2-13-1998

The Forum (Volume 28, Number 5)

Valparaiso University School of Law

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New dean to arrive July 1

By Peter Buikema
Staff Writer

When you start your law school career you expect to learn about constitutional challenges to authority, but you probably don’t expect to live one. But that is just what one of our classmates is doing right now. Second-year student, Bristol Myers, is currently in the midst of a challenge that could spell the end of the Valparaiso University.

Myers is the author of a book "Employee Benefit Plans in a Nutshell" for which he currently is writing a second edition. He also is author of chapters in books and numerous articles in professional journals, and is associate editor of the Franchise Law Journal for which he is a regular columnist.

The legal maneuvering started when Myers agreed with his attorney Larry Rogers, to do research on his case in return for a reduced fee. "In civil procedure, one of the first things you talk about is jurisdiction," says Myers. So he decided to look into challenging the stop on jurisdiction grounds. Rogers expanded the thought and it quickly became a First Amendment challenge to the right of the Valparaiso University Police Department's existence.

The Establishment Clause of the First Amendment prohibits the state from establishing a church or from passing laws that aid or hinder the free practice of any religion. In 1971 the United States Supreme Court decided the case of Lemon v. Kurtzman 403 U.S. 602 (1971). That case established a three-prong test to determine if an action violates the establishment clause: The action 1) must have a secular purpose, 2) must have a secular effect, and 3) it cannot involve excessive entanglement with religion. It is this third prong on which Myers' defense rests.

The entanglement comes from the state power to arrest an individual being exercised by a religious institution. At trial University Provost Roy Austensen attempted to minimize the Lutheran influence at the school. However, Myers discovered that the by-laws of the corporation that runs the University requires that a minimum of 75% of the board of directors be Lutheran. "It’s hard to deny that the university is under Lutheran control," says Myers.

Also at issue in this case is whether the training that the Valparaiso University police receive is sufficient. The Indiana statutes authorize universities to maintain their own police forces, but does not spell out the course of training the officers must go through as it does for police officers employed by the state. Consequently, VU police officers receive their training locally, rather than at the state-run police academy. "Because this is a private college they're claiming that they don't have to train their police the same way as IU or Purdue," says Myers.

According to Reggie Syrcle, Executive Director of University Relations, the University has no stand on the case. "Certainly we have an interest in the case, but we aren't the defendants here," Syrcle said. The trial took place over two days earlier this month and went to the judge on January 12. "If [Judge Vadik] convicts, we're going to appeal," says Myers. "If I lose at the Indiana Supreme Court the U.S. Supreme Court will have to take the case because there is a conflict in the jurisdictions."

VUPD under fire from student

By Peter Buikema
Staff Writer

A former Chicago attorney who currently is a professor of law and interim dean of the School of Law at Oklahoma City University has been named dean of the School of Law at Valparaiso University.

Jay Conison, who practiced with the Chicago firm of Sonnenschein Nath and Rosenthal from 1981 until joining the Oklahoma City University law faculty in 1990, will assume his new duties July 1, according to an announcement by Valparaiso University President Alan F. Harre.

Conison was named associate dean at the Oklahoma City school in 1994 and has served as interim dean this year.

He is a graduate of Yale and earned a master’s degree at the University of Minnesota where he also earned his law degree. A law school honor student, he was an editor of the school’s law review.

Conison is author of a book “Employee Benefit Plans in a Nutshell” for which he currently is writing a second edition. He also is author of chapters in books and numerous articles in professional journals, and is associate editor of the Franchise Law Journal for which he is a regular columnist.

He is a member of the Law School Admissions Council Finance and Legal Affairs Committee, the Federal Administrative Law Judge Screening Panel for Oklahoma and Arkansas, and the program committee for the Oklahoma Chapter of the International Franchise Association.

“We are delighted Jay Conison has accepted our invitation to lead the School of Law,” President Harre said. “He has a strong background in the practice of law and in legal education. The faculty of our law school was enthusiastic in its evaluation of his candidacy, and he comes highly recommended by colleagues with whom he has worked.”

