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McGovern Sets Goals for Law School

By Tom Sampson

Although Peter McGovern assumed the deanship of the Valparaiso School of Law a few short months ago, the daily demands of the position and the personal goals he set for the school have kept him constantly on the move. The crucial problems of the school, as he has assessed them—the funding shortages, the cramped facilities, and most importantly, the Law School's own identity crisis—have combined to present a unique challenge to the new Dean's organizational and administrative abilities. Positively moving on many fronts simultaneously, Dean McGovern must draw continually on his past experience...lawyer, teacher, and administrator.

McGovern, a 1961 graduate of Notre Dame, began his legal education at Fordham University School of Law. A member of Fordham's Law Review, he graduated with university officials and alumni with an eye toward getting a new law building constructed. "I'm trying to instill that we will have a new building in the near future," he said.

Perhaps Dean McGovern's most valuable asset is his positive feeling about the Law School, itself. When asked about the "God Made Notre Dame Number 1" bumper sticker on the back of a car he sometimes drives to school, Dean McGovern had a ready reply. "That's the car my son Steven drives to school. So far, I've looked all over and haven't found any Valparaiso bumper stickers. Maybe we should make one that says 'I Love Valpo Law School,'" he said smiling.

Valparaiso Law Alumnus Vies for Valpo Mayor's Post

By Fran Gaseor

November 8th is election day and a Valparaiso Law School Graduate is running for the office of Mayor of Valparaiso. David A. Butterfield has his undergraduate degree from Indiana University and his law degree from Valparaiso (J.D. 1971). He is a member of the Indiana Bar and has been the city attorney for Valparaiso for the last ten years.

Butterfield decided to run for the office when the present mayor (Eldon Kuehl), decided not to run for another term. Butterfield wanted to carry out projects begun during the current administration, such as large scale drainage solving projects, the construction of a waste water treatment plant and a push to increase the number of jobs in the area.

"An attorney's background lends itself well to politics," explained Butterfield. "A lawyer is living by listening to people. Government is dealing with people, their problems and their concerns." He also stated, "Federal and state regulations, even local regulations are getting increasingly complicated. A lawyer has the necessary training to delve through the complexities of government."

Butterfield also believes it is incumbent upon an attorney who is making a living in a community to be involved with the community. Such involvement gives the lawyer a feeling for what members of the community are thinking— a prerequisite for a successful office holder. Mr. Butterfield has worked with the Valparaiso Board of Public Utilities, the Portage County Development Commission, the Chamber of Commerce, the United Way, the Boy Scouts, and the Porter County Bar Association, just to name a few.

Butterfield gave some advice to aspiring politicians who also happen to be lawyers. "Practice law before going into politics. An attorney who must deal with the criteria of his client is naturally adapted to dealing with the criteria of a city. Be frank with people. Tell people where the problems exist and keep them informed of the realities of the situation. Be aware that few things can be solved immediately. A politician should try to keep in constant touch with his/her constituents; an office holder represents the people. Butterfly believes that an individual, in whatever he does, be it lawyer, or politician, above all other things, should be "a good human being."

Even though it is a non-national election year, please remember that your vote is important. If you are a registered voter in Porter County or elsewhere, make sure your voice in government is heard. Vote election day—November 8th.

Third Year Activities Underway

The third year steering committee witnesses to announce that third year pictures will be taken sometime in November. The photos, $7.25 per person, includes sitting fees and a copy of the class composite photo. Those involved should watch for an announcement of the exact date. A bulletin board should be posted in order to schedule convenient times.

The committee also asks that third years be thinking about a possible faculty member to select as a class advisor. Nominations for the class advisor will take place in the next few weeks.

In addition, any third year students who have suggestions of people should give them to Kevin Parker. One caveat, however: "think thrifty!"
PAAM Looks For Interns

By Bill Glynn
The PAAM program, which runs ten weeks during the summer, is a unique opportunity for students between their second and third years of law school to gain valuable practical experience in many facets of litigation. Traditionally, two to three Volpe students have been selected to participate each year.

Interested students should remember that PAAM selects its interns not only on the basis of grades, but on other factors as well. One consideration is the student's desire to practice in a prosecuting capacity in Michigan following graduation. Students are not required, however, to make any commitments for the future in order to participate in this program.

This year, budget cutbacks have made it impossible for PAAM's budget to include campus interviews or contacts outside of Michigan. Nevertheless, car pool contacts will be maximized to the extent possible.

Second-year students who would like to find out more about this program should see last year's intern, Allison Nichol, John Heikila, or Jayne Davis. Placement Director Gail Peschel also has information on the program along with applications. The deadline for submitting applications is November 18th.

