War debate heats up

BY BRENT PIERCE
Copy Editor

A m erica is divided. A new battle now rages at home. Politicians in Washington and Americans all across the nation are increasingly polarized over our future in the Iraq war.

On Thursday, November 17, Congressman John Murtha called for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. forces in Iraq. Murtha, a Pennsylvania Democrat, was a Marine for 37 years, a highly decorated veteran of the Vietnam War, and has served in Congress since 1974. Rep. Murtha originally supported the resolution for war in Iraq, but now believes it is time to bring our troops home.

“It is time for a change in direction. Our military is suffering; the future of our country is at risk. We cannot continue on the present course. It is evident that continued military action in Iraq is not in the best interests of the United States of America, the Iraqi people or the Persian Gulf region,” Murtha said.

Hoping to force Democrats to choose whether to stay the course or withdraw forces, House Republicans introduced a bill calling for the “immediate termination” of the war in Iraq. The measure was easily defeated 403-3, but the debate raged on. Republicans contended the bill was a way to send a message to the troops that support was still strong for the war. However, Democrats called the measure nothing more than a political stunt. “A disgrace,” declared House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-California.


The political fireworks erupted just days after Republicans defeated a Democratic measure in the Senate, calling for President Bush to establish a timetable for withdrawal from Iraq. Instead, the Senate adopted a bi-partisan resolution that calls for 2006 to be a period of significant transition in Iraq, and requires President Bush to update Congress and the American people on the strategy for success in Iraq. President Bush welcomed the resolution, stating he “appreciated the fact that the Senate, in a bipartisan fashion, rejected an amendment that would have taken our troops out of Iraq before the mission is complete.”

Through the ongoing debate and heated rhetoric, Bush Administration officials and Congressional Republicans have been quick to portray Democrats as underestimating U.S. efforts in Iraq. “The saddest part is that our people in uniform have been subjected to these cynical and pernicious falsehoods day in and day out,” Vice President Dick Cheney noted.

“Frankly, the liberal leadership has put politics ahead of sound fiscal and national security policy, and what they have done is cooperated with our enemies,” Rep. Geoff Davis (R-KY) remarked.

When searching for clarity in the political folly, only one thing rings true; consensus on policy in Iraq is nowhere in sight. But now, with nearly six in ten Americans believing going to war was a mistake, the President and other supporters of the war, are going to have to start answering the tough questions.

When are the troops coming home? Will there ever be an end to this war? Right now, nobody knows. But what must be understood, and what needs to always be in our hearts and on our minds are the men and women putting their lives on the line, and in more than 2,100 cases, dying for America. Political noise aside, these individuals are our heroes day in and day out.

Brent is a J.D. and may be reached at brent.pierce@valpo.edu.

Alito confirmation update
Remarks on abortion fuel debate

BY BRENT PIERCE
Copy Editor

In a 1985 memo, while working for the Reagan Administration, Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito wrote that the Justice Department should actively support state decisions to restrict abortion rights in an effort to overturn Roe v. Wade. “We should make clear that we disagree with Roe v. Wade and would welcome the opportunity to present arguments on the issue of whether that decision should be overruled,” Alito wrote.

The memo, which spanned 17 pages, frequently noted disapproval of abortion and abortion rights. Alito also raised concerns about the credibility of doctors who perform large numbers of abortions, and outlined a wide-ranging strategy for changing the law.

Alito’s supporters downplayed the abortion memo’s significance, saying it was dated and said little about how he would act as a justice. Former Solicitor General Charles Fried, Alito’s boss at the time, said the abortion landscape was different then. “It was a very different situation in 1985 to 2005,” Fried said. “It’s over; it’s settled. The opinion has been clearly reaffirmed.”

Supporters also noted that Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, whom Alito would replace, supported some restrictions on abortion rights. In 1989 and 1992, she voted for more state regulation, but ultimately reaffirmed Roe v. Wade.

Abortion rights activists, however, claimed the memo is merely more evidence of what
NEWS

CONVERSATIONS PROJECT

Hurricane Katrina Round Table

BY STEVE EHRMAN & ALISON RICHARDS
Staff Reporters

Habitat for Humanity Trip in Planning

On Nov 1, 2005, the Conversations Project sponsored a round table forum to discuss the impact of Hurricane Katrina and other recent natural disasters in the Southern United States. The forum was held in the reception area of the Christopher Center at Valparaiso University and moderated by Professor Telman from the Valparaiso University School of Law. Professors from the law school and undergraduate colleges led the round table discussion. Professor Telman gave a brief introduction and encouraged each participant to share issues that most impacted himself or herself. After fifteen minutes of round table discussion, the panelists spoke of topics within their expertise.

Professor Sy Moskowitz prepared a hand-out entitled “Effect of a Natural Disaster on Various Segments of the Same Geographical Community.” The facts presented by Professor Moskowitz emphasized that the devastation had the greatest impact on a segment of society that is economically disadvantaged. Ironically, the hurricane exposed the inequity of wealth and privilege in America. Had the Hurricane not affected the area, this segment of the population would never have received the media attention.

Professor Virginia Shingleton, Chair of the Economics Department, focused on the macro economic impact, especially oil-related issues. Professor Shingleton noted that everyone has been disappointed with rising gas prices. However, even when a gallon of gasoline costs $3.00, the cost of this resource has not kept up with inflation over the last several decades. The oil corporations have not had to invest heavily to meet capacity. In fact, there have been no new refineries built since the 1970’s. In as much as this is a commodity, the typical household spends 31% less today than in previous years. Professor Shingleton reminded everyone that investment needs to continue in alternative energies so that we are not dependent on the commodity of refined oil.

Professor Mike Longan from the University’s Geography Department discussed a topic entitled Urban Geography. This is the study of how humans transform the environment for their own good. Professor Longan challenged those in attendance to consider if the disaster in New Orleans was caused by a natural disaster or rather from the effects of human habitat in the area. Some of the issues to consider are whether or not it was wise to build a major city at sea level, construct questionably unstable levees, and reconfigure naturally protective wetland buffers. Professor Longan introduced the notion that even those who were greatly harmed by the disasters will most likely rebuild in the same area. There is a human affinity to continue and build a life in familiar geographic area.

When the topics from the individual round tables were presented, general outrage was expressed at the lack of government response and the lack of coordination between rescue efforts. Some raised political concerns, specifically if the United States is using its resources correctly, when we are using $1B/week to fund the war in Iraq. An interesting fact was raised regarding housing in the downtown New Orleans area. In the space above the businesses, there is housing available in the French Quarter for approximately 100,000 people.

The Habitat for Humanity trip to the hurricane stricken southern states is being planned over Spring Break. For details, please stay in touch with Ann Abell who can be reached by e-mail at annie.abell@valpo.edu. The next Conversations event will also be held in the Christopher Center on January 30th at 7 pm. The event is titled: “Duty, Honor and Whatever: The Role of the Military Today.”

Steve and Ann are 1Ls. For additional information on this article, please feel free to contact Alison at alison.richards@valpo.edu, or steve at stephen.ehrman@valpo.edu.

ALITO continued from page 1

they have insisted all along: That Judge Alito, if given the chance, will vote to overturn Roe v. Wade, and make all abortions illegal.

Even moderate Senate Republicans are beginning to question Alito’s ability to honor legal precedent. Senator Lincoln D. Chafee, Republican of Rhode Island, said yesterday that he would oppose a Supreme Court nominee who would overturn Roe v. Wade. “It’s an issue that I care deeply about, and I know how high the emotions are,” Chafee said. “I think that to pull this country apart on this issue at this time is not good.”

