Group debates assisted suicide

Local medical professionals discuss controversial issue

Assisted suicide is a matter of personal autonomy and self-determination.

Lucretia Thornton, R.N. and attorney

Sheldon, Anigbo, and Krieger all felt that physician assisted suicide should not be legalized. Sheldon expressed concern that if it were legalized, disadvantaged people may feel pressured into suicide because they feel it is something they should do, but not something they want to do. Anigbo focused on the notion that life is sacrosanct, and that it is not within a person's right or domain to terminate another's life. Krieger stressed the idea that people need to be made aware of other options, such as Hospice, before they resort to suicide.

In contrast, both Jensen and Thornton emphasized the importance of personal autonomy and self-determination. Both feel that each individual must determine his or her own definition of life, and that if a person has made a reasoned, informed choice, it is not within someone else's right to question it.

In the end, all of the panelists agreed that this is an issue which has no real answers, but instead seems to elicit a barrage of questions. As a result, those attending may have left feeling more confused than they entered. However, truth could be found in Krieger's statement that death really begins when we are born, and what is really important is what we do with the time in between.

Life is sacrosanct and it is not within a person's right or domain to terminate another's life.

Tony Anigbo, M.D. and law student

Confront policies of subordination and racial inequality, says Prof. Bell

By Christopher Hedges
Managing Editor

The battles that will have to be fought against inequality and racism will have to be headed by a courageous political class, said Bell. People willing to speak up about unpopular issues will have to work against a government and a court system that will be reluctant to help, except in the face of widespread public pressure or threats of revolt, said Bell.

Bell criticized the legal system as being used to dismantle gains by African-Americans through the use of "neutrally imposed oppression" that maintains the dominance of whites over African-Americans. At the same time, the system dominates whites while even oppressing them. The court system, despite the belief of many civil rights activists, was and is an economy that is concentrating wealth from challenge, Bell explained that past economic difficulties have lead to an ingrained belief in whites that they can maintain wealth while opposing reforms that might lead to racial equality.

The political system was also targeted by Bell. Both parties are caught up in an "unholy dogma" that moved the focus during last year's election from the economy to crime, affirmative action, welfare and immigration, Bell said. Even the Democrats took positions similar to the Republicans in an attempt to "wanna-be Republicans," Bell said.

People must continue the fight against racial inequality despite adversity.

Professor Derrick Bell, Seeger's Lecturer

Bell urged the students to renew their commitment to challenge the evils of racism and economic injustice. Quoting words from Justice Marshall, Bell said that continued confrontation doesn't promise success, but that people should struggle for struggle's sake as a dissent from fear, hatred, apathy, and distrust. People have to continue the fight despite adversity to show another way of liberty free from racial inequality, Bell said.
Little Johnny's Story:

There was once a law student...we'll call him 'Little Johnny.' Well, one day little Johnny had a very very important paper due the next day. Johnny quickly slipped to the computer lab. Why is Johnny so happy? Johnny has a silly grin on his face because he thinks he is done, when really his fun has just begun! Meanwhile, "Computer literate" Joe is trying to print out his document. Seeing that his document isn’t instantly crapped out of the printer in eight seconds, he sends the document five more times just to make sure.” (He’s following rule #1 if something does not work right away, push the button a bunch of times really hard until something does happen). Joe now has fifteen clean, shiny copies to turn in tomorrow. Johnny sees, much to his surprise, that there is a big fat ink line down the middle of his paper. Momentarily, Johnny is distracted by a classmate digging through the trash can like a ‘possum looking for used westlaw paper to run through the printer. After Johnny raised his plea, he was given a number. “What is the number?” Johnny asked. The number is his ration card so he can stand in line for clean sheets of paper and his monthly toner allotment. A new office, the Toner and Paper Quartermaster, was created to make sure that Johnny would be forced to go to Wal-Mart to get his own paper.

Little Johnny thinks that the law school should have a ten page limit on any assignment, fifteen page limit on outlines, and twenty pages for law review nodes so that we can conserve paper and toner and not anger the great university “cash cow…’the law school. Oh, by the way, don’t be surprised if our tuition still go up…there must be gold flakes in that ‘thar’ toner.”

Chuckie’s note: What gives with these graduation tickets? It’s not like this is a Big Ten school and we are graduating 5,000 people. Chuckie wonders how many ‘Johnny come lately’s’ who are suddenly excited about our graduation, but who are not graduating themselves, are going to be there just to see the Chief Justice. ★

Letters to the Editor

Information about school activities

OFFICE HOURS

Please feel free to stop by the S.B.A. office anytime to ask questions or just to relax between classes. The office hours of all the S.B.A. officers are posted on the S.B.A. Secretary’s, Heather Draves, bulletin board. Thus, if you would like to express a certain concern to one of your class representatives or an executive officer, you can expect to find them in the office at least at those times during the day.