President Harre said Ivan Bodensteiner, professor of law, will continue to serve as acting dean of the law school until Conison’s arrival on campus. “We are extremely grateful to Ivan for his continuing leadership,” the president said. “His effectiveness ensures a smooth transition for the new dean.”
Although it may soon be possible to clone humans in the biological sense, there is a need to sponsoring diversity programs which celebrate the diversity of races and religions. I'm opposed to it because it will make Professor Brietzke's students wear designer genes! Professor Brietzke has an unending amount of ethical issues and questions that need to be addressed. Many factors go into the development of a person, a biological carbon copy of a person is just that. Therefore, cloning humans doesn't scare me at all because it is impossible to replicate a person entirely. I think all the hype will phase out when people realize its limitations. Andrew Grossnickle, 2L

What do you think about Chicago physicist Richard Seed's plans to clone humans?

-- It's an ambitious project with a lot of positive potential. Samantha Friel, 3L

-- As an individual, it terrifies me. It promotes the idea that human beings are dispensable. As a future lawyer, it reveals how the law is so behind technology and the times. Future lawmakers need to do something about it. Patty Cistron, 2L

-- Although it may soon be possible to clone humans in the biological sense, there is no way to clone or reproduce a person's personality and character. Because of the many factors that go into the development of a person, a biological carbon copy of a person is just that. Therefore, cloning humans doesn't scare me at all because it is impossible to replicate a person entirely. I think all the hype will phase out when people realize its limitations. Andrew Grossnickle, 2L

-- He's a man with ego problems who wants to raise himself. Jane McNiven, 2L

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State of the Union

By Marc Rothenberg
Contributor

Well, we are half way done. I can't say it hasn't been a wild one. But again, the questions beckon, Marc, what have you done, and where do we stand? The answer to the first question is simple to give. Without the aid of an intern with whom I can fool around with, I believe the SBA and I have done quite a lot. (At least in respect to what was done in past years) We've tried new things and tried to improve on past governments. We have improved communication between the students and administration, solving more problems than ever before. Some of the things that were tried, such as the open "town hall" meetings, did not work well the first time around. (No one showed up) Other things, such as student participation in the dean search, worked extremely well. But what have we really done? As your SBA, are you getting the work out of us that you deserve? Yes and no. We have improved our position and status 100% since last year. Each year the SBA needs to improve, this year was no different. We got a student budget increase. We now have an actual say in what goes on here on the administration side of the fence. Complaints about professors, we handle them. Newspaper rack in the library, we're working on that. Now I know what you are saying, but we aren't just stroking ourselves. We have half a semester to go. A semester that is filled with more speakers (got any ideas, just come and see us), more social functions and more progress. In addition, we want to revise our constitution, a major undertaking to an antiquated document.

But the answer was yes and no. Well here is the no. One problem we have is we can't please all the people all the time. Please bear with us. We follow the majority and will continue to. If you disagree with something come and see us and we will talk about it. All meetings are open and the times are posted. Or stop by the office, its almost always open. We are here for you. Up until now, we have heard student desires only through the grapevine, and we have had no students come to the OPEN SBA MEETINGS. How can we substantiate your wants and needs, as well as complaints, if no one comes to our meetings? Do we care? Yes. But beyond what we normally do, we can only conduct activities that student groups sponsor or that you, the students, want. So instead of sitting around with a great idea, or bitching and moaning about a problem you have with the SBA, come to our meetings and you will be heard. Here is an example. We had several students who complained about the crowding of the back door by smokers. So, in response, and after long discussion, the SBA passed a resolution to try to remedy it. This resolution was responded to by an undercurrent of displeasure. But not one student came to a SBA meeting to address it. In fact, only one student actually came to me and talked about it. But since we heard the undercurrent, we repealed the resolution. Evidently some did not like the SBA doing anything about this issue, and asked the question, doesn't the SBA have better things to do with their time and money? The answer is no. First of all it costs no money. Second of all, that is why we are here, to deal with every non-smoker, every smoker, every newspaper rack, every idea. The computers were a problem, we worked with the administration to the extent that we could to solve it. We do your bidding, you just haven't asked for much lately. All we ask is that we get more student input, but until that happens, our hands are tied, and the we can only conduct our regularly scheduled events. (law week, etc.)

One more thing, elections are coming up in April, all those interested in running might want to start coming to SBA meeting to get a feel for things. I encourage all who want to work and are dedicated to run for positions next year, but I must admit it is a task. (Just ask Mark Gumz)

Come Home, We love you.

