



## “T” is for Thapar, Thomas, and Textualism

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In the past month, students at UVa Law have had the opportunity to hear remarks from several esteemed members of the judiciary. At the end of February, Judge Amul Thapar, a Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, visited the Law School to share his thoughts on textualism and to critique former Seventh Circuit Judge Richard Posner's recent book, *The Federal Judiciary: Strengths and Weaknesses*. Additionally, nearly thirty students, including myself, made a trip to Washington, D.C., over spring break to listen to United States Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas speak at the Federalist Society's 2018 National Student Symposium.

### Judge Amul Thapar

Judge Thapar's event began with his admitting that, despite their different judicial philosophies, he agreed with several of the propositions in Judge Posner's book. For instance, Judge Thapar stated that Judge Posner was correct to criticize the untimeliness of opinions issued by courts because, in his view “justice delayed is justice denied.” Further, Judge Thapar and Judge Posner agree that brevity in opinions is an essential component in efficiency, particularly at the circuit court level. Judge Thapar suggested that overly dense opinions increase the likelihood of lower courts misinterpreting the meaning of the law and that judges should focus on emphasizing a clear holding.

Turning to where he and Judge Posner disagree, Judge Thapar stated that Judge Posner's viewpoint advances pragmatism over formalism, which he fears may lead judges to decide cases based on what he termed the imaginary “Emotions Clause” of the Constitution rather than the text itself. Judge Posner's book also argues that judges should look to the future rather than precedent in order to reach the best outcome in pending cases. Judge Thapar criticized this because doing so would likely have a negative impact on lower court judges. In Judge Thapar's opinion, backward-looking interpretations increase overall efficiency because members of society can rely on precedent to predict the legality of their actions. This reliance, in turn, decreases the need of parties to litigate disputes because they

# FREE MEEK



Meek Mill. Photo courtesy of HypeBeast

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As the eventual Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles waited in the tunnel, fans' ears perked up. It was announced before the game that the team would run onto the field to a Philadelphia anthem.<sup>1</sup> The intro dropped. The relentless beat coupled with the harsh voice of a 25-year-old North Philadelphian filled U.S. Bank Stadium. For those not following the Eagles, the song caught them off guard. Despite the heavy editing, the last line hung over the stadium as the camera zoomed in for a close up of Tom Brady: “these ---- want me dead and I need to make it back home.”<sup>2</sup> Some viewers expressed feeling alienated by the choice of such a “violent rap song.”<sup>3</sup>

For those familiar with this portion of Meek Mill's iconic “Dreams and Nightmares,” we continued the verse in honor of one of the most notable Philadelphians not physically present in Minneapolis. Instead, Robert Rihmeek Williams, AKA Meek Mill, was in Chester State Correctional Institu-

1 Chris Chavez, *Watch Eagles Take the Field to Meek Mills Dreams and Nightmares*, SPORTS ILLUSTRATED, (2/4/18), <https://www.si.com/nfl/2018/02/04/philadelphia-eagles-meek-mill-super-bowl-lli-dreams-and-nightmares-entrance>.

2 *Id.*

3 Warren Tudd Huston, *The Philadelphia Eagles have Announced the Team Will Run out onto the Field at Super Bowl LII to a Highly Controversial rap song that Critics call Sexist, Racist, and Violent*, BREITBART NEWS, (2/4/18), <http://www.breitbart.com/sports/2018/02/04/eagles-pick-super-bowl-song-jailed-rapper-meek-mills-sexist-violent-song-dreams-nightmares-intro/>.

tion, a mere thirteen-minute drive from the airport where his football team's jet left the tarmac.<sup>4</sup> Thirty minutes from Broad Street where thousands would play “Dreams and Nightmares” through phone speakers, car radios, or open apartment windows.<sup>5</sup> Accompanying the music would be chants of “Free Meek!” #FreeMeek trended on multiple social media platforms.<sup>6</sup> The Eagles won. Fans flocked to the streets. The city finally got a Super Bowl parade. Robert Williams, known as Meek Mill, remains in prison. Another victim of a uniquely spiteful judge. Another victim of a particularly corrupt narcotics unit. Another victim of a system that punishes young men for growing up in the wrong neighborhoods, standing on the wrong corners, but most apparently for being black. Meek Mill's words

4 “Directions from Chester State Correctional Institution to Center City Philadelphia,” GOOGLE MAPS, (last visited 3/14/18).

5 Keith Caulfield & Kevin Rutherford, *Meek Mill's Dreams and Nightmares Earned 1.4 Million Streams on Day After Superbowl*, BILLBOARD, 2/7/2018, <https://www.billboard.com/articles/news/8098626/meek-mill-dreams-and-nightmares-streams-day-after-super-bowl>.

6 Deena Zaru, *Philadelphia Eagles Show Solidarity with Imprisoned Meek Mill During Super Bowl Entrance*, CNN, 2/5/2018; Specific Philadelphia Eagles have showed continued support for Meek Mill, showing up at a rally protesting the rapper's latest prison sentence. See Evan Grossman, *Eagles Using Meek Mill as Their Super Bowl Soundtrack, and the Motivation is Mutual*, (1/26/2018), <http://www.nydailynews.com/sports/football/eagles-meek-mill-motivating-super-bowl-run-article-1.3780914>.

may have alienated some Super Bowl viewers, but his imprisonment should collectively repulse a country that believes in the “justice” part of the criminal justice system.

Following his father's murder at age five, Meek Mill moved with his mother and sister to Berks Street in North Philadelphia. Described as the black sheep of the family, Meek Mill rarely spoke. Only his special affection for motor vehicles, specifically dirt bikes, motivated him to speech. Instead, he remained in his room filling journals with words that rhymed, eventually developing verse after verse for his rap battles.<sup>7</sup>

Philadelphia is not a kind city for aspiring MCs. Before Meek Mill, the city boasted Will Smith on its list of top five hip-hop artists. It's a city so lacking in success stories, Beanie Sigel tops the list of rappers achieving mainstream success.<sup>8</sup> For those lucky enough to discover Meek Mill on YouTube early in his career, each video was a raw, lyrically quick recitation of life in North Philly,<sup>9</sup> one of America's most murderous localities. Meek had ten friends die while he lived in North Philly, and another six or seven while he was on the city's south side.<sup>10</sup> Meek Mill's

FREE MEEK page 2

7 Paul Solotaroff, *#FreeMeek-Mill*, ROLLING STONE, 3/14/2018.

8 Ryan Beagle, *Top 10 Hip Hop Artists From Philadelphia*, HIP HOP GOLDEN AGE, (Last visited 3/16/18), <http://hiphopgoldenage.com/list/top-10-hip-hop-artists-philadelphia/>.

9 13 of Meek Mill's Best Throwback Freestyles, YOUTUBE, (Last visited 3/15/18), [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B7\\_N\\_CZ\\_tRo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B7_N_CZ_tRo).