The memo also seems to undermine Alito’s recent attempts to lessen the significance of anti-abortion statements he made in a job application that same year. Alito told Democratic Senators that his opinions in the 1985 application were simply a sales pitch by a young lawyer trying to climb the ladder in a conservative administration.

Senate Democrats argued that the memo shows true Alito’s philosophy toward abortion, and painted him as a possible judicial activist. “This new information heightens concern about Judge Alito’s views regarding ‘settled law’ and his eagerness to engage in activism to change law with which he disagrees,” said Sen. Patrick Leahy, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

With mounting pressure from Senate Democrats, and now moderate Republicans, Samuel Alito is sure to face tough questions in the Senate hearings. But with the Republican majority, Alito’s opponents face a daunting uphill battle.

Brent is a 1L and may be reached at brent.pierce@valpo.edu.
Law students place fourth in international competition

A team of Valparaiso University law students took fourth place in the American Bar Association’s Regional Negotiation Competition, held earlier this month in Cincinnati.

Korin Spahr, a second year law student from Pittsford, Mich., and Josh Cumming, a second year law student from Valparaiso, were the only team from the United States to reach the final four round.

Twenty teams from the U.S. and Canada participated in the regional competition.

The ABA Law Student Division’s Negotiation Competition promotes greater interest among law students in legal negotiation and provides a means for them to practice and improve their negotiating skills. The competition simulates legal negotiations in which law students, acting as lawyers, negotiate a series of legal problems.

Law School MLK Day

The Black Law Student Association will be participating in Valparaiso University’s Martin Luther King Day activities. The following activities will be taking place in Tabor classroom, located in Wesemann Hall. Refreshments will be provided at each event.

On Thursday, January 12, faculty, students and alumni will be hosting “Reparations? Has the Time Arrived?” The mock oral argument regarding reparations for slavery will be held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

On Tuesday, January 17, the Honorable R. Eugene Pincham will speak on “Remembering and Living the Legacy of Dr. King” from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Pincham is a human rights activist, lawyer, former judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, and is a critic of the criminal justice system.

On Wednesday, January 18, the movie Crash will be showing from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., with discussion groups following the movie.

Harlem Globetrotters to play at ARC

The Harlem Globetrotters will be playing at the Athletics Recreation Center on the Valparaiso University campus on Tuesday, January 31, 2006, at 7 p.m.

Players scheduled to appear include Paul “Showtime” Gaffney, Keiron “Sweet Pea” Shine and Matt “Showbiz” Jackson.

Tickets are available at www.etix.com or at the Athletic Recreation Center Box Office, which may be reached at (219) 464-6113.

VUSL professor at Court

Professor Edward Gaffney was part of an amicus brief filed with the United States Supreme Court on behalf of religious groups and animal rights activists. The Court heard oral arguments on two cases (Scheidler v. NOW and Operation Rescue v. NOW) on November 30.

The cases involve protests outside abortion clinics and the fear of protesters being subject to lawsuits and damage awards.

Professor Gaffney wrote that the position of NOW “represents a profound threat to American who love this country enough to want to change social policies they deem to fall short of the capacity of our society for human compassion and social justice.”

Advent Vespers to be celebrated Dec. 9

Assured seating cards to Valparaiso University’s annual Advent Vespers service at the Chapel of the Resurrection on campus are now available without charge. This year’s Advent Vespers services are Dec. 9 at 8 and 11 p.m.

The service of music and readings is a traditional part of Advent celebrations on campus. Valparaiso’s Kantorei choir, the University Singers and organist Dr. Joseph Bognar, associate professor of music, will perform during the service.

The 8 p.m. service is designed specifically for the Northwest Indiana community, and will feature several prominent community leaders as readers. Members of the campus community will serve as readers at the 11 p.m. service.

Assured seating cards are available in the Chapel office from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Only those with assured seating cards will be seated prior to 7:50 p.m. and 10:50 p.m. that night.

Final astronomy open house of semester Dec. 9

The last chance for the Northwest Indiana community to gaze up into the night skies from the Valparaiso University Observatory this year will take place Dec. 9 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. There is no charge to attend the open house.

The public can enjoy views of the moon, planets, star clusters and galaxies through the University’s computer-controlled telescope. University faculty will provide descriptions of the objects being observed and answer questions.

All open houses are held weather permitting. People should call (219) 464-5202 after 5 p.m. the day of the open house to confirm that the weather is clear enough for the Observatory to open.

If the weather is not clear enough for the Observatory to open, there will be a planetarium presentation at Neils Science Center on campus.

The observatory is located on the southeast corner of campus, between Gellersen Center and U.S. 30.

Theology professor offers reflections in new collection

A Valparaiso University professor emeritus of theology will give a public reading of selections from his new book “a lot on my mind, Lord!” and sign copies of the book during a Dec. 8 reception on campus.

Karl Lutze, associate professor emeritus of theology, will read from his book at 3:30 p.m. in Huegli Hall on campus. The reception is free and open to the public.

The recently released book is a collection of Lutze’s reflective soliloquies. Lutze taught in VU’s Department of Theology for 32 years until his retirement in 1991. “a lot on my mind, Lord!” is Lutze’s first book since “Of Walls and Doors,” a series of vignettes about people who influenced and enriched the author’s life, which was published in 2001.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase at the reception as well as at the University Book Center.

-Melissa Durham
Ann Carter Stith dies at 85; civic powerhouse pushed jail reforms

BY DAVID HUNN
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Her family remembers her as the beautiful woman who marched through jails across Missouri. She bravely called for action to hundreds — maybe thousands — of prisoners. She listened to their complaints, brought them to the public officials when she felt it was warranted and urged wardens to listen.

“I never met a really evil person in all my visits to prisons,” Ann Carter Stith told the Ethical Society of St. Louis in 2000, upon being named Humanist of the Year. “There was always a humanity there.”

Mrs. Stith, 85, died early Thanksgiving morning at her home in St. Louis of cancer, her family said.

She was a fearless advocate for education, for prison reform, for clean government. She was appointed to local task forces, to community agency boards, even to federal commissions. Nevertheless, she had dinner on the table for her family at 6:30 every evening.

Those who loved her stretch beyond family.

“She was a wonderful, wonderful citizen,” said former U.S. Sen. Thomas F. Eagleton. “I never knew a man or woman who could devote their time to the public interest like she could.”

Ann Carter See was born in Nashville, Tenn., on Nov. 21, 1920. She attended John Burroughs School here, Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., and graduated from Washington University in St. Louis.

Family and friends remember her most for her work as an attorney.

She was on a St. Louis County grand jury that probed allegations of government corruption. The jury found that citizens seeking zoning changes would buy or make bids on insurance, law services, or real estate tied to the councilmen. Then the zoning changes would be approved.

They remembered her work on the Board of Jail Visitors, which published a series of scathing reports on conditions at the County Jail, which was then in the courthouse in Clayton. When a different committee recommended a new jail for juvenile offenders, Mrs. Stith was again tapped to win voter approval for the $2 million bond issue that would pay for it, according to family notes. The bond issue passed.

Mrs. Stith fought for alternatives to imprisonment, for victims of crime and for the kitchen to find one of Kate’s friends there, tossing some of the raisin bread the Stiths kept in the breadbox on the counter.