Academic Support Program

By Jenna Griffith
Contributor

Approximately three-fourths of all schools belonging to the American Association of Law Schools have some sort of academic support program. One of the goals of the program is to fill the law schools and the profession with qualified people who will make a contribution and help each student maximize his or her academic potential. VUSL could not be competitive without such a program, and our admissions directors have felt that VUSL could not successfully recruit "non-traditional students" without it, according to Academic Support Programs (ASP) co-directors, Professors Richard Hatcher and Sy Moskowitz.

Many students have come to me inquiring about ASP. Many questions and concerns were shared, most of which flowed from the lack of information available regarding ASP. In the admissions guide and the student handbook, only a few small paragraphs explain the entire program. ASP is not meant to be a secret, though the nature of the program requires anonymity in its members. The following is based on a discussion session I had with Professor Moskowitz. He and I hope this clears up any questions or concerns students have. If not, Professors Hatcher and Moskowitz are willing to discuss the matter further.

ASP was founded seven years ago to give students additional support their first year in law school. Students are invited to join the program based on their prediction index, which is a formula encompassing undergraduate GPA and LSAT scores, and on special problems they may have suffered that may have led to a low prediction index. Students' applications for admissions are evaluated to discover such problems, such as a student that may have been out of school for a long period of time, or may have been going through a difficult divorce, or may have a language barrier to overcome. These factors may indicate that the student is academically at risk, but the admissions committee felt they deserved a chance.

The admissions committee looks at the individuals, not just the numbers, when making their decision to admit students at VUSL. Applications are first evaluated and decisions are made on particular applications. Then, certain students are recommended for ASP. ASP is in the back of the minds of the admissions committee, according to Professor Moskowitz, but no one is admitted who would not be able to perform up to Valpo's academic standards.

After being admitted to the law school and invited to ASP, those who accept the invitation have several areas of support. The ASP members arrive at school two weeks early for an "introduction to law." The ASP students are exposed to an example of a real law school class. During the summer session students attend normal classes, learn how to read cases, and generally get familiar with the Valpo area and the law school.

During the school year the program is operated by semester. Each semester the first year professors have a review session once every three to four weeks with the group of ASP students in their class. Each professor handles this review session differently and to their discretion. In most review sessions, the students are able to ask questions about the class materials, and they are asked to analyze either orally or in writing some of the topics.

Members of ASP have two advisors during the school year. In addition to their faculty advisor, the students have an ASP advisor, either Professor Moskowitz or Professor Hatcher. ASP also provides special counseling services to the members who may want to take advantage of it.

The program is only for first year students. After the first semester some students may not be invited back for the second semester, while other students may be added to the program for the second semester based on their first semester grades. Approximately 37 students were invited to join ASP for the first semester last year, and 31 students accepted the invitation. After the Fall semester of last year, at least 16 of the original 31 "graduated" from the program.

There is no way to evaluate the success of the program, but Professor Moskowitz stated that he is "gratified" because the prediction index may have indicated that these students were at risk, but many of them do very well. Professor Moskowitz says this is "not necessarily due to ASP," but it is important that we have the program to help individuals achieve their potential.

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**The Forum**

January 26 – February 13, 1998
The Forum
January 26 -- February 13, 1998

Hate Crimes: Confessions of an ex-Neo Nazi
By Marianne Manheim
News Editor

On January 19, Martin Luther King Jr. Day events took place at various locations on the Valparaiso campus. One of the most attended events was the presentation of T.J. Leyden, a former Neo-Nazi. The Neil's Science Building was beginning to fill up 30 minutes early and each audience member had to wait in line, sign his or her name and address, and pass FBI inspection. Professor Levinson and an expert on hate groups from the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles spoke first. He recommended a book, Harvest of Rage. Then, T.J. told the story of his life, expressing the thoughts in his mind and explaining his actions.