10 Solotaroff, *supra* note 7.

## around north grounds



Congratulations to Professor John C. Jeffries, Jr. on his elevation to Senior Vice President of Advancement for the University! ANG will cherish the disdain for Justice Kennedy that Professor Jeffries instilled in ANG's heart. ANG will not cherish his comments that ANG “bring[s] tremendous disrepute upon this institution” and “can't be drinking peach-flavored Burnett's in class.”



Thumbs up to the UVa Men's Basketball team. ANG knew this team would make history!



Thumbs sideways to the utter lack of Rotunda Cake after our erstwhile Deans overhyped its availability in MULTIPLE emails. The promise of frosting is the only reason ANG made it through ANG's Monday afternoon classes. On the other hand, at least the admitted students didn't get any cake!



Thumbs down to St. Patrick's Day on the corner. ANG's friends couldn't find ANG amidst all the green-clad, hammered undergrads carousing the Corner at 10 a.m. ANG is thinking of suing the undergrads for stealing ANG's trademark look.



Thumbs up to Taxapalooza on March 30--ANG hasn't filed ANG's taxes in at least seven years and was starting to worry. ANG was assured that law school did not involve math.



Thumbs down to Claire's filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. ANG feels the pain of all the tweens out there who will no longer be able to show off the bodily evidence of their weekend mall trips. Between this and Toys 'R' Us, it seems ANG's childhood has been completely devalued.



Thumbs up to Snapchat's value dropping \$800M after mocking domestic violence. ANG may not understand Sec Reg, but ANG knows better than to offend Bad Girl Riri/mock domestic violence.



Thumbs down to Uber's self-driving car killing a pedestrian. ANG thought ANG had already ridden with the worst Uber has to offer and is frankly terrified to learn that is not the case.



Thumbs up to mac n' cheese. No specific reason--ANG just wants to thank you.

# Four Machiavellian Reasons To Rescue A Dog

There are a lot of dogs out there in need of a decent human

Hutton Marshall '19  
Guest Columnist



to look out for them. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals estimates that approximately 3.3 million dogs enter U.S. animal shelters each year.<sup>1</sup> Nearly a quarter of them are euthanized annually.<sup>2</sup>

That reality wasn't on our minds when my partner Kelly and I decided to adopt our first pooch, Jocoté, in 2015 when we were living down in Costa Rica (where the reality for homeless dogs is even grimmer). We just wanted a good boy to hang out with, and a friend pointed us in Joco's direction.

Joco passed away last December, but during the last few years, Kelly and I came to appreciate the dire predicament many dogs spend their entire life enduring. While losing Joco after just two years with him was a shock, rescuing is a no-brainer for us now. Earlier this week, we signed the official paperwork to adopt our foster Artemis (Arty).

I'm clearly in the camp that there are plenty of good reasons to rescue, but in case the traditional benefits haven't swayed you, here are a few of the more Machiavellian advantages to res-

1 <https://www.asPCA.org/animal-homelessness/shelter-intake-and-surrender/pet-statistics>

2 *Id.*

## FREE MEEK

continued from page 1

adolescence coincided with an unprecedented rise in violent crimes in Philadelphia.<sup>11</sup> His raps are saturated with this struggle to survive within the violence of his city.

By 2007, Meek Mill was achieving more mainstream success. He released a well-received mixtape and hoped to sign with fellow rapper T.I.'s label. Then, the testimony of a crooked Philadelphia cop sent Meek Mill to prison for the first time. What follows is a chronological account of how the criminal justice system has not just continued to fail Meek Mill, but further how Philadelphia police and one Philadelphia judge exploited the law—specifically the parole system—to continually imprison an individual typifying the type of rehabilitation allegedly envisioned by the creators of the criminal justice system.

At 4:45pm on January 27, 2007, Philadelphia Narcotics Field Unit (NFU) detective Reggie Graham claimed to see Meek Mill selling crack to a confidential informant on the corner of Jackson and 22nd

11 Jon Hurdle, *Philadelphia to Quell an Epidemic of Gun Violence*, N.Y. TIMES, 4/15/2007 (“From 2004 to 2006, the number of homicides in the city rose 22 percent.”). See also *Murder Rates in 50 American Cities*, THE ECONOMIST, 2/17/2017, <https://www.economist.com/blogs/graphicdetail/2017/02/daily-chart-3>.

cuing:

Rescues can get away with behaving terribly all the time. This

pretty badly, so now he's a little starved for affection.”

Rescue growls at the helpless

is probably most effective when you get a spur-of-the-moment invite somewhere (“Sorry, I'd



Jocoté. Courtesy Hutton Marshall.

is probably my favorite reason, if I'm being honest. Rescues are stereotyped as these crazily damaged creatures—to be sure, many of them have scars from past trauma—but this results in them getting so much leeway in public.

Rescue urinates indoors somewhere? “Sorry, she's spent her whole life outside, so we're still working on house training.”

Rescue jumps up on strangers? “Sorry, he was neglected

Street.<sup>12</sup> Meek insists he was in a Center City courtroom with a large group of family members watching the trial of his cousin Thelonious. The trial lasted from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Multiple witnesses corroborate Meek's whereabouts.<sup>13</sup> The Center City courthouse is a minimum thirty-minute commute from the location of the alleged crime.<sup>14</sup> There is no forensic evidence Meek Mill was in court that day. Neither is there forensic evidence from the alleged drug bust. Detective Graham either failed to lab-test the crack he allegedly seized from the Jackson Street bust or the lab test failed to be transferred to the court.<sup>15</sup> Based on his testimony of the purported drug bust, Detective Graham received a warrant to search Meek Mill's cousin's home, where Meek spent a majority of his time.<sup>16</sup>

The following night, officers from Philadelphia's Narcotics Field Unit arrived at the home. Based on Meek's own testimony, he was sitting on the front stoop when the officers arrived. He tossed the gun he carried for protection from his person and hit

12 Solotaroff, *supra* note 7.

13 *Id.*

14 “Directions from Center City Court of Common Pleas to the Corner of Jackson and 22nd Street,” GOOGLE MAPS, (last visited 3/14/18).

15 Solotaroff, *supra* note 7.

16 *Id.*

poodle at the dog park? “Sorry, she was in a rough situation before coming to us.”

Avoid social obligations with little consequence

This is more universal to dog ownership, but having a rescue is a full-proof get-out-of-[thing you don't want to go to]-free card playable at any time.<sup>3</sup> This

3 In fact, you don't really even need to actually own a dog to do this. See, Veep, Sea-

the ground.<sup>17</sup> The police then lifted his body and, using his head as a truncheon, bashed in the door of his cousin's home. The police confiscated \$30,000 from Meek's cousin's room.<sup>18</sup> His cousin dealt marijuana for a living. No crack was found in the home.<sup>19</sup>

As a result of the raid, Meek Mill faced nineteen counts in the Court of Common Pleas. Roughly a third of the charges involved carrying an unlicensed gun. Other charges involved drugs and assault. Detective Graham also claimed Meek Mill pointed his weapon at Graham and another officer. Mill waived his right to a jury trial, due to the thousands of dollars it generates in additional legal fees. He claims he barely saw his lawyer before trial; a situation that likely contributed to the wholly inadequate defense offered by his attorney. Meek's defense lawyer failed to call witnesses that would contradict Graham's initial timeline of the crack sale. He also failed to question other officers from the day of the arrest at Meek Mill's cousin's home.<sup>20</sup> Judge Genece Brinkley acquitted Meek's co-defendants. She found Meek

17 “First day I ever felt safe outside was when I got me that Sig Sauer.” *Id.*

18 *Id.*

19 *Id.*

20 Officers on the scene that day have since signed sworn affidavits they never witnessed Meek Mill raise his weapon. *Id.*

love to, but I actually have to run home and let Arty out.”), or when you want to wrap up an evening early (“Welp, Arty's been cooped up at home for a while now, so I should go make sure she's doing okay.”). But it can even be used to get out of pre-planned events (“Guys, Arty

son 1, Ep. 3 (Communications director has an imaginary dog, a “Bullshitzu,” to evade social and professional obligations).

