VITA program helps individuals prepare taxes
VUSL student Carrie Hammer leads volunteers hoping to beat 1040 woes

BY BILL SMITH
Managing editor

Many people dread April 15, tax day. Through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, law student volunteers here at VUSL are helping people in need file their taxes on time and, hopefully, make April 15 less daunting. The VITA program here on campus cooperates with the Internal Revenue Service to provide tax preparation and filing assistance to four taxpayer groups: low income, elderly, disabled, and non-English speaking. Last year, VITA volunteers helped more than 1.7 million taxpayers nationwide.

At VUSL, the VITA program started last year from the dedicated efforts of Professor Karen Kole, Director of the Tax Clinic located in Heritage Hall. Professor Kole recognized a distinct community need for tax preparation services based upon client interaction in the Tax Clinic. Her efforts led to partnering with the IRS VITA program that originally began in the 1970s. This year the program has received tremendous response from both clients and a record number of student volunteers.

Second-year student, Carrie Hammer, leads this year’s program as VITA Director. She has provided countless hours preparing for this year’s tax season. Her main goal has been to provide a professional atmosphere which helps to promote a pleasant experience for the clients who come in for assistance during this process which in many instances is very stressful for the individual. Carrie’s efforts have paid off as the program has already completed several returns. Yet she refuses to take much credit for its success, saying, “I think we have a successful program because we have such dedicated and hardworking volunteers.”

Although refusing to accept the credit, Carrie’s efforts have made a tremendous impact on those individuals that need tax assistance the most. Third-year student, Jeff Williams, has worked with Carrie throughout the process, including organization of the student volunteer training.

In January, student volunteers attended an orientation and training session that provided instruction on the computer software utilized in the program. IRS representatives from Indianapolis came to VUSL to provide the five-hour training session and qualification exam that the volunteers were required to pass prior to working with clients.

This year’s volunteer group includes students from all three law classes as well as students from the School of Business on VU’s main campus. Second- and third-year students receive credit towards the pro bono requirement for graduation. Completion of the training session is the only see VITA page 3

Professor, wife, and three VUSL students march for life in D.C.

BY JONATHAN PASKY
Editor-in-chief

On Jan. 22, 2004, VUSL professor Richard Stith, his wife Rosemarie, and three VUSL students joined tens of thousands of pro-lifers in the annual March for Life in and around Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

Bundled in their cold-weather gear, pro-life buttons, and action-ready faces, the VUSL contingent began with the other marchers at noon, starting by traversing the elegant high-ceilinged halls of the Congressional buildings. Confusion shortly ensued as the marchers mixed with men in suits and women in high heels.

Later, the pro-life rally began near the Washington Monument. President Bush called and encouraged all the marchers by phone. A number of senators and congressmen began to speak to the crowd on the cold winter day.

In the predominantly young crowd, roller blading teenagers mixed with whole classes of high schoolers chanting, “Hey, hey, ho, ho, Roe v. Wade has got to go!”

On the street, onlookers and pretzel sellers lined the way as the crowd began to move again, ending up along Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the Supreme Court building after an hour’s walk.

Rosemarie Stith contributed to this article.

News

Alumni Focus:

Lobbying with a law degree

BY MEGAN RENNER
Staff writer

Lawyers are found in every corner of the world and every aspect of our lives, from a corporate setting at work to a personal encounter with our families. The opportunities for a student with a law degree are endless. However, with so many options, how are students to decide which area of law best fits with their intellect and personality?

In an effort to better inform students of career options, each month this column will feature an area of practice, some more obscure than others, and will highlight a successful VUSL graduate in the field who can provide a snapshot of what their work entails and how to prepare for such a career.

Washington lobbying

If you are still unclear about how a bill becomes a law after completing the chapter on legislative history in legal research, working for the federal government and drafting legislation may not be for you. However, if you are interested in working in a cooperative work environment that is fast-paced and ever changing, read on.

Susan M. Cullen, '98, has worked at the United States Senate Office of the Legislative Counsel as an Assistant Counsel for the past 3 1/2 years. The Senate's days are dependent on current events as well as the congressional and presidential agenda, so change is ever present. A good day, says Cullen, consists of working regular business hours. However, a bad day may mean staying all night or a few nights if a particular bill is in committee, on the floor, or in conference.

