

IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR GEORGE R. NOCK III

November 22, 1938—September 23, 2005



Seattle University School of Law Remembers¹

Seattle University School of Law is deeply saddened by the sudden death of George Nock, a beloved professor at the law school from 1974-1997.

Professor Nock taught in the areas of administrative law, criminal law, criminal procedure, evidence, law and religion, professional responsibility and property. He earned a B.A. with Distinction from San Jose State University in 1961; J.D., Hastings College of the Law in 1966; Editor in Chief of Hastings Law Journal; and Order of the Coif.

From 1966-1972, Professor Nock was a Deputy Attorney General for the State of California. In that capacity, he represented the state in criminal appeals and state correctional officers in post-conviction relief actions and Civil Rights Act suits. He practiced before California courts at all levels, and the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and the U.S. Supreme Court. From 1972-1974, he served as a senior deputy district attorney of Marin County, California, heading the Appeals and Law & Motion Division of the District Attorney's Office.

Professor Nock's publications include contributions to the University of Puget Sound Law Review, Hastings Law Journal, Brigham Young University Law Review, Connecticut Law Review and Criminal Law Bulletin.

He is remembered fondly by the thousands of students whom he taught at the law school, as well as by his faculty and staff colleagues, past and present. Professor Nock inspired us with his passion and his intellect, and he made us laugh at his outrageous puns. We will miss him.

Born November 22, 1938 in Boise, Idaho, died September 23, 2005 in Tacoma. George taught law at the University of Puget Sound School of Law (now Seattle University School of Law) for twenty-three years. George loved teaching, loved his students, and was known far and wide for his sense of humor, bad jokes and puns, warmth and generosity. Some of his fondest professional memories besides teaching included arguing before the U.S. Supreme Court and serving as Editor in Chief of the Hastings Law Review. Before that, George was a Senior Deputy Dis-

1. Reprinted from <http://www.law.seattleu.edu/news/archive/2005/nock?mode=flash>.

strict Attorney in Marin County, California, and a Deputy Attorney General for the State of California.

George leaves his love and best friend, Merry Kogut, with whom he enjoyed traveling, fine dining, talking for hours, and singing Cole Porter songs; his beloved family, son Robert Nock, his wife Susan and their daughter Julia; daughter Pauline Nock; and daughter Mary Mannering, her husband Scott, and their children, Halla and Lucia; former wives Marilyn and Marnie; and many other relatives and friends in the U.S. and Canada.

The family would like to thank the wonderful Tacoma firefighters and EMTs, wonderful staff in the ICU at St. Joseph's Hospital, and George's wonderful and caring doctors, Dr. McCowen, Dr. Krick, and Dr. Di Re, and their staff.

A celebration of George's life was held at the Tacoma Club on Saturday, October 1, 2005. Please feel free to read and add to the online guestbook for George.²

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the George R. Nock scholarship, c/o Dean Kellye Testy: School of Law; Seattle University; Sullivan Hall; 901 12th Avenue; Seattle, WA 98122.

2. At <http://www.legacy.com/Tribnet/Guestbook.asp?Page=GuestBook&PersonId=15229839>.

The Bankrupt Tofu Hotdog Company: They Couldn't Make Ends Meat³

*Merry A. Kogut*⁴

One day in 1984, for the entire fifty minutes, George (Professor Nock back then) had me on the “hot seat” in his year-long evidence class. Although George and I had already become friends, I sweated bullets the next day when I wore a motorcycle helmet to his class . . . for protection.

I thought I was safe, but George called on me.

“Ms. Kogut, what is the doctrine that an original document is superior to a copy?”

“The best evidence rule,” I answered.

“And what is the doctrine that holy water is superior to ordinary tap water?”

“Uh?” I responded.

“It’s the ‘blessed evidence rule,’ of course. Now, what’s the rule that white chicken meat is superior to dark chicken meat?”

“Uh?” I stammered again.

“The breast evidence rule.”⁵

I am having trouble believing that my best friend, soul mate, partner, boyfriend, companion—call him what you will—is now no more than the proverbial memory—represented by a pile of papers, photographs, and sympathy cards. I can’t begin to tell you how much I miss him.

