Vandal's Work has Admin Seething

WORDS, WORDS, WORDS... by Anne Levinson Penway

Being directly confronted with hatefulness in the form of the scrawled words "Niggers go home" on the Black Law Students bulletin board was a new experience for me. You may think I've lived a sheltered life — but I honestly have never seen that word prominently displayed in any place other than in the pages of books in my life. It was not a word used in my home, in my neighborhood, or among the people I grew up with and was influenced by. "Shock" doesn't express how I felt when I saw it, and "embarrassment" doesn't convey what I felt when I had to look into the eyes of African American students who, in the short time I've been here, have become my friends. Honestly, what I felt was shame — a searing, burning, personal kind of shame and a sense of guilt, almost complicity. I'm made to feel the tremendous and searing, burning, personal guilt of association.

I am saddened, however, by several things. Professor Lind expressed guilt, almost complicity. I'm made to feel the tremendous and searing, burning, personal guilt of association. I am still saddened, however, by several things. Professor Lind expressed guilt, almost complicity. I'm made to feel the tremendous and searing, burning, personal guilt of association.

I am saddened that a pure coincidence of timing led a reporter to write, and put on the national wire, a story which, though essentially accurate in its details, nevertheless gave the impression of linking the incident of vandalism with the magnificent display of artworks the Black Law Students had organized in celebration of Black History Month. The story inaccurately implied that the display was somehow an "answer" to the incident, when in fact it was put up before the incident. It also implied that the display was an answer to an earlier incident which occurred on the undergraduate campus, where a potentially offensive artwork was removed from display in the Union. My information is that BLSA hadn't even heard of the earlier incident when the display was planned. The story failed to note that we're grown ups — we can handle provocative ideas, we can handle beautiful and truthful art about the message of hate was answered with exactly the kind of response the First Amendment contemplates — far better ideas, expressed at an open forum, which immediately won the support of hearts and minds, and placed the cowardly, infantile scrawl of one who can barely express themselves in its place. I am so proud to be associated with students who behaved with such good sense and wisdom.

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Our Opinion

by Thomas Kingston
Managing Editor

Graduation is approaching for the third year class more quickly than I care to think about. Unlike most of my fellow classmembers, I tend to procrastinate, and have not yet booked hotel rooms for the family and friends that plan to see me graduate from law school. I must say that all of this preparation each of us must make doesn’t help with the pressures of an approaching finals schedule.

To make matters worse, I have never been one for ceremony. I have stood through far too many episodes of pomp and circumstance while in the Navy, and was surprised by the number of “important” occasions at undergrad. The only compelling reason I have to want to attend another one is my family and friends. They, for some reason, desperately want to see me graduate. Most likely because the ceremony does not include them.

Fortunately, Valpo has a great history of presenting prominent people at our graduation ceremonies. As a first year law student I shook hands with Justice O’Connor. My second year brought Justice Rhnquist. Several of my friends who graduated over the last two years were able to present their parents and friends to the highest judicial officers of their newly chosen profession.

I seem that parents are doubly proud to watch their child step up and shake hands with a Justice. from the Supreme Court of the United States. It’s as though there is a great sense of satisfaction for a parent in such a scene. It also seemed to dampen the anxiety felt by us lower-class members caused by rising tuition and falling school rank.

At the beginning of my third year, rumors told of newly elected President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela, being present at my graduation. This was especially exciting to me as President Mandela was one of my personal heroes. I told my family and friends, and my rivals at other law schools. Like many of you, I assumed this rumor was true because of our history of bringing great people to our school. I soon discovered the truth.

To the glory of God.

From the Dean’s Desk

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS
by Dean Edward McGlynn Gaffney

Last month, or, to be precise, on February 19, 1996, my mother died peacefully in her sleep at her home in Inverness, California. She was ninety years old. In important ways, her home was her own: not only had she long since paid off the mortgage, she set the tone and made the rules in her home, and those who lived and passed through there benefitted from the wisdom she showed in doing so.

Her home was my home, too. It was there that I learned about the importance of respect, civility and hospitality, and many other virtues besides. I cherish many fond memories of the past associated with that place. More importantly, though, I think of my mother’s home as a place where I was always welcome, no matter what crazy thing I had said or done. Such was my mother’s charity that, although all of my brothers and sisters gave her something to be patient about over the years of our journeys through life, she always offered us a safe haven, a place where we could go without fear of being rejected or judged harshly.

On the day my mother died, I received the news that someone had defaced the bulletin board of the Black Law Students Association, scribbling the ugly words, “Nigger, go home!” With thoughts about my own childhood home swirling about in my head and heart, I was deeply saddened that the concept of “home” was so cheapened and debased by this thoughtless message. And I was angry that some of our law students were told that this law school is not really a home away from home. So I wrote to the members of BLSA that day a small note expressing my feelings about this cowardly and small-minded attack on their dignity. Now I would like to speak from the heart to all of you about this incident.