But none of the siblings was home, Stith-Cabranes said. The girl had let herself in.

“My mother,” her mother said to the girl, “do you want some butter with that?” Family and friends said Ann Carter Stith died without enemies.

She would not back down from something she believed, but remained respectful, even in anger, and eventually won over most critics, they said.

This summer, doctors told her she had cancer. She chose not to be treated.

“She said she’d had a wonderful life and had given a great deal to home and community, and didn’t want to die a lingering death,” said daughter Rebecca Stith, an EEOC lawyer. Instead, she stayed in her home and was cared for by family.

The day before she died, she looked up at them, and smiled weakly. “You all are so good to take care of me like this,” she told them.

And that, the family said, was her last full sentence.

In addition to daughters Stith-Cabranes of New Haven, Conn., and Rebecca Stith of St. Louis, among the survivors are her husband, Richard T. Stith Jr. of St. Louis; a son, Richard Stith of Valparaiso, Ind., a professor law at Valparaiso University School of Law; daughter Laura Deniv Stith of Kansas City, a Missouri Supreme Court judge; ten grandchildren, two step-grandchildren and one great-grandchild. A daughter, Carter Stith, who was a reporter for the Post-Dispatch, died in 1979.

A memorial service will be at 2:30 p.m. Dec. 17 at Graham Chapel at Washington University.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Family Support Network, Independence Center or Springboard to Learning.

Ann Carter Stith celebrating the passage of the Jail Bond Issue with Judge George Cloyd and Judge Franklin Ferriss.

Photo courtesy of Globe Democrat, 1966.
Finding clerkships and internships

BY NIKKI LACROSSE
Lawcrossing.com

As if learning how to be a lawyer weren’t daunting enough, law students also have to contend with finding the all-important internships and clerkships that every new lawyer needs to succeed. Many 1Ls are surprised to discover that applying and interviewing for summer internships start early in the preceding fall. The 2Ls and 3Ls, veterans of the internship wars, know that the early bird gets the clerkship and have their applications ready almost a year before a position starts.

An internship is the first chance that a law student has to utilize the skills he/she has been learning in the first year of school. Virtually every law school has a career services department that helps match up students with employers and guides the students through the intense process of interviewing and hiring. Large law firms hire several interns every summer and are aggressive in finding the best and brightest candidates. Smaller or specialized firms tend to hire fewer students, but offer a more hands-on experience.

The benefits of an internship are many. Real-world experience and networking opportunities are the biggest, followed by a chance to preview a potential full-time employer, earn a resume entry, and make some money. It also gives a student a chance to see inside the law specialty he/she plans on practicing.

Each law school courts employers to consider and interview its students. For all but the most highly regarded schools, the employers are primarily local. The schools host various job fairs throughout the year, where students can meet prospective employers and attend educational seminars. Guidelines for job fairs and internships are laid out by the National Association of Legal Professionals (NALP), with certain events and positions being limited to second- and third-year students.

For Monique Beadle, a 2L at American University, Washington College of Law, in Washington, DC, a summer internship has turned into a permanent job. During her first year in law school, Beadle met the Executive Director of World Organization for Human Rights USA, a Non-Government Organization (NGO). Within minutes, he was inviting her to volunteer for the organization. That opportunity quickly rolled into a summer internship. "Halfway through the summer, the Executive Director sat me down and said, 'We want you to stay. What is it going to take?'" Beadle said. "Now I'm the Refugee Director."

Beadle's job is frequently full time and carries a lot of responsibility. Between her studies as a 2L and her position at the NGO, Beadle's workweek averages 80-90 hours, but she doesn't consider her schedule to be any more rigorous than that of her classmates. "It's typical of a 2L. They're doing law review, moot court, and clinics. The only difference is they're not schlepping downtown to do their work."

One disadvantage to her internship-turned-job is that Beadle finds herself frustrated with law school. "One drawback is that when you get into the work, you already have one foot out the door of law school. Why do I want to brief a case on search-and-seizure when I am working on something with real-world consequences?" She also worries that not participating in law review or moot court could hurt her future employment prospects. "I'm hoping employers will look at my resume and say, 'At least you've been maximizing your time in law school.'"

Most legal internships occur when students are still in school. For new graduates, one path to consider is a clerkship. There are several different kinds of clerkships, with the most prestigious being at the federal level. Lawyers who clerk for judges serve a variety of functions, from organizing the daily schedule to participating in cases on the docket. Most clerkships run for a year, but can range from a few months to several years. It is not unusual for judges at the federal level to have multiple law clerks to assist them.

The competition for clerkships at all levels is fierce. No matter what court system a lawyer clerks in, it gives him/her valuable experience and contacts that will help his/her legal career throughout the future. Again, NALP has guidelines for how students apply for clerkships and what the schedules are for interviewing and accepting positions. In a 2003 report, NALP described the clerkship hiring process as "chaotic" and "unorganized." The organization outlined a plan for judges and students to follow, but acknowledged, "Judges are not obliged to interview at any particular time in the fall, but some number of judges, perhaps only a handful, will feel compelled to start interviewing early in September."

When the interviewing starts, it snowballs. "Once even a few judges begin interviewing, the candidates can start to push the hiring timetable with the time-honored practice of 'parlaying' or 'leveraging' interviews," the report states. "Specifically, when a candidate receives an interview invitation from a judge, the candidate contacts other chambers in the area where he has applications pending to let the other judges know he is coming to the area to interview and would appreciate the opportunity to speak with them on the same trip. Many times, some of the other judges will schedule an interview with that candidate, even if they had not necessarily intended to start interviewing candidates at that time."

"Private firms, eager to hire the best and brightest, often find themselves moving up their application deadlines to keep pace with the judges."

Judy Coleman, a 3L at Yale, recently won one of the most prestigious clerkships in the U.S. She will be clerking for the 9th Circuit judge, Cynthia Holcomb Hall, in Pasadena, CA. Coleman estimates that 50 percent of her classmates applied for clerkships. "Clerkships are a great experience for lawyers, no matter what their interests are in the law. It's invaluable to learn how judges think. No matter what you end up doing as a lawyer, the clerkship year gives you time to work on your research and writing skills and to be exposed to how lawsuits actually progress."

Regarding the downside of clerking, Coleman notes, "As for setbacks, there aren't any significant ones. A clerkship doesn't mean taking a year at a significantly lower salary than what a big firm would offer you, but firms usually pay a hefty clerkship bonus to clerks who return after their year with the judge."

The question on the mind of every would-be clerk is what do judges look for in clerks. The consensus is that working on law review and having moot court experience are mandatory. It is the rest of the equation that worries applicants. Coleman agrees with those requirements and adds, "Different judges want different things. They all want someone who is intellectually curious and who writes well. They tend to want people who are easy to work with— their chambers are very small, typically only comprising the judge, a secretary, an extern, and the clerks."

The majority of lawyers who have clerked go on to private practice. "I definitely want to practice at least for a little while after the clerkship," Coleman comments. "I think my legal education would be incomplete without working on the inside."

While internships and clerkships will help a legal career, both Beadle and Coleman find that whom you know has a great deal to do with success. "If you live in a city like [Washington,] DC, where everything happens by word of mouth, it's [networking] important," Beadle says. "I made it a point my first year to go to seminars, panels, and cocktail parties."