But others miss George, too. Everyone who knew George remembers his brilliance, his fondness for bad puns and jokes,⁶ his love of

3. An original George Nock pun.

4. Law Review Editor from 1983–1986. A sole practitioner, she practices from her home on Herron Island (www.herronisland.org). One of George’s property exams took place on “Deer Island.” Herron Island has a lot of deer. Therefore . . . wait, you passed the LSAT . . . YOU figure it out! Merry can be reached at mkogut@lawyer.com, or through her web site at <http://www.leavetheorganization.com/LawOffice.htm>.

5. With thanks to Attorney and friend Robert Cumbow, Graham & Dunn PC, for help in recreating this famous pun.

6. George had an amazing storehouse of bad jokes, such as “Candy is dandy, but liquor is quicker” (citing Ogden Nash), and owned all of Bennett Cerf’s books.

teaching, his love for his children and grandchildren, and his encyclopedic knowledge. And let's say PUNS again, for one can't think of George without thinking "puns." I've decided to tell you some things you may not know. George was a wiz at trivia, so why not share some about him?

1. First, the sad trivia. George took a disability retirement in 1997. He was born with a variety of disabilities, and suffered through surgeries and leg braces while a child. He had a rare syndrome called Nail Patella Syndrome⁷ which caused a variety of life-long knee and back problems. In December 2004 through the next few months, we visited five knee surgeons, including one in Oregon. George needed both knees replaced but it was impossible because of the Nail Patella Syndrome. In addition, throughout the last year or longer, he suffered from horrendous shoulder pain. Again, he needed surgery that was impossible for him. For the last half year, he used a power chair full time, and he could no longer leave the house unless I drove him. To state the obvious, George's quality of life was very poor. On September 21, 2005, George fell in the bathroom, landing face down with his neck pressing on the shower stall seat. By the time I got the firefighters and medics over and working on him, the love of my life had stopped breathing for at least four or five minutes. I'm fairly confident that he passed out immediately, and knew nothing more. I'm completely confident that this quick end to his life was a good thing for him, if not for those of us who miss him. On September 23rd, his children,⁸ first wife,⁹ and I watched as the St. Joseph's ICU staff took George off of life support. It was the second time in 51 hours I watched George die.
2. Now for the rest of the trivia. George had two brains.¹⁰ That's how he could carry on a conversation while coming up with an awful joke or pun at the same time.
3. At various times in his life, George considered himself a Mormon, a Communist, a born-again evangelical Christian, and an atheist. Most recently, he was an atheist.¹¹

7. Also known as Fong's Syndrome.

8. Robert, Pauline, and Mary.

9. Marilyn.

10. Since this is being published in the Law Review, I feel compelled to add as many footnotes as possible. The Law Review editors will not, however, be able to cite check this fact!

11. No, he never once said, "Thank God I'm an atheist."

4. In 1964, when George was a second year student at the Hastings College of the Law, the Hastings Law Journal published his comment, *The "Forgotten Man" of Mechanics' Lien Laws—The Homeowner*.¹² Several months before the "Governator" won his new role misleading the people of California,¹³ a very high official in the California legislature¹⁴ called George. The official had read George's 1964 article, tracked him down, and wanted George's help on proposed mechanics' lien legislation.
5. Faculty members seeking tenure are expected to write exceptional work, usually in the form of law review articles. George wrote his shortly before it was due, in one draft. He wrote his law school exams the same way.
6. George and I served together on the Tacoma-Pierce County ACLU.¹⁵ Our claim to fame was stopping the Puyallup School District from showing students a religiously-based film.
7. George argued *Younger v. Gilmore*¹⁶ to the United States Supreme Court and lost. He learned why he lost by reading *The Brethren*.¹⁷
8. In the 1985¹⁸ *Law Revue*¹⁹, I was onstage. George walked up to the stage, and with a great bow of servitude, handed me a beer. The audience roared.
9. George was in the University of Puget Sound School of Law's Amicus Chorale. He sang bass, if I'm not mistaken.
10. George served on the Tacoma Hate Crimes Task Force, and worked hard on a new Tacoma Hate Crimes Ordinance. He also assisted then Attorney General Christine Gregoire with state-wide legislation, and they testified to the Legislature together.
11. Christine Gregoire served us dinner at her house once, when she was still Attorney General. We learned that she liked the Rolling Stones, and George never forgave her for that.