Mill guilty of seven charges, four involving the weapon. She sentenced Meek Mill to two years in prison and eight years of strict probation.<sup>21</sup> This was Meek Mill's first conviction.

In the fall of 2009, after almost two years in prison, Meek Mill walked out a free man, a free man very aware of his eight years of strict probation. He went right to work selling mixtapes of songs he wrote in prison with the help of new manager Charlie Mack. Again, his story may seem alienating. He suffered an injustice—one so common it captivated listeners across the DMV area, catapulting Meek Mill to more mainstream popularity.<sup>22</sup> In 2011, he signed with Rick Ross's Maybach Music Group. Meek Mill then released “Dreams and Nightmares,” his debut album, an absolutely epic “freshman” effort from such a seasoned MC. Meek Mill ascended to the throne of Philly rap and seemed destined for more national acclaim. “Dreams and Nightmares” peaked as the number-two album in America.<sup>23</sup>

On his way to the Phila-

21 *Id.*

22 Jake Denton, *The Criminal Justice Data Behind Meek Mill's Latest Prison Sentence*, PACIFIC STANDARD, 11/9/2017, <https://psmag.com/social-justice/the-criminal-justice-data-behind-meek-mills-latest-prison-sentence>.

23 Caulfield and Rutherford, *supra* note 5.

just ralphed on my living room rug. I better stay home and keep an eye on her.”). Feel free to be creative here. Most people don't know jack about your dog, so it's usually a pretty safe excuse.

Excellent effort-to-love ratio

When you adopt a rescue dog, chances are that they weren't in a great situation before their rescuing (hence the term “rescuing”). I know, I know, it's terrible that Arty spent the first three years of her life living outside, receiving little affection—or even acknowledgement of her existence—but, on the flipside, Casa Hutton is basically her definition of paradise because of that. Rescuing sets the bar low on my end. I'm basically the second coming of Christ to my dog because I let her inside my apartment and give her water on the regular.

The point isn't that you can skate by as a mediocre dog owner with rescues. Although even if you're going to be a pretty mediocre dog parent, that'll probably be an upgrade from your would-be rescue's current predicament, maybe? I don't know, I don't want to get into all that. The point is, from an effort-to-love standpoint, if you're going to put in X amount of effort as a dog parent regardless of where they come from, you're going to get exponentially more love and affection back from a rescue. With a puppy who's never known hardship, you're going to be setting that baseline pretty high for them.<sup>4</sup>

RESCUES page 3

4 General disclaimer that this article is grounded in baseless

delphia International Airport to attempt to fly through Hurricane Sandy to make a show in Atlanta, Meek Mill was pulled over by the police. The officers stated that his windows were tinted and they smelled marijuana. The officers arrested the rapper and impounded his car. Hours of searching produced no evidence. After an evening in jail, Meek Mill was released with no charges. But Judge Brinkley was so aggravated by the last-minute changes to Meek's travel plans (his involuntary overnight stay in prison), she requested he take a drug test. The test came back clean. She ordered another test. The second test also came back clean. Yet Judge Brinkley barred Meek Mill from touring—a decision that likely cost him \$6 to \$8 million dollars.<sup>24</sup> She assigned him a new parole officer, who demanded an hour-by-hour schedule of the rapper's daily life.<sup>25</sup>

A more bizarre turn occurred when both the Judge and Meek Mill's new parole officer, Treas Underwood, began praising the rapper's former manager, Charlie Mack, during Meek's subsequent court appearances.<sup>26</sup> Meek Mill was managed by Mack during his initial rise to popularity from when he was

FREE MEEK page 8

24 Solotraoff, *supra* note 5.

25 *Id.*

26 *Id.*

# Murder in Antarctica: Just Asking Questions

Over winter break I took a cruise to Antarctica. The wildlife and natural won-

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Editor Emeritus, Jr. Jr.



ders were life-changing. I saw glaciers that engulfed whole mountain ranges, and icebergs the size of aircraft carriers. I waded through seas of penguins, tiptoed by snoring elephant seals, and photographed a ballet of breaching blue whales. In law school, people always talk about escaping to nature to find "perspective." In Antarctica, I took a heavy dose. Grades, the bar, even the law itself felt vanishingly insignificant while I was down there, like warm breath on a glacier.

Regrettably, we're not in school for marine biology or environmental science. Although I'd love to write about playful seal pups, and calving glaciers, we are law students and this is the Law Weekly. Thus, with some casual research, I discovered that even at the frozen end of the world, where there are no courts, police, or politicians, there is law.

There is no government of Antarctica. Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand, Norway, and the United Kingdom each claim a slice of it, but since 1961, the rest of the world has not

recognized their claims. In that year, twelve countries—including the seven claim-holders—signed the Antarc-

tories on the original treaty, representing remarkable cooperation during the heart of the Cold War. The Cold

exploiting Antarctic natural resources and protected marine life, but the core of the treaty has always governed

So what happens when people in Antarctica commit crimes against each other? Is it possible to get away with murder in the most remote location on Earth? The answer appears to depend on who you are and what you're doing down there.

Most people go to Antarctica on a cruise, like I did. Therefore, in the most likely criminal scenario, a tourist voyages to the bottom of the world, beyond the reach of airports or cell towers to dispose of an enemy or loved one. This is not recommended. If you're an American on board an American vessel, you generally bring your criminal laws with you as you travel south. In 2010, President Obama signed the Cruise Vessel Safety and Security Act. The law requires cruise lines to provide passengers a "security guide" that reveals which jurisdiction applies on board. The law also requires cruise ship personnel to report any crimes to the FBI immediately after an incident, and provides criminal and civil penalties for failure to comply. When I asked him, the safety officer on board my ship confirmed (with some suspicion) that he had a pair of handcuffs and a jail he could use for such an occasion. Although data on the incidence of cruise ship crimes are scarce, what hap-



If this penguin committed murder, who would prosecute? The answer may surprise you.  
Photo courtesy Eric Hall / Virginia Law Weekly

tic Treaty which continues to govern land and sea south of the 60th southern latitude. The treaty guaranteed that no country would enlarge its claim while it was in effect. Despite having no claims, both the United States and the Soviet Union were signa-

War hints at the original treaty's purpose and scope. Its key stipulation provides that Antarctica will be used for peaceful purposes only, and that no military presence can be installed there. Later amendments prohibited member nations from

the relationship between people and nature in Antarctica. Thus, the primary source of law below the 60th southern latitude offers little to govern the relationships between people and other people in Antarctica.

