Welcome reader to the end of the year edition of JR! And what a year it has been! Ranging from a trip to the Khan Pur Dam and various moots and MUN’s which we covered in the last issue, to the pep-filled cricket match and wickedly AWESOME farewell dinner hosted by the juniors for the out-going 3rd Years, which we shall cover here. But that’s coming up later; before that we have some interesting legal-esque stories and what the hell, we’ll toss in some pictures too. Also in this month’s issue, the first ever Eavesdropper segment (it’s a working title people, work with it and seriously ma’am Nida; it’s not “Bro-Tips” - No idea where you got that from).

So without further ado, let the tell-tales BEGIN!!
Ah, Lahore, you never cease to amaze, and the Lahore Bar Association as well. As the Legal fraternity in Lahore, you deserve some kind of award for keeping the rest of us entertained with your constant array of eccentric idiosyncrasies. The infamous petitions it had to hear in the last year alone and even in the last few months range from the bizarre to the “face-palmish.” These include petitions from the Jamaat-i-Islami to ban the Bible for its supposed “blasphemous content”, to a petition by a 13 year old (yes you read correctly, a 13 year old) to ban objectionable content off the Internet. But the Lahore Bar Association has surpassed all these when, by a unanimous vote, it decided to ban the sale of Shezan Fruit Juices.

One would assume that this could be because of the quality of the juices, or maybe they found some animal secretion that caused one of their members to fall dangerously ill. But no, these pragmatic conclusions were not the reason for its ban. It was simply because the owners of Shezan fruit juices were Ahmadi.

A popular poster found which called for the boycott of the drink held: “O the drinker of Shezan! Do not invite God’s wrath upon you by drinking Shezan, do not take this obnoxious drink of the apostates lest you suffer from any disease and you lose the pleasures of life.” Yes, so now, by order of the Bigots of Pakistan, God will hate you just because you prefer to drink a particular branded juice.

The prosecution and discrimination of Ahmadi’s is unfortunately not a new thing. This all began when the draconian Anti-Ahmadi laws were passed during Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto’s era, which were passed for no other reason than to secure the votes of the Mullah Brigade which sought to oust him. But this intolerance reached a new high when the custodians of the law themselves took such a step.
Yes, per Chapter XV, Article 298-C of the Pakistani Penal Code, it is a crime for a person of the Ahmadi sect to associate himself in any way with the Islamic faith, yet no law permits the outright discrimination of religious minorities.
Not only is the act against basic Human Rights principles but also unconstitutional. The Pakistani constitution, although flawed in some areas, does provide for the basic fundamental rights of each and every citizen of Pakistan. Per Part II, Chapter 1, Article 20: “Freedom to profess religion and to manage religious institutions”, it clearly holds that every citizen shall have the right to profess, practice and propagate his religion and per Article 25(1):
“All citizens are equal before law and are entitled to equal protection of law.”

Unfortunately the custodians of the law seem happily ignorant of this or to simply forward their own bigoted agenda, ensure that the majority are kept ignorant of this law.

This step taken by the LBA does naught but provide fodder for the seed of intolerance that continues to grow within the minds of the ignorant and gullible majority. Fortunately, with the freedom of each individual to access information and the widespread use of technology, we can hope that this is disease of ignorance and narrow mindedness can be cured, however it will be upon us to do so.
Ferrero, the company that manufactures the highly addictive yet apparently not terribly healthy spread, has settled a $3 million lawsuit filed in February 2011 by San Diego mom Athena Hohenberg. Hohenberg, it seems, believed that Nutella was a great dietary choice for her four-year-old daughter. She claimed the company's advertising -- particularly giving TV-ad viewers the idea that Nutella was part of a nutritious breakfast (for 1st years this is where you should be thinking Misrepresentation) -- led to her erroneous perception.

But when she realized the spread is about as healthy as your average Snickers bar, she decided it was time to get even -- and get cash.

While the total award sum is a not-too-shabby $3.5 million, $2.5 million of that (for the nationwide class action suit) will be spread out among claimants. It seems that claimants don't even have to have a receipt, and, for now, can get reimbursed for up to five jars if you bought them between Jan 1, 2008, and Feb 3, 2012 (or Aug. 1, 2009, and Jan. 23, 2012 in Hohenberg's home state).