12. 16 HASTINGS L.J. 198 (1964). This article may be the only thing George EVER wrote that doesn't include at least one joke.

13. 2004.

14. Although California is the "Easy Medical Marijuana State," I mean highly placed. I believe that he was the Clerk of the Senate or House, but cannot remember for certain.

15. American Civil Liberties Union.

16. 404 U.S. 15 (1971).

17. BOB WOODWARD & SCOTT ARMSTRONG, *THE BRETHREN: INSIDE THE SUPREME COURT* 171 (Simon & Schuster 1979).

18. Or possibly 1984.

19. The former University of Puget Sound's School of Law annual lampoon show in which students make fun of faculty, faculty make fun of students, and staff make fun of everyone.

12. George used to have a daschund (wiener dog) named Nockwurst.
13. George watched Fox News. He was a good person anyway.
14. In 1984, a student took George's evidence exam and the "a" key fell off her typewriter.²⁰ She continued taking the exam, using an "x" in place of the letter "a."²¹ It did not occur to this student to switch to using a pen or pencil. George kindheartedly did not fail the student. You can guess the name of the student.²²
15. George wrote a "Law and Religion" casebook. He never published it. Apparently, there was too much competition outstanding in the field.
16. When George was a kid, he used to ride his bike twelve miles round trip to go fishing. During his last year or two teaching, George used a walker to get around the law school building.
17. George taught himself Greek, and the piano, harmonica, piccolo, flute, and ukulele.
18. In 2002, George was a monthly guest columnist for the *Tacoma News Tribune*. His articles were educational, challenging and humorous.
19. In 2005, when he just couldn't stand the pain anymore, George finally agreed to let me find a massage therapist who would come to his house.²³ This was to be George's first massage of his life. I got someone out of the Yellow Pages. I called George to see how it went. He said, "It was kind of weird." Apparently, I had hired George a hooker.
20. For at least two years before deciding to go to law school, George managed an auto parts store.
21. George and I used to be active on two BBSs,²⁴ Prostar²⁵ (which we called "Procrash"), and Masterpiece. Besides providing a means for communication that preceded email, and a way to obtain files from FTP²⁶ sites, BBSs provided all kinds of games.

20. A "typewriter" is an archaic device that predeceased Commodore computers but contributed the oddly-configured keyboard we use on computers to this day.

21. Fortunately, the letter "a" appears infrequently in the English language.

22. Don't look for it in this footnote. It's not here.

23. We never lived together, although for a couple of years we traded off spending a week at one another's homes.

24. Bulletin Board System, a predecessor to the Internet. See <http://bbslist.textfiles.com> for information.

25. 1988–1995.

26. File Transfer Protocol.

Under his code name, “Relevant,” George was number one in a Trivial Pursuits-type game, and even years after George stopped playing, he was still number one. No one ever beat his record.

22. I have a photograph of George posing for *Playgirl Magazine*.²⁷

Well, I’ll leave you with that last thought—and image. It brings a smile—just like George always did.

27. And the unrelenting *Law Review* editors won’t be able to cite check that one, either!

A Tribute

*Kathy George*²⁸

My first contact with George Nock was memorable. I knew that my good friend Merry Kogut loved him dearly. She liked to hike and kayak and work out at the gym. George, as it turned out, was so unhealthy he could barely walk. And I admit that for a moment or two, perhaps, I thought him an odd match for Merry.

But it took almost no time to see what Merry saw, a man who was brilliant, caring, sharp-witted and of unsurpassed generosity, not to mention playfully, joyously funny. George could not resist bad puns, any more than he could resist the good wine and food that he always insisted on paying for. In fifteen years of very fine dining with George and Merry, not once did I succeed in picking up the tab. Not once did I find the dinner conversation lacking. And, never again did I doubt that George and Merry belonged together.

