Talk of the Law Quad

Bits and pieces of nonprofessional news

Dean Lee C. Bollinger was part of a masters mile relay track team that won a bronze medal at the Millrose Games on February 5. Competing at Madison Square Garden, the Ann Arbor Track Club team finished in close contention with two teams from large metropolitan areas, the first-place Pioneers from New York City and the second-place Potomac Valley team from the Washington, D.C. area.

The Ann Arbor Track Club’s time was 3:45, only four seconds behind the winners.

Beverley Pooley, associate dean for the Law Library and one of Ann Arbor’s most highly acclaimed Gilbert and Sullivan actors, nearly set the house on fire when he broadened his repertoire to include a performance as Captain Hook in a local production of Peter Pan last winter. A retelling of the episode by Pooley himself follows, reprinted in slightly edited form from the one originally published in GASBAG (acronym for Gilbert and Sullivan Boys and Girls), a publication of the Friends of the U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society.

"Towards the end of the play I am supposed to get a bomb, with which I am supposed to blow up the ship. This bomb is handed up from the orchestra pit. It had a lighted sparkler. I got hold of it and went to the back of the stage and held the bomb where I had always held it in rehearsals, and I gradually became aware that people on stage were reacting abnormally. Either they were looking weird or they were not saying the lines they were supposed to be saying — in fact people were yelling in the audience, but I couldn’t hear them.

“What happened is that one of the feathers of my hat — it had a lot of ostrich feathers on it — caught fire from the sparkler. Eventually, the whole hat caught fire, but I didn’t feel anything unusual because I was so wet with sweat, and the hat was so big, it was like a shield from the heat. I was going on with my lines and people were not coming on stage. Then the splendid David Johnson, who was under a net as a captured pirate, broke rank, came out and started patting me on the head. I thought he’d gone completely crazy.

“Then I looked around and saw the smoldering end of a feather and realized what had happened. The people on stage were rather shaken, as were people in the audience. I was the only person in the hall who was completely unmoved by the whole thing — not because of valor, but because of ignorance, as is, of course, so often the case.”

During the Fall: Reimann descending

Professor Brian Simpson, the distinguished and widely-traveled British scholar who joined the Law School this year, is about to become the fourth member of the faculty to earn a pilot’s license. (The others are James J. White, William Miller, and Philip Soper.) “Flying lessons here cost only about a quarter of what they do in England,” Simpson explained, pragmatically.

Part of the enjoyment of his new venture, states Simpson, stems from the pithy comments of his flying instructor, an experienced pilot in her 40s and the wife of a professional pilot. "This is not a space shuttle!" she exclaimed during a recent takeoff,” recalls Simpson, adding somewhat sheepishly, “I do tend to lift off a bit steep.”

Mathias Reimann, on the other hand, prefers to jump out of planes. Reimann, who commutes to the airport by motorcycle, has more than 300 jumps behind him and now looks to night jumps and free falls for continued excitement.