ANTARCTICLE page 5

## HOT BENCH



Nellie Black '20

**1. What are you most excited for during your first summer in Richmond, Virginia?**

I'm really excited to explore the city and learn more about the area. It's somewhere that I think I might like to live long term, so I'm super excited to get a feel for the area.

**2. What is your favorite word?**

This is probably so cliché, but I love the word reasonable.

**3. Where did you grow up?**

I grew up in a super small town called Ontario in New York. It's a rural suburb about forty minutes outside of Rochester, NY (otherwise known as the Ra-cha-cha for all my Rochesterians out there).

**4. What's the best meal you've ever had?**

Every Wegmans' sub I've ever had.

**5. What's your favorite hobby to avoid the stress of law school?**

I'm a major homebody, so I love to just chill out and watch Netflix to de-stress. I'm currently binging Friends.

**6. Where is your favorite place to vacation?**

Anywhere with a beach! I went on a cruise last year that stopped in Turks and Caicos and I think that takes the cake as far as beaches go.

**7. What did you have for breakfast this morning?**

Coffee and a banana.

**8. What's your most interesting two-truths- and-a-lie? (And what's the lie?)**

I've never left the country, I hate peanut butter, and I'm scared of cats. The lie is that I've never left the country: I left once and went to Ecuador and almost didn't make it back because we missed our flight and spent twelve hours stranded in the airport.

**9. If you could live anywhere, where would it be?**

Somewhere where there is no snow and next door to Wegmans.

**10. What's your least favorite sound?**

My alarm in the morning. I've had to make it this really obnoxious noise because I'm paranoid I'll oversleep, and every morning when it goes off it gives me a mini heart attack.

**11. What's the best gift you've ever received?**

For my 16 birthday, my grandma got the diamond from my great-grandma's wedding ring reset into a new ring for me that I wear every

day. It was really special because I was named after her, but I never got to meet her. I don't really believe in superstition, but I call it my lucky ring and freak out a little if I don't have it on whenever I have something big to do.

**12. Backstreet Boys or \*NSYNC?**

Backstreet Boys obviously. They're iconic. Do people actually pick \*NSYNC?

**13. What is the best concert you have ever been to?**

I saw Luke Bryan a few years ago, and he was a lot of fun.

**14. What's your spirit animal?**

My dog, Princess.

**15. What's your favorite food?**

I really love pasta. In case you haven't noticed by now, I'm not really the picture of healthy eating.

**16. If you could be in the winter Olympics, which sport would you compete in?**

I passionately hate snow and the cold, so whatever winter Olympic sport involves neither of those things. But I'm not very athletic, so probably not competing at all.

**17. What's your #1 skill?**

Sounding like I know what the reading meant even when I can't actually figure out what the professor is asking me.

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## RESCUES

continued from page 2

Moral superiority

This one really doesn't need much explanation, but once you adopt a rescue, you're really on a different moral playing field than other dog owners. Like I mentioned above, it didn't even occur to Kelly and me that we were doing anything altruistic

want to be too obvious about it, you know? Much to our relief, we quickly realized that there were myriad opportunities for communicating the fact that we had a rescue dog, and that the implication that we were good people would naturally follow. For those hesitant about following this step: whenever you get asked "Oh, how old is your dog?"



Artemis. Courtesy Hutton Marshall.  
when we got Joco for free. Soon, however, we learned to embrace the fact that by doing so, we had become better people than many of you all.

It was at first unclear how to convey our moral superiority to all those we encountered, especially at the dog park where our selfless nature really had the chance to shine. We wanted to make sure people knew we were better than them, but didn't

or "What breed is she?" it's important to *never* know the answer to these questions. Not only will this make clear to the fellow dog owner that you are an altruistic dog-rescuer, but that by knowing this information about their own dog, they have in fact unwittingly outed themselves as a morally depraved dog-purchaser.

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speculation.

# Letters to the Editor

## She Doesn't Even Go Here: Clinton's Speech at Today Conclave 2018

Raise your hand if you've ever been personally demonized by Hillary Rodham Clinton. I know it's not just

Christy Allen '19



me.

In Mrs. Clinton's recent trip to Mumbai, India, she gave a speech at Today Conclave 2018 where she once again blamed her loss in the 2016 Presidential election to Donald Trump on everything save her poor candidacy. This time, however, she not only insulted those who did not vote for her—especially women who did not vote for her—but entire sections of the country. Indeed, according to her estimation, if she did not win your state, your state is not “optimistic, diverse, dynamic, [or] moving forward.”

She claimed that Trump's “Make America Great Again” message was not only about looking “backwards,” but irresponsibly claimed it was about not liking “black people getting rights” or women “getting jobs.”<sup>1</sup> It is inconceivable to Mrs. Clinton that some Americans disagreed with her policy positions and, instead, wished to slash the administrative state, rebuild the military, cut taxes, restore local control to schools, or halt illegal immigration. That many of those people live in America's heartland is not surprising, nor cause for denigration.

Next, Mrs. Clinton was asked why she thinks over 50 percent of white women voted for Donald Trump. Her demeaning, absurd, and wholly anti-feminist answer proves too much. Clinton responded: “We don't do well with white men and we

don't do well with married, white women. Part of that is an identification with the Republican Party and a sort of ongoing pressure to vote the way that your husband, your boss, your son, whoever, believes you should.” (emphasis added).

The hypocrisy of such a statement by a self-proclaimed feminist is shocking. Apparently only Democratic women are capable of exercising their vote independently.

Perhaps one day Mrs. Clinton will realize that blaming her loss on everyone and their brother (or, literally, their husband, boss, or son) is an unattractive look. She is pathologically demeaning to women who disagree with her and the contempt that she continues to rain upon half of America is, quite honestly, pathetic.

Hillary Clinton represents everything that is wrong with politics today. That is, if you disagree on an issue (or all of them, as it were with Clinton and I), you are a bad person, an ignorant person, a stupid, racist, bigoted, perhaps even evil person. In her view, the states that did not go for her are not simply composed of reasonable people who disagree on policy, but instead of “backward” people.

In Clinton's estimation, I'm still a “deplorable.”<sup>2</sup> This is not because of any “ongoing pressure” but because I value and believe in certain things dearly—things like limited government, Second Amendment rights, and economic and religious liberties. As a young woman, I would hope a feminist like Mrs. Clinton could at the very least respect that. But instead, the demonization continues.

Thank goodness deplorable votes still count.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.businessinsider.com/hillary-clinton-says-trump-won-backwards-states-in-2016-2018-3?r=UK&IR=T>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/11/us/politics/hillary-clinton-basket-of-deplorables.html>.