Although I never had the pleasure of being George's student, he had as much influence on my budding legal career as anyone. I went to Seattle University School of Law partly because George was one of the original professors who helped shape the school, and I imagined that it was full of colorful personalities like him. And George helped me get my first lawyer job by writing the most forceful letter of recommendation I've ever seen, as if he personally guaranteed my performance.

I will never forget when I flubbed my very first law school exam and considered dropping out. George insisted (correctly) that I would get the hang of it. He even offered to advise me by phone at any hour of the night, in case I panicked in the wee hours before my exams. I never took him up on it, not because I was afraid to wake him—he was a notorious night owl. I just didn't want to deflate his confidence in me by revealing that I was too frenzied to frame an intelligent question.

I need not have worried. George had an unshakable faith in the people he cared about.

28. Law Clerk, Office of Chief Justice Gerry L. Alexander, Washington State Supreme Court. December 2004 graduate of Seattle University School of Law, and former editor and reporter at the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

This brings me to the story of Christina Mannering, 27, who was George's most troubled relative. She once took a five-inch, folding buck knife to the home of a woman she did not know and tried to slash her. Christina lost the knife in a scuffle, ran away, and soon turned herself in. She led police to her abusive boyfriend, saying that he had held a knife to Christina's throat and threatened to kill her unless she attacked the victim, his ex-girlfriend. Police secretly recorded Christina's conversation with him about his threat, and the man is now serving thirty years for his role in the crime. She remains at the Purdy prison for women, about halfway through a sixteen-year term for attempted murder.

George was related to Christina because his daughter had married Christina's brother. He knew that Christina had suffered terrible abuse at the hands of her birth parents, including a fractured skull, before the Mannering family adopted her. He knew she had learning disabilities and low self-esteem. And George had absolute faith that she never intended to kill anyone, and that she acted solely out of fear of a man who had beaten her and bragged about his violent past. In short, George believed Christina was a victim.

Duress—or the fear of being harmed—has never been a defense to murder in Washington. The theory is that you are never justified in taking a life, even if it seems necessary to save your own life. The trial judge, reasoning that the same rule should apply to attempted murder, did not allow Christina to tell the jury that she attacked the woman out of fear. George and Merry, also an attorney, persuaded the Washington Supreme Court to review whether this was error. They argued that duress should be a defense for any crime that doesn't actually take a human life.

George, who had taught evidence and criminal law among other subjects, was respected among the justices, some of whom he called friends. When the court unanimously affirmed Christina's conviction, he was crushed.

There are other examples of George lending his considerable reputation to controversial causes out of devotion to helping people. He was active in the gay rights movement in Tacoma, a place where voters twice rejected measures to protect gay and lesbian people from discrimination.

Once an avid church-goer, George gave a Continuing Legal Education seminar in 1996, on what he called the "incoherent" Establishment Clause. With characteristic wit, he skewered religious groups as well the U.S. Supreme Court. George's CLE handout said the clause

has incorporated the idea of a 'wall of separation between church and state' As it happens, the wall of separation has turned into a wailing wall—numerous religious groups have gathered there with hands outstretched, wailing of their desperate need for tax-

payer dollars, or ancillary relief from the rigors of not being able to use the coercive power of government for their benefit. Others are simply aggrieved that Transcendant Values—namely, the beliefs of nineteenth-century Protestantism—no longer enjoy governmental imprimatur.

The Tacoma News Tribune recognized George's acerbic abilities and made him a regular contributor to its editorial pages. And of course, his words of wisdom are memorialized in law reviews as well.

This brings me to September 21, 2005. I was in my office at the Temple of Justice in Olympia when Merry called to say that George was in the hospital, in a coma, and unlikely to survive. She suggested that I pass the word to Supreme Court Justice Charles Johnson because of his long friendship with George. I walked upstairs and had started to tell Justice Johnson's assistant, Grace Mottman, of the sad news when I spotted George Nock's name on a note on her desk. "Oh, I guess you already know," I said. But the note wasn't about George's impending death. As it turns out, Justice Johnson planned to call George that day about an article he had written for the University of Puget Sound Law Review called *Seizing Opportunity, Searching for Theory: Article 1, Section 7*. As Grace later said, "He never got the chance."

