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Valparaiso University School of Law

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Professional Development Day highlights Law Week activities

By Shane Cigel
Editor-in-Chief

Over 50 attorneys will be present for this year's Career Development Day to be held next Friday, February 8th at VUSL.

The event, sponsored by Career Services, gives students the opportunity to meet with practicing attorneys from all over the Midwest.

"To have over 50 attorneys, many of whom are not even alumni of the school, take their own time to come here and speak with us speaks volumes of the respect that VUSL has in the legal community," said Michael Story, Chairman of the Career Services Committee.

"It's a great way for students to network with practicing attorneys and learn about virtually every major legal practice specialty, in one place, at one time," said Art Bousel, Dean of Career Services.

Students not only have the opportunity to network with attorneys, but they also get an education on various legal fields.

"It's a tremendous opportunity for our students to not only network, but also to learn about various practice areas that they may not be exposed to in the classroom," Story said.

This year's Career Development Day will include attorneys who have chosen alternative careers. These attorneys will cater to students who want to use their legal education to work in a field outside of law.

Students will also have an opportunity to eat lunch with the attorneys as a part of the program.

After lunch, a panel of VUSL alumni will talk about how they found their jobs and give advice to students on how to succeed in finding their own jobs. Students will be given an opportunity to ask questions during a question and answer segment of the discussion.

Students are encouraged to dress as they would for an interview and bring resumes along as a part of the networking process.

"We want the law school to take on the environment of a professional workplace," Bousel said.

Palestinian spokeswoman discusses plight of her people

More than 4,000 pack presentation at VU; dozens turned away

Reprinted with permission from The Times 01-24-02
By Bryan Williams

Angry accusations delivered in a calm and low-key manner marked a presentation by a leading Palestinian spokesman Thursday evening at Valparaiso University.

Hanan Ashrawi, a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council and former minister of education for the Palestinian Authority, spoke to a standing-room only audience of more than 400 about the brutality of what she termed an "illegal occupation" of Palestine by Israel.

Calling the Palestinians' struggle one for dignity, self-determination and statehood, Ashrawi said Palestinian leaders are committed to a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

"This conflict can be solved," she said. Ashrawi cited a "flawed" peace process begun in 1991 that led to a systematic violation of Palestinian rights and an attempt to separate the people from the land.

Every time the peace process floundered, we were blamed," she said.

Ashrawi admitted it was hard to accept Israel and the loss of 78 percent of historic Palestine after Israel's 1948 war of independence. She labeled the conflict "ethnic cleansing" and "a great historical injustice."

But she said Palestinians had since accepted U.N. Resolution 242 recognizing Israel's right to exist.

Ashrawi said there was a difference in the kinds of violence in the area. Israel, she said, used violence as a government policy, while among Palestinians it was perpetrated by individuals driven to desperation.

She said the United States has given $92 billion in aid to Israel since its independence, calling this "total support for all invasions."

Ashrawi listed several requirements for a peace process to continue: There must be a recognition that no military solution is possible and that the conflict is not religious or ideological, but one of territory; security must be attained for both sides; and the "asymmetry of power" cannot be continued; the process should begin with a recognition of the kinds of violence in the area.

Palestinian speaker Hanan Ashrawi spoke before a packed house at the VU Student Union last Thursday.

Enron represents worst of big business

By David Masse
Staff Writer

The famous (or infamous, depending on one's viewpoint) former District Attorney of New Orleans, Jim Garrison, was often quoted as saying: "This whole thing is almost beyond me."

Jim Garrison was of course referring to the intricate web of lies and deceit relating to the (alleged) conspiracy involved in the killing of John F. Kennedy.

Similarly, the more I looked into the Enroniasco, the more I became convinced that the whole truth may never come out, and that the whole thing is definitely beyond me. There is however one thing I'm sure of: This reeks!

The famous (or infamous, depending on one's viewpoint) former District Attorney of New Orleans, Jim Garrison, was often quoted as saying: "This whole thing is almost beyond me."

For those law students (and possibly a professor or two) who are too busy to have studied the background, here are the basics: Enron is an energy company with its principal place of business in Houston, Texas. Until recently, Enron was considered to be an energy giant.