The United States Senate Office of the Legislative Counsel is nonpartisan and is primarily broken down into teams based on Senate committee jurisdiction. Cullen's expertise is immigration matters, Cullen says Cullen, consists of working regular business hours. However, a bad day may mean staying all night or a few nights if a particular bill is in committee, on the floor, or in conference.

The biggest perk

The biggest perk of the job, says Cullen, is that "if the bill is passed and is signed by the President, we get to go to the White House for the signing."

Although Cullen desired to move to D.C., she never envisioned that her job would take her to the White House. Cullen has an undergraduate degree in political science and international relations with a focus on American foreign policy. While in law school, Cullen excelled at legal writing, and as a 2L, was a legal writing teaching assistant. Cullen's government experience at the state level coupled with her legal writing skills earned her her current position.

"If there's one thing I can't stress enough it's that you MUST enjoy legal writing!" says Cullen. Cullen's office hires students straight out of law school as well as seasoned attorneys who are coming from private practice. While there is no one particular trait the office looks for, an applicant should enjoy and excel at legal writing. As for work experience, there is some weight put on judicial internships and clerkships.

But overall, Cullen says, "My main recommendation is that students study what it is they are interested in, study hard, and really enjoy the entire law school experience."
News
The FORUM
News Briefs

Client Counseling Team competes in regional

VUSL hosted the Region 7 competition of the ABA’s Law Student Division Client Counseling competition this past weekend, with 12 teams from Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin competing. This year’s winning team from IU – Indianapolis School of Law will now represent the region at the nationals at Stetson University, St. Petersburg, Fla. Second place went to the team from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Law. The topic for this year’s competition was “Nuisance law and disputes between neighbors.”

Supreme Court justices debate judicial federalism at Law Review Symposium

On Feb. 16, in Tabor Auditorium, the Valparaiso University Law Review held its “Judicial Invasion” Symposium with state supreme court justices from four states coming together to discuss the state of the new judicial federalism. Moderated by Professor Robert Williams of Rutgers School of Law – Camden, the discussion focused on the state constitutional law movement. Speaking to a full classroom, each of the distinguished panel spoke of his or her contributions to the journal.

The Honorable Laura Denvir Stith of the Supreme Court of Missouri spoke on her article, “A Contrast of State and Federal Court Authority to Grant Habeas Relief.” The Honorable Christine M. Durham, Chief Justice of the Utah Supreme Court spoke on her article entitled, “What Goes Around Comes Around: The New Relevancy of State Constitution Religion Clauses.” The Honorable Randall T. Shepard, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Indiana, gave his talk on “Is Making State Constitutional Law Through Certified Questions a Good Idea or a Bad Idea?” The Honorable Randy J. Holland of the Supreme Court of Delaware spoke on his article, “Jury Trials and Federalism: Constitutionalizing Common Law Concepts.” Finally, the Honorable Jack L. Landau of the Oregon Court of Appeals spoke on his work, “A Judge’s Perspective on the Use and Misuse of History on State Constitutional Interpretation.

Each justice/judge’s article is to appear in the upcoming Symposium edition of Volume 38 of the Valparaiso University Law Review.

Indiana Secretary of State Todd Rokita discusses election reform, securities fraud

On Feb. 5, Secretary of State Todd Rokita, the state’s highest-ranking Republican, gave an informal talk at VUSL. Rokita, a 1995 graduate of Indiana University-Indianapolis School of Law, began work in politics right out of law school. From 1996 to 1997, every candidate’s campaign he worked with lost the general election. His luck changed in 1997 when he went to work for then Secretary of State Sue Ann Gilroy and later was tabbed as Indiana’s recourt attorney in Florida in 2000. Rokita was elected secretary of state in 2002.

Rokita promised that in his time in office, there will be “the most election reform since the Voting Rights Act of 1965.” According to current estimates, said Rokita, the Indiana voter file (of registered voters) is as much as 20% duplicated. He also added that, though the state is moving to a more updated ballot system, over 14% of the state’s voters still use the punch card system, the same systems made famous in the 2000 presidential election. Rokita’s hope is to eliminate the punch cards from Indiana by 2006.