George R. Nock would have liked to share his profound musings one more time. That he shared them at all is our great fortune.

George Nock, Professor of Law Extraordinaire

*Fred Tausend*²⁹

My introduction to Professor George Nock was at an orientation program for the incoming first year class—the kind of program that virtually all American law schools offer. Instantly I saw that George had improved on Dear Prosser's legendary "Look to the left of you, look to the right of you; at the end of this year one of you will not be here." He was direct, stern, helpful, mildly intimidating, informative, and truly Shakespearean in his liberal dispensing of puns. For me, it was the perfect introduction to a man whom I came to know well and cherish as colleague, counselor and friend.

George's addiction to the pun was outrageous and contagious. I can't count the number of students who petitioned the Dean to let him teach a course on Timber Law in Washington so that they could brag that they had had Nock on Wood.

In his teaching portfolio, George Nock had a special devotion to the Law of Evidence and loved to teach that course above all others. By the time I became Dean, many of the second years courses that had been required when I was a law student had become electives, but Evidence remained a required course. Frankly I couldn't see the reason for it and floated a trial balloon that its required status be removed.

Within hours, Professor Nock was seated in my office. "Now Dean," he began, "there is a disturbing rumor going around that you favor dumping the Evidence requirement. That, sir, is a most troubling proposal. There is indeed no course better designed to give the students insight into the majesty of the common law. The good Evidence teacher (I suspected I knew whom he had in mind) will use that subject to

29. A.B., magna cum laude, Harvard University, 1954; LL.B., Harvard Law School, 1957.

Mr. Tausend served as Dean of the University of Puget Sound (now Seattle University) law school from 1980 to 1986. He returned to private practice with the Seattle law firm of Schweppe, Krug & Tausend with which he had been affiliated since 1957. In 1990, Fred joined Preston Gates & Ellis as a partner. Mr. Tausend now devotes a substantial portion of his practice to arbitration and mediation.

Mr. Tausend has taught at the law school as adjunct professor or dean/professor of law from 1975 to date and authored two articles for the law review. Courses taught have included a seminar on the trial jury, professional responsibility, civil procedure, intellectual property, unfair trade practices, and antitrust law.

enlighten the students' minds on the fundamentals of the law of contracts, property, torts, criminal law and civil procedure." (In other words, the entire first year of law school). "And," he concluded, "since, as is often the case, those principles may have eluded a goodly number of students in their first year, the course in Evidence gives them a second chance." Then came the classic Nock rhetorical question: "You do believe in second chances, don't you?"

I thanked George for his advice and told him I would take it most seriously. Of course, I knew when he left the room that I would never again advance that proposal as long as I remained Dean (six years), and I never did.

George's other grand teaching passion was the intensive two week session every summer that began the school's so-called "Early Entry Program," an alternative admissions program whereby students whose standard stats (GPA, LSAT score) did not meet the school's admission standards, but whose non-academic achievements (life experiences, and the like) persuaded Admissions they should be given the opportunity to succeed in the study and practice of law. In those early days, the Early Entry Program provided a successful pathway into legal education for a substantial number of the school's students of color. George Nock created the two week introductory session and taught it for many years. Thanks in large part to him, the Early Entry Program proved to be the law school's first effective and successful diversity initiative. Based on this singular contribution, George Nock received the 1982 Dean's Award for Exceptional Contribution to Legal Education, an Award presented without advance notice to the recipient at the annual meeting of the Board of Visitors. George, in his typical way, informed me that he didn't plan to attend that meeting. Trickery and conspiracy with his family finally got him there, and he accepted the Award with grace.

George, your colleagues, your students, and your friends have all had our lives enriched through knowing and learning from you. You will be sorely missed but never forgotten.