The beleaguered energy trader was once the seventh largest company in the United States. According to the USA Today national newspaper, here are some numbers: In January of 2001, Enron stock sold for over $70 a share. In August of 2001, Enron's stock had plummeted to only $40 a share and Jeff Skilling (then Enron's CEO) resigned. A popular Enron executive named Ken Lay took over and offered Enron employees new hope (not to mention stock options). By October of last year, Enron had announced a third-quarter loss of $618 million. After the announcement, Enron placed a temporary freeze on company retirement plans. In other words, employees could not sell the stock that was falling as fast as the old "Jared" on a tight rope. By the time employees could sell, the stock had fallen to just over $9 a share. Now the stock is nearly worthless and was recently delisted from the New York Stock Exchange.

On December 2, 2001, Enron filed for bankruptcy protection, the largest bankruptcy case in our Nation's history.

Many Enron employees had their career and retirement savings tied up in Enron 401(K) plans (which consisted mostly of Enron stock) and Enron Stock. What happened? Well it goes something like this: Last fall (according to info that can be found on CNN's website), Enron acknowledged several hundred million dollars of previously undisclosed liabilities. And this is where Enron's...
Faculty contemplating grade normalization

By Shane Cigel
Editor-in-Chief

A faculty task force committee has been formed to discuss the policy of normalizing grades for certain required courses at VUSL.

The task force, organized by Dean Conison at the urging of faculty members, is considering the feasibility of grade normalization to an effort to address lower bar passage rates here in recent years.

"Bar passage rates have been down and this is a big reason why the task force has been formed," said Professor Bruce Berne, a member of the task force.

The first would require grades in courses taught by more than one professor to be comparable and would go before an executive committee of faculty for their approval, a move which could take months. The proposal would then be presented to student representatives.

"The earliest this would go into effect would be in the current A's in their third year here," Berne said. "Although bar passage is a main reason for grade normalization, Berne said there are other reasons for normalizing grades. "Many activities depend on grade performance. This would give students an equal chance at the opportunities by getting grades equalized.""}

Along with grade normalization, the task force is considering other proposals to address lower bar passage rates. Among them are raising minimum retention grade standards and mandatory support groups for students on academic probation after the first semester.

Here's what VUSL students have to say about the Enron debacle:

"When big money is involved, people will do what they have to do to protect their interests, at the expense of anyone else."

--Jessica Kavanagh, 1L

"It's sad how the company funded retirement through stock options and now employees are out of luck. It shows a breakdown in the system when a huge company can hide something like this, especially when senior management cashes in stock and ships it (overseas)."

--Lanny Van Dale, 2L

"Don't feel sorry for the stockholders, they're greedy. They should've known, it was part of the game."

--Victor King, 3L

ASHRAWI

FROM PAGE 1

can't proceed with preconditions; third-party international involvement is necessary.

Some 150 people were turned away from the lecture because of space limits. Outside, a lone protester held a poster labeling a picture of Palestinian Prime Minister Ariel Sharon "teacher" and a picture of Osama bin Laden "student."

One audience member identifying herself as Jewish said that despite Ashrawi's words, many American Jews hold an underlying feeling that the Palestinians wanted to "push Israel into the sea" and remarked on the lack of a Palestinian peace movement or condemnation of violence.

Ashrawi replied that motivations couldn't be superimposed on Palestinians. Instead, their actions could be seen in acceptance of 22 percent of his historic Palestinian and of U.N. Resolution 242.

"Put it to the test," she said, "sign an agreement."

Addressing Valparaiso University School of Law students this earlier in the afternoon, Ashrawi said Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was "somebody whose whole history is characterized by massacres."

She has grown a relief fear and insecurity and marginalized peace proponents, she said.

Ashrawi is also general secretary of the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy, known as MIFTAH, and a commission of information and public policy for the Arab League. MIFTAH, which she founded in 1998, seeks to foster principles of democracy and global dialogue.

She came to international attention as a spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation at the Madrid talks, public negotiations in the early 1990s.

Tom Nelson, an Oregon attorney and 1973 VU School of Law graduate who sponsored Ashrawi's visit to campus, noted an American pro-Israel bias.

"Rarely in the U.S. media is there the other side of the story," Nelson said.

