Law & Public Service Program, a Peer Advisor (shout-out to Section E!), the incoming Notes Editor for the Virginia Journal of International Law, and a member of the Civil Rights Clinic. I'm also involved with Virginia Law Women and the Public Interest Law Association.

When did you start thinking about law school?

I took a philosophy class fall semester of my freshman year in college that focused on contemporary moral issues. I enjoyed the readings that focused on legal cases, especially those pertaining to social justice issues. Eager to explore these matters further, I pursued independent research and courses related to law. I discovered that I liked the work, so I decided to apply to law school.

What's something you know now that you would tell yourself coming into law school?

Avoid trains, cruises, exposed wires, and buildings used to store barrels of flour. Potential torts lurk everywhere. Don't be like the bargee in *Carroll Towing*—exercise constant vigilance and be ready to sound the alarm.

On a more serious note: Make time to get to know your classmates and enjoy the beautiful trails around Charlottesville.

You're interested in Native American law. How did you become interested in that topic?

A college class on American Indian Sovereignty initially sparked my interest in Native American law. More specifically, the course introduced me to the Indian Child Welfare Act ("ICWA"), a vital piece of legislation currently under attack. In-

spired by this experience, prior to law school, I conducted research at McGill University on social service and legal protections for Indigenous children in Canada. Unfortunately, in both the United States and Canada, Indigenous children are overrepresented in the child welfare system. However, federal child welfare legislation, such as ICWA, can keep Indigenous children connected to their families, communities, and cultures. In many ways, ICWA is the key to tribal survival.

I am also interested in how the law can advance the rights of Native people and tribes more broadly. Native American law touches on a host of social justice issues, from voting rights to environmental protections. I hope to continue to pursue my interest in Native American law in law school and in practice.

What kind of impact do you hope to have as a lawyer?

I want to secure justice for my clients. I also want to improve the accessibility of legal services. My pro bono experiences in law school have underscored the adverse impacts of the "justice gap" in the United States. So few people can afford legal representation. Through pro bono and public service opportunities, I want to help connect people to the legal services they need, regardless of their ability to pay for services.

Let's do a lightning

round!

Favorite food?
Cheese quesadillas!

Favorite place in Charlottesville?

The Rivanna Trail or Shenandoah Joe.

Favorite song?
"Lovely Day" by Bill Withers.

Favorite anti-stress hobby?
Exercise. (I love running and yoga!)

Which Hogwarts house are you in?

Hufflepuff. I highly value both kindness and snacks.

Fun fact?
I'm a big fan of the Washington Nationals.

Degas or Monet?
Monet.

Williamsburg or Charlottesville?

This is such a tough choice! Both are great places to live and study; however, I must pick Williamsburg. DOG Street is the perfect place to run. Also, the Cheese Shop is better than Take It Away.

Zoom or Panopto?
Zoom. It's great to see people's faces, even if only virtually. The pet cameos are also nice.

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TIGER KING

continued from page 3

strange outfits and catchphrase "hey all you cool cats and kittens" at least made you giggle. Next topic.

(2) Here I will rank Joe Exotic, Carole Baskin, and Doc Antle based on who is the most morally questionable: Doc Antle, Joe Exotic, Carole Baskin.

Doc has a cult and forces women to sleep with him to improve their position at the zoo. He also kills tigers when they become too old (allegedly).³ His only redeeming quality is that he feeds his tigers well (i.e. not expired Walmart meat). Other than that, he seems devious and lacks any of Joe's charm.