A Remembered Letter of Tribute to George Nock

*John Q. La Fond*³⁰

I looked forward with great eagerness to renew many old friendships when I moved back to Tacoma after retiring as the *Edward A. Smith/Missouri Chair in Law, the Constitution, and Society* from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law. Among those I especially wanted to see was George Nock, a friend and colleague at the University of Puget Sound School of Law, the worthy predecessor to Seattle University's vibrant and flourishing School of Law. I had been in my new home only a few weeks when I learned of George's untimely death. The sudden sadness that overcame me was soon over-taken by the many fond memories I had of George.

I remembered that I had written him a letter upon his retirement from law school teaching. I would like to share that letter with you because it sums up how much George meant to legal education, to the history of Seattle University School of Law, and to me personally. Remembering George will always bring a smile to my face.

April 27, 1998

Dear George:

I find it hard to believe that so much time has passed since we both arrived together at the new law school in the business park so many years ago. Frankly, every time I look back on that time I come to the same conclusion: I can't believe either of us took a job there! For whatever reason, we both chose to cast our lot with a young law school that had seemingly unattainable goals. Lucky for us, we didn't realize it at the time. It was a difficult journey, but, when all is said and done, we did a pretty good job of it and had a good time! And that is what counts.

I shall always remember your quick wit, faster than any new generation of micro-chip yet invented. I have to admit that sometimes your puns were outrageous. But you never hesitated, always following it up with that devilish twinkle in your eyes. You were always ready, willing

30. Professor, University of Puget Sound & Seattle University School of Law, 1974-1998.

and able to create laughter when we needed it most. Always generous in your praise of others, you continually lifted our spirits. In my mind you will always be the “toast master” non-pareil. Your exquisite mastery of language and gentle humor always made you our unanimous choice for that role.

Generations of students will remember you for the inspiration and education you gave them. You brought your incisive intellect, broad knowledge, and joy for teaching to class after day after day. You also lent a steady hand to faculty deliberations when we needed it the most.

In short, I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to have had you as a friend and colleague for so many years. The Law School will miss you, but your contributions will live on in so many ways.

God Speed!

John Q. La Fond

George Nock Tribute

*Thomas Holdych*³¹

George Nock was a good colleague and, above all, a very good friend. My knowledge of George was rather peculiar compared to others on our faculty. I first saw George in 1970 while he was a criminal appellate lawyer in the Attorney General's Office for the State of California, and I was a law clerk for the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court. George had an outstanding reputation among the career attorneys on the Chief Justice's staff, which is quite a compliment since one could not accuse them of being pro-prosecution. I had seen George argue a couple of cases and found his reputation to be well deserved. Then, in the spring of 1971, George and I happened to work on the same case. He wrote the brief for and argued the appeal in a rather sordid murder case for which I worked on the bench memorandum for the court. At oral argument, the court raised some issues in the case in a context that neither counsel expected, and George was somewhat flummoxed. Argument began shortly before lunch so the court recessed until after that time. George returned and did a good job, a matter I pointed out to him some years thereafter when I informed him of my role in the case.

A little over a year after I left the court, I joined the faculty at the new University of Puget Sound School of Law. The following year, we needed to hire someone to teach evidence. One of our faculty, George Neff Stevens, had taught at Hastings College of Law, was advisor to the law review, of which George was editor-in-chief, and was George's mentor. Based on Neff Stevens' recommendation and my endorsement, the faculty extended an offer to George to join the career faculty, an offer that he accepted.

From the beginning, George was a great colleague. I served on two committees that evaluated him, first for promotion and then for the award of tenure. George was a master teacher. He either stood or sat in front of

31. Professor, Seattle University School of Law. B.A., *summa cum laude*, Rockford College 1966; Phi Beta Kappa. J.D. with Honors University of Illinois School of Law 1970: Order of the Coif; *Law Forum* editor-in-chief. Clerk to Chief Justice Donald R. Wright, California Supreme Court. Former associate in the firm of O'Melveny and Meyers, and has written in the areas of commercial law, consumer protection, and tort liability. Joined the faculty in 1972.

the lectern, operating without notes as best I can recall. When working with an issue, George employed his Byzantine mind to weave numerous issues and strands of analysis into brilliant resolution of the matters in question. At the beginning, I had difficulty seeing where he was going, but once he got there, I saw the beauty of the analysis he had constructed.