Before he left, Rokita gave this advice to the VUSL students in attendance: “As a law student, you have no choice but to lead by degree.”

VITA continued from page 1

pre-requisite for participating in VITA. Student involvement does not require a background in tax. For the program, student volunteers meet with clients in the private conference rooms on the second floor of the law library. Conferences can last between one and two hours. For those individuals filing Indiana state forms, the return is processed through the IRS e-file system and the procedure is complete when the client leaves the meeting. VITA then processes the returns and files them electronically with the IRS. For individuals that require returns in other states, VITA can process the federal forms electronically and print out the completed state forms for the individual to mail in traditionally. Clients may receive refunds through a direct deposit if they desire.

The VITA program welcomes everyone meeting the eligibility requirements. VITA hopes to assist those individuals with income under $35,000, that does not come from complex transactions such as the sale of a home or stocks. Many times, people that fall into this category do not understand the complex tax code and are unable to afford professional tax preparation services. This sometimes results in those individuals not receiving the appropriate tax refund money due to them.

Law students meeting the above criteria are also welcome and encouraged to allow VITA volunteers to assist them with this year’s returns. All tax assistance is provided free of charge. Anyone interested in the program should contact the VITA office at 465-7949. The VUSL VITA program runs through midnight on April 15.
**Opinion**

**Texan Perspective:**

The real world

**Harold Price**

As promised in my last article: Through extensive research, I have discovered that in the "real world," bratwurst is made from finer cuts of meat than the hot dog. Along with the aromatic spices, the "brat" can consist of anything ranging from turkey breast to veal and ground steak. Our national pastime generally uses the by-products of an animal that cannot be sold on a plate by itself: lips...and all other stuff.

Arriving at VUSL after leaving a first career in banking and finance, I know a little about what the real world wants in its future workers, whether their collars are blue or white. I came away from this realm of buying and selling money knowing diversity in one's own self is important in facilitating some sense of job security. Other than surveying the ring-finger situation of our neighbors in that initial law school meeting, one of the first things we were told was to "look to the person on your left and the person on your right...chances are those people will not be here when you graduate in three years!" I looked to my left and saw a potential future colleague. After listening to forty-five minutes of complaining, I knew the person to my right would not be one of the people that would last...but yet another MBA candidate.

The real world is not "eight strangers picked to live in a loft, agreeing to have their lives taped." The real world is also not *L.A. Law* or *The People's Court*. Diversity in today's workplace is not limited to the race and background of its workforce. Broadening the range and scope of its employees' duties became integral in harmonizing the company's balance sheets. This harmony comes at the expense of loyalty to one's workers. Trying to find loyalty in this generation's market economy is about as easy as getting a reasonable explanation for five-foot candy canes on fire-hydrants.

The world we live in today no longer gives away the engraved gold watches to its retirees. Our generation is one that finds itself unable to fathom the concept of spending an entire career with one employer. Believe it or not, the "baby-boomers" were the last workers to remotely experience this notion. They were also the first to succumb to the idea of expendability. The idea of "what have you done for me lately?" is no longer satisfied with yesterday's news...it's now more like five minutes ago. Today, stockholders/owners demand profits, easily admonishing loyalty first.

It is no secret that it costs companies more money to have a worker retire with benefits and pensions. These retirement expenses are avoidable by the swinging door in the human resources department. When a company needs to look good on paper, the first jobs eliminated are the ones held by the forty-five year old married individual with years experience, and making replacing him/her is thirty years old, possibly not yet married, possessing five years experience, demanding $45k per year. The person old, possibly not yet married, possessing five years experience, demanding $45k per year. The laws of economics say that these companies are willing to live with the expense of the thirty year old with less experience in order to avoid the higher salaried, more experienced worker.

"Strive to find your own voice, making sure only you control the volume."