I know that a law

Continued on page 5, see Home.

Contra Mundum
By Felix Sternfels

Conservative Crawfish

Being from Louisiana, I feel proud of myself for holding my tongue (or pen), and not mentioning my beloved State in my column a single time for nearly half a year. While we don’t have state decisions in Louisiana, I think that is a precedent for anybody from the Bayou State. Nevertheless, I don’t want my withdrawn pen to be mistaken for a halting heart, as the sounds of the Big Easy and smell of boiled crawfish are never far from my mind.

But what took place (a few weeks ago) in Cajun Country cannot go unmentioned, so I wield my pen.

Many of you have doubtlessly heard of the famous or infamous politics of my State. At the top of the list has to be our last governor, Edwin Edwards, who was re-elected three times, despite countless allegations of womanizing and illegal activities. Pardon the pun, but his womanizing was put to bed a few years ago when he left his wife of nearly 40 years to marry his new sweetheart, a 28 year old lass named Candy. The first order of business in his last term of office was to allow Candy to have her 10-year high school class reunion in the governor’s mansion, surely at taxpayers expense. Always pleasure before business with old Edwin. I believe it was he who coined the phrase that politics is the second favorite indoor sport in Louisiana.

While Candy was busy playing with her schoolmates, Edwin was recovering from being indicted on 114 counts of arson. He was acquitted on all counts. It couldn’t have been him. As Edwin said, they had the wrong coonass. It is very difficult to be patient about over the years of our journeys through life, she always offered us a safe haven, a place where we could go without fear of being rejected or judged harshly. Continued on page 5, see Crawfish.

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The Forum
"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." II Cor. 3:17
Mar. 21 -April 3, 1996

Letters & Opinions

Continued on page 5, see Home.
true nature of the word assume (ass- u- me). It made and ass out of you and me, and I had to tell everyone that he was not coming.

Though none of my family and friends seem to care who is at my graduation, it is a matter of pride to be in the presence of some grand figure of our times, and to shake his or her hand as I enter the great profession of law. Deep down, I fear that our only prominent figure will be the Valparaiso city planner.

And I am not the only one. There seems to be quite a few of us who are waiting to see who will be at the ceremony before making any plans for their family and friends. The problem is that graduation is about six weeks away and plans have to be made soon.

If we have a prominent speaker at the ceremony we may be limited in the number of tickets we receive. That means that I may have to choose from among my family and friends who will see me graduate. What do I tell those who get left out? Should they even make plans to fly in that weekend?

If the only reason I am willing to attend the ceremony is for pleasure of my family, why would I want to attend if some of them are forced out of it? It would really be nice if we knew what to expect for what many may consider one of the most important events of their lives.

To top it all off, I am now hearing rumors that Former President Jimmy Carter might be present for the ceremony. If that is true, I can count on about two tickets. So now I don't know which I would prefer. A former President of the United States, or the Valpo city planner.

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## NO BAR/BRI PROFESSORS HAVE LEFT!!

PUTTING RUMORS TO REST:

EVERY SINGLE PROFESSOR WHO HAS DELIVERED A SUBSTANTIVE LECTURE IN ILLINOIS THIS DECADE IS STILL WITH BAR/BRI!

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Let your voice rise across the land!

Write a letter to the editor or an opinion piece. All viewpoints of interest to law students welcome.

Deadline: Thursday March 15, 1996 at 5 p.m.
For more information, contact The Forum via email at forum@wesemann
April - wees performed admirably.

I am saddened that, though the matter is totally beyond our control, some students, I'm told, seem to think that the press coverage of the incident was deliberate, as though someone had gone out and called a reporter to tell them about it. That's just bull. I'm supposed to be the media liaison around here, and I had no idea a reporter was even in the building the day a story was prepared for the local press about the art display. Because the story was put on the wire, yes, there was some press about the art display. Nevertheless, she promised to give a fair representation of the artworks. The errors in the earlier story were made clear to her. She promised to give a fair representation of the artworks on display. Nevertheless, she quite deliberately posed her interviewees in front of one painting that bore the images of a klansman and a neo-Nazi, and launched right in after asking only a few preliminary questions about the art, with questions about the unrelated incident. Her interviewees performed admirably under these confusing circumstances, calmly clearing up misperceptions. We have no control, however over how the tape was edited. I never saw the final version I can only hope that it was fair. I can't stop reporters from entering this building and doing whatever story they think they've found. To do so would make us look like we're trying to hide something, or trying to tell reporters what stories they may or may not do. I'm a First Amendment advocate. I won't do that, and I don't believe it is in our best interest to try.

