

## The Case of the Vanishing Law Student

Robert E. Rains

*At the University of Oklahoma  
Was a student as popular as a lymphoma.*

*While at the law school he was a resident  
He demanded one day to see the president.*

*And when the secretary barred his way,  
He caused such annoyance and dismay*

*That she ran to court to get relief:  
An order preventing further grief.*

*The trial judge took her at her word  
And found as fact abuse occurred.*

*He ruled our scholar couldn't go  
To the office of the prez of the U. of O.*

*Not one to suffer without a squeal  
This would-be shylock took an appeal.*

*But Appellate Division One  
Said, "Your points of error won't fly, son."*

*After our lad had lost this case,  
One might have thought he's learnt his place.*

*But it wasn't long thereafter  
That it appeared he was a grafter.*

*When he'd applied for student aid,  
He didn't report some dough he'd made.*

*So, after a hearing had been held  
Our two-time loser was expelled.*

*And when he applied for readmission,  
The U. of O. denied permission.*

*You might well guess what he did then –  
Took his case to court again,*

*Asserting torts such as “false light”  
As grounds for his new legal fight.*

*The district judge reviewed his pleading  
And ruled a trial he’d not be needing;*

*He’d failed to state a legal claim  
That U. of O. besmirched his name.*

*You know our lad; he would not yield.  
In no time flat he had appealed.*

*He went pro se to judges higher,  
Seeking redress for his ire.*

*It doubtless comes as no surprise  
That they found, too, no action lies:*

*For, if financial aid one swipes,  
The courts won’t care much for one’s gripes.*



*Our erstwhile student’s gone away  
And what he’s learned I cannot say.*

*And just who was this would-be lawyer,  
Lying scoundrel, staff annoyer?*

*The guy the law twice had to chasten,  
I kid you not, was . . . Perry Mason.<sup>1</sup>*



---

<sup>1</sup> See *Perry Mason v. State ex rel. Bd. of Regents of the University of Oklahoma*, 23 P.3d 964 (Okla. Ct. App. 2000).