Editors Note: The Forum was supposed to cover the second half of the story, but due to the overcrowding of Great Hall our staff reporter was denied entrance. As they say, reports come with age... -S.C.
A Letter from Dean Conison

Recently, I was on the fourth floor of the Daley Center, talking to one of our alumni, a Cook County Circuit Court judge. We happened to run into a very recent grad who told us that she had just picked her first job and would try her first jury case the next day.

Recently, I was in Denver, having lunch with a member of the class of '70. He told me that he had been general counsel for a publisher of children's books. I told him that I had known another alumnus, class of '80, who also had been general counsel for that same company.

Recently, I was in Las Vegas, meeting with one of our alumni, a Marine General. We happened to run into a very recent grad who told us that she had just picked her first job and would try her first jury case the next day.

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**Point/counterpoint on the death penalty**

**By Michelle Ross**  
News Editor

Four countries in the world that still legally impose capital punishment: Saudi Arabia, Iraq, China and the United States. The United States awards its citizens vastly superior civil liberties in every other respect. In fact, use of the death penalty, might be the only thing these countries have in common.  

I had a dream. The dream was to study abroad in Europe, as part of the Cambridge Program. It was truly an unbelievable experience. Never before have I been so conscious of the fact that I Valparaiso University had spent several hours explaining to several British citizens that no, not every American is carrying a weapon and yes, we still do use the death penalty as a form of punishment.

Prior to traveling across the Atlantic I was against the death penalty. My time in Europe only cemented those ideas. The people I talked with couldn’t understand how rational, intelligent adults could actually believe that lethal injection, or the electric chair, was a form of punishment.

The fact is that the great majority of the people awaiting death on death row are minorities and the majority of those people convicted and sentenced to die fall below the poverty level. It is also certain, it has been documented, that mistakes regarding convictions have been made and innocent people have died. It is more expensive to go through a capital conviction appellate procedure than it is to simply sentence that individual to life in prison.

These statements are not subjective, these are objective facts. It is enough for me to know that the possibility of errors exists to not be comfortable with the death penalty.

I am not comfortable with judging whether other humans live or die. I believe in a Supreme Being and I leave all of the complicated stuff to him. As a fellow human and citizen, I cannot determine who is worthy of living and who isn’t. I would rather that person rot in prison. It is frightening to think that men of ordinary passions could be responsible for the lives of other human beings, no matter how despicable that human may be. I feel as though the question of life and death is beyond my control.

**By Randy Fisher**  
Managing Editor

When they are on trial, freedom is in question, because they love freedom, because they have faith in freedom. They will fight, they will struggle, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day? It’s been almost 13 years since the first time I heard it, but time can only make this faith in freedom stronger.

Dr. King’s message also reminds us there are still countries in the world, where people live under oppression and injustice. Unfortunately, China is one of these countries. In recent years, the persecution of the Internet dissidents is creating new injustices in this most populated country in the world. The Chinese government has passed tough laws and made freedom of political ideas on the Internet a criminal offense. Since last year, tons of Chinese Internet users have been jailed under these laws. These Chinese young men are arrested, tried and jailed, because they love freedom. They have faith in freedom, because they have lived out the true meaning of freedom. When they are on trial, freedom is on trial. Dr. King’s faith in freedom is on trial.

**AALS agenda needs to be put to a stop**

**By William Smith, 2L**

Recently, Valparaiso University considered changes to the university’s equal opportunity statement, that could have brought the law school into conflict with the Association of American Law Schools, the major semi-public organization, so there has been a difficult bargaining process to get a new statement that would be acceptable to the Valparaiso University accrediting group and to the conservative Lutheran school. The equal opportunity statement must appear on all Valparaiso University paperwork that goes out to potential students and employees.

The AALS has been very aggressive in getting law schools to change their equal opportunity statements to reflect a more liberal viewpoint than many law schools have been comfortable with, including Notre Dame, Marquette, and now Valparaiso. This has involved adding "sexual orientation" and "religion" to the categories of protected groups. Needless to say, a strongly religious law school of whatever tenet would have difficulty with both of those changes. The AALS is treading on constitutionally protected religious viewpoints. The AALS is of course a private organization, but since every law school must be accredited to issue law degrees and to be able to sit for the bar in any state, and the bar is a semi-public institution, the AALS might be construed as a semi-public organization and subject to constitutional limitations on its power.