Coleman concurs. "As with all professions, networking is key. Go to informational meetings, ask other lawyers about where they have worked, and gradually build up a base of ideas about what you might be interested in doing." Coleman adds one more suggestion. "Though law school affiliation and grades take you a lot of the way, enthusiasm will do a lot of that work too."
EDITIORAL

Overindulgence is defined as “indulgence to excess.” With the holiday season upon us and the end of exams quickly approaching, overindulgence is bound to happen. Many Americans celebrate this time of year by overindulging in food, drink, and spending.

With pressure to find the perfect gift for each person on your holiday gift list, it is easy to spend to excess. Next, the holiday is actually upon us and you go to mom’s house, grandma’s house and your in-laws’ house all in the same day and you eat to excess – with leftovers allowing you to eat to excess for the next week. Finally, when you receive the credit card bill from holiday shopping sprees, it is easy to drink to excess.

There are some easy ways to avoid all of this excessiveness. First, tips in regard to holiday spending. If you have a large family and your shopping list is growing to excess try proposing a “Secret Santa” solution. All members of the family draw names and the name you draw is the ONE person you purchase a holiday gift for. This should help to reduce the shopping list significantly.

Another tip is to give home made gifts. Baked goodies are cost effective and can be presented in a cute holiday tin. Holiday tins can be found at craft stores, such as Michaels or discount stores, such as Big Lots. Just remember, fruit cake is not a good idea – ever. Please note: baked goods may increase the likelihood of eating to excess. Or, if you are really crafty, make a home made gift such as painted ornaments or a decoupage jewelry box. If you enjoy wood working, unique chests or storage boxes are always a great gift.

Finally, if you are still going to brave the malls in search of the perfect gift bring a predetermined amount of cash. Place the name of the person you are buying for on an envelope and place the amount of money you have budgeted into the envelope. Once it is gone, you are finished shopping for that person.

Second, tips in regard to eating to excess. Will power is the key, in addition to preplanning. Take only one spoonful of each of the things that you really enjoy. Depriving yourself is a bad idea, because inevitably you will end up eating what you really wanted anyway and will likely eat more of it. If you use portion control, you can taste everything, enjoy your holiday meal and not overindulge.

Another tip is to avoid a second helping of anything. If you find that you are hungry later have a second helping later, not while you are still sitting at the dinner table. Eating later is better because you will have two reasonably sized meals, likely at lunch and dinner, an enormous lunch and reasonable dinner. Also, eat slowly. It’s a common known fact that it takes your brain 20 minutes to receive the signal that you are full and should stop eating.

Finally, don’t accept leftovers if you don’t want them. If your family tries to pass them off on you simply state that you enjoyed the meal but don’t have anywhere to store the leftovers because you are traveling. If you are not traveling, well, preplan for the moment and think up a valid reason not to accept the excess food.

The third and final topic – overindulgence in drink. This is a very serious matter when you are required to drive over the holidays. If you are required to travel, please be responsible. Have a glass of wine with dinner and perhaps a cocktail or two before dinner, but stop drinking early. Don’t continue to drink after you have had your holiday meal. If you have trouble stopping drinking after you have begun, do not begin to drink in the first place. Spirits can add to the holiday spirit but they can also ruin the holiday spirit if used irresponsibly.

In closing, happy holidays from The Forum and good luck on exams!
Moot Court: Members go national

This year the members of Moot Court will travel to eight different cities across the nation to compete in nine different appellate advocacy competitions. The competitions were chosen based on merit after their performance in the Luther M. Sywgert Competition.

Traveling to a national competition involves a team of two moot court members jointly composing an appellate court brief based on a case file distributed by the individual competition staff. After completing the brief, the team will practice both on and off-brief oral arguments for approximately one month leading up to the competition. The arguments are judged by fellow moot court members, the society coach, Paul Kelly, and various distinguished attorneys and distinguished faculty members from the host University or College.

Awards for merit include Best Oralist, Best Petitioner Brief, Best Respondent, and Best Team.

The following members will represent Valparaiso University School of Law in our upcoming travels:

- Mariel Lim (2L), Tesa Zimmerman (2L), and Georgianne Siepka (2L) will attend the August A. Rendigs Jr. National Products Liability Competition in Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Courtney Schaffer (3L), Kelly Vanderwall (3L), Alaina Kennedy (2L), and Devondoly Simmons (2L) will attend the Evans A. Evans Constitutional Law Competition in Madison, Wisconsin.
- Michael Ruff (3L) and Brad Shively (2L) will attend the Herbert Wechsler National Criminal Law Competition in Buffalo, New York.
- Sam Martinez (2L), Pat Mastagh (2L), Julie Smith (2L), and Melissa Cunyngham (3L) will attend the Illinois Appellate Lawyers Association Midwest Moot Court Competition in Chicago, Illinois.
- Kristen Milligan (3L) and Eric Stoegbauer (3L) will attend the Luke C. Moore Civil Rights National Moot Court Competition in Washington, D.C.
- Andrew Smith (3L) and Kimberly Stevens (2L) will attend the National First Amendment Moot Court Competition in Nashville, Tennessee.
- Andrew Asma (2L) and Emily Durham (3L) will attend the Ruby R. Vale Interschool Corporate Moot Court Competition in Wilmington, Delaware.
- Stephen Starks (3L) and Elizabeth Tosh (3L) will attend the William E. McGee National Civil Rights Moot Court Competition in Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- Alex Gatzimos (2L) and Melanie Scott (2L) will attend the National Security Law Moot Court Competition in Washington, D.C.

This year the society has an opportunity to travel to more competitions than ever before, thanks to the administration's confidence in the potential of the members of moot court. Members will be traveling throughout the duration of the spring semester. Practice oral argument rounds are open for students who are curious about the society or about their upcoming 1L oral arguments.

Watch your Valpo e-mail for updates on the successes of your fellow colleagues in their competitions. Congratulations and good luck to those traveling and thank you to all of the members of moot court who are instrumental in the success of our traveling teams.

Kelly is a 3L and the associate justice for interschool competitions, and may be reached at kelly.vanderwall@valpo.edu.

VU does not respect women

I find it difficult to believe that a "modern" educational institution can be so unsupportive and, well, ignorant to current trends and issues facing young women today. Valparaiso is following in the great conservative tradition by not allowing birth control to be provided on campus to young men and women in need. This conservative trend goes so far as to not allow the teaching of birth control and STD prevention through any means besides abstinence.

Time to face reality. Young people (especially in college) have sex. Telling them not to have sex won’t stop it. Hormones are raging, independence is empowering; they are going to have sex and preaching abstinence will not curb it. So, when we don’t adequately prepare a bunch of young and horny people for what to expect as a result of promiscuity, a lot of bad results are possible, and a majority of these results affect women more than men.

For instance, unwanted pregnancies happen often around college age. Often unwanted pregnancies are life-changing for young women, as they have to give up their dreams and education, and seldom get support from the guys that impregnated them. If they are lucky enough, the men might drop out of school to get a job and help support them.

Another example is the spread of STDs through inadequate or non-use of birth control devices such as condoms. I remember when I was in college I heard a fact that around 70% of Rutgers University students had STDs, and that the University had a crisis. It is much more likely for STDs to pass from male to female than female to male. Another burden on young women.

How do we combat unwanted pregnancy and slow or stop the spread of STDs? Education and distribution of birth control. Valparaiso University does not allow the health center to educate or distribute birth control in any forms. No pills, no condoms. Further, student organizations are also prevented from the same.