Along with now being $3 million poorer, Ferrero will have to change its marketing and labeling to clear up any possible misconceptions about the health benefits of its product.
In Pakistan everybody loves cricket, and here at SIL we’re no exception. For the final match taking place between Bangladesh and Pakistan the students organized a match viewing on a large screen erected in the common room. The event was fun filled, though it did have a rather subdued start. The atmosphere started getting livelier as Pakistan’s game play improved over the course of the match and by the evening the air was positively electrified!

Some of the high points included the impromptu ‘Photo-shoot’ on the jungle-gym in the park across the road, the awesomeness of the Pakistan team scoring big as soon as Omer Saeed put on the ‘Jazba’ song. Not to mention the food! Though looking back, it may be that it was not so much the match, but the sugar-rush we were all on that led to the hyper state everyone was in by evening’s end (there was a severe shortage of savory food. Somehow even the mashed potatoes tasted sweet.). But whatever the reason, it was a lively event and the happy ending didn’t hurt either (Pakistan did manage to win, eventually…).
On the 7th of April the SIL hosted its first farewell dinner, though dinner was the last thing on anybody’s mind. The evening was organized by the 1st and 2nd years acting ‘incognito’ and was an expression of the love and camaraderie that exists amongst the SIL students, regardless of what stage of legal education they may be at.

The highlights of the evening were numerous and to list them all would not only be difficult, but would also not do justice to all the planning and hard work that went into putting it all together. But even amongst the outstanding events of the evening, some things stand out and shine the brighter still in memory.

The evening was presided over by Shahab who brought his own distinct flavor to the mic. Amongst other things there were slideshows; both had us in tears, though admittedly for two rather different reasons.

Suleman and Shayan regaled us with a very well-prepared dance number, and the seniors were each given a title on a license plate as a memento of their time here. There were also some rather emotional words said, both by Ma’am Nida and also the departing 3rd years, which extricated sighs of sentiment at thought of the prospect of a bitter-sweet parting from even the sturdiest of hearts.

The evening continued and there were awards and certificates of recognition handed out to high achievers in both the curricular and extracurricular fields. Of note were the achievements of the LLM students who scored top grades in the annual examination, and the honorary gavels given to the members of the Law Society and the signing of its Constitution which were presided over by Chief Patron Barrister Masroor Shah.

When all was said and done, and with the inevitability of the exams looming over-head, the students started to head for home, carrying with them memories which they would cherish forever; the departing seniors of their juniors whom they have come to think of as siblings as opposed to Gremlins; and the juniors their seniors with whom they had shared but a few months, but which seem like a lifetime.

In leaving I would leave the 1st & 2nd years a message from us ‘Old codgers’, “We wish you all the very best that your legal education has to offer, and all the best of what SIL has to offer. Time flies by very quickly, and before you know it, it will be your Farewell, we just hope that your juniors send you off with as much style, and much more love than you did us. Though we seriously doubt a better send off will be possible.”
“I HATE it when people tell me to use my brain. It pissess me off!” – Eman Hamdi

“We were going slowly, and all the pretty people just zoomed past us in one boat.” – Haya Sabir

“Ofcourse there are no fat Jedis, they’re too busy ‘forcing’.” – Ma’am Nida

“And last, but not least……..

“Its S-I-L, not sil. Don’t say sil!”
>_<_
- Salma Saifullah Khan

“How you ever had ‘Batoomi’? Its Georgian Sulphur water” (in a matter-of-fact tone)
&
“MAI AUSTIN KI BANDI HOON!!”
- Neshmiya Adnan Khan

“Yar mujhe NAHI ata!!” – Roqaiya Sana Abid (During mocks) O.O
So it seem we find our selves at the end of the year. And what a year it has been, at the very least, the start of something interesting. With exams looming overhead we can only pray that we get through. (So beyond praying for good marks, its down to passes now). But there’s lots to look forward to, the vacant expressions of the fresh 1st years, the dread of the new 2nd years (Beware of Trusts, its not as simple as it seems, if you think its easy, you’re doing it wrong!), and the expectant new 3rd years who can see the finish line and almost taste their freedom!

But if this past year has taught us anything, its that there will be much more to fill the gaps!

At this point I’d usually say something funny, but seriously guys, I can’t be gold all the time. Instead, I shall leave you to worry and fret about the upcoming gauntlet of bloodshed and turmoil i.e Exams!

So crank up he nicotine, pump up the caffeine, and pop down the Aderal; One last push FTW*!!

*For The Win; incase you didn’t know. Whattey Sad…