There is another question that can be asked, however. What is the point of an equal opportunity statement? The idea of a statement declaring yourself free of discrimination is the equivalent of saying that you are good in the absence of evidence that suggests otherwise. The equal opportunity statement is required by law. But the school is as deserving of being considered innocent until proven guilty as an individual is. Why must we assume that the university will discriminate against potential students unless it has a statement declaring it will not?

In any case, I rather think that the University would be on solid ground to dispute the AALS’s heavy-handed treatment. I am tempted to recommend a fight, but that is really too much to ask current students, to risk losing a major accreditation in the middle of their law school careers. The university will not fight, of course, discretion being the better part of valor, but some time in the near future, perhaps one that has not yet been accredited by the AALS, will decide it is worth the trouble.

*Have Faith in Freedom: A Reflection on Dr. King’s Message and China’s Online Prisoners*  
**By Zongkun Liu, 1L**

I still remember during the pro-democracy protests in 1989, how we saw and were endureing the massacre. By Dr. King’s address "I have a dream", the most beautiful address I have ever heard in a modern language. We love Dr. King’s message, because it’s a message addressed to all people who love freedom and justice. For Dr. King, freedom is a faith. He said, "With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day." It’s been almost 13 years since the first time I heard it, but time can only make this faith in freedom stronger.

Dr. King’s message also reminds us there are still countries in the world, where people live under oppression and injustice. Unfortunately, China is one of these countries. In recent years, the persecution of the Internet dissidents is creating new injustices in this most populated country in the world. The Chinese government has passed tough laws and made freedom of political ideas on the Internet a criminal offense. Since last year, tons of Chinese Internet users have been jailed under these laws. These Chinese young men are arrested, tried, and jailed, because they love freedom. They have faith in freedom, because they have lived out the true meaning of freedom. When they are on trial, freedom is on trial. Dr. King’s faith in freedom is on trial.

Got a viewpoint? Place your opinions in The Forum's mailbox located in the SBA office.

The last challenge of a socially conscious society

Depression strikes millions—indecisively. Depression is simply a suppression of brain activity that makes us unbelievable. And even though depression is mostly treatable, there are many who suffer and experience depression themselves along or eventually seek relief through suicide? First, there’s the lack of awareness of depression—as an illness and as the threat that it is such and every day goes on. There’s the unwarranted negative stigma attached to it. You know, the ‘mental’ thing. It’s time to collectively face depression. To know it’s an illness, not a weakness. And it’s a challenge to those who’ve taken too many of us already.

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*Viewpoints*
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A RIDE ON THE SOUTH SHORE LINE
TRAIN OFFERS ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION TO CHICAGO, SOUTH BEND

By Allen Timms
Features Editor

There are very few places in Valparaiso where the steady reverberations of the passing trains cannot be heard. In fact, it is probably safe to say that the students at Valparaiso University do not give these trains much thought other than when their annoying rumbles are heard while studying.

There is, however, one train that Valparaiso Law students might want to give more thought about - The South Shore Line. Located off of U.S. Highway 12 in Chesterton, the South Shore Line offers a convenient alternative to traveling to either Chicago or South Bend. A ride to downtown Chicago costs $5.75 and takes about an hour and a half. Passes can also be purchased in quantity or by the month. These passes can be a cost effective alternative to paying for gas, tolls, parking fees, and the hassle of driving in the Chicago Loop.

Established in 1903, the South Shore Line has been providing Northwest Indiana residents with a means of traveling to and from Chicago for almost a century. It began as a streetcar between Indiana Harbor and East Chicago, called "The Chicago & Indiana Airline Railway" in 1903 and a year later was renamed "The Chicago, Lake Shore, and South Bend Railway" ("The Lake Shore") to reflect the vision of its original owner, Henry B. James. However, "The Lake Shore" faced stiff competition from steam trains and the beginnings of what would become America's love of the automobile. "The Lake Shore" did not make a profit and eventually went bankrupt.