3L STEERING

A special thanks to Melissa Massier and Jen Pastori who have been diligently working as the co-chairs of the 3L Steering Committee. Please contact them if you have any questions or if you would like to be a member of the 3L Steering Committee. The 3L Steering Committee has a mailbox in the S.B.A. office for your convenience.

As you are all aware, the Class of 1995 will have the distinguished honor of having Chief Justice Rehnquist as the graduation speaker. To ensure that your family and friends will have seating at the ceremony, each graduate will be allotted a set amount of tickets. Remember that graduates do not need to count themselves when figuring out ticket amount. If you need more than that amount, please ask your fellow classmates if you can use some of their extra. Alternatively, the 3L Steering Committee asks that graduates return extra tickets so that they will redistribute them in a fair and orderly manner. Your patience is greatly appreciated!

S.B.A. BUDGET HEARINGS

S.B.A. Treasurer, Daryl Witherpoon and the S.B.A. Budget Committee conducted budget hearings on Monday, January 30th. The spring semester budget requests will be presented to the S.B.A. Board. Thank you to all of those who participated in preparing budget requests.

HONOR CODE REVISION AD HOC COMMITTEE

Thank you to Brendan Maher who is the chair of this committee. Please sign up on the S.B.A. Board if you are interested in participating in discussing possible changes to the Honor Code.

SCHEDULING LECTURES AND EVENTS

Please put a list of any scheduled events in Heather Draves’ S.B.A. mailbox. She will put the event on the S.B.A. calendar. You cooperation will prevent the possibility of organizing from scheduling events on the same dates.

NEWLY ELECTED CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

Congratulations to Matt Kemodel who was recently elected the new 2L class representative!

THE DEAN’S TELE-CHALLENGE

Kristen Jass from Alumni Affairs is organized this event to help raise money for the Dean’s Fund. Cash prizes will be given to the organizations that won.

LAW WEEK!!!

Thank you to Renee’ George who has been doing a tremendous job organizing the Law Week events. Law Week is Feb. 20th - Feb. 25th. Everyone from the law school community is welcome to participate. Please remember to sign up for the Musical if you are musically inclined and turn any funny pictures into the S.B.A. office for the Roast Slide Show. Thank you! I look forward to seeing all of you at the activities!

Christine Drager, 3L
Assignment leads to book

Forum News Reports

Soon to be published is a book entitled We Saw Lincoln Shot: One Hundred Eyewitness Accounts, which got its start as an honors project in a Valparaiso University classroom. The book, to be published this summer by the University of Mississippi Press, is authored by Timothy Good, a history major who graduated from VU in 1991.

Good began the book at VU as a departmental honors paper, under the direction of VU Professor Meredith Berg, on the Lincoln assassination.

Berg points out that the publication of this book is significant in that there is very little that hasn’t already been written about that period in history. Despite the fact that, “The Civil War era is one of the most

New field explored in Environmental Psychology

Forum News Reports

A book authored by Valparaiso University Professor Daniel Arkkelin and entitled Environmental Psychology: An Interdisciplinary Perspective has been published by Prentice Hall in Englewood Cliffs, N.J.

Arkkelin, professor of psychology, said the book was written to provide the reader with a comprehensive introduction to the growing field of environmental psychology while increasing understanding and awareness of person-environment relationships. He took an interdisciplinary approach by incorporating theories and data from the disciplines of sociology, economics, political science, meteorology, biology, chemistry, architecture, and law. Despite the interdisciplinary approach, the book is firmly anchored in psychology and includes comprehensive and up-to-date coverage of psychology’s extensive knowledge base.

Environmental Psychology is written at a level of writing easily accessible to the widest possible audience while explaining the technical nature of the topics covered. The book is targeted not only to psychology students but to all students in the above disciplines. It is divided into three major sections focusing on the relationship of people and the environment, the effects of environmental stressors, and applications of environmental psychology. Examples permeate the text providing the reader with common experiences to illustrate concepts and to encourage learning and appreciation of environmental psychology through personal application.

Arkkelin began the book several years ago in an attempt to make people aware of the ways they misuse and abuse the natural environment and how the environment affects their lives. Arkkelin worked on the book with Russell Veitch from Bowling Green State University.