The conservative movement to which Valparaiso subscribes unfortunately believes in abstinence only education. They are of the philosophy that if we don't talk about it, it can't exist. Well that is wrong. That is the attitude that proliferates problems that affect mostly women in college. It is wrong to hope if you ignore something it will go away - I think its high time that students challenge this flawed and medieval philosophy, and that birth control and education be provided to students at Valparaiso University. Let’s face it, there is not much to do around here, so I am willing to bet that Valpo has a higher than average number of sexually active students.

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Legislative futility: regulating video games

The Grey Area
Left of Center
Andrew Smith

Recently, an absurd amount of media coverage and political effort has focused on the so-called "ram­pant violence and sex" contained in video games. Some legislators have revived an assault on the video game industry claiming laws must reign in the detrimental effects of these games lest we risk the end of civilized society. In the end, politicians only further the futile political exercise and name video games as their scapegoat in the process.

This new trend of veiled threats aimed at the video gaming industry is old news. In the 1980's, Senator Liebermann led a crusade against what he considered impermissible content for the medium. This legislative posturing led to the creation of what would evolve into the Entertainment Software Ratings Board, or ESRB.

Now, the ESRB regulates the gaming industry on a voluntary level. This means that software companies in the business of producing video games acquiesce to the ratings scheme the organization implements. The rating system is analogous to the system implemented by the Motion Picture Association of America to rate motion pictures.

The rating system evaluates each game for content, and each rating determines whether the game's content is suitable for players based on their age. These age groups range from early childhood to adults only.

The ESRB rates games using a comprehensive and objective review process. Objective screeners not connected to the gaming industry review each game and then rate each game with specific criteria. Game producers put the ESRB ratings on the game's commercial material and include descriptions of a game's content using simple vocabulary called content descriptors. Superficially, this would seem adequate to inform consumers of what a game contains before they buy.

Lately, though, certain legislators and industry watchdog groups have begun to voice concerns that the rating scheme is insufficient to adequately regulate game content. These concerns stem from situations where children have acted out violently after playing a game.

Video games are a unique medium of entertainment that communicates with players through active participation in game play. Supporters of regulatory legislation argue that this type of communication makes it more likely that a person will act out the content of the video game.

Interestingly, scientific studies remain inconclusive in determining whether video games negatively affect children. Moreover, the ESRB designed the rating system to prevent children from being exposed to material not suitable for their age group.

This mini-crusade also attacks the insufficiency of the ESRB rating system. The basis for these attacks relies on the fact that children obtain games with content not suitable for their age group. Logically, the ability of children to obtain games with questionable content does not mean the rating system is inefficient.

ESRB ratings and content descriptors clearly indicate a game's content. If a game contains excessive life-like violence, it will probably earn a mature rating, which indicates that a game is not suitable for individuals under the age of 17. Ideally, the rating system prevents the sale of games rated "mature" or "adults only" to minors and serves to inform the purchaser. MPAA ratings work the same way.

Legislators concerned with the effect of exposing minors to games like Mortal Combat or Grand Theft Auto need to consider that the minor child probably could not have obtained the game without some form of parental consent. Holding the industry responsible for negligent parenting shifts the focus away from the source of the problem. Had the parents been adequately involved, the child would not have been exposed to a game's violent or sexual content.

Furthermore, regulating content in this way would draft the ESRB's information system into the prosecutorial arm of the government forcing it to serve as an agent of censorship. In addition, limiting the content of video games in order to protect children does a disservice to adult consumers. The generation who grew up with Super Mario now looks for mature entertainment, and restricting video game producers from producing games for the adult audience stifles a new medium of expression.

The political focus on the evil imbued in video games is misplaced. The solution to many of the problems attributed to violent or sexually explicit video games is greater parental involvement. Moreover, it makes little sense to force regulation on the video game industry while legislation would not impose the same restrictions on other segments of the entertainment industry. Permitting the already effective self-regulation to continue also prevents the government from infringing on any First Amendment protections that may extend to the gaming industry.

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Courtroom accessories

The Misinformed Plaintiff a/k/a The Plaintiff who sues the wrong party

This situation has more redeeming value than the previous two but is a somewhat uncomfortable situation for the party on the other side of the case. These Plaintiffs mean well and would have sued the right party had they known they were suing the wrong one in the eyes of the law and liability. Still, even after explanation, the misinformed Plaintiff usually leaves the courtroom bitter and still convinced the other party has actually caused the problem.

The Professional Defendant a/k/a The engineer or doctor without a J.D. who has suddenly become an attorney upon entering the courtroom

These defendants have some of the same characteristics as the Principle Plaintiff except they prefer to waste even more time by acting as their own attorney. The cases usually concern something like a traffic issue and the Professional Plaintiff takes his newfound profession of law extremely seriously. These Plaintiffs are very easy to spot as they are the most confident of everyone waiting outside the courtroom before their case is called. They also have all their legal principles tabbed and labeled with absolutely no case law or passed legislation to back any of it up. They will emulate TV actors on such shows as “Boston Legal” and “Law and Order” as they question witnesses, the principle of “asked and answered” having no significance to them. The Professional Defendant, as they are looking for water, will take the horse, lead it to the desert, and bury its head in the sand before they are finished. This all looks extremely interesting to the court observers but usually tends to annoy the real lawyers trying the case and rarely amuses the Judge.

The Repeat Offender a/k/a The Defendant who views the law as most of us view banner ads

These people don’t understand that there is such a thing as the law that is in place for everyone to follow. To them, laws are mere suggestions written down in really old books which are stored in stacks at the back of the library that no one ever looks at. These people also never really make the connection between breaking the law and the consequences to such actions. Even after getting arrested several different times on several different charges, these people keep coming back for more. They cannot seem to stay out of jail or from violating their probation. Or they just may really enjoy the food served at the local jail.

The 16-year-old Traffic Citation Defendant a/k/a Those who are completely clueless as to what is going on around them

Now they can drive but common sense still does not dominate their senses. This has nothing to do with driving too fast or driving up on too many curbs, but rather just a lack of any sense of understanding which gives these people some of the same characteristics as the repeat offenders. Countless times new drivers will come before the court on such charges as tinted windows and adamantly refuse to cure the problem. They also do this in full view of their parents who are less than proudly seated in the courtroom hoping that their child won’t be the one who refuses to take down the window tints even after the Judge more than subtly suggests it.

The Clueless Witness a/k/a Witnesses who know absolutely nothing about the case

These people are somehow convinced by either their friends or attorneys to come give testimony about something to which they have absolutely no knowledge. It’s like talking to the wall except that conversation wouldn’t be in the court of law in front of the Judge, the other party and some very lucky unsuspecting court observer. This does nothing for the case of the party except prove even further that there is a lack of evidence pertaining to the exact same thing that the witness was supposed to attest.

What do all of these people have in common? They are professional time wasters, they will always exist, and if for nothing else, they add a sometimes much needed comical value to what could otherwise be a very dull day.

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Sillcott's
CITY GEAR
The hand that feeds

Damon Newman

What if this whole crusade’s, A charade?, And behind it all there’s a price to be paid, For the blood, On which we dine, Justified in the name of the holy and the divine.


Has the political pendulum finally started to swing back to the left? Recent events in national politics seem to indicate this may be the case. On November 14, 2005, the Uniter’s overall approval rating was at an all time low of 37 percent. http://www.cnn.com/2005/POLITICS/11/14/bush.poll/). Moreover, the lowest of the approval ratings came from factions of the Republican party itself. Id. This is arguably significant as many Republicans have relied on the unity of their party for past successes.