In 1925, the railroad was purchased by Samuel Insull and renamed "The Chicago South Shore and South Bend Railroad" and has been referred to as "The South Shore Line" ever since. Mr. Insull modernized the railroad; building new stations, buying new cars, and converting his fleet to an electric system that would allow The South Shore to travel all the way to downtown Chicago, to "run the 400 miles the way you think, when it's available." Travelers grew from about 1.48 million in 1978 to 1.48 million to about 3.5 million. More importantly to the students at Valparaiso, The South Shore Line provides an alternative form of transportation to Chicago and South Bend, whether it be to work or to enjoy the leisure opportunities that both cities have to provide.

The South Shore Line, however, has not been without its criticism from Valparaiso law students. Mick Story, 3L, said that the train has room for improvement in providing a reliable service. Story said a canceled train cost him and his parents $130 dollars in cab fare from downtown Chicago to Chesterton. "Without any notice the South Shore canceled its last train back to Chesterton and we had to take a cab to get back home."

THE ShORE South Line is now governed by the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICED). Today the railroad is publicly owned and has gone through something of a renaissance. Through the use of tax revenues, The South Shore Line has made steady improvements. The Dune Park Station, for example, was rebuilt in 1986. The improvements are accessible to the handicapped and allows travelers to purchase tickets from a machine when a ticket agent is not available. These improvements have brought back commuters. From 1978 to 1996, travelers grew from about 3.5 million to about 3.5 million.
Recreation at the Indiana Dunes
BY Allen Timms
Features Editor

When one thinks of Indiana, visions of cornfields and basketball usually come to mind first. But the northwest corner of the Hoosier state has something that the rest of the state does not. That would be the coastal splendor of the Indiana Dunes State Park.

"Sometimes when you look at the water, it takes all your cares away," said Wendy Smith, an Interpretive Naturalist at the Indiana Dunes State Park.

Located north of Chesterton at the far end of Highway 49, the Indiana Dunes State Park has over 2,000 acres that offer recreational opportunities to break the stress of law studies or, when the weather is winter, a quiet place to study.

Smith said that people visit the Dunes to see the diversity of habitat, topography, and the geological history of the dunes.

Some of the dunes are still growing," said Smith, "Others are changing." The park sits along three miles of Lake Michigan coastline and contains woods, marshes, driftling sand dunes, as well as flora and fauna unique to the Midwest. The park also has picnic areas, campgrounds, beach shelters and 10 different trails that run across the park and vary in length and difficulty. Hikers and nature advocates can enjoy the park even in the middle of winter. The park is kept open year-round and closes only under extreme weather conditions.

The Indiana Dunes is also home to the Calumet Trail, the state's first long distance trail built exclusively for hiking, jogging, and bicycling. It is also available to cross country skiers during the winter. The trail is over nine miles long and is the first in the state to be designated as part of the National Recreation Trail System by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Maps and brochures are available at the front gate. However, Smith said that she encourages visitors to come to the Nature Center. "If people come to the Nature Center we can find out what they want to see and we can give them leads as to where in the park they may want to visit." The Nature Center is open on weekends, Saturday from 9 AM to 4 PM and Sundays at 10 AM to 4 PM. The center will also be open during the weekdays in the spring.

Law School Dating: Impossible...but Doable

When I was assigned to write this story I cringed. A dating story? And what? We even did a survey! I immediately thought back to grade school and the notes I would always receive: "Will you go out with me? Circle yes, no, or maybe." Well...okay, I admit that I was the desperate one while some are not. Because there is not enough information in the study to reach definitive scientific conclusions, I shall endeavor to reach my own.

First, I believe that, based on the survey, the dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy law school present.

Second, the twenty-four percent of students who date people from outside the law school engage in such behavior because it is economically efficient for them to do so (See Brieske (quoting Posner on Law and Economics)).

Third, the twenty-two percent of students who claimed they were married are, in fact, single because it is either economically efficient for them to be single or because they were confused as to whether an offer for a date was actually "on the table." (See generally Cirafici v. Goffen, 407 N.E.2d 633 (1980) (discussing the intent to contract)). Finally, and perhaps most profound, the twenty-two percent of students who claimed they were married are, in fact, actually married.

On a serious note, it is unfortunate that one of our writers felt compelled to withdraw from the assignment of this article. She was personally criticized for deciding to do a story on law school relationships. This is merely a simple story on a simple subject. Participate. Don't participate. It's only a story.