This incident of vandalism happened. We acknowledge it. Quite frankly, we're angry about it. We are responding to it. It's important that we all get involved in addressing it. There will be at least one additional forum held to address any lingering issues about the incident and answer questions students may still have. I hope to schedule it at a time when most all students can attend. In the meantime, if there are additional questions and concerns, please bring them to me, and I'll do my best to find some answers.

The Forum is an open medium for the discussion of this and other topics. We will print any and all letters to The Forum unedited. Scan the se pages for information on contributing.

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Home. Cont'd. from page 2.

Home, speaking. That's why I began my feelings about my child this column by sharing some of the words were inscribed on the milk pitcher that my sister Helen made as her first project in her art class at Holy Name College. Long after Helen died of multiple sclerosis - only 8 years old - I kept seeing "home".

It is where the heart is." those milk pitcher that my sister Helen had made as her first project in her art class at Holy Name College. Long after Helen died of multiple sclerosis - only 8 years old - I kept seeing "home." I have no way of knowing whether a law student defaced the BLSA sign. The weekend when it occurred, there were all kinds of outside students and guests in the building, and it could have been one of them who was writing in this mean-spirited way. So, without knowing anyone in our community did this, let me just state my own firm view that all members of our law school community are welcome here. This law school may not be as good as your childhood home for teaching you about the virtues that really matter in your life, but as a home away from home it must always be welcoming environment. I even hope that this law school can be something like my mother's home, a safe haven, or a place where we may go without fear of being rejected, or judged harshly. This must be true with respect to issues that should never be allowed to diminish the core of our human personhood, such as our race or ethnicity, our religion, or our gender.

Finally, I would like to thank Anne Penway and my colleagues on the faculty, Professors Bodensteiner, Hatcher, and Lind, and all of you who took part in the town hall meeting about this incident in late February. I hope this conversation can continue, because each and every one of you are as welcome here as everyone else.

Ann Levinson Penway and Professor Berner preparing for their performance in the awe-inspiring "Pirates" production. Photo courtesy of Ann Levinson Penway.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Collars
2. Just one of those things
3. Sing softly
5. Romeo or Juliet
6. Cliff Portion
7. Rd. named for an actress?
8. Fund off
9. Deep green
10. Noon's Sir
11. Modes
12. Writer
14. Rd. named for a ballplayer?
15. River embankment
16. Assurance from Good
17. Blue Velvet
tar
18. Rapper Vanilla
19. Studio director
20. Gumshoe
21. Disposable razor brand
22. Beyond a doubt
23. High as
24. Rd. named for a West Virginia senator?
25. Peter Arnett's employer
26. Wishes one hadn't
27. Believers in complement almost
28. Musical monument
29. Fashion designer of note
30. Perform on the soapbox
31. Rd. named for a stooge?
32. Unsise at Any Speed
33. Pulitzer Prize winner of 1968
34. "Del you?"
35. Across Sharon
36. Excite
37. Hawk
38. "What's in it?"
39. Avocado alternative
40. Like most mules
41. The Rose of the Full
42. Nelson and others
43.onetaken)
44. Complete complement
45. Bordeaux wine
46. Addressed already
47. Poems of devotion
48. Cruel fate
49. "I love you"
50. Tierra del Fuego co-
51. "Ride and Roll"
52. "Donged".
53. Forked
54. Shepra
55. Elegy, perhaps
56. Aogine
57. As soon as
58. Pinocchio, for one
59. "That's disgusting"

DOWN

1. Sporting one's birthday suit
2. "What's in it?"
3. Arrangement
4. Like most mules
5. "The Rose of the Full"
6. Nelson and others
7. "onetaken)
8. Complete complement
9. Bordeaux wine
10. Addressed already
11. Poems of devotion
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Across 41: The Forum.

Have a story idea?
Contribute to The Forum.
Call 465-7831 for more info.
Meetings every Tuesday @ 10 a.m.
in Heritage Hall 202.
forum@wesemann.law.valpo.edu

Thanks contributors!
Many benefits to legal fraternities

by Heather McCleery
Phi Delta Phi
VIA EMAIL

Phi Delta Phi was established in 1869 to promote a higher standard of professional ethics and character in the law schools and the profession at large, and to unite ourselves in the endearing bonds of affection and brotherly (and sisterly) love for the purpose of encompassing these ends, do associate ourselves together to be known as Phi Delta Phi.

Just in the past two years, the local inn at VUSL, the Norris Inn, has grown from less than ten members to over forty members. PDP provides tremendous opportunities for law students, especially for the officers. Two years ago PDP officers met with their Provost, Gary Welsh of Bingham, Summers, Welsh, & Spilman, in Indianapolis for a regional meeting. Just this past year, as a Magistrate, I was lucky enough to be able to participate in PDP's biennial convention. This convention is held in Indianapolis and PDP officers from all across the nation as well as those from Mexico came together to talk about new problems, to revise outdated articles, and to implement new policies. What I enjoyed most about this convention was the fact that it was the students who took the initiative and it was the students who voted. PDP is, at all levels, a student-run organization.