This is the worst column ever written

**Writing in Cursive**

**Barry Wormser**

choices, consumers inevitably are drawn to the most outrageous and sweeping statements made. Here are some examples that I have recently read from respected journalists:

- **Titanic** is the worst movie ever. (obviously they haven't seen *Rollerball* starring L.L. Cool J)
- Britney Spears is the worst singer ever. (likely)
- **Limp Bizkit** is the worst band ever. (probably)

Note that instead of stating how awful *Limp Bizkit* music is the writer cuts to the chase simply stating they are the worst band ever. Think about this for a moment. The writer of the statement obviously overlooked such giants-of-suck as Great White, Tesla, and my favorite, L.A. Guns. And to be honest, it isn't that I necessarily disagree with the statement because everyone knows *Limp Bizkit* is awful, but there was likely no thought given before saying it.

The key to our future job security is diversification. It is no longer enough to be good at what you do. Indispensability lies in having a broad range of knowledge, and being better at what you do than anyone else. Specialization gets you nowhere anymore...look at Wal-Mart.

Comparing first-semester Legal Research with second-semester puts this into terms with which we can all relate. First semester Research shows 1Ls how to add 2+2 and get 4. It also explains why 2+2=4. Second semester is the calculator that adds 2 and 2 for you. I hear students complain about how pointless the work involved in Research can be when they plan on hiring people to do it for them anyway. Not to say that this is wrong, but the knowledge gained from being able to do it yourself only adds diversity to one's personal portfolio. The minimum wage worker at McDonald's that makes a Big Mac better than anyone risks losing his job to the worker that might not make as good a Big Mac, but can also make fries, sweep the floor, and work the cashier...for equal pay.

The cyclical nature of our economy almost guarantees that the revolving door to human resources will always spin vigorously with the market's peaks and valleys. Through continuing education and diversification, you owe it to yourself to smooth out the potential threat on your job security during these ups and downs. It can be said that it is not always what you know that opens a door for you, but whom you know. No longer can it be enough to simply put your foot through that door. Make it your job to ensure that door is not closed on you at some point in the future.

Strive to find your own voice, making sure only you control the volume.

These sweeping comments may only be opinion, but they are fast becoming the norm. Maybe it is true that the influx of media in the 90s has paved the way for the hyperbole - replacing Elvis Costello-styled thoughtfulness. Reflection, it seems, has gone the way of Scott Baio's acting career - non-existent after 1989.

And to be sure, I am not pointing fingers, because I am guilty of relying on hyperbole, too. We all are.

We are all guilty of stating that something is the worst, the best, or some other extreme. My classmates have stated that our appellate briefs are "the worst," while some 2Ls state their notes for law review are "the worst," and come Spring Break, much of the school will ask rhetorically, "Does it get any better than this?"

I have a college friend who would notoriously claim that every other Saturday's bender was the greatest day in our history. The fact that he was drunk aside, at some point, we have to reign ourselves in...don't we? I mean, not every day can be the best, not every singer the worst, or every belief definitive - can it?

Personally, I am going to try and cut back. I will allow myself one hyperbole a year. Maybe two if I desperately need it.

And here it is: Ben Affleck is the most over-rated person in history.

There, I feel better.
Economy, government, and the need for reform

“Capitalism itself is an unstable economic system where only a small minority of the population benefits from its operation.”

Economy remains a focus of American society and its development. Karl Marx proposed that government exists to regulate economy. American government does control the flow and regulation of economy. The Commerce Clause in Article II of the U.S. Constitution grants Congress the power to control interstate commerce, levy taxes, and regulate import and export operations. In the American system, then, it is safe to say that government plays a large role in affecting the national economy, but the question remains what effect economy has on American government.

Economic issues are among the many topics up for debate in the upcoming democratic primaries and the impending presidential election. Candidates have espoused plans to control the flow and regulation of economy. The Commerce Clause in Article II of the U.S. Constitution grants Congress the power to control interstate commerce, levy taxes, and regulate import and export operations. In the American system, then, it is safe to say that government plays a large role in affecting the national economy, but the question remains what effect economy has on American government.

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Past administrations have chosen to handle the problem differently. The Reagan administration attempted to use supply-side economics to help the struggling economy in the early 1980s. The Bush administration is now taking a similar approach to the recession of the last few years. The premise of supply-side economics is simple: cut taxes so that the people have more money to spend in the system, creating more demand and then more production. The increased demand and subsequent effect on production, in theory, creates more jobs.