Results of Law School Dating Survey:

- 8% Engaged.
- 22% Married.
- 1% Divorced.
- 24% Dating someone who is not from VUSL.
- 1% Dating someone from VUSL (hmm...).
- 16% Single as a result of law school.
- 22% Single.
- 6% Other (your guess is as good as mine).

*Based on 100 students surveyed.

Editor's Note:
Due to the negative publicity surrounding this story, The Forum has respected the author's request to remain anonymous.

-S.C.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
LOVE,
THE FORUM STAFF
I remember my very first day at law school quite well. After taking care of the initial introductions and requirements, I was shuffled into the atrium to collect my response. I tried to look calm and composed, but in reality, I was happy."Just kidding," she replied and started laughing.

That is Susan Stuart—professor of legal writing and remedies. She is a professor who teaches her students how to think about the law. I learned that from day one.

Professor Stuart grew up in northwestern Indiana. Lake County to be precise. Down in farm country, but not on a farm. She has three brothers and one sister. As early as grade school, Stuart realized that she had a competitive need to take charge. To her, gender was simply not an issue—she had to be "Da Vinci or Crocket" or "Davy Crockett" in all the neighborhood games. She also was the leader of a gang. Why is that not surprising?

I was taking a bite from my Granny Smith, she said: "So, tell me Alec, how did the court reach its decision in People v. Rizzo?"

I tried to look calm and composed, while at the same time choking on and spitting out chunks of apple. I fumbled my response. It was complex, but articulate: "Uh...er...you mean the reasoning part of the case, or are you talking about the holding?"

"Just kidding," she replied and started laughing.

LIFESTYLES

Friday, February 1, 2002

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YOU THINK YOU KNOW, BUT YOU HAVE NO IDEA:

THIS IS THE DIARY OF VALPO LAW STUDENTS.

By Kathleen Kain, Lifestyles Editor

Name: Lance Clouse
Year: 1L
Hometown: Crawfordsville, IN

Law School: He worked as a professional musician, playing the guitar, and as a singer/songwriter
What Organizations are You Involved In: The VUSL, Musical, Phi Delta Phi, and Intellectual Property Law Association Favorite Class: Civil Procedure. He enjoyed Professor Lint, as well as how challenging the class was.
What Changes Would You Like to See Made to VUSL, Better: Overall, VUSL has been great. The staff and Career Services go out of their way to help students.
If You Could Have Dinner with Any Professor, Would It Be and Why: Professor Brietzke, He has so much experience, and would like to talk to his knowledge.

Name: Scott Wallburn
Year: 2L
Hometown: Kalamazoo, MI

Family: Mom and Dad, brother
Undergraduate School: Western Michigan University, Class of December 1999
Undergraduate Degree: Finance
Why Did You Come to Law School: He minor ed in law in college, and he enjoys learning about law.
Why Did You Choose Valpo Law: He liked the class sizes, the personal atmosphere, and the location, which is not too far from his home. Additionally, he became interested in Valpo when he saw the men's basketball team in the Sweet Sixteen in 1998.

I was happy. Stuart elected to attend IU-Indianapolis Law School. After her third semester she began clerking with a small firm in the city's financial center.

Following law school, Stuart clerked for the Indiana Court of Appeals. Her writing was so respected, she was asked to remain for a third year. After that, she entered private practice where she remained for eleven years. Stuart then began exploring teaching avenues, which had interested her since law school. She began teaching at IU-Bloomington and came to Valpo last year.

Stuart laughs after being asked what a typical "Susan Stuart" weekend consists of. Since she has just become a resident here, she feels there are not many options yet available. But a typical weekend includes one day of "gathering her [her] resources. This includes a full day of watching college sports. Stuart is clearly an avid sports fan (although she has never experienced the "Frozen Tundra" that is happened as much help as he expected to get.

If You Could Have Dinner with Any Professor, Would It Be and Why: Professor Brietzke. It has so much experience, and would like to talk to his knowledge.

What Law Week Events Will You Participate In: Barrister's Ball, Honors Luncheon, Karaoke Night, and Professional Development Day.

We exchanged pleasantries. We both knew that this was a practical area of study. Law school was the best option for him.