T.J. grew up in southern California. In 1978, he was captivated by punk rock culture and the themes of anarchy that came with the music. In 1980, his parents divorced, he spent more time in the streets, and hung out with skinheads. The usual evening activities included beating up anyone they could get their hands on. Blacks, Hispanics, and Asians were considered a bonus. He was a full fledged racist skinhead by this time who returned at night to a nice upper-middle class world. T.J. hardly ever wound up in jail because many of his victims did not press charges. In fact, he never went to prison for a felony. Rival gangs often started killing in reaction to violence, which began in other gangs. Each act was meant to cause others to react with racial hatred.

T.J. joined the Marines and excelled. His swastika, tattoos, and hate group mailings never got in the way. The Marines' only requirement was that he not be active in the hate group. Finally, the Marines taught T.J. all about organization, making U.S. military training the ideal place to train your hate group member with taxpay-
er money. He would turn whites against minorities within the military by writing something anti-white on a board, and then, he would wait for the whites to let their hate come out and strike back. He was discharged for drinking and fighting, not for his affiliations. Fifteen days after discharge, he married a Nazi "chick" from Texas who he corresponded with via mail during his days in the military.

With his new organization skills, he went to work on the kids in southern California more than ever. At eight years of age, children do not yet have the abstract thought patterns of a twelve year old. He targeted the young. Encouraging young boys and teenage boys to show that they are men by using violence and randomly beating up people, accomplished the goals of both teacher and student. Like military training, T.J. made them feel like scum in order to make them feel good. Once the children and teens were into violence, T.J. turned their attention to Jews. History changed, the Holocaust never happened, Hitler was a hero, and Nazis took on a whole new generation, California-style.

Soon, T.J.'s thoughts began to change. When T.J.'s brother became a cop, the parties they used to hold to celebrate the death of a cop no longer took on the same joyous spirit. Also, his mother's suffering from polio saddened him. Finally, the sad truth of his life hit him one day when he saw his six year old watching Nickleodeon. His son said, "We don't want to watch N--- in this house." He looked at himself and saw the future of his kids. They would become just like him. At the time, they lived in Idaho, home of potatoes and the Aryan Nation. T.J. realized that the hate would never end and he had to stop his own hatred before it leads to the next generation and he personally hurts more people.

Moot Court News
By Jeff Graham
Contributor

It was a busy fall semester for the Society. We had our fundraiser, sent five teams to competitions, received a commitment from Justice Thomas to judge the final round of the Luther M. Swygert Moot Court Competition, and have achieved a good deal of personal and team success.

First, five Moot Court teams have already competed in competitions. The Society sent two teams each to the New York National Moot Court Competition (held in Indianapolis) and the Chicago Bar Association Moot Court Competition (held in Chicago). In addition, we sent a team to the Southern Illinois Health Law Moot Court Competition for the first time. All the teams performed well, with the New York National team of James Hough Bob Steere & Dylan Vigh placing second overall and earning a trip to the competition finals, held in New York City. In addition, we also learned that Debs Mcilhenny was the 6th highest ranked oralist at the Health Law Competition (out of 79). Good job to all those who have competed this semester:


Also, here's a look ahead to this semester. First, this semester we are honored to announce that United States Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas will be one of the judges for the final round of the intra school Luther M. Swygert Moot Court Competition, held either on March 16 or 17. The competition is open to the public, but due to limited seating we will require people to pick up a free ticket for admission. Second, the Society will hold tryouts for first and second year law students in April. We encourage anyone interested in Moot Court to attend the Swygert competition and see what Moot Court is all about. In addition, feel free to stop in the office or call one of the Executive Board for more information.

Free e-mail magazine at lifestyles@niia.net
When examining the impact that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had on the American landscape, one must look to his impassioned plea for America to realize his great dream. That dream was a mandate for equality for all Americans, established by the Constitution and supported by the active will of the American public. The vision of Dr. King was far-reaching, touching upon many issues, among them: eradicating the inequities of the informal American caste system, condemning our involvement in Vietnam, and urging America to find ways to constructively utilize the talents of all of its citizens.

Dr. King envisioned an era where the principles expressed by the founding fathers, as articulated in the Constitution, would finally become a reality for all Americans. In this respect, Dr. King was a true American. It is the nature of Americans to believe in the improbable and to achieve the heretofore impossible. Dr. King knew firsthand that the ideal American model of democracy, was simply that, a model, something to strive for, something yet unfulfilled. He often spoke of how the “great experiment,” democracy, had been soiled by the atrocities of slavery, segregation and the continued second-class citizenship of African-Americans. He preached, in eloquent, yet forceful tones, of how America suffered from a “schizophrenic personality, traumatically divided against itself.” America, founded by the will of a group of people who knew first hand the evil of oppression and taxation without representation, found herself oppressing and denying suffrage to a large segment of her population.