Additionally, a deluge of recent corruption charges have been plaguing the right. From DeLay’s indictment for campaign fraud to Congressman Randy “Duke” Cunningham (R-Calif.) accepting corporate bribes (http://www.mercurynews.com). The list goes on, many criminal probes have been directed at right wing politicians including; House Administration Committee Chairman Bob Ney, R-Ohio; and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn. Last month, Cheney’s aide “Scooter” was indicted on charges related to the CIA leak probe. Id. As John Stewart of the Daily Show has noted, some of these politicians already have good prison nicknames.

Perhaps the right is starting to worry about the 2006 midterms, because their McCarthy-esq attacks seem to be escalating. The most obvious example of this was Freshman Congresswoman Jean Schmidt’s (R-Ohio) attack on Rep. John Murtha (D-Penn.). Murtha has consistently been a war hawk, so when he started to talk about troop withdrawal from Iraq, many people started to listen. Perhaps this scared Schmidt into making the comments she did.

Prompted by Murtha’s request to open a dialogue to discuss eventual withdrawal of our troops from Iraq, Schmidt said “that cowards cut and run, Marines never do.” This resulted in an uproar from other house members that were present on the floor. What the freshman Congress­woman didn’t know was that Murtha was an ex-marine who had served in Vietnam. Murtha wasn’t talking about a complete withdrawal, merely a discussion of a timetable for a measured withdrawal. Why an open dialogue about a policy would prompt calling someone a coward is beyond my realm of understanding; unless of course it was a defensive measure prompted out of fear.

The right loves to call people “un­patriotic” when they oppose the Bush administration or the conservative agenda in general. A certain conservative author, who’s name I will not mention, calls Americans who oppose the war in Iraq “traitors.”

When the Republican scare tactics and wedge issue politics don’t work, they resort to blaming the “liberal agenda,” of the mass media. What I fail to understand is how a group controlled by corporate interests can possibly be called “liberal,” or be said to have a liberal agenda. The right has done an excellent job of planting a seed in the American public’s conscience that the media are skewed to the left side of politics. All one has to do is look at shows by Rush Limbaugh, Pat Robertson, Joe Scarborough, and others to see that the right has a solid voice in the mainstream mass media. Not to mention the omnipresent Fox News Network.

The overall effect of the recent scandals seems to be showing the American public that “liberal” is not a dirty word, contrary to efforts by the right to make Americans fearful of it. During the 2004 election campaign Bush used the word liberal like McCarthy-era politicians used the word communist. One thing is for sure, the 2006 midterm elections will be very interesting.

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Exams are nothing to worry about

BY RYAN ABRESCH
Columnist

I remember it like it was yesterday. It was around this time last year. I was in the midst of a tumultuous first semester in law school, it was getting close to exam time, and I had barely studied. I was scared to death that I would fail out of school and find yet another way to disappoint my parents. Well, I ended up pulling through and eventually becoming the successful, handsome man you see roaming the halls of the law school today. But, if there was one thing I could have used at the time, it would have been a school newspaper article telling me that everything would be okay. Fret no more young students! I’m here for you! Of Uncle Ryan is lookin’ out for your backside.

First of all, I always advise you to take a deep breath and relax. Everyone fails an exam. In your case, you will probably fail a couple of them this semester (yeah, I’m talking to you). But its okay, options do exist. One of them would be to drop out and start a new career. Home sales and residential development are now at an all time high in our country. Somebody has to mow all of these new lawns, as well as plant flowers, and rake leaves. You could be that somebody. Just think about it for a minute. As a landscaper you would be working outside, staying in shape, AND pulling down 7 bananas an hour. Who’s the big winner? That’s right, YOU’RE the big winner.

If dropping out of school and becoming a manual laborer is not your “thing,” another option is hiding your grades from your parents. This can be done by changing the address your grades are sent to, or by getting to the mailbox before your parents. Of course if you want to make sure that your parents do not see your grades, the best method would be to kill them. Make sure its not messy, cleaning blood off of the carpet is perhaps the worst way to spend the holidays. Just ask Jon-Benet Ramsey’s parents. Strangulation would probably be the best way to go. After that all you need is a shovel, a bag of lime, and a friend who can keep a secret. Then go shopping because you will have plenty of insurance money to spend. But spend it wisely, or you’ll wind up like those Menendez brothers.

Of course, some of you might be sissies and not have the stomach for killing. That’s okay, because there is always the option of minimizing the problem of your grades by developing a much worse problem... heroin. If you have a debilitating heroin addiction, then your parents won’t care about your grades. In order to do this you need to find a dealer, and then you need to be very open about your addiction. Do not shoot up between your toes or do you try to hide your habit from your parole officer. Instead, shoot up in your arms and wear a tank-top so your parents can see the track marks. Also, try to pass out with the needle still in your arm whenever possible. If you do this, then I promise you that your Dad will not be yelling at you about your grades. Also, if you play your cards right you might land a record deal or a modeling contract.

The last option is blaming your poor grades on somebody else. Americans have been blaming their problems on other people for years, just ask a Communist or a Native American. By far the best place to lay blame nowadays is the on the Bush Administration. In the last year alone Bush has been blamed for global warming, Hurricane Katrina, high oil prices, and the reemergence of the McRib sandwich. Surely he could also be blamed for your failing grades, and possibly for your inability to attract members of the opposite sex. After all, its not your fault.

Well, I hope all of this helped you out. If you’ve learned anything from this column it should be that exams are nothing to worry about. Take solace in the fact that a few years from now, when you’re cooking up those curly fries for that weird guy in the bicycle shorts who comes in everyday, your first semester exams will be the last thing on your mind.

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I will continue to expose your right-wing, anti-people politics until groups like yours won’t dare show their face on a college campus. Real freedom will come when soldiers in Iraq turn their guns on their superiors and fight for just causes and for people’s needs—such freedom fighters can be counted throughout American history and they certainly will be counted again.

This antagonistic statement is part of an e-mail from ex-Professor John Daly to a student, Rebecca Beach, in his English class.

What kind of horrible action did Rebecca take in order to get such a response from a paid professional? She invited a decorated Colonel of the Iraq war to come speak on campus about the war. This is all she did, nothing more, nothing less. (http://www.yaf.org/press/11_17_05.html)

This is an extreme example of a professor’s own views influencing academia to the point that many students worry that their personal views will affect grades and futures.

Even law schools are not protected from bias. Recently, John O. McGinnis, a law professor at Northwestern University, conducted an 11-year study which analyzes the records of federal campaign contributions by professors at the top 21 law schools as ranked by U.S. News & World Report.

The results are not surprisingly completely lopsided to democrats. The study found that 81 percent of professors that contributed $200 or more gave mostly or wholly to Democrats whereas only 15 percent gave to Republicans. The situation is even worse at more prestigious schools: Harvard at 91, Yale at 92 and Stanford at 94.

This situation probably does not surprise a single reader of this article. Law students have long complained of biased professors on both sides of the aisle and often times students are helpless in getting grades reviewed from non-bias individuals.

Valparaiso Law School has done a fairly good job of keeping grades confidential through the number system, but there are several classes in which anonymity is impossible as far as views and ideals are concerned.

There needs to be more discussion on these issues within the law school because several professors are known for giving grades for agreement.