VU offers class on Internet

Forum News Reports

The communication department at Valparaiso University is making its best effort to offer students a course taught primarily online via the Internet. The class is Communication 110: Introduction to Internet Communication and is being taught by Dr. Douglas Kocher, chair and associate professor.

The course, first offered this semester, has a targeted audience of mainly freshmen and non-traditional students.

“It was designed as a service course for the University,” Kocher said. “There were two groups we particularly wanted to reach, freshmen and non-traditional students: freshmen, so they would learn the Internet as soon as they arrived and could then use it throughout their four years, and non-traditional students, who may find it difficult to come onto campus to take a class.”

Communication 110 currently has twenty students enrolled, including eight non-traditional. Kocher said it is the first VU class where virtually all the instruction will take place via e-mail or the Internet. Although students are required to attend class for exams and introductory and wrap-up sessions, the majority of assignments will be received on-line through the College of Arts and Sciences’ first ftp site: douglas.valpo.edu. This Internet site functions as a specialized library where course information may be obtained. Kocher brought the site on-line last May and has used it heavily in his Internet-based classes since that time.

Kocher finds this style of class does not decrease student-professor or student-student interaction. Instead, it changes the form of interaction.

“In one sense, this type of class is not new,” Kocher said. “It really is akin to other existing forms of distance learning, such as satellite and video education, where there is the same idea of physical separation of the professor and students. In this class there is certainly interaction, and it is essential. It simply takes place mostly via e-mail. The professor must be willing to converse with the student in this fashion and to encourage that form of interaction.

Students view the heavens

Forum News Reports

The Valparaiso University Observatory will be open to the public, weather permitting, several evenings this semester. There is no admission charge.

The observatory will be open Feb. 24, March 3 and 24 from 7:30-8:30 p.m. and on April 7 and 21, and May 5 from 8:30-9:30 p.m.

Interested persons are encouraged to come to the observatory and enjoy views of the moon, planets, star clusters, and galaxies through the University’s computer-controlled telescope. Also available will be descriptions of the observed objects. All are welcome, but groups are asked to make advance arrangements by calling 464-5379.

Call 464-5202 after 5 p.m. on the dates listed to confirm if the weather is clear enough for the observatory to open. It is located on the southeast corner of campus, between Gellerson Center and U.S. 30.

* * *
The 1994 Community-University Campaign not only surpassed its $480,000 goal this year but also set a record by exceeding the $500,000 mark for the first time in its 26-year history. As of late December, $513,314 in gifts had been received from residents of the community and area businesses, according to an independent grant of power and each type of government (federal or state) would operate in its own sphere, free from interference with another. It also dealt with the fact that the states created the federal government, not the people of the nation because it was the states who ratified the constitution, not the population as a whole through a national referendum.

The last Federalist paper that Phalen discussed was Federalist 78, which dealt with the Judiciary. It first lays out the structure of the judiciary and then goes on to explain why it should have the power of judicial review, that is that the court will have the power to declare congressional acts unconstitutional. The theory behind this is that the states and their people made a contract with the federal government and delegated certain powers to it to act as their agents. Agents have no more power then they are granted by their principal. The judiciary is suppose to act as a watchdog on the agent to make sure that they do not exceed the power they were granted by their principals. A question and answer period followed Professor Phalen's speech. During this period, Phalen fielded questions which included the power to declare war, states rights, the movement in some states to regain sovereignty, why the 17th amendment should be repealed, and what may happen if states called for a constitutional convention.

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How do we compare?

By Troy Clayton
Contributor

Abraham Lincoln wrote and said many things. He obviously is most famous for the Gettysburg Address and the Emancipation Proclamation, but other works are equally as great. Of particular importance to lawyers is (or should be) some little known, handwritten notes Lincoln made to himself while preparing for a lecture on the law. Lincoln wrote,

"The leading rule for the lawyer, as for the man, of every other calling, is diligence. Leave nothing for to-morrow which can be done to-day. Never let your correspondence fall behind. Whatever piece of business you have in hand, before stopping, do all the labor pertaining to it which can be done...Discourage Litigation. Persuade your neighbors to compromise whenever you can. Point out to them how the nominal winner is often a real loser—in fees, expenses, and waste of time. As a peacemaker the lawyer has a superior opportunity [sic] of being a good man. There will still be business...

"Never stir up litigation. A worse man can scarcely be found than...he who habitually overhauls the register of deeds in search of defects in titles, whereon to stir up strife, and put money in his pocket. A moral tone ought to be infused into the profession which should drive such men out of it."