As a former municipal bond lawyer who wrote in a turgid and excessively footnoted manner, I truly envied George's scholarship. When he applied for tenure, George had published *The Point of the Fourth Amendment and the Myth of Magisterial Discretion*.³² I was impressed with George's prose that flowed beautifully from line to line and paragraph to paragraph. I thought that even a non lawyer would enjoy reading it because it was so well written. After the tenure process was completed, I told George what I thought of the article and opined that it must have taken multiple drafts to produce something that was not only very good substantively but read so extremely well. George simply said, "Nope, one draft." Needless to say, I was more than impressed.

Some years thereafter, I served with George on at least one tenure evaluation committee. George had very high standards and was not afraid to make tough decisions, even when it was unpopular to do so. For that, the school owes George a great debt of gratitude.

George developed a habit that at first I did not understand. His office was on a different floor from mine and yet after class, he would always come to my office. Our conversations would begin pretty much the same way, with George rambling on about some extraneous issues while I was trying to get ready for class. I would indulge George, half listening and half reading my notes. Eventually, being the dullard that I can be, I realized that George was working on one of his complicated puns, the conclusion of which would generally elicit a groan from me. Unfortunately, I repressed what were truly works of art. The only one I still remember, I use with my students whenever they ask for a review session before an exam. It involves a piano tuner name Opporknockity. One day, the parent of an aspiring adolescent piano player called Opporknockity to tune the family's piano. After Opporknockity tuned the piano, the parent asked him if he would like a piece of pie and coffee. Opporknockity acquiesced, and while he and the parent were having refreshments, the putative piano player started banging away at the keys. By the time the little urchin finished playing, the piano was again out of tune. The parent turned to Opporknockity and asked if he would retune the piano before leaving. The piano tuner looked at the parent and said, "I am sorry. Opporknockity only tunes once."

32. 23 CONN. L. REV. 1 (1990).

When George came to the law school, we immediately had something in common: Each of our wives was expecting a child in late October. Thereafter George and his family attended and became members of the same church in which we were members. George was a frequent and much beloved Sunday School teacher. A rapid authority on much of scripture, George's classes were packed and always places for lively discussions.

Shortly before George joined the faculty, a Christian students organization, subsequently a local chapter of the Christian Legal Society, formed at the law school. Although after the first year the group met at my wife's and my house, it moved to George's house shortly thereafter. As at church, George was the teacher and leader of the group. The students greatly appreciated George's leadership and hospitality, and many still speak of him fondly and the times they had at George's house.

On a more personal basis, George was a very generous person. In 1976, my wife and I were selling our first house in Tacoma and had a contract to purchase another in Gig Harbor. Although we anticipated closing on the Tacoma house before doing so on the one in Gig Harbor, the owner of the latter house invoked a condition that forced us to close that transaction or forfeit our rights under the contract as a result of his receipt of another offer for the house. Closing on the Gig Harbor house first meant that we had to obtain interim financing. I mentioned to George an idea for interim financing. Without being asked, George offered and provided a substantial part of the financing.

Due to physical difficulties, George retired in the mid-1990s. We continued to stay in touch with George, having dinner with him once or twice a year. Earlier this year, we called George for dinner, and he said he would have to check with Merry Kogut, his friend, who would have to accompany him. He said that he had extreme difficulties with mobility. That was the last I ever talked to George.

George was a very good friend, whom we shall miss very much. We regret we did not have more years to enjoy his friendship.

An “Ode” to George Nock

David Skover³³

We are the music makers,
We are the dreamers of dreams

– Arthur O’Shaughnessy, *Ode*

George Nock will be fondly remembered for many reasons. To the students, he was a gifted, dedicated, and compassionate teacher—someone who was, at heart, more of a cheerleader than an evaluator. To the faculty and staff, he was a thoughtful and understanding colleague—someone with whom we could exchange ideas or entrust emotions in an open and honest fashion. To all, he was the premier punster—someone who would evoke a chuckle in virtually every conversation. Remarkable as these attributes truly were, they are not the primary reason for which I will always remember and cherish George.