## In Defense of Blood Drives

Last week's opinion column featured a piece by Kyle O'Malley bemoaning discriminatory blood dona-

Taylor Kordsiemon '19



tion polices and criticizing the law school for hosting a blood drive while such policies are in place.<sup>1</sup> I agree with O'Malley's views on blood donation regulation, but believe that he takes his argument several steps too far and reaches a rather disturbing conclusion. As he concluded his piece with an invitation for a discussion on the subject, I hope to be able to add a different viewpoint to the conversation.

Current FDA regulations require gay men to have abstained from sexual intercourse for at least one year to be eligible to donate blood.<sup>2</sup> While an improvement upon the previous lifetime blood donation ban imposed upon gay men, the regulation still stigmatizes and harms the LGBT community with little to no benefit to public health.<sup>3</sup> Had O'Malley taken the blood drive simply as an opportunity to raise awareness of this injustice or even to encourage the SBA not to host the drive during Diversity Week, then I would happily sign on as an ally to his cause. Unfortunately, however, this is not the course taken.

Instead, he seems to ar-

<sup>1</sup> Kyle O'Malley, Tainted Love, *Virginia Law Weekly*.

<sup>2</sup> Available at, <https://www.fda.gov/downloads/BiologicsBloodVaccines/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/Blood/UCM446580.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Zhou & Berkman, Ban the Ban, at <https://medical-review.columbia.edu/article/ban-the-ban/>.

gue that the Law School, or anywhere else, should not host blood drives at all until this discriminatory practice ends. As long as there is a legal obligation for blood drives to abide by the FDA guidelines on the subject, then they should not be hosted even if necessary to “[secure] an adequate blood supply.”<sup>4</sup> Undeterred, he carries the argument to its logical conclusion to suggest that blood donation currently represents an impermissible form of discrimination that is “substantively wrong, no matter how important [its] ends.”<sup>5</sup>

As the father of a son who is alive today only because of blood transfusions made available by donors, I find this conclusion offensive. It suggests that it would be better to have let my son and other patients die for lack of an adequate blood supply than for LGBT people to suffer the indignity of witnessing blood drives at which they cannot participate. While the damage to the LGBT community caused by the blood ban is real, it is not comparable to the harm that would result from effectively eliminating the supply of donated blood to those who need transfusions. The lives of patients in need of donor blood should not operate as bargaining chips in the quest to achieve societal equality. It is a death sentence imposed on patients for the sins of the FDA. It is an immoral, unjust, and regressive proposition.

That public policy often necessitates the balancing

<sup>4</sup> O'Malley, *supra* n.1.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

of rights when two competing rights come into conflict is hardly novel. In this circumstance, those competing rights are the right not to be discriminated against and the right to life. Both are important, but one also weighs heavier on the scale. Preventing someone from receiving lifesaving treatment results in a greater injury than facing discrimination at a blood drive. Therefore, the proper course is to encourage blood drives and increase blood donation even though it comes at a price. Again, that price is not necessary, and the blood ban should end, but it would be a horrific policy to end blood drives generally until that should happen.

I hope that the Law School will continue the invaluable service of hosting blood drives in the coming months and years while still expressing support and sympathy for our LGBT classmates. It would be unfortunate if the blood drives here ended as a result of O'Malley's criticism. Furthermore, I hope that the rising generation of lawyers being educated at the law school will rise to the challenge of making public policy more equal and just for all.

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## Faculty Quotes

M. Robinson: “I will review the point we made last Thursday, when life was still full of promise.”

C. Nicoletti: “My advice: don't take your husband to the doctor, and be annoying.”

J.C. Jeffries, Jr.: “Well this is my last class . . . and it may well be my last class ever. It's probably a mystery to you but I'm in perfect health, thank you. [laughter] But I'm taking a job at the University and will not be back in the classroom, at least some years. And, after that, God may have a say about it. And I'm sorry to end.”

K. Kordana: “Casebooks and laptops make excellent weapons”

J. Setear: “like explosive diarrhea, there used to be things that were special”

J. Harrison: “The future will resemble the past, except when it's different.”

## Virginia Law Weekly

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JUDGES

continued from page 1

can better guess the outcome in advance. Moreover, Judge Thapar expressed concern that a pragmatic approach in the judiciary branch would elevate judges to the position of “co-legislator.” The problem with this, according to Judge Thapar, is that, “at no point in time have judges been infallible,” and taking policy decisions away from politically accountable members of the legislative branch could result in unpopular and unwanted decisions becoming law.

In his concluding comments, Judge Thapar stated that he agrees with former Supreme Court Justice Scalia’s view that liberties are best protected by following the separation of powers, and that the different branches should “stay in their lanes.” He acknowledged that “textualism is hard,” but argued that it is not the responsibility of the judiciary to amend poor legislative drafting, even if judges would personally prefer a different outcome than what is required by a statute’s text. According to Judge Thapar, when courts apply a consistent interpretation of the law, it pressures Congress to pay more attention to how they write.

For those interested in learning more about Judge Thapar’s judicial philosophy, he regularly co-teaches a popular J-Term with UVa’s David and Mary Harrison Distinguished Professor of

Law Emeritus Lillian BeVier, which he hopes students—whether they are formalists or not—will take before graduating.

**Justice Clarence Thomas**

Justice Clarence Thomas’ event spanned a vast spectrum of topics, including his approach to judging and issues related to race. Much like Judge Thapar, Justice

py about the popular criticism that he was viewed as Justice Thomas’ “boss” on the Court, according to Justice Thomas, from the moment he took his place on the bench, there was a trust between the two men. “Unlike much of society,” Justice Thomas said, “[Justice Scalia] never had an image of me [that] I was to live up to. He never had a stereotype, like much of what you see in the me-

Justice Scalia’s presence on the Court “a lot.”

Despite typically aligning with Justice Scalia’s judicial philosophy, Justice Thomas stated that there is no reason why collegiality cannot exist between justices with different viewpoints. He said that, ultimately, what matters is that justices decide cases based on their commitment to what they believe is the correct method of judicial

ed the uniqueness of Justice Thomas’ clerks often coming from law schools outside the T14, Justice Thomas replied that he is interested in working with people from a wide variety of backgrounds and that there are many bright students outside the Ivy League. Notably, he currently has no clerks from an Ivy League law school, and he said that he particularly enjoys hiring students who come from “modest backgrounds,” as well as from different regions, because they tend to have different perspectives on the issues that come before the Court. He also encouraged students to look beyond “faux diversity,” which he described as an overemphasis on immutable characteristics, and to instead engage with people who hold differing intellectual ideas and interests.

Finally, Justice Thomas offered insight into his personal life. He spoke about his wife with great esteem and described the fun they have on the cross-country trips that they take in their motorhome. He also noted the importance of his faith and his reliance upon it during tough times. Throughout the event, it became apparent that Justice Thomas’ reputation for having a great sense of humor is wholly justified, and it was a tremendous privilege to hear him share his thoughts.

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Judge Amul Thapar.