"...As a general rule, never take your whole fee in advance, nor any more than a small retainer. When fully paid before hand, you are more than a common mortal if you can feel the same interest in the case, as if something was still in prospect for you, as well as for your client. And when you lack interest in the case the job will very likely lack skill and diligence in the performance...Resolve to be honest at all events; and if in your own judgment you cannot be an honest lawyer, resolve to be honest without being a lawyer. Choose some other occupation, rather than one in the choosing of which you do, in advance, consent to be a knave."

[From Philip B. Kunhardt, Jr. et al., Lincoln 77 (1992)]

After reading these notes made by Lincoln, one might ask, "Has the legal profession changed?" The answer is obviously "yes," but the more relevant, and possibly more troubling, question is: Has the legal profession changed for the better? I would argue that the legal profession is much worse off than it was during Lincoln's day. The proof of my premise is "in the pudding." Lincoln said, "A moral tone ought to be infused into the profession which would drive such men out of it."

How many practicing attorneys actually look at the morality of their action rather than their pay stub when they determine a course of action for a client? How many partners encourage associates to look at their actions from a moral perspective? How many lawyers are disbarred for moral violations?

My point here is that we need to carefully examine the direction the legal profession is heading in. If we compromise our principles for any reason, we compromise the entire profession, including our personal reputations. Some may argue that morality has nothing to do with the law, or the legal profession. To these people I would ask but one question: What are the foundations of the law based upon if not some type of moral code?

In closing, I would like to answer some people who have asked me, "If the legal profession is so bad, why are you becoming a lawyer?" My answer: Why did Lincoln fight the civil war?
New health care strategies connect mind, body and spirit in a comprehensive strategy

By Beckie Ramstack
Contributor

“A nice fit with Valparaiso University and how we view the healing process” is how Cynthia Russell, associate professor of nursing, describes the growing interest in alternative and complementary strategies for health and healing.

Russell attributes this interest to recognition of the need to connect the mind, body and spirit. With expertise in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing, she explains, “It is impossible to differentiate between the physical and psychological aspects of healing.”

Such a mindset is nothing new to the College of Nursing for a fundamental concept of nursing is to look at individuals holistically. According to Russell, this holistic approach involved “always embracing all domains,” including physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual aspects.

The movement toward giving validity to different strategies of healing took on a new focus as Senator Harkin of Kansas helped to foster the development of the Office of Alternative Medicine as part of the National Institute of Health.

One hope of the Office of Alternative Medicine is to conduct well-established studies that are able to document and provide empirical evidence, to support or refute the healing powers of alternative methods of healing.

“It is a growing movement looking for answers in different directions,” says Russell.

In discussing non-traditional forms of healing, Russell prefers the wording of “complementary over alternative” for such phrasing “invites the co-existence of different pathways to healing.”

The more positive phrasing is also more realistic, as it is common for someone stricken with illness to receive traditional medical treatment while at the same time visit a “spiritual” healer or one who believes strongly in the power of prayer.

As a member of the American Holistic Nurse’s Association, Russell looks to various strategies of healing in addition to those of traditional Western medicine. She believes health care also needs to consider areas such as prayer, diet and nutrition, structural manipulations, ayurvedic medicine, homeopathy, traditional oriental medicine, and native American medicine.

In looking at the fundamental care of other cultures, the AHNA “explores how other groups have come to foster health and promote healing.”

This spring, Russell, along with Dr. Carole Pepa, assistant professor of nursing, will teach an elective course in alternative/complimentary strategies for health and healing, this is the first time a VI undergraduate/graduate course of this kind has been offered and will be open to any upperclassman, even those outside of the College of Nursing.

According to Russell, the course will incorporate a focus on cultural groups within the United States who “look to and utilize alternative methods of healing.” Students will be “looking at diversity within the U.S.” and will focus specifically on African-American, Mexican-American, and Native-American cultures.”

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Good Luck ATLA

at ATLA’s regional competition in Minneapolis, MN March 4 and 5.

Doug Fahl, Kurt Earnst, Heather Mc Cleery, Shannon DeLaMar, Chris Becker, Jon Olson, Scott Loitz, Boris Prentiss, Renee Zak, Tracey Cassens, John Prokos, Shontay Leverett

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CONGRATULATIONS

Chris and Julia Spanos on the birth of your son, Trent Daniel Spanos.
DDI helps

by Robin King

Features Editor

Implementation of the Designated Driver Initiative will hopefully be occurring sometime this semester, after some logistics and legalities have been resolved. However, according to Coordinator and founder of the program, Jeff Jazgar, the program’s platform was recently presented to the Board of Visitors. Jazgar presented the plan to the Board before the holiday break. Faculty Advisor for the program, Professor Bodensteiner, and Jazgar also met with Dean Gaffney to discuss its implementation. There had been some concerns regarding liability which have recently been resolved. Those working on the program are pleased to announce that it will be in place very soon.