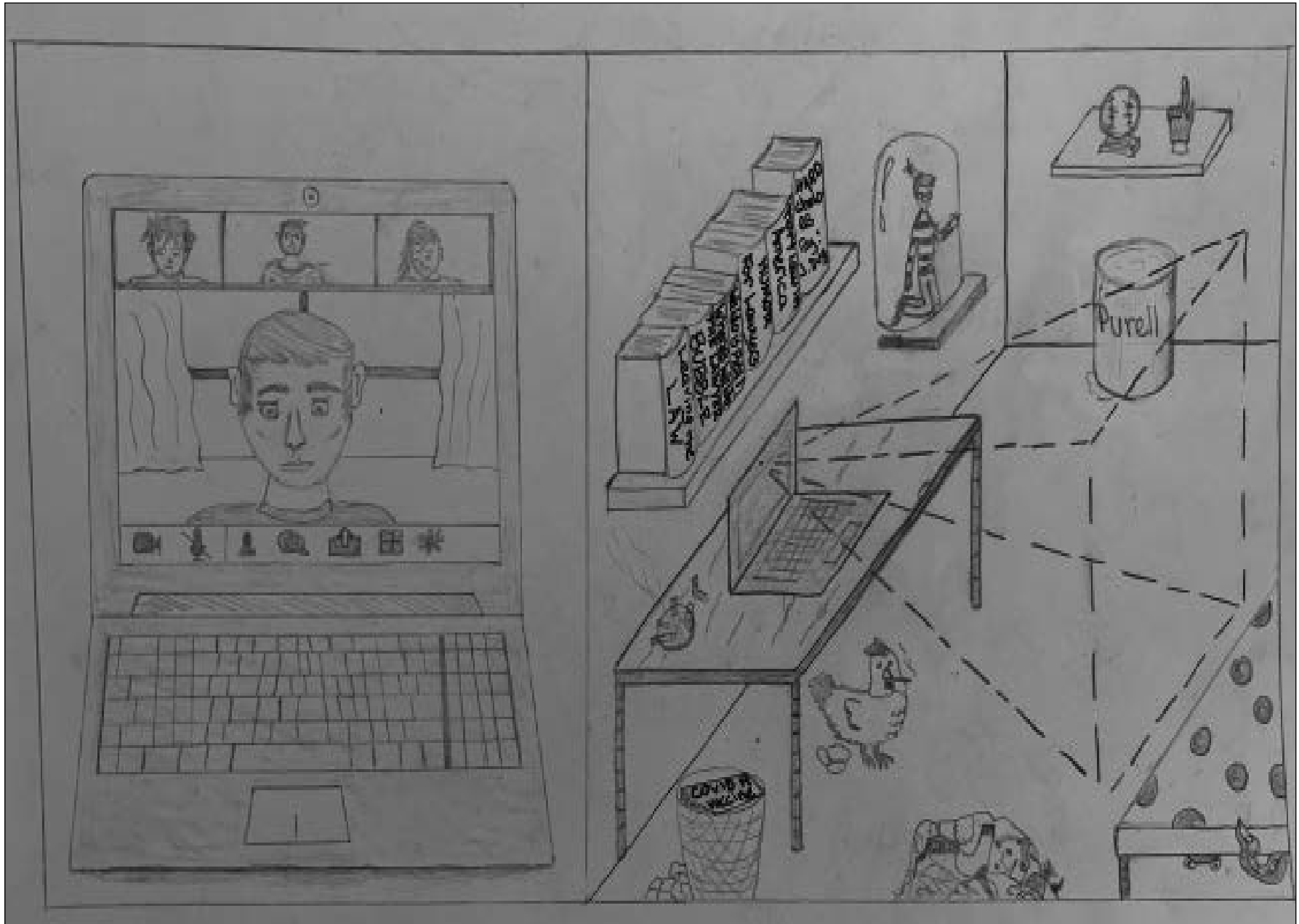
The fight between Joe and Carole was a hard one. Joe feeds his tigers with bad Walmart meat, illegally breeds tigers for their cubs and then sells those cubs, allegedly hired someone to kill Carole Baskin, set his own alligators on fire, and basically imprisoned his (ex) husbands. But Carole...Carole definitely killed her husband and fed him to the tigers and also just had creepy vibes. Something about all those whimsical bike riding scenes. She also seemed to care less about the tigers and more about gaining the moral high ground over Joe, even while forcing volunteers to work more than sixty hours a week for FREE. But still, she is at least trying to save the tigers while Joe is just trying to save his own face.

(3) Who is the worst character on the show?

3 Definitely.

TIGER KING page 6

Cartoon By Raphael



FALLING SKY

continued from page 5

factors, you must have a fire burning within.

5. If we are fortunate, we will live long enough to join the vulnerable population. They deserve our love and care, because one day we will deserve the love and care of our community in return.

6. Do not feel guilty for mourning the loss of life's little pleasures. In a crisis where human life is on the line, it might seem silly to feel sad over the little things. Grief and disappointment are not finite resources. It is okay to be sad over lost ceremonies, birthday parties, coffee dates, upcoming travels, or human interactions. It shows that you are human and these things mattered to you.

7. As complex creatures, we can hold space for the tragedy of a situation while seeking out the joy. Humor is okay and good. Several weeks after the tornado, I was running with some teammates. One lamented her messy room, and a dear friend who'd lost her home retorted, "Well, my room is probably spread across

three separate counties." We had spent many moments before grieving with one another. This time, we collapsed into laughter.

8. In times like these, community is more important than ever. Joplin's real first responders were your next-door neighbors. Folks emerged from the wreckage of their own houses and immediately went to check on one another. Churches and local businesses opened their doors to all in need. A homegrown charity I worked for went into overtime fundraising to successfully ensure that low-income families would have financial support once federal and state aid had subsided. Joplin has since rebuilt beyond what it had ever been previously, because we were looking out for one another.

9. 1 Corinthians 13:13: "And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love."

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Pictured: The devastating aftermath. Photo Courtesy of Wikipedia.

TIGER KING

continued from page 5

Jeff Lowe, and then Jeff Garretson (fat Chucky). Next question.

(4) Was Joe actually singing in the music video?⁴

Does it matter? He's a beautiful country music singer in our hearts.

(5) Where is the line between tiger fanatics and cults?⁵

The line is unclear, and this is really more of a philosophical discussion regarding the spectrum of tiger love. On one hand, you have me, who has always loved tigers and wanted to be a tiger growing up and whose favorite Disney character was not a hero but instead Shere Khan the tiger.⁶ But I know not to ever buy a tiger. The closest I ever got was making my first email address *tigers321@gmail.com*. Although, this show now exists... and now there is a cult developing around the show, which is kind of ironic.

This was a sporadic and a random list of questions and answers. But that's what we do here at the *Law Weekly*. If you want to discuss any of my takes, or if you just want to talk about the show in general, please @ me. Most people don't want that, but I really do. Please. I really don't want to listen to my class recordings.

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4 S/O to Meg McKinley '21 for this question.

5 S/O Jacob Jones '21 pt. 2.

6 *The Jungle Book* villain, obviously.

SUDOKU

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Solution

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2	5	4	3	7	8	1	6	9
1	9	6	5	2	4	3	8	7