America, established under one of the greatest documents ever created by man, validated the rights of individuals, regardless of class or station. Those individuals were to be participants in the process of their own governance, a first in political theory, law, and practice. Just as individuals denied basic human rights to citizens of African descent, Dr. King, ever the student of history, understood that democracy was a relatively new phenomenon in the annals of nations. He understood that, despite the contradiction between the application and the theory of democratic governance, democracy, with its emphasis on the intrinsic worth of every human being, was worth fighting for.

What would he say about the current status of our democracy? I think he would say a lot about Americans, particularly African-Americans, for wasting thirty years looking for another Dr. King to show up and lead us. We already had the keys to The House of Freedom. The blood of Emmett Till had already paid for the cement. The tears of the mothers of the four little girls killed in the church bombing in Atlanta, had erected the frame to the House. The agony and pain of the civil rights marchers, who had suffered dog bites, beatings and water hoses, had already closed the deal. And King’s own death had paid the mortgage. All that we had to do was have the courage to claim our home and walk through its door.

Dr. King would be angry today that we, black, white and other, who proclaim to love freedom, have squandered the investment he made in us with his life. He would berate us for our poor voting record. He would be appalled at our lack of political involvement, the apathy which we show for the poor and down-trodden and the laissez-faire attitude in which we protect our rights. He would accuse us all of destroying his legacy. And we would all be found guilty.

Conservative commentators like to use Dr. King’s words to support their misguided agendas. When Dr. King said that he dreamed of a day when his children would be judged by the content of their character and not by the color of their skins, he knew that America would not rest in an era of disinvestment in black urban communities, prisons overflowing with black convicts, and death rows in Texas and other states exacting black men in alarming numbers. He knew that mythical country could not exist as long as 100% of the CEO’s of major corporations remained white males. Where Texaco, Avis and Denny’s were not corporate misfits, but corporate norms. He knew that his dream would not be realized until the white majority could stop intellectualizing our struggle and start empathizing with our pain. He knew that a great democracy could not come to fruition as long as Amon G. Carter, Rodney King and Malice Green were our examples of democratic justice, Lani Guinier and Jocelyn Elders showed our lack of commitment to progressive politics, and presidential race discussions replaced societal race reconciliation. No, the dream of the Kingian democracy shall not exist as long as a lone black female legislator in our Senate, a sole conservative black man interprets our Constitution (our two unquestioned quotas in the realm of political power) and zero blacks sit in seats that are directly in line to lead this great nation.

There are those who would like us to be pleased that, as the old saying goes, “we’re not where we ought to be, but we’re not where we were.” But I don’t believe that in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, Dr. King would be satisfied with that statement. I think he would urge, no insist, that we learn. Learn from history that laws change, societal attitudes swing back and forth and minorities who hold no power have always had to be vigilant. Learn, he would say, from his own example and protest, agitate, march and be willing to risk life and limb to realize our goal. No, we are not where we were, but if we are not watchful of the shifting social winds and become active participants in the shaping of social policy, we may indeed find ourselves searching for another Dr. King to save the country’s soul again.

Affirmative Action Lecture

By Jenny Mullennix

On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, I attended the Affirmative Action lecture directed by Professor Derrick Carter. Three law students, James Baker, Susan Gainey and Joyce Thompson, opened the program with a skit portraying an employer firing an employee. The students acted out a situation where one of two equally qualified women had to be laid off. The audience began to understand the impact of affirmative action. How can a company protect itself from litigation when trying to fire an employee? Do or should companies have strict policies about hiring and firing? And how good of a determinant is seniority?

The guest speaker for the program on affirmative action was Sheila Mason-Carter. Mrs. Mason-Carter works at the Federal Contract Compliance Office, the major enforcement agency for such programs. After Mrs. Mason-Carter analyzed the situation the students acted out, she educated us about her job and affirmative action.