The fundamental problem with this system springs from which level of economic stratification benefits from these tax cuts. Supply-side economics puts the state of our nation at risk. The federal government does not self-regulate its spending when it offers tax cuts. This fiscal irresponsibility creates astronomical increases in the federal deficit, in turn affecting the value of the American dollar through inflation. Though superficially beneficial from a theoretical perspective, the practical application leaves the economy lopsided, only providing long term benefits for the upper echelon of the economic strata.

Supply-side economics fail in a logical sense if the purpose of society is to create stability for its citizens. This type of system only benefits one class in society. Capitalism itself is an unstable economic system where only a small minority of the population benefits from its operation. A positive capitalist economy is one that increases and creates more profit each year. Taken to a logical conclusion, the consumers would have to endlessly consume product until the cycle results in one of two ends: the cycle will continue until it depletes the resources of the consuming class; or the cycle will create so much waste that it will destroy the environment and become hazardous to the health and well being of the citizenry.

Under either scheme, the conclusion is equally as disastrous, equaling the end of the society predicated on the operation of a capitalist economy. The simple solution would be to allow for a plateau in production and profit. This would limit the economy to produce only enough to satiate the needs of the populace, thereby avoiding the impending doom of a growth-based economy.

Supply-side economics within a capitalist scheme does not work, nor does the capitalist scheme itself. Socialism and communism remain as options for operable and practicable economic schemes. Yet, these systems have problems as well.

Socialism is destined to fail since it lacks a motivating factor for advancement. Under a socialist system, citizens etch their niche in society and earn the same as every other member of society. This provides less incentive for citizens to pursue extensive education to obtain employment in a technical field. As a result, the knowledge base of society suffers.

Additionally, communism has had noted problems throughout history. First, practical application of Marx’s utopian ideal is virtually impossible; ambition and selfish tendencies cause a breakdown in the system. Second, communism will not work when applied to a large population, as it would be in American society. What then remains as a viable option for an American economy that is more practical than the currently condemned capitalistic system?

A plausible answer is a unification of capitalism and socialism. Within such a system, compensation would vary for technical and educationally demanding employment. Taxation would operate on a sliding scale, but would still preserve the class stratification. The market would depend on the stable flow of products between their producers and consumers. A stable, zero balance will optimize the resources of the producers, minimize waste, and not deplete the resources of the consuming class.

The stability of the system emerges from the plateau of profit margins. Income will remain steady along with production and consumption, avoiding the hazards of capitalism, communism, and socialism combined.

While I have never claimed to be the final judge of right or wrong, I must address a cultural scourge that threatens to tear this campus and nation to pieces. It is a phenomenon that has the potential to end Western Civilization as we know it and bring about a new order to the world that promises to destroy all that is holy and pure. It is not a threat from weapons, the government, or even a Cub's pennant.

No, I need to warn humanity of the danger of a people that care nothing for what is good: the people who use the word “soda.”

Many of you may not know it, but the word “soda” is derived from the Greek “sodos,” meaning “wine of the wicked.” The Masons, the Girl Scouts, the United Nations; all have utilized this implement of group think to complete works of death, desolation and tyranny scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous of ages.

Those who use this worst of four-letter words must hate America and undoubtedly incited the potato famine that devastated my Irish ancestors so many years ago. These same people eat their own children and call water fountains “bubblers.” Nevertheless, so many of our so-called friends say the word without any regard for the truth and perpetuate all that is evil in the world today.

Of course there are also the “Coke” people. Concentrated primarily in the South, they refer to all soft drinks as “Coke.” Go to a restaurant and ask for a “Coke,” and they ask, “What flavor?” Am I the only one annoyed by this? Are these people so easily swayed by commercialism that the proper ad campaign could have them calling all fast food White Castle?

As for the fence-riders twerps who say “soda pop,” they are by analogy the modern incarnations of Neville Chamberlain. Having no backbone that can be documented by science, these are pieces of human debris who seek appeasement to avoid conflict at all cost. I could go on for hours about the danger the fence-riders pose to our way of life, but all you need to know is this: Michael Jackson says “soda pop.”