Valpo Law Faculty Busy

By Mark Lenyo
On October 4th, Public Services Librarian Tim J. Watts attended a meeting of the Ohio and Michigan Association of Law Libraries in Toledo. Michigan's keynote speaker was Matthew Dowis, the law school's former dean. Dr. Watts now holds the same position at William Mitchell Law School in Minneapolis.

On October 13-15, Professor David Myers attended the American Agricultural Law Association meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Recently Professor Bruce Banner spoke on a criminal procedure at the Indiana Judicial Conference.

Professor Paul W. Briztek and his wife, Susan, have both been busy in academic affairs. Professor Briztek presented a paper at the Annual Conference of the Association of Lutheran College Faculties at Thiel College, Greenville, Pennsylvania. Meanwhile, Susan Briztek attended the Indiana Teachers of Writing Conference in Indianapolis.

Valpo Law Student Recounts PAAM Law Experience

By Allison Nichol
It's 9:00 Monday morning, and again I am the new kid on the block, headed for my first plea-bargaining session. I have read that the case files thoroughly and am acutely aware of the need I have to be tactful and to take responsibility for what I am about to do. When I greet the judge, I am told that the first defendant's petition for attorney at law is being approved. Great, I think, no intimidating defense attorney to deal with. And after discussing the preliminaries are over, the conversation goes something like this:

"Mr. Johnson, you are charged with assault; that charge provides a maximum penalty of ninety days and a fine of $100. Do you understand that?"

"Yes ma'am."

"The police report says, Mr. Johnson, that on May 6th of this year you assaulted Miss Thelma Smith. Do you understand that?"

"Yes ma'am."

"Do you have anything to say?"

"My lawyer, Mr. Banner, strangled that bitch, ma'am."

"I beg your pardon."

"I said, I done strangled that bitch, ma'am, and strangled her and strangled her face."

"I see... Do you understand, Mr. Johnson, that 'strangling that bitch' as you put it, is a form of assault?"

"I didn't salt nobody ma'am, I done strangled her and if she comes around again I'll done strangled her another time."

"I see. Well, Mr. Johnson, what my office is prepared to do is to drop the charge of assault against you in exchange for your plea to the lesser offense of attempt. What do you understand by the maximum penalty you would receive shall you go to trial?"

"I understand that, Mr. Johnson?"

"Yes ma'am."

"Do you wish to take the offer sir or do you wish to set a trial date on the original charge of assault as it is对你 right?"

"I done told you ma'am, I didn't salt nobody."

"I understand that. You strangled her. My question now is, Mr. Johnson, do you wish to accept the plea agreement I'm offering you or proceed pro se at trial?"

"For saying what? I didn't say nothing."

"No, sir, it's pro se. It's a latin... never mind. The question is, Mr. Johnson, do you want to take the plea to attempt or go to trial?"

"I'll plead."

"Fine."

Some days or so it went, as I spent my summer serving as an intern in the Prosecuting Attorney's Office of Michigan's top law school - Valparaiso Program. The PAAM program is a unique one in that the interns' function as assistant prosecuting attorneys to handle all phases of district court trials. It is not a research and writing course. You do not watch others work - you work very hard. My summer experience included plea-bargains, trials and arguing motions of all kinds, probation violation hearings, mental commitment hearings, post-trial motions, post-conviction hearings, non-jury trials, and jury trials. No, I did not assist at trial; I did, I did. I was given second chances given, nor did I want to transform those who would be second chances given, and if they were interested, my teacher would take them for the hiring practices; caring people left (for whatever reasons) and those replaced by those who would prom"
Dear 3rd Year,

I am scared. The papers are filled with articles about how overcrowded the legal profession is and the number of attorneys out of work. I would hate to spend $30,000 on my legal education only to wind up working in a hot dog stand in the courthouse. What do you think?

Signed,

Fran tic

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Dear 3rd Year,

What are PAD and DTP and why are they in such a rush?

Signed,

Confused

Dear Confused,

A PAD is something you write on with a PENT. DTP is an automobile oil additive. I do not know why they put you, or what the hurry is, but remember he who hesitates...

Dear 3rd Year,

Where does R. W. Pool get that fine coffee they sell downstairs?

Signed,

Juan Valdez

Dear Juan,

From the University chemistry labs. They employ the containers marked "organic waste directly into the vending machine."

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WHEREABOUTS OF MYSTERY STUDENT PROBED

By Ghost Writer

Halloween is a festive holiday. Most everyone has either forgotten or dismissed the religious origin of the day. Every year, however, some well meaning soul attempts to re-emphasize the religious aspect of St. Hallo's Eve. Not to worry, this writer has no such illusions or altruistic goals. Rather, this article is aimed at remembering the most mysterious student ever to attend Valpo law school. Any similarity to real, fictional, or otherwise is purely coincidental.