There has been much discussion on this topic and the advice that seems to prevail the most is just write what the professor believes because your future is more important than your ideals.

This notion is very sad and does a disservice to the law students and the community at large. Law students are taught to analyze and blow holes in arguments, but grades are important to individuals and the future. These polar opposites create an inherent conflict between ideals and grades that force students to choose a principle or a high GPA.

What is needed is more diversity in law professors and for all law professors to grade on analysis and writing. Personal views should not influence grading and a professor should have the wherewithal to realize biases in order to grade fairly. Until this is corrected, law students will sadly always be forced to choose between values and the honor A.

James is a 3L and may be reached at james.butler@valpo.edu.
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Cartoon courtesy USBIC Educational Foundation
Alumni in Action:
William CIESAR

by Heather Montei  >> story on page 14
Feature:
Alumni in action
A lifetime of community service

BY HEATHER MONTEI
Executive Editor

After three years working at an accounting firm, more than 15 years in law, and a shift on a Nightcourt, VUSL Alumni William Ciesar says he’s seen it all in his lifetime. “I’ve definitely not had a boring life.”

From city council to the board room, Ciesar’s background is well-rounded. He received a bachelor’s in accounting from Purdue, and spent three years working in that field before heading to law school. The 1988 graduate started his legal career at Arthur Anderson. He is a CPA, and has a LLM in tax. He’s now working in the nation’s capitol, as in-house counsel at one of the nation’s largest accounting firms. He says his combination of experiences is what allowed him to get an in-house counsel position. “I was able to capitalize on my accounting firm and knowledge and apply the law degree to our everyday practice. It allows me to take the law degree and apply it in the capacity that I am now doing. It allowed me to focus my career in the direction I wanted to go.”

That direction has taken Ciesar from Valparaiso, to Chicago to D.C., where he is Associate General Counsel for Deloitte & Touche. He says his clients are the partners of the firm who contact him with issues they need legal counsel on. “It’s essentially a law firm located within a business. I work with the partners and practitioners that provide tax advice to clients, answering their questions,” Ciesar described.

So what does Ciesar suggest you do if you want to follow in his shoes? He suggests concentrating in business related courses, “I would advise them to take business law, concentrate heavily on tax law... you get a lot of exposure to issues involving businesses, and you get an overview of general accounting type issues.”

He says he never took a litigation course, but that didn’t keep the former Whiting, Indiana, City Council member out of the courtroom. He spent several years moonlighting on the city’s Nightcourt, handling criminal misdemeanors, city ordinances, noise violations, all kinds of petty incidents, “You ran the gamut of cases, you had cases where people just simply happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, and they just had bad luck. You also had people who were down and out, and those who were trying to circumvent the law.”

Ciesar left the position when he was transferred from Chicago to D.C. However, reflecting back on his time on the court, Ciesar says it was one of the most rewarding professional experiences of his life. “It was really quite a variety of experiences. We tried to use the court to help the people and help those in the community by running various programs. This time of year we did Christmas drives, and in the spring we taught kids about the dangers of drinking and driving. I tried to do a number of things with the court and make it a community-wide court.”

Community or government service is something Ciesar says every VUSL grad should consider. “I would encourage people that Washington, D.C., is the place to start a career,” Whiting laments. “If you are in a career path that would allow you to come and work for the government for a while, it’s great for the experience. You get unparalleled experience. It doesn’t pay a whole lot, but if you do it for a couple of years, you will be able to write a ticket wherever you want to go.”

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Top 10: Days of Finals

BY MARINA RICCI
Managing Editor

On the first day of finals a 3L said to me, we have finals, really, haven’t heard anything about that recently.

On the second day of finals, a professor said to me, do I really have to grade all those papers by mid January?

On the third day of finals a 1L said to me, I can’t believe we have to wait until January.

On the fourth day of finals, a 2L said to me, do I really have to take this final on a Saturday?

On the fifth day of finals, my neighbor said to me, at least they don’t make you take finals on a Sunday.

On the sixth day of finals a 3L said to me, oh I get it now, we have to fill out an application now to get our degree.

On the seventh day of finals the librarians said to me, why are only the 1Ls taking up all the tables in the library?

On the eighth day of finals a member of the Forum staff said to me, these really should start rhyming a lot more easily.

On the ninth day of finals a Valparaiso resident said to me, suddenly we don’t have any people left in the city.

On the last day of finals the administration said to me, have a great winter break and we’ll see you back shortly.

Heads down and power through

From here, it gets easier. But this first round of examinations is hard. Compounding that difficulty will be the inevitable upper-class taunting.

Last year, I arrived early for my first law school exam. I walked around the commons and tore down these hateful signs. Prior to taking the civil procedure final, and to further leaven the palpable tension, I stripped to a pair of too-tight cutoff shorts and a tattered half-shirt. Many of my friends laughed, others heaved sighs of comic relief, and only one test proctor seemed hot & bothered by my insolence.

The 1L’s burden is heavy enough without resort to vicious threats. By contrast, this tired 2L’s yoke is easy and his burden is relatively light. Mind you, I won’t don a ridiculous outfit for the new 1L’s sake. But if the hostile posters reappear on my watch, I’ll rip them down. Such conduct, perhaps acceptable in the locker room or at the fraternity house, is inimical to the spirit of a professional school. We students should know better.

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 etcetera
25 things I would rather do than study for exams

BY RYAN ABRESCH
Columnist

1. Perform open-heart surgery on myself with nothing but a bottle of scotch to use as anesthetic. Mmmm...scotch...
2. Give money to a homeless person.
3. See Celine Dion in concert.
4. Hang out with Joe Lesner.
5. Drink VUSL.
6. Give Star Jones a sensual, hot oil massage.
7. Eat...
8. Actually live out the plotline from "The Deer Hunter".
9. Read that book that Nicole Richie just wrote.
10. Turn out all of the lights in my bedroom and listen to "Ain't No Sunshine" by Bill Withers, with only a bottle of whiskey and a picture of my ex-girlfriend to comfort me.
11. Attend a WNBA basketball game.
12. Sit on couch, eat some Yoplait, and watch a "Sex in the City" marathon. You mean to tell me that she's single, she lives in New York, AND she writes for a magazine and/or newspaper?! I got to tell you, I loved this show because it was so original.
13. Travel to Asia and work a job on a poultry farm.
14. Ride shotgun with Ted Kennedy five minutes before the liquor store closes. Oh, the roads are icy, and he sold our seat belts for a jug of toilet wine.
15. Put Icy Hot in places where Icy Hot was never intended to be placed.
16. Invent a time machine and travel back to the first semester of my 1L year at VUSL.
17. Same as number 16, except I travel back to my tenth grade Geometry. It is early in the morning and Rebecca is sitting in front of me wearing yet another tight, low-cut blouse. Ms. Dunn just called on me and I have to solve a math problem on the blackboard.
18. Do what my little brother is doing right now (he's in Iraq).
19. Did you ever see "Raiders of the Lost Ark"? At the end of the movie cold clam chowder out of a rest stop urinal.
20. Eat at White Castle while being sober.
21. Spend another long, romantic night in jail.
22. Wipe with a porcupine.
23. Build an effigy of Dale Earnhardt and burn it in front of a bunch of drunk rednecks.
24. Testify against the mob and tell a bunch of Italian jokes before I leave the witness stand.
25. Get hit in the face with a sack full of doorknobs. Admittedly, this concept is not all that funny, but just the idea of it sounds like it would really hurt, but not hurt quite as much as studying for my exams.