Photo courtesy of the Universal News Network

Thomas’ remarks at the Federalist Society’s Student Symposium included praise of Justice Scalia, though his comments emphasized the close personal relationship he developed with his former colleague over the years. Although he joked that Justice Scalia had once been unhap-

py about the popular criticism that he was viewed as Justice Thomas’ “boss” on the Court, according to Justice Thomas, from the moment he took his place on the bench, there was a trust between the two men. “Unlike much of society,” Justice Thomas said, “[Justice Scalia] never had an image of me [that] I was to live up to. He never had a stereotype, like much of what you see in the me-

interpretation. He said that, even when his interpretation of the law results in his ending up in the minority of a decision, he prefers that outcome to deviating from his principles. In his words, “Why do the job if you can’t do it in an honorable way?”

When the moderator not-



Potential crime scene Palmer Station.

Photo courtesy of Law Weekly

staff members had to carry on for months not knowing whether a murderer was in their midst! When they finally completed the autopsy, they concluded that the man died from methanol poisoning, but without examining the crime scene it was impossible to determine if it was a suicide, and accident, or the continent’s first recorded murder.

In October 1996, on a huge American base called McMurdo Station that also sits on land claimed by New Zealand, one American cook attacked another with the claw end of a hammer. On American bases, the station chief is commonly deputized as a U.S. Marshal. In this case, he used his authority to arrest

the murderous cook, locking him in a supply shed. This time, the U.S. was able to immediately dispatch three FBI agents to investigate and take the cook into custody. Inexplicably, Australia sent a mediator.

Thus, it seems to matter in what season and on which country’s base the murder takes place, but generally, investigating violent crime in Antarctica is ad hoc, and relies on international cooperation. It’s a dissatisfying answer born of the continent’s extreme remoteness and weather, the same conditions that make Antarctica so worthwhile to visit in the first place.

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ANTARCTICLE

continued from page 3

pens to such criminals is well-settled and the same no matter where you sail. The more interesting question—and the one savvy killers should be asking—is what happens when someone is murdered on continental Antarctica.

Unfortunately (or fortunately), Antarctic homicide is too uncommon to offer well-settled answers. The Antarctic Treaty offers minimal guidance. And the few examples since its ratification generate conflicting results. The Treaty specifies that scientific personnel and “observers” (officials designated by each signatory to enforce the terms of the treaty) are subject to the jurisdiction of their home

country for all “acts and omissions occurring while they are in Antarctica for the purpose of exercising their functions.” The treaty is silent on tourists, however. And regarding scientific personnel, the treaty appears limited to acts that fall within the scope of their employment in Antarctica, i.e. not homicide.

In the year 2000, an Australian astrophysicist mysteriously died after a coughing fit in the middle of the Antarctic winter. He was working on an American Base in territory claimed by New Zealand. Interestingly, the New Zealand authorities investigated. But since the scientist died in the winter, they couldn’t retrieve the body to perform an autopsy until October. Consider that for a moment, the other 50



The author mugs for the camera, thinking little of the legalities that would complicate investigation of his murder.

Photo courtesy of Law Weekly

# H<sub>0</sub>s: BETTERTOGETHER

UVA Law Class of 2018 Graduation Gift Pledge Drive



- SECTION A
- SECTION B
- SECTION C
- SECTION D
- SECTION E
- SECTION F
- SECTION G
- SECTION H
- SECTION I
- SECTION J
- SECTION T

## Law Weekly Special Sponsored Content

In the spring of 2017, the Court of Petty Appeals ruled in favor of Professor Anne Coughlin in her ongoing dispute with Paw Review. The speciesist cretins at Paw Review refused to expand their categories beyond “Best Dog” and “Best Cat.” Siding with justice, the Court of Petty Appeals ordered Paw Review to include Professor Coughlin’s toad, Gary. At Professor Coughlin’s request, the Law Weekly reproduces that opinion here. For the last time, Paw Review, include Gary. Or else.

*Coughlin v. Virginia Animal Law Society*  
90 U.Va 403 (2017)

HADEN, J., joined by GOLDMAN, C.J., and PICKUS and THORNTON, JJ., announcing the opinion of the Court.

Petitioner Coughlin appeals to this Court, asking us to recognize a discrimination claim on behalf of her pet, Gary. Based on the following, we reverse.

The facts of this case are not in dispute. Every year, the Virginia Animal Law Society (VALS) conducts a “Paw Review” event, which they hold right after journal tryouts to remind 1Ls of their traumatic experience trying to write on to Law Review.<sup>1</sup> The purpose of the event is to raise money for a no-kill shelter for animals in Fluvanna County. According to the event description made public to the Law School: “[T]he pets of student [sic] and faculty compete to receive the title of the law school’s most loved pet.”

VALS sets up the event as follows. They solicit members of the student body and faculty to submit photos of “pets”<sup>2</sup> for the competition. Then, each pet’s photo is placed inside of a jar, and all of the jars are put on display in Hunton & Williams. People are encouraged to vote for the pet that they like the most by placing money in that pet’s jar. See also *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, 588 U.S. 310, 313 (2010) (“Money=votes”).

Professor Coughlin submitted a photo of her pet Gary, a toad, for Paw Review, and VALS accepted the submission and allowed Gary to be entered into the competition. At the end of the voting period, VALS calculated the winners, and announced two separate winners: Best Dog and Best Cat. The winners were determined based on the amount of money that their jars had collected.

Professor Coughlin lodged a complaint with VALS regarding the results of Paw Review. She does not dispute that the Best Dog and Best Cat received more money than any other cat or dog, or indeed, any other pet, including Gary. Rather, she argued that the categories of Best Cat and Best Dog discriminate against non-furry pets, and that there was no way Gary could have won, even if he did earn the most money. She argues that there should be a separate category that her pet could win, like Best Reptile.

VALS ignored the complaint, feeling that they had no power to make any changes after the winners had been announced. Having exhausted her administrative routes, Professor Coughlin filed suit in the Court of Student Affairs. VALS argued that they did not discriminate against Gary in selecting the winning categories, because the vast majority of pets are either cats or dogs. They also argue that there is no remedy available now that

the contest is over. Judge Napier agreed, and dismissed the case. Professor Coughlin timely appealed.

At the outset, under the Goluboff Suggestion, we note that we have jurisdiction because this case arises out of the Law School; the parties are a professor and a student group at UVa Law.

VALS has asked that we give deference to their adjudication of Coughlin’s original administrative complaint. They argue that in *Law Weekly v. ABC Store #1782*, we recognized that student groups should have large authority to run their internal affairs and deal with outside groups in a representative capacity. 123 U.Va 201 (2014). They ask that we review that record under an “arbitrary and capricious” standard.

Coughlin has argued that we should review the record *de novo*. She points to Petty Rule of Civil Procedure 1: “We do what we want.” She also argues that in *In re Virginia Law Women’s Funding*, this Court noted that without a strong external review of certain kinds of actions, student groups might deprive others (or, as was the case in *Virginia Law Women’s Funding*, be deprived) of important resources.

We do not think that it is in VALS’ interest for us to review the record under their suggested standard. The record they present is rather scant, and there is little to no basis upon which we can affirm their dismissal of the complaint. Rather than remand this case back to them for another proceeding, further litigation, and another appeal back to this Court, we will review this case *de novo* and save everyone some money. Especially VALS, who has spent all \$122 of their student affairs’ money allocation on this lawsuit.