What Did You Do Between College and Law School: He worked as a substitute teacher in a high school.
Favorite Class: Torts with Professor Homopoulos
What Changes Would You Like to See Made to VUSL, Better: The only thing he would like to see changed is assistance with finding work in Michigan where he lives. Otherwise, he is extremely happy here.
If You Could Have Dinner with Any Professor, Who Would It Be and Why: Professor Gioia, an adjunct professor who teaches Medical Malpractice. He is an entertaining person.


What Law Week Events Will You Participate In: Barrister's Ball and the Roast.

FACULTY PROFILE: SUSAN STUART

by Alec Miller

What Did You Choose Valpo Law: He liked the atmosphere and the small class sizes. Additionally, financial aid helped in his decision.
What Organizations are You Involved In: Law Review, President of the International Law Society, IM Basketball Favorite Class: Constitutional Law with Professor Levinson
What Changes Would You Like to See Made to VUSL, Better: He has no changes he would make to VUSL. He has taught Medical Malpractice. He is an entertaining person.

What Issues Would You Like to See Covered in The Forum: How many people in the Law School are left handed; whether the law school caters more toward Chicago law firms than firms in some Indiana towns such as Fort Wayne and South Bend. What Law Week Events Will You Participate In: Barrister's Ball, Honors Luncheon, Karaoke Night, and Professional Development Day.

If You Could Have Dinner with Any Professor, Would It Be and Why: Professor Brietzke. He has so much experience, and would like to talk to his knowledge.

What Law Week Events Will You Participate In: Barrister's Ball and the Roast.
Law Week
February 4-9, 2002

Monday, Feb. 4
11 AM Honors Luncheon at Casa Del Roma

8 PM Trivia Night in Tabor
How much do you really know? Teams of five compete for all-school bragging rights. Pizza provided!

Tuesday, Feb. 5
8 PM Karaoke Night at Goodfella's
Show your singing skills, or lack thereof! Drinks provided!

Wednesday, Feb. 6
8 PM Bar-a-thon at Inman's Recreational Center
Set up your teams and compete in bowling, darts, pool, and laser tag. 8 people per team, $5 per person. Food and drinks provided!

Thursday, Feb. 7
8 PM 'The Roast' at Semento's
Baby Pictures, skits, and much much more! Snacks and drinks provided!

Friday, Feb. 8
10:30 AM Professional Development Day sponsored by Career Services
Find your dream job with the help of over 50 attorneys throughout the Midwest.

Saturday, Feb. 9
7 PM Barrister's Ball
Live band, dinner, and drinks! See your favorite professors dance the night away!
SuperBowl leaves much to be desired

By David Masse
Sports Editor

Is it just me or did it seem like the St. Louis Rams played the Carolina Panthers every other weekend during the regular season? Now I know the Rams played the Panthers only twice and I know that the Rams finished 14-2 during the regular season. But it seems like they play a wishy-washy schedule, lock up the dome-field advantage and waltz their way into the Big Dance. And then they're expected to play in another dome where they will meet the New England Patriots this Sunday in Superbowl XXXVI, in New Orleans.

Are we supposed to be excited about this prospect? New England is making its third Superbowl appearance. Interestingly enough, the Patriots last two (both losses) were also played in New Orleans (1986 and 1997).

Admittedly, the Patriots are a solid football team and they are on a roll. But did you get the feeling that the Pittsburgh Steelers took them a little lightly? For example, if you watched sportscenter last week you may have noticed that the Steelers coach told players to use Monday and Tuesday to make their Superbowl arrangements (tickets etc) so that there would be no distractions during the week before Superbowl Sunday.

Meanwhile, the Patriots were practicing in practice suits. You know, the AFC championship. Anyway, by the time the Steelers figured out that the Patriots could actually win, it was too late. And now the Steelers are going home, unfulfilled underachievers.

Pennsylvania's NFC team deserves no praise either. In the NFC championship game, the Philadelphia Eagles had the ball at mid-field, trailing 29-24, with just over two minutes to go to make it seem like the perfect situation for a team trying to win on the road. Yet it was as if the Eagles had no passion, no fire, no chance. Gone was the confident smile that Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb had against the Bears. Gone was the flare, the parachute, the pizzazz, the confidence. All that was left was a flailing flame, ready to die out in the windless dome. The Eagles did not even pick up a single first down on that final possession. Joe Montana where are you?