At Landis is (was) a student at Valpo U. Law School who mysteriously disappeared from the law school community after his second year. The faculty and administration have tried to keep the horror of the event from the first hand knowledge of any person, real or fictional. I would hate to spend years examing articles about how over crowded the legal profession is and what life on Earth is like. Zero in on my legal education only to wind up selling little widgets for the Union and the law school. Such a mark could have been made by an alien ship from a distant galaxy. At may have been kidnapped by these aliens so that they could study the life here on Earth. We should be so lucky - if they study At, they'd have no idea what life on Earth is like. Zero in At.

At still has various articles, personal property for you neophyte lawyers, in various apartments all around Valpo. These apartment owners wonder if At will ever come back and claim his possessions. Whatever story you've heard, it probably is partially true and mostly false. Even if you've heard it from At you should question its veracity. Ask some people who know of this fact first-hand.

I asked his ex-roommate what the deal was and was regaled by all kinds of wonderments. Apparently, At just up and left one sunny morning in the spring months following his second year. He left all of his belongings behind and just vanished. As far as I know there was no police contact. The ex-roommate had contact with At subsequent to this sudden exit, but he was unsure if he was just an apparition, someone posing as At, or a foreign being who had taken the form of At. The closest thing to the truth that he could figure out is that At is now working in a gay bar in Denver - it was the only job he could find. Afterall, At was from San Francisco. As in "San Francisco not that's how he described himself - claims that At has had a sex change operation and is now in Law School at Valpo as a first year woman. At didn't have bad grades in fact he had done rather well - it's just that he thought he may enjoy school more as a woman. This informsource piece concluded this theory from the Denver rumor and another vicious rumor that At had some plastic surgery, hair transplant, gained some weight, and is masquerading as our new Dean. I wish to emphasize that there is probably no truth whatsoever to this rumor - maybe.

As everyone knows, At had a great career as a minor league baseball player in the Detroit Tiger farm system. I was reading the "sports news" - the sports bible - and noticed an article about how the Tigers had rediscovered the brilliant infielder who had mysteriously disappeared five years ago. The story so closely paralleled At's, that I couldn't help but wonder if it were one in the same person. If you ever saw At play at America's National Postime, you'd know that the Tigers are a shoe in for next year's American League East division pennant.

A perhaps more logical explanation was explained to me by an old, described At from the infamous Bermuda Triangle, but if you disappear in the Lake Michigan Triangle, you're every bit as gone as if you had disappeared in the Bermuda Triangle. The Triangle extends from Chicago to Michigan City to Saugatuck. Michigan and just sucks people into vanishment. The Lake Michigan Triangle has somehow the evil reputation of the infamous Bermuda Triangle, but if you disappear in the Lake Michigan Triangle, you're every bit as gone as if you had disappeared in the Bermuda Triangle. I wonder if the beachcomber's theory is credible or not. I had never heard of the thing before.

Another plausible theory is closer to home. There is a large, brown, burnt-like circle in the surf between the Union and the law school. Such a mark could have been made by an alien ship from a distant galaxy. At may have been kidnapped by these aliens so that they could study the life here on Earth. We should be so lucky - if they study At, they'd have no idea what life on Earth is like. Zero in At.

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European Law Internships Offered

More than 100 positions will be open to recent law graduates in the 1984 European Law Internship Program conducted by McGeorge School of Law (ABA, AALS, Order of the Coif). The post-graduate program, which offers internships in private firms, companies and public agencies throughout Europe, leads to either the Diploma in Advanced International Legal Studies (one semester) or the LLM-Transnational Practice (two semesters).

Participants in the 1984 program will benefit from a special arrangement made by McGeorge School of Law with the International Bar Association (IBA). More than 3,000 members of the IBA will convene in Vienna in September 1984, and participants in the McGeorge program will participate in the conference with delegate fees, transport from the McGeorge campus in Salzburg to Vienna, and lodging in Vienna provided by the school. McGeorge interns will host an official reception for the IBA delegates.

The law school also will offer summer programs in 1984 in Edinburg, Scotland; Salzburg, Austria; and Budapest, Hungary.

The various 1984 programs mark the beginning of the school's second decade in Europe.

Information on the various international programs may be requested from McGeorge School of Law, 3200 5th Avenue, Sacramento, California 95817.

CLS States Year's Objectives

This is the 10th year for Valparaiso Law School's Christian Legal Society. The purpose of our organization is to provide Christian fellowship at VU and examine how the Christian faith can be integrated with the practice of law.

The activities of the Christian Legal Society can be generally broken into three categories. First, we welcome speakers onto the campus who share their law-related experiences as viewed from a Christian perspective. Past speakers have included State Senators, local attorneys, alumni, and even an agent for the F.B.I. Second, we hold bi-weekly Bible studies in which we examine the practice of secular law against the standards expressed in the Bible. Third, we invite the campus community to join us in various study-break activities. Past activities have included miniature golf outings, picnics, trips to the dunes, and a yearly retreat.