Having been born in God’s country (also known as Nebraska) I was graced with being surrounded by a people who deliver the caffeine our bodies need and the sodium that our bodies need. Again, I want to reiterate that the Masons, the Girl Scouts, the United Nations; all have utilized this implement of group think to complete works of death, desolation and tyranny scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous of ages.

The evil of soda

Ryan Adler

February 2004
## Calendar

### February/March

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<td>Enjoy views of the night sky Valpo Union 6:00 p.m.</td>
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Spring into Style

BY COURTNEY E. SCHLIPP
Staff writer

As yet another long semester has begun here at Valpo, we are faced not only with the unpredictability of our future in the fast-food business, but also that very awkward change in seasons. Although the weather seems to be getting colder, we all know that the season of fun and frolic is just around the corner (even though the only frolicking the majority of us participate in these days involves skipping up and down the stairs of the library trying to find a quiet place to play solitaire). So, while trudging through the slush and sludge for the next few weeks, try moving into spring spirit by donning a few new styles.

<table>
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<th>LADIES</th>
<th>GENTLEMEN</th>
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| **Hair**
Bangs—they’re back! For longer hair, try descending layers around your face. For shorter hair, mix a few super short cuts with varying lengths in the front. |
Color—Alright guys, I know you may think it’s too fem but the season is right to start the highlight! Highlighting in a shade that is about two or three shades lighter than the rest of your hair can add body and give your hair dimension. Don’t get too crazy or overzealous on the at-home kits though, or you’ll run the risk of turning rusty. |
| **Color**
Lighten up! Start gradually with a few warm blondes or coppers, and then add a few strawberry blonde or light brown shades. |
| **Style**
Fun and flirty. Try something new and spike out your do! |
Style—Not much changes in the realm of the scraggly male. Messy hair is still first and foremost among guys these days. However, the latest trend is a little longer in the front, leaving room to be creative with some spiky bangs. |
| **Face**
Keep it real, or go crazy with golds, oranges, and bright greens, blues and yes, even reds! |
Lips—it may sound rudimentary, but you’ll get more kisses with soft lips. Use chap stick with an SPF of 15 or more to keep lips moisturized while you’re taking the five mile trek from the parking lot to Wesemann. |
Eyes—Try out a colored mascara like bright blue or lilac, and match with a darker shade of liner and a lighter shade of shadow. It may sound crazy, but the colors usually make only a subtle difference. |
| **Top**
Off the shoulder or boat-neck shirts |
LAYERs!! Try a plain camisole with a really jazzy jacket or vice versa. |
| **Bottom**
Slim-fit distressed jeans with slight flare |
Distressed fatigues in khaki, army green, or gray |
HOLEs and FRAY—they’re back! Where’s Axle Rose when it’s his time to shine??
slim-fit distressed jeans—boot-cut, not tapered |
HOLES and FRAY—they’re back! Where’s Axle Rose when it’s his time to shine??
low rise pants—although the low rise jean is very cool, try to keep the plumb­er’s fashion at bay by wearing them right below your hips, about 2 inches from the belly button |
Jean skirts—slightly above the knee
colorful opaque or designed tights |
Music Review

By Collin Welch

Hurray! Incusucks,' whoops, I mean Incubus,' fifth studio album was released this month. If anyone is interested, it's a wonderful example of how to write a hit record. Just take a commercial song, add new words, get a producer, and repeat. With the release of Incubus' "A Crow Left of the Murder," I think I can finally put to rest all hope of this band ever becoming cool again.

Incubus has a really interesting story! Starting out as a young band from the west coast, they had two really promising early albums with a fresh funk/reggae influenced rock sound. Then the lead singer decided to cut off his killer dreads (because of the negative energy they had), get a new producer, and voila, they lived happily ever after. (with their millions of dollars) putting out crappy pop albums. I had hoped that "A Crow Left of the Murder" would be back on the path towards decency, due to another change in producer. And hey, there actually are a few highlights. For instance, "Zee Deveel" is a decent song, minus the chorus. Also, "Sad Little World" has a decent solo; and the first 36 seconds of the album are pretty interesting. Actually, most of the album is right whenever the guy finally shuts up.