Mrs. Mason-Carter explained that affirmative action is a program that attempts to make up for historical mistreatment, or to level the playing field for minorities and women in education, employment, athletics, etc. Mrs. Mason-Carter also clarified that affirmative action is a program that is not permanent. Affirmative action programs are merely timetables, with goals, not quotas, to meet. One thing affirmative action does is to have a company look at its hiring pool to see if it is similar to the actual relevant labor pool. For example, if no Hispanics are in the hiring pool, yet five percent of the relevant labor pool consists of Hispanics, why is that? Is something the company is doing affecting the result?

Also, Mrs. Mason-Carter clarified that, so long as that company is hiring people from a pool that reflects the composition of the relevant labor area, it can and should hire the best-qualified for the job, even if they are not minorities or women. Affirmative action merely tries to get employers to include minorities and women in the interviewing pool. But it was clearly stated by Mrs. Mason-Carter that now, as always, a company with an affirmative action program can and should hire the best-qualified applicants from the labor pool. Therefore, it is a mis-statement to say that affirmative action programs require companies to prefer a minority or woman for a job over a white man.

Mrs. Mason-Carter also dispelled the myth that companies get punished if they do not meet the goals the company sets. To be clear, affirmative action programs are not punitive if the company shows a good faith effort to meet the goal it set for itself.

So, hopefully many people enjoyed what Mrs. Mason-Carter and the other speakers had to say on the day we celebrated the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.
M&M Movie Reviews

Titanic

Despite the fact that I've seen the film twice (and will be going again), bought the CD, ordered the book, and am a terrible romantic, I recommend the film Titanic most highly. Director and Producer, James Cameron, mixes an endearing love story with historical accuracy. (Many of the cast members look strikingly similar to actual Titanic crew members who perished. The mood of the sinking and chronology of events are also accurate, according to all accounts.) To bring his audience further into the world of Titanic, Cameron shows glimpses of the actual Titanic, and has Gloria Stuart (an 87-year-old actress) play the part of an alleged survivor who recounts her story.

Unless you are emotionally deadened from law school, you may find that Cameron's portrayal and story of Titanic is an emotion-grabber. Furthermore, the cast of characters is exquisite. Kathy Bates plays Molly Brown, Kate Winslet is ideal as a heroine and the character of Mr. Andrews, the designer of the ship (among others,) is played fabulously. Leonardo DiCaprio, the lead male role in Titanic, could brush up on his acting in certain areas and seems clumsy and boyish in the film. DeCaprio provides the chiseled, attractive face, that a blockbuster needs, and in many areas he adds to the film. DeCaprio attracts the young audience. The history attracts older generations. And the cinematography and story captures all those in between. A deserving winner of four Golden Globe Awards. Also recommended is the Titanic soundtrack, with music conducted by James Horner and love theme, My Heart Will Go On, by Celine Dion. Though I'm not an ardent Celine Dion fan, she pulls this heart-wrencher off well. -- Malini Goel

The Postman

This mail needs to be returned to sender. Apart from running over three hours, this Kevin Costner film was a big bomb. (Not to be confused with "the bomb." It seems that since Kevin Costner starred in Dances With Wolves (if you recall, the film in which Costner dares to bare his derriere), his work as a producer and director has been mediocre. Waterworld, his last film, which cost millions to make, and unlike the movie Titanic, sank in the ratings and couldn't recover its expenses in the US, (though it made profits abroad), was also a dud. Postman attempts to predict the future: a nuclear war which leaves the world in a state of disorganization and chaos. (Professor Lind could probably use the film for the purposes of analysis in her Jurisprudence class.) The film depicts a world where resources are limited and the people left for them. This is great concept and all, but why mix man's negligence and the downfall of the world with mail? Just doesn't seem to make sense to me. The postman (Kevin Costner) allegedly helps the remaining lost souls by bringing hope. But if you ask me if you should see the film, the answer is no. -- Malini Goel

GOOD WILL HUNTING

This film wins the award for the strangest title. Actually, the film is quite good. The story takes place in Boston and stars Matt Damon as "Will Hunting," a brilliant young man who is still living with the sadness of his past, which gets in his way of using his intelligence to its full potential. However, with the help of a math professor, a shrink, his best friend, and the woman he loves, he finally has a chance to overcome his demons. The film is very touching and well written. The screenplay is by Matt Damon and Ben Affleck, who also acts in the film. Very well done. -- Marianne Manheim