Words for a voice. George gave me words so that I might sing. Together, we made music. And for the years that the University of Puget Sound “Law Revue” thrived, the law school had Nock & Skover—its own humbler version of Rodgers & Hammerstein, Lerner & Loewe, or Bernstein & Sondheim.

Could even the most inebriated student forget the debut performance of “Socratic,” set to the tune of “Maria” from *West Side Story*? “*But even through their burning humiliation and their sense of outraged exploitation, the students, my students can’t help it, they love me!*” On that night in April of 1985, Nock & Skover brought down the house, taking

33. Professor, Seattle University School of Law. A.B. Princeton University 1974: Woodrow Wilson School Scholar. J.D., Yale Law School 1978: *Yale Law Journal*, editor and note author. Clerk to Judge Jon O. Newman, U.S. District Court, District of Connecticut, and in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Professor Skover has co-authored (with Ronald Collins) *The Trials of Lenny Bruce: The Fall & Rise of an American Icon*, a critically acclaimed and award-winning book on the obscenity trials and free speech legacy of the famous comedian, and *The Death of Discourse*, a book on the pop culture of free speech. His work on *Lenny Bruce* contributed to the eventual posthumous pardon of the comedian on obscenity charges. To honor both the Bruce book and the pardon, he received the 2004 Hugh Hefner First Amendment Award. His current book-in-progress is entitled *Dissent*. He joined the faculty in 1982.

their first bow together before a screaming audience—one of many to come.

And how about the song that christened the brief revival of the “Law Revue” in April of 1993? Nock & Skover “came out” with a bang once again, to the tune of “Everything’s Coming Up Roses.” We were so timely, so prescient: *“Even Clinton, once all things to all girls, without protection offers us his New Direction.”* The deafening calls of “Nock, Nock, Nock” went up as the curtain came down on the closing chorus: *“Gotta believe me. Everyone’s coming out slowly, like me and like you!”*

And so, George, I am left with these marvelous memories of our times together as lyricist and singer. Allow me to share only two of the numerous and extraordinary pieces that came from the chronicle of your word-craft. They are a testament to your great gifts as lyricist, which you shared generously with me.

Socratic

(To the tune of “Maria” from *West Side Story*)

LAW REVUE—APRIL, 1985

Socratic,
My teaching is purely Socratic.
Below this chiseled face, there beats a heart suffused with malice.
And I run my classroom in ways autocratic,
To make the freshmen feel like serfs caught in the Winter Palace.

But even, through their burning humiliation
And their sense of outraged exploitation,
The students, my students can’t help it,
They love me!

They love me! They love me! They love me, they love me! They
love me!

My students, out of love, have prepared a libation. (*Gestures toward cup*)
And I wonder what’s in this libation? (*Drinks*)
Good heavens! (*Gasps*)
It tasted a little like . . . hemlock. (*Begins to die, spectacularly*)

The most beautiful sound I ever heard . . . Socratic! (*Expires*)

Everyone's Coming Out Slowly

(To the tune of "Everything's Coming Up Roses" from *Gypsy*)

LAW REVUE—APRIL, 1993

See Bill Gates,
Now he dates!
He's no longer a wonk like his mates.
Folks are not what they seemed.
Baby, everyone's coming out slowly.

Sandra Day,
Souter, too,
Tony Kennedy, square through and through,
Found their voice:
They're Pro-Choice.
Honey, everyone's coming out slowly.

Even Clinton,
Once all things to all girls,
Without protection
Offers us his New Direction.

Once a guy
Was living high.
He was running the old FBI.
Who'd have guessed
He cross-dressed?
Not to mention the rest.
So, come on out before someone outs you!

Baby, everyone's coming out slowly.
I mean, really,
Everyone's coming out slowly.
Gotta believe me.
Everyone's coming out slowly
Like me and like you!