When it comes to strategy, the Eagles get a C. Why was McNabb sitting back in the pocket like he's Dan Marino or something? It seems like Donovan McNabb, a multi-talented and versatile athlete, should have used his legs. Why make St. Louis tackle him at least two or three times on the final drive. Do something. Go out fighting, please.

Instead, the Eagles went out with a whimper and it was easy to forget that this was a championship game. It was confidence that was missing. The Eagles didn't have the eye of the tiger, the edge. Remember Joe Montana against Cincinnati (the second time) when you just knew that the 49ers would come back? Or John Elway against Cleveland or Green Bay, when you knew the Broncos could not be stopped. No, the Eagles just went out, like it was any other game.

So the St. Louis Rams are in the Superbowl, almost by default it seems. The Rams, known mostly for their prolific offense, have a fast and underrated defense that deserves recognition. The Pats had better block Rams defensive stars Grant Winston and Leonard Little or they will be in for a long fight. On the other side of the ball, the Pats can boost two of the best cornerbacks in the game, Ty Law and Otis Smith. Also, the teams played during the regular season, a 24-17 win for St. Louis (at New England) in what was described by the Rams coach as a very tough fight.

So we might get a good game. But forgive me if I'm not inspired by the match-up. The game is being played in a dome, and Marshall Faulk, arguably the Ram's and the NFL's most dangerous offensive weapon, is playing in front of his home fans.

Granted, the Pats are well coached, but have only one week to prepare. What seems likely is another lackluster Super Duds, and a game that will never really be in doubt. But then again I had Oakland playing St. Louis (oh, let me tell you about those New England snowstorms).

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Valpo Basketball Mid-Season Review

By Randy Fisher
Managing Editor

Last season, the buzzer sounded on the Valparaiso University Men's Basketball Team, and the Crusaders found themselves in an unusual place: sitting at home during March Madness and the NCAA Tournament. This was quite a different feeling than that of the Sweet Sixteen run the Crusaders made a few years back. Watching Southern Utah, the team Valpo lost to in the finals of the Mid-Con Tournament, brought the Crusaders to the realization that their six-year strong hold on the conference had just slipped away.

Thus, the road back to the NCAA Tournament and to the top of the Mid-Con began for Coach Homer Drew and his team. And the midpoint of the 2001-2002 season finds the Crusaders well on their way to regaining the conference crown. After a slow start with losses to Purdue and Belmont, Valpo now stands at 15-6 and alone atop the Mid-Con.

The Crusaders schedule has been packed with strong non-conference opponents and thus far, the VU team has picked up quality wins against Indiana State, UNC-Charlotte, Rhode Island, and West Virginia. Also, Valpo has made itself a team to watch for and adding to their resume of wins over Kansas and Arizona, two of the top basketball programs in the nation.

A balanced scoring attack has been the key to the Crusaders success thus far. Led by Senior and Pre-Season Conference Player of the Year, Lubos Barton at 14.9 points per game and closely followed by Juniors Ratis Grafis and Stalin Ortiz at 13 and 12 points per game respectively, the Crusaders have proven you have to stop more than one man to beat this team on any given night.

The Crusaders have even fought through a case of mid-season drama. The phenom Junior College transfer, Antonio 'Tony' Falu recently quit the team. Falu, a great individual playermaker, left the Crusader team citing an inability to fit into VU's system and personal troubles with Valpo's coaching staff. Touted as one of Valpo's best recruits in years, Falu had the potential to be a legend here at Valpo, but also was heavily criticized for his selfish play. Moving on as you must, the Crusaders cut anchor on Falu and seem to be an even better team without him.

Now, in the midst of its conference schedule, Valpo seems to be on the verge of dominating the Mid-Con once again. However, the trouble with this is that everyone is gunning for top spot and that everyone seems to be one of the best teams in the nation. The Crusaders have proven you have to stop more than one man to beat this team on any given night.

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Bottom line, the Crusaders are a team on a mission. They have regained the swagger and dominance of a champion. Attention Crusader fans: keep watching, as this may be the year the Crusaders are on their way to regaining the conference had just brought the Crusaders to the real...