AS GOOD AS IT GETS

I went into this movie not expecting to like it, but I was pleasantly surprised. Jack Nicholson is always Jack Nicholson, only this time, it worked for the movie. He plays a rude, obsessive compulsive writer living in his own little protected world. Then, outside elements interact and he becomes involved in the lives of the only waitress willing to serve him at his breakfast restaurant and in the life of his beaten gay neighbor. Helen Hunt and Greg Kinnear, who both smell of TV sewage, were very good and carried their parts. It is a feel good movie, unlike the others mentioned, and could be classified as a quality "date" movie. -- Marianne Manheim
Get credit working for Justice

By Gail Peshel
Director of Career Services

Now is the time to apply for externships with 13 different divisions of the U.S. Department of Justice. The law school defines externships as earning course credit while gaining significant experience in a faculty-approved program with an employer. The U.S. Justice Department has such a program, but they call their program "Summer Law Internships." How does one go about securing one of the available externships with Justice? The process has several steps.

First, check out a "Legal Activities" booklet from Career Services and read about the different divisions. Second, identify the divisions for which you would like to work. Third, make certain your resume reflects any experience you have had that would be pertinent to the type of work done by the division. Fourth, prepare a cover letter explaining your interest and expand on areas in your background that will be pertinent to the division. Also include when you can begin work.

Apply now. There are processes that must be completed before you can begin work: paperwork must be completed, which memorializes cooperation by Justice with law school externship guidelines; a general background check will be completed by the F.B.I., which takes approximately two to three weeks; thereafter, a security form must be completed, and a suitability clearance check will be made.

Paula Vickers, the attorney at Justice in charge of Law Student hiring, indicated that the following divisions are the best bets for externships: Civil Division, Civil Rights Division, Criminal Division, Environment and Natural Resources Division, Tax Division, and the Executive Office for Immigration Review. However, Ms. Vickers stressed that students should apply to any division of interest as long as the division employs 30 attorneys. That expands the list to include: Antitrust, Immigration and Naturalization Service, U.S. Trustee's Offices, Drug Enforcement Administration, FBI Office of the General Counsel, Federal Bureau of Prisons, and of course the U.S. Attorneys' Offices. (See page 4 of the "Legal Activities" book for a complete listing.)

Wish to work in DC? Send your resume and cover letter to the hiring contacts listed in the directory beginning on page 106 of the "Legal Activities" booklet. The list is identified as contacts for experienced attorneys, but these same contacts actually do all the legal hiring—including summer interns and volunteers.

 Prefer to work in your home state or in one of the 94 field office locations? Find regional agency listings beginning on page 90 of the "Legal Activities" booklet. For example, Chicago has an Antitrust Division Field Office, an Executive Office for Immigration Review, an Immigration and Naturalization Service District Office, and a U.S. Trustee Regional Office. South Bend, Indiana, and Peoria, Illinois have U.S. Trustee Field Offices. Even if you are interested in regional offices and not D.C., still send your resume and cover letter to the contact listed in the directory beginning on page 106—but indicate your special interest in a field office.

You will find the listing of U.S. Attorney offices and the appropriate contact name for each office on page 96 of the "Legal Activities" booklet. Of special note, David Capp is a VUSL graduate, and he is the hiring contact for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Dyer, Indiana. Christopher Nuechterlein is also a VUSL graduate and is the hiring contact for the Sacramento, California U.S. Attorney's Office. His wife, Claire, is on the VUSL Alumni Board, and the next board meeting is scheduled for March 21 and 22. Perhaps both Claire and Chris will travel to Valparaiso at that time. The Alumni Board is planning a reception with students, so watch for future announcements!

Divisions in Justice will also consider 1998 graduates for summer intern positions. These divisions also employ student volunteers during the summer. Volunteers with Justice would be considered for VUSL summer scholarship money if applications are submitted by the stipulated deadline (see Heike Spahn, Director of Admissions and Student Relations). In any event, plan to stop by Career Services, review the "Legal Activities" booklet, and ask Anita, Lisa or Gail your employment or job search questions!