VALS argues that it could have chosen not to have a Paw Review at all, or to have given prizes to every pet candidate. They argue that because they have these larger powers, they must also have the included lesser power to give *some* candidates prizes and not others. We have recognized this “greater includes the lesser” argument in other contexts. See *Holsapple v. Rod and Gun Club*, 23 U.Va 1452 (2016) (“Room reservation conditionally denied until you are actually a club again.”). However, we have also recognized that in other cases, the greater does not include the lesser when the lesser is chosen in a discriminatory or harmful way. *Collins v. Elections Committee*, 165 U.Va 83 (2017) (“You really shouldn’t make appointments to committees based on their knowledge of *Survivor* and *RuPaul’s Drag Race*.”).

VALS knew that Gary was a toad, but accepted him into Paw Review anyway. VALS has carefully avoided answering Coughlin’s contention that even if Gary had the most money, he still couldn’t win Paw Review. We think VALS refuses to answer that contention because it is damning to their case. VALS could have rejected Gary if they felt that Paw Review was only for cats and dogs. However, not only did they knowingly accept

Gary, but they also raised money through his participation in Paw Review.

Allowing Gary to compete in Paw Review but limiting winners to only cats and dogs discriminates against these non-furry friends. This discrimination is unlawful, and allows VALS and cats and dogs to benefit at the expense of Gary. Even petty law cannot allow such a scheme to continue.

VALS argues that, by reversing the dismissal of the complaint, they will have to give an award for every kind of animal to avoid alleged discrimination. We agree that if they choose to give an equal award to each participant of Paw Review, they will avoid future discrimination lawsuits. However, there are a number of other solutions that will reach a similar goal. They can simply give prizes for the Best Animal, and give that to the animal with the most money in its jar. They can give out no prizes and simply donate the money. Or, they can come up with silly categories, like Best Smile, and make all animals eligible for that prize.

We close by remarking that, for future Paw Review discrimination claims, damages are not available as relief, because that money should go to the shelter. Only injunctive relief preventing continuing discrimination shall be available.

This Law School was founded on the principle that all pets

are beloved by their owners. Today, we are able to support that foundation and provide needed justice for Gary. The judgment of the lower court should be reversed. It is so ordered.

JANI, J., dissenting.

Here we have a question of whether a toad, “Gary,” was unduly discriminated against by VALS in their annual Paw Review contest. I stand alone in saying the Court erred in its judgment.

Today we see an activist Court overstepping its authority by issuing an affirmative injunction against a student group. The question this court must ask is not whether or not Petitioner Coughlin’s pet was discriminated against, but rather if there was a rational basis for VALS choosing not to include additional categories.

The Court correctly rules that the remedy does not define the right and that the lower court erred in dismissing the complaint for failing to state a claim upon which relief can be granted. See *UVa Law v. UVa Undergraduates* 917 U.Va 322 (2015). However, the Court then sheds itself of the robe and becomes a *de facto* legislator. Rather than correctly remanding the case, the court decides to review the record *de novo*.

Here the Court errs in allowing *de novo* review, as this case does not meet the high threshold for *de novo* review. *Id.* (“Because

we are badassess”). See also *Common Sense v. Scott Commons* 475 U.Va 322 (“Because this court is f\*\*ing awesome”). “To save everyone some money” is an improper standard to warrant *de novo* review. In fact, the costs of litigation have been substantially lowered since Student Affairs cancelled SBA’s weekly keg (see figure 1).

In giving deference to student organizations’ independent decision making, it is imperative that the record reflect VALS’s reasoning behind creating only two awards, “Best Cat” and “Best Dog.” While Paw Review only awarded cats and dogs, it also featured some type of rodent (the record is unclear as to whether this was a gerbil or some other type of unfun pet). So this was not, strictly speaking, a student-on-frog crime. Perhaps VALS has a policy of not awarding participation trophies, or awarding animals that are not strictly pets (the record reflects that Gary is not a cherished pet but rather a trespasser in an otherwise lovely garden). The proper ruling should be to remand the complaint with a directive that VALS submit, in writing, the rationale behind their conclusion to the court of original jurisdiction.

Finally, I would like to add that there are only two types of cats: bad cats and ok cats. Therefore, I suggest to VALS that next year’s Paw Review award be changed to simply, “Cat.”

# PASSIONATE. INDUSTRIOUS.



Tell your Paw Review representatives to end the speciesism.

#ImWithTheToad

\*Paid for by Friends of Gary PAC

<sup>1</sup> At least, I think that’s where they got the name.

<sup>2</sup> These aren’t meant to be sketchy quote marks, they’re just for emphasis. Keep reading, you’ll understand.

**FREE MEEK**  
continued from page 2

released from prison in 2009 to when he signed with Maybach Music Group in 2011. For the next five years, Judge Brinkley would systematically stop Meek Mill from touring, send him back to jail, and extend his probation. These events often occurred parallel to an album release.

The latest example of Judge Brinkley's abuse of the system happened just last year. Meek Mill was in New York City to film a segment of *The Tonight Show*. As he was driving uptown, a group of kids on dirt bikes pulled alongside his Rolls Royce. Meek rolled down his window and asked if he could borrow one of the bikes for a ride. A kid happily obliged and Meek Mill joyfully popped wheelies down the streets of New York with his cameraman filming for his Instagram followers. The next day Meek Mill was arrested by the NYPD on a felony count of reckless endangerment. The charge was later downgraded to a misdemeanor, then dropped. Meek Mill was then ordered back to Philadelphia, after being found in violation of his probation. Judge Brinkley sentenced Meek Mill to two-to-four more years in prison.<sup>27</sup> Both the Philadelphia District

Attorney and Meek Mill's parole officer opposed jail time.<sup>28</sup>

The NFU detective who originally testified to Meek Mill selling crack on the corner of 22nd and Jefferson Street quietly retired last year from the force, plagued by rumors of dishonesty and deceit. In early 2009, as Meek Mill continued to serve out his first sentence, a group of Philadelphia NFU officers were caught on security cameras robbing bodegas in North Philadelphia. All members involved in the scandal maintained their positions, while taxpayers shelled out almost \$2 million in damages to the robbery victims.<sup>29</sup>

The NFU has appeared repeatedly in the news for intentionally robbing people's homes, usually in North Philadelphia.<sup>30</sup> The detective at the center of Meek Mill's arrest was corrupt. He was a

<sup>28</sup> *Id.*

<sup>29</sup> Solotraoff, *supra* note 5. See also Walter Olson, *Cops Walk in Philadelphia Bodega Robbery Scandal*, CATO INSTITUTE, 5/14/2014, <https://www.cato.org/blog/philly-cops-will-walk-bodega-robbery-scandal>

<sup>30</sup> Haimy Assefa, *Six Philadelphia Officers Arrested on Corruption-Related Charges*, CNN, 7/30/14, <https://www.cnn.com/2014/07/30/justice/philadelphia-police-corruption/index.html>; See also Melissa Hellman, *Philadelphia Narcotics Cops Charged with Stealing Drugs and Money*, TIME, 8/1/2014.

known liar and his partners testified to his dishonesty. A list recently leaked from the Philadelphia District Attorney's office placed Reggie Graham on a list of officers too dishonest to be trusted as a source of testimony.<sup>31</sup> It is especially damning information considering the word of Detective Graham was the sole evidence in the granting of the original search warrant.