Being a PDP member at VUSL has many benefits. First and foremost is the benefit of having the past President of the Phi Delta Phi International Legal Fraternity a mere three hours away. Mr. Karl Mulvaney of Bingham, Summey, Welsh & Spilman, which is located in Indianapolis, has always been enthusiastic about participating in PDP events and initiatives we have at VUSL. He is expected to lead out Spring Initiation, which is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 1996. Mr. Mulvaney just recently spoke on February 28th about Conflict of Interests in honor of PDP's Ethics Week. Currently, Mr. Mulvaney is the Chief Justice on the PDP Court of Appeals. Just as a sidenote, at the last convention, PDP, for the first time, has elected an officer from Mexico to serve as the new PDP President. He is Mr. Rodrigo Sanchez-Mejorada Velasco. For those gung-ho PDPers who anticipate being officers in 1998, you may have the opportunity to attend the biennial convention in Mexico, where you would stay at a very fancy Mexican hotel!

So, if you have never heard of PDP before you are probably wondering what can membership offer you? First, once you pay your one-time-fee, you are a member for life. Secondly, you'll find, through Westlaw and Lexis, that there are many PDP members out there practicing in a variety of different legal fields. Third, you get benefits such as the opportunity to own a PDP credit card, to be a candidate for the Student Loan Program, the Balfour Scholarship Award, the International Exchange Program and much more. Many of our PDP members are exemplary students who have hard-working ethics and many have been honored at the annual law luncheons.

Also, you can help organize and participate in PDP activities throughout the year. In the past years these activities have included: Indiana Supreme Court and Indiana Court of Appeals hearing oral arguments in the Stride Courtroom, Community Service Week, and Ethics Week. And of course, twice now, PDP has had its fall ice-cream sale and has brought in Leo's Ice Cream bicycle.

Phi Delta Phi offers you a wide range of activities that you can choose from and it offers you an available position in the legal community. I encourage any of you out there who are interested to inquire further about PDP or to participate in our upcoming Spring Initiation, or to find out more by participating in our upcoming Euchre Tournament. Stop any of our officers or members in the hall if you need answers to your questions. Look at the PDP bulletin board for more information and for those initiation applications. It's easy to become a member and it certainly opens the door for a wide array of opportunities for you.
The Forum wants you!

The Forum is interested in recruiting motivated and dedicated first and second year law students to fill editorial positions on next year's Forum staff. This is your opportunity to use your leadership skills in a high profile student organization. If you wish to be considered for an editor's position, please contact the Forum via our email account, FORUM, by phone, 465-7831, by dropping off a letter in the Forum's mailbox in the SBA office, or by U.S. Mail at Forum, 202 Heritage Hall, Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana 46383.
Crawfish, cont'd from page 2.

taken identity. To top off this charade, when Edwin was outside the courthouse basking in his glory, the jury van passed in front, and one young fellow was seen giving Edwards the thumbs up from the rear seat. Let's hear it for the jury system!

But my friends, I am glad to say that the hayride is over in Louisiana. No more trips to the annual governor's conference in Washington D.C. via Las Vegas. No more handing out checks from casino contractors on the floor of the house during morning roll call. No, a new day dawning in Louisiana and to lead the way is our new Governor Mike Foster.

Unlike his predecessor, his first order of business was to sign an executive order doing away with all affirmative action and quotas in State government. Cries came from all over the country, but the new governor, with the support of a wide majority of Louisianians, stood his ground. Then last week, with Louisiana having the first in the nation caucuses, Governor Foster, going against the tide of every single Republican bigwig in the country, endorsed Pat Buchanan for president. I don't know if this or the affirmative action bill took more guts, but I give the guy credit.

Underservedly, Buchanan has been called everything from a racist to a Nazi. The media elites hate him, and by now, I'm sure they all hate Foster too.

Riding the wave of Governor Foster's endorsement, Buchanan scored a stunning upset in the Louisiana caucuses over heavy favorite Phil Graham. Graham had predicted nothing short of a sweep of the 21 delegates at stake. Instead, he had his hat handed to him by Buchanan, who took 13 of the delegates while Graham had to go sulking back to the snow covered fields of Iowa with only 8. Once again, Louisiana shocked the country.

It is hard to tell whether Louisiana will be the bell cow or the cow that kicks the bucket in presidential politics, but either way, it will get along just fine. It has done the latter for a long time, but there clearly is a new air in the Bayou State. How long it will last, nobody knows. But something tells me that we have not seen the last of the hayride. They are shy of a donkey, but somewhere in the bowels of the swamp, one may be suckling at this very moment.

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