I'm spent; that's the most positive spin I can put on this album. On almost all the songs, Incubus briefly starts to develop interesting themes, only to instantly drop them for no reason when the singer enters. They have succeeded in creeping ever closer to becoming just pathetic Chili Peppers rip offs.

It's a stale sound with stale harmony and little creativity. Also, poor vocals can usually be saved with great music, but bad music can rarely be held up by good lyrics. I wish the rest of the band would figure that out and start playing again.

So what have we learned today, besides how to make your own hit record and not to cut your hair? (Trust me), Nothing!

On the two ball scale, this album has no balls. But, if you aren't going to listen to me (which you probably shouldn't) and still want this CD, I have a copy I'll sell for $5.


The paid performance is Friday, Feb. 27, 2004, but there will be two free productions of the play on Wednesday and Thursday this week. Normally the play only has two productions, but the demand for show tickets this year demonstrated the need for another free performance. On Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2004, there will be a free performance for all of those who were not able to get tickets to the Thursday night show. The seats will be offered on a first-come, first-serve basis, with certain at 8:00 p.m. For those who were able to get tickets for the free show, that performance will be held on Thursday, Feb. 26, 2004, at 8:00 p.m. All shows are held in the VUCA theatre.

The law faculty, students, and staff are looking forward to seeing all of you at the VUCA for a Good Old Burlesque Show!

Free Performance Tonight!

Wed., Feb. 25, 2004

VUCA Theater, curtain @ 7:30 p.m.
Student Profiles By Jenn Klein

3L

Doug Springer

Hometown: Bringham, Indiana

Undergraduate University: Wabash College

Undergrad degree: Bachelor of Arts-History

Why Law School?
I have said since 7th grade that I wanted to, and I wanted to prove to myself and everyone else that I could.

Why Valpo Law?
When I visited it was a lot like Wabash with the small classes and friendly environment—That was until Trusts & Estates with Lind—too many 2Ls!

What type of law do you want to practice?
Civil Litigation or some type of sports law.

Where will you be working this time next year?
The Law Office of Garry A. Weiss and finishing my Masters Degree.

What advice do you have for the 1Ls?
Live everyday to the fullest; you don’t know how long you have here.

What is your favorite television show and why?
ESPN Sports Center because it is a quality show that starts me off on the right foot every morning, unless the Hoosiers lose again.

What did you do for Valentines Day?
I helped coach the Wheeler High School Girls Basketball team to its first Basketball Sectional Championship in the school’s 80-year history. (I have a lot of making up to do with Alice.)

Over the past couple of months, we have witnessed over seven democratic candidates dwindle down to two: Kerry and Edwards. What are your thoughts on how the campaigns were run as we prepare for this election year?
I think there were so many people running because there really wasn’t an obvious choice for November. Everyone figured they had a chance.

Ireland government announced that effective March 29 smoking will be banned in all enclosed workplaces, including pubs. What are your thoughts on this matter? Do you believe it should be a law to consider in the United States?
I don’t smoke so that law would be fine by me.

2L

Carrie Smith

Hometown: Colon, Michigan

Undergrad School: Grand Valley State University

Undergrad degree: Political Science

Why Law School?
Why not?

Why Valpo Law?
Financial incentive and a good environment.

What type of law do you want to practice?
Employment law.

Where will you be working this time next year?
Externship with the Porter County Prosecutor.

What is your favorite television show and why?
Alias and Sex and the City because of the characters and the stories.

What did you do for Valentines Day?
Barcrawl downtown.

Ireland government announced that effective March 29 smoking will be banned in all enclosed workplaces, including pubs. What are your thoughts on this matter? Do you believe it should be a law to consider in the United States?
I like the idea. People who don’t want to smoke shouldn’t be forced to smoke anyway by inhaling secondhand.

What are your thoughts on the same-sex marriage legal limbo?
I think civil unions should be allowed. To a lot of people, marriage is a legal state, not a religious one. I don’t think religion should have any bearing on legal standards.