Since his original conviction, Meek Mill has been sent back to prison four times. His original sentence called for twenty-three months in prison. He has served almost four years and earned an additional fourteen years of probation. Many see Meek Mill's case as a stark example of Pennsylvania's broken parole system.<sup>32</sup> In his moments of freedom,

<sup>31</sup> Julie Shaw and Chris Palmer, *Here are the 29 Philly Cops on the DA's 'Do Not Call' List*, PHILLY INQUIRER, 3/6/2018, <http://www.philly.com/philly/news/crime/29-philly-officers-do-not-call-list-krasner-20180306.html>.

<sup>32</sup> "The problem with Pennsylvania's laws are that they allow probation to exist in perpetuity. You can be on probation forever in Pennsylvania because you do not receive time served for being on probation." Sidney Madden, *Meek Mill's Sentencing Generates Protest, Calls for Probation and Parole Reform*, NPR Music, 11/15/2017, <https://www.npr.org/sections/thercord/2017/11/15/564385830/meek-mill-sentencing-protest-probation-parole-reform>.

he has released three albums, toured the world, and attempted to start a record label to help other up-and-coming artists. Meek Mill has not been convicted of so much as a misdemeanor during his time outside of Chester State.<sup>33</sup>

In an exclusive interview with *Rolling Stone*, he revealed he doesn't allow many visitors to Chester State Correctional. He says he's not alive in prison.<sup>34</sup> Meek Mill is currently appealing the probation violation sentence. His attorneys have requested Judge Brinkley recuse herself. The FBI is aware of her prob-

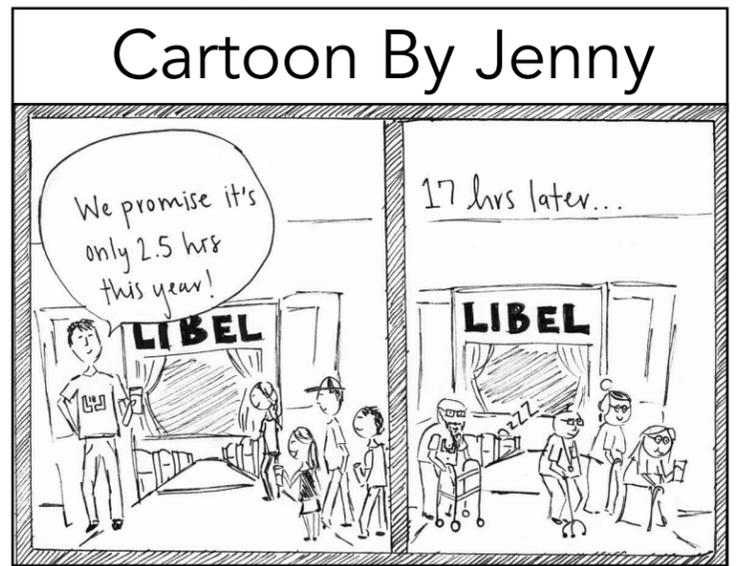
<sup>33</sup> Meek Mill has failed to notify his parole officer of trips outside of Philadelphia, failed to make court appearances, and tested positive for Percocet in a 2015 drug test. Each minor infraction led to additional prison time or additional probation. *Id.*

<sup>34</sup> Solotraoff, *supra* note 5.

lematic sentencing habits. In 2016, the agency asked Meek Mill to wear a wire while meeting with Judge Brinkley. Meek Mill refused.<sup>35</sup> The Philadelphia prosecutors' office is reconsidering the case in light of the new report from the District Attorney concerning Graham's trustworthiness. There may be hope for Meek Mill. Until his release, Meek Mill's case demonstrates the corruption and abuse of the criminal justice system by individuals in positions of power in Philadelphia. Meek Mill's music may alienate some listeners. The nightmares of his reality should alienate everyone. Free Meek.

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[jpd5pd@virginia.edu](mailto:jpd5pd@virginia.edu)

<sup>35</sup> *Id.*



<sup>27</sup> Kristine Phillips, *Meek Mill Denied Bail Again as Judge Calls Rapper a "Danger to the Community,"* WASH. POST., 12/4/17.

**THE DOCKET**

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	COST	FOOD?
<b>WEDNESDAY – March 21</b>				
11:30-13:00	FedSoc Presents: Debating Religious Pluralism	Caplin Pavilion	Free	Firehouse Subs
12:00-13:00	Legal Implications of Autonomous Vehicles	Purcell	Free	Where we're going, we won't need food!
17:30	What's Ahead for Federal Financial Aid?	WB 128	Free	Pizza
19:00-21:30	Celebrating Folk Masters: Music & Photography	The Front Porch	Free	Wine & cheese
<b>THURSDAY – March 22</b>				
07:45-16:30	Use of Force Principles for the 21st Century	Caplin Pavilion	Email <a href="mailto:blacy@law.virginia.edu">blacy@law.virginia.edu</a>	Assorted MREs. Bring canteen, "rock or something."
19:00-22:00	Libel 110 (until 3/24)	Caplin Auditorium	Tickets on sale now!	Snacks, beer
<b>FRIDAY – March 23</b>				
09:00-17:30	Resistance from the Inside: Institutional & Constitutional Dissent	Gibson Room, Cocke Hall, Main Grounds	Free	----
11:45	Constitutional Moments: Prof. A.E. Dick Howard	Caplin Pavilion	Free	----
12:00-13:30	China's Rise: Int'l Relations	Harrison Institute / Small Special Colls.	Free	----
<b>SATURDAY – March 24</b>				
14:00-15:30	The Gilded Age: Arts, Architecture, Activism	Harrison Institute / Small Special Colls.	Free	----
<b>SUNDAY – March 25</b>				
11:00-15:00	Eggs Benefit: Live Jazz	Brasserie Saison	\$	Brunch
16:00-17:30	Medical & Therapeutic Yoga	Rotunda	Free	----
<b>MONDAY – March 26</b>				
11:45-13:00	Mandatory Student Loan Exit Counseling	Caplin Auditorium	"Free"	Bread, water
<b>TUESDAY – March 27</b>				
17:00-19:00	DC/NoVA Big Firm-Small Office Day	Caplin Pavilion	Symlicity sign-up	Varies
17:30	Budgeting for Life	WB 128	Free	Snacks
18:30	Ragged Mountain String Band	The Whiskey Jar	Free	Purchase onsite
<b>WEDNESDAY – March 28</b>				
18:00-20:30	Women in Public Service	Caplin Pavilion	RSVP online	Wine, hors d'oeuvres
20:00-21:30	UVa Chamber Music: I-Jen Fang, Percussion	Old Cabell Hall	Free	----

**SUDOKU**

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**Solution**

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