THE FOOD DUDETTE

Visit the Food Dudette Online at: www.geocities.com/NapaValley/6447/

RESTAURANT NAME: Wildfire

RESTAURANT ADDRESS 159 W. Erie, Chicago

RESTAURANT PHONE #: 312/787-9000

OVERALL RATING: B+

FOOD QUALITY: A

VALUE FOR $: A

ATMOSPHERE: B-

SERVICE: B+

AVERAGE ENTREE PRICE: Dinner - $17-20

COMMENTS: This is a trendy place to go with a fun-loving group. Wildfire is packed on weekends, but any wait is well worth it. And while waiting, you can enjoy the wide range of wines by the glass, imported and domestic beers, several specialty martinis, and other popular drinks. As for food, it's top-notch. If you're bored with traditional filet mignon, try their horseradish-crusted version, complete with a delicious bacon wrap. Don't forget to get the onion rings as an appetizer. Don't expect any quiet conversations here; the noise level is high, and most patrons are in the twenty-something age group. Valet parking is available, and reservations are suggested. Service is friendly and efficient, but could be a little more attentive.

RESTAURANT NAME: Suzie's Cafe

RESTAURANT ADDRESS: 657 S. Washington St., Valparaiso

RESTAURANT PHONE #: 219/462-5500

OVERALL RATING: B-

FOOD QUALITY: C-

VALUE FOR $: B

ATMOSPHERE: B+

SERVICE: B

AVERAGE ENTREE PRICE: Lunch - $3-4

COMMENTS: Suzie's is a quaint local favorite breakfast and lunch spot, ideal for a quick and economical meal. The decor is a subtle country theme, and the waitstaff is pleasant and low-key. There is a wide variety of hot and cold sandwiches to choose from, but don't expect gourmet-quality here. The ham and cheese sandwich comes with processed American cheese and some sort of white, bland ham substance. But for the price ($2.75) it's better than fast-food. Free refills on most beverages is a plus, but the hot chocolate is worth it's $1.75 too. Daily soup choices sound better than they actually taste. The desserts get a lot of rave reviews and they looked good (but we weren't in the mood for dessert after eating our sub-standard sandwiches). On a good note, the entire restaurant is non-smoking and there are real flowers on the tables.
SBA News

By Marianne Manheim
News Editor

There will be an election for secretary of the Student Bar Association on February 2nd and 3rd. Anyone may run for this position. Pick up a petition in the SBA Office and return it by Friday.

SBA has a budget of over $52,000 to spend on Law Week. Did I write that down incorrectly? Anyway, many thousands of those dollars are going towards legal drugs.

The SBA will work on amending the SBA Constitution in the coming months. The positions will now come with monetary compensation. (just kidding!)

Law Week is coming soon. February 16th is the first day of this joyous week of fun and scholarly recognition. On that day, the law luncheon will take place. The Attorney General of Indiana will be the speaker at the luncheon and a luscious chicken dish will be served, yum yum.

On February 17, the Bar-a-thon is ON. Yes, our exciting group of law students will pounce the place to be for the evening, INMAN'S. The cost is $30/team to participate, and the activities include beer, pool, beer, darts, beer, bowling, and a whole lot more. February 18th is the day to recover from the night before. However, the SBA is open to any parties or such that people are willing to throw together. On February 19, yes, you guessed it, THE ROAST. It is at the Armory on Linwood Ave., across 30. Marc Rothenberg is putting the video together. Contact him if you want to get involved. Of course, there will be even more beer than ever before. On February 20, we will sit back and watch the MUSICAL. Here is your chance to show off those hidden talents you enjoyed before subjecting yourself to law school. Brush off the dust on that instrument case, find those tap shoes, practice singing those scales, and come to perform. If you just come to the Musical to watch, that’s fine too. Finally, February 21, the grand finale. Barrister's Ball in the ballroom at the Michigan City Blue Chip casino. Note: the dinner and dance (open bar) is not on the boat and is not surrounded by gambling. Attendees can go to gamble on a cruise on a specially arranged excursion to take place after dinner. There will be transportation from two local hotels to the dinner and boat and back to the hotel. Price has not been determined yet, but it will not be much, if any higher than last year.

First we get You through Law School...
Then we get YOU through the Bar Exam!

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