1L

Kristen Nesbitt

Hometown: Indianapolis, Indiana

Undergrad School: Indiana University - Bloomington

Undergrad degree: Journalism & Criminal Justice

Why Law School?
I’ve wanted to be a lawyer since my 4th grade class did a mock trial. I was for the defense.

Why Valpo Law?
Valpo had the best mix of quality education and price.

What type of law do you want to practice?
Litigation or jury consulting.

What is your favorite television show and why?
I can’t miss CSI or ER – I’m impressed by the writer’s ability to continue coming up with original storylines.

What did you do for Valentines Day?
I spent most of the day catching up on sleep and working on my appellate brief.

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Happy Spring Break

From the Forum Staff
Calling all Writers!

The Forum needs you!

E-mail:

forum@valpo.edu

or

jonathan.pasky@valpo.edu

Next staff meeting:

Wed., Mar. 17, 2004,

6:00 p.m. — Chicago/Hessler

SBA Election Schedule

February 25 - Informational meeting for all interested in running for office (11:00 a.m. in the SBA office)

March 15 – 19 – Petitions Available for Executive Board Offices (Petitions available in the SBA office. Petitions due March 19 at 11:40 a.m.)

March 22 -26 – Campaigning for Executive Board Offices (Voting conducted in the atrium during chapel break. Election Results posted by 5 p.m. on March 30)

March 29 & 30 – Elections for Executive Board Offices

March 31 – April 6 – Petitions Available Administrative Board Offices (Petitions due April 6 at 11:40 a.m.)

April 7 – 13 – Campaigning for Administrative Board Offices

April 14 & 15 – Elections for Administrative Board Offices. Voting conducted in the atrium during chapel break. Election Results posted by 5 p.m. on April 15

SBA President’s Platform

Student Bar Association elections are just around the corner. I would like to encourage students interested in public service to consider running for a position. Being on SBA provides a unique opportunity to both serve your fellow students by increasing the quality of life at VUSL as well as test the waters for a future leadership role. Each position on SBA has distinctive characteristics which allow for a collaborative effort by a variety of students.

Beginning with the Office of the President, the duties run the gamut from administrative chores like weekly meetings with Dean Conison to cleaning up smashed pumpkins at the Halloween party. I can honestly say that I had no idea how encompassing being president would be—I spend approximately twenty-five hours per week solely on SBA. If you are considering running for president, be aware that life as you know it as a law student will end.

The vice president is in charge of planning and executing SBA-sponsored activities. This position requires large attention to detail and foresight. It is often a thankless position which requires extensive dedication.

As much as I love to think that I run the show, I know that the treasurer holds the purse strings and therefore influences each expenditure. Responsible fiscal management is crucial—this position requires a thick skin and an acute sense of reason.

The secretary is the scribe for each weekly meeting, which range in length from forty minutes to four hours, and keeps the SBA office stocked like Staples. This position is also detail-oriented; however, it is not as demanding as the aforementioned jobs.

The ABA representative’s primary duty is to keep the VUSL students up to date on national ABA issues and conferences. In addition, the ABA rep. is responsible for coordinating the ABA Work-A-Day philanthropy project.

Three faculty representatives, one from each class, attend regularly scheduled faculty meetings. At the faculty meetings the representatives offer student opinions on various concerns and update the faculty on events the student organizations are planning. Back at the SBA meetings, the reps. report on issues the faculty is considering.

Finally, three class representatives are chosen from each class. To use a metaphor, if SBA is a body, the executive board is the head and the class representatives are the arms and the legs. The representatives facilitate each activity—making posters, selling tickets, setting up, cleaning up, fielding questions, etc., and pipe up in meetings as to what they think the other students in their class would like to see happen at events.

I would like to add that SBA is responsible for so much more than party planning. The issues this organization oversees range from the Honor Code, library, and parking issues to opportunities for philanthropic participation.
Law Week in Review:
Barrister’s Ball—Feb. 21, 2004

Faculty Quotes:
If you hear your professor say something profoundly (insert adjective here), submit it for all to read and enjoy in next month’s Forum.

forum@valpo.edu