The Designated Driver Initiative will provide safe transportation to law students following social activities at which alcohol has been served. The purpose of the program is to encourage students to be responsible with regard to their social behavior and increase awareness of the seriousness of drinking and driving. The service will tentatively be available to law students Thursday through Saturday evenings. Fellow law students would serve as volunteer drivers. Hopefully, there will be a central designated station where students may call in to request a ride. A volunteer team, consisting of male and female drivers will be available to give students a safe ride home.

Present sponsors include the popular Northside Tap Room and Grill, The Court Restaurant, Cartronix and Leo’s Bicycle Works. The program is non-profit and last semester, program coordinators raised funds by conducting a mountain bike raffle. The raffle was a huge success and enough money was earned to get the program going. The bike was provided by Leo’s and the winner was 3L Mike Fromm.

Jazgar hopes that any possible problems can be worked out, as the benefits of the program far outweigh any possible drawbacks. This program is a solid and positive step in raising not only awareness in our own law school community, but in the larger Valparaiso community as well.

*Features Editor’s Note: The program started at the beginning of February, and volunteers are treated to free pizza and movies.*

Quotable

"Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat, for drunkards and gluttons become poor, and drowsiness clothes them in rags.

—Proverbs 23:20 & 21"
By Ilse Masselink
International Law Contributor

Valparaiso University of Law is offering a summer study program in Puebla, Mexico, from June 4 through July 15. The program is for 1Ls, 2Ls, and 3Ls who are interested in international classes, less expensive traveling, an opportunity to learn Spanish, and an adventurous summer with many chances to enrich oneself academically and culturally.

Visiting Puebla shows will show students the beautiful side of Mexico that a visitor in the North or in tourist areas misses. Due partly to its central location, the people are less influenced by the United States. The crafts are indigenous and beautiful, mostly made in the Sierra Madres and brought down into the city to be sold. And the food is deliciosa, many famous Mexican dishes originated in Puebla, and Puebla also has fascinating churches and museums which provide both hours of sightseeing and a wealth of information about Mexican history and culture.

Puebla is a perfect site for an international study program. This city of 2 million inhabitants (Poblanos) provides a cultural mecca, exquisite cuisine, unique shopping, and an exciting nightlife for a summer visitor. But visiting law students through Valpo's program will be provided much more than a great city.

Valpo's program itself also has excellent components which offer a lot to visiting students. First, the site of the program is 10 minutes outside of the city of Puebla on the campus of the Universidad de las Americas, a modern and beautiful campus where students from all over the Americas and Europe study in the summer.

Second, a variety of classes will be taught, all with some emphasis on Latin America. Such classes include Comparative Law, Entertainment Law, International Business Transactions, and NAFTA.

In addition, law students will be able to take advantage of the many levels of college intensive Spanish courses offered at the UDLA.

Finally, the Valpo program also offers tours to places such as the Supreme Court and Congress in Mexico City where students will learn about the Mexican legal system. The excellent bus system, lenient class schedule, and economic prices will allow students to travel on their own or through other tours on weekends to exciting places such as a climb up the volcano Popo, a visit to the beach in Acapulco, and a trip to the famous market in Oaxaca.

How to spend your summer is a difficult decision for a law student. But Mexico offers some unique advantages and opportunities which any law student wanting to get the most out of his or her summer should enter into the equation. First, through the Mexico program, students interested in either international law, international business, corporate law, or public interest will be able to show employers that they had the foresight to become familiar with our neighbor across the border for summer fun! Mexico will be demonstrating to employers valuable, unique qualities, such as familiarity with Latin culture, knowledge of some Spanish as well as Mexican law and how the Latin American civil law functions. Moreover, many employers are pleased to see some international experience in an applicant as an indication that the law student is interested in other cultures, flexible and well-rounded.

The Mexico program allows law students to not only build up their resume, but enjoy themselves at the same time. Later, graduating law students getting first jobs may find themselves facing constant work with extremely limited vacations for many years. Consider the years between law school as precious times to learn, travel, and experience life in another part of the world.

Law students interested in more information should attend a meeting on the Mexico program on February 28 at 2:40 p.m. in classroom "C" (Benson). *