Who am I kidding? Half of these are not even funny. I have to get back to work. Good luck on your exams everybody!

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BY KATE MILLER
Guest columnist

Can you spell D-I-S-R-E-S-P-E-C-T? I bet good ol' Aretha never thought she'd have to sing about that one. I'll give y'all a fair warning: This article is about having some respect for others, and picking up your trash. So if you don't care what I have to say, or if you don't like me, fine, you can quit reading now. But don't worry, I won't be offended; I don't like you, either.

There's something to be said about us students by the time we get to law school. We are expected to be adults; to be mature, and responsible. Inherent in maturity, at least where I come from, is common decency and respect for others. Guess what that means? Clean up after your sorry selves! You only have one mother, and guess what? She ain't here!

To me this is a growing problem, it seems to have worsened since I first arrived here at school. Trash is being left in the classrooms, in the library, in the hallway, everywhere! And I don't know if you've noticed or not, but there's a trash can within 10 yards of your person at any given moment in this building. Use it! There is a sound public policy underlying the locations of the trash cans. And we all know how much deference is given to public policy, don't we?

Trash is being left in the classrooms, in the library, in the hallway, everywhere!

Hell, go for a three-pointer for all I care. Let's apply a lesson from our childhood; we can make cleaning fun! But here's the caveat, beware the intrinsic dangers of tossing a cup containing liquid in the trash can. I know that the sloshing liquid and resulting splatter effect is a physics phenomenon, and for the most part we law students try to avoid thinking about the physical and mathematical sciences. But come on y'all, this one you should be able to figure out.

It should be obvious that other students do not want to look at, much less touch, your trash. You might argue that your tuition money goes to paying the custodians to "do their job." But come on, these people do an excellent job maintaining a clean building with such a high traffic flow. Don't impose on them any more duties than should be necessary. That is where respect, and that good ol' Golden Rule, come into play. In a profession of diminishing ethics, there are some things we still should be able to respect.

Furthermore, leaving trash lying around is not the only problem. I've been told that there is an issue with the men's bathroom downstairs regarding urine on the floor. So I'll add this paragraph for the benefit of those patronizing that facility.

Okay boys, how old are we? Time to quit writing your name on the wall. And if a toilet or urinal doesn't work, deductive reasoning would suggest that you not use it. Now, deductive reasoning is an analytical tool that we should all be familiar with from the LSAT. So there is no excuse for anyone here.

Manners also apply in traffic in the hallways. Now, I grew up in a land where the men actually went out of their way to hold open a door for a lady. I don't expect such a stringent rule in this community. (Damn Yankees!) But I will say this, if someone holds the door open for you, man or woman; what do you say? Thank you. Ahh, doesn't that sound nice. Let's all practice that one time...Thank you. There, that's better.

And when you bump into someone in the hallway; what do you say? Come on, all together now...Excuse me, Okay, let's practice. Excuse me. Ahh, isn't being polite fun?

So, the moral of this ranting and raving is: Grow up, respect you fellow students, faculty and staff, and learn your manners. It'll make momma so proud! And listen to Aretha, that woman sure knew how to say it!

Kate is a 2L and may be reached at kathleen.miller@valpo.edu.
Bored over Christmas break?  

So you are going home for Christmas break and do not want to be bored. Your goal is to become a successful lawyer. What do these two statements have in common? Well, this is your chance to discover the insights of the world’s best lawyers about what makes successful lawyers. Valparaiso University Law Library has the following titles in the series, Inside the Minds, available: Leading Lawyers: The Art and Science of Being a Successful Lawyer, The Innovative Lawyer: Firm Leaders on the Use of Innovation to Stand Apart from the Rest, and The Corporate Lawyer: Industry Insiders on the Successful Practice of Business Law. The articles are short and quick reading and provide ideas and advice on what is incorporated in a successful lawyer.

Library and managers relate their insights on what constitutes a successful lawyer. Each chapter is by a different experienced leading lawyer and presents their own ideas on how to succeed in various sized law firms. Successful lawyers first master basic legal concepts, then specific laws and skills applicable to their areas of practice, and finally focus on being on the cutting edge of their specialties. “There are no shortcuts,” is the advice given by Keith W. Vaughan of Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice PLLC in Leading Lawyers.

Attributes of a successful lawyer include being a good listener, communication skills and innovation. “The best lawyers accept change as good, exciting, and fun,” states Walter L. Metcalf of Bryan Cave, LLP in The Innovative Lawyer. He describes how the communication of innovative ideas has worked to improve quality for lawyers in his firm. Furthermore, he relates how recent changes in technology, United States law and globalization will effect the future of the legal profession.

The challenges of being a lawyer are also included in this series. Michael Jamieson talks about the role of the corporate lawyer from his personal experience. He covers the most important characteristics of a corporate lawyer, most difficult situations, and changes to and recent developments in corporate law. “Few aspects of the private law practice provide the diversity of experiences, intellectual challenge and opportunities for creativity as the corporate practice,” is the opinion of Michael L. Jamieson of Holland & Knight, L.L.P. in The Corporate Lawyer.

Whether you are interested in a large, national law firm, small law firm or corporate organization, you will find informative expertise on how to be a successful lawyer. These insights and perspectives are valuable whether you are a 1L, 2L or 3L.

If these cards could talk

By MARINA RICCI & MELISSA DURHAM  
Forum Editorial Board

We’ve all seen the sign on Lincolnway, but very few of us have actually ventured inside. Right before finals, due to a lot of stress and anticipation, these two Editors decided to pay a friendly visit to Valparaiso’s most renowned psychic, Elena. Located on Lincolnway, she has provided her services to Valparaiso residents and visitors for the last 14 years. Elena was very calm and comfortable atmosphere for us to relax in and receive some reassurance of our future.

As we both received our readings, Elena knew specific details of our lives that only those close to us would have known. She then told us about our future career paths and those that we will meet along the way. There were words of wisdom and advice, giving us notice of possible obstacles and accomplishments. As we sat at the table with the deck of cards in front of us, each of us realized there was something there beyond the skepticism that usually accompanies popular opinion about psychics.

While leaving, one particular Editor couldn’t resist but to ask whether we would pass finals or whether we should start considering our second career choices. Calmly, Elena assured us that we were both going to do well and be very successful (if any of our professors are reading this, please take note). Although we both walked out Elena’s door as the same people we walked in, we were more enlightened by the experience.

Marina and Melissa are 2Ls and may be reached at marina.ricci@valpo.edu and melissa.durham@valpo.edu. They ask that you refrain from personal questions about the experience unless you think you were involved.
Kelly Borchers  
3L  
Hometown:  
Russia, OH  
Undergraduate School:  
Xavier University  
Undergraduate Major:  
Accounting  
Family:  
My family, which in my admittedly biased opinion is the best family in the world, consists of my two loving parents and three supportive brothers (one older and two younger) and one wonderful sister-in-law.  

Alito is getting a lot of flak in the media. What is your take on this latest nominee?  
Alito seems much more qualified than Bush's first choice, although his true ideology remains to be seen. The media like to speculate and put an interesting spin on issues but ultimately, as with any new nominee, it is unclear which way he will vote on many of the current pressing issues. He may be the source of controversy long after he is confirmed, as his judicial philosophy may change the course of our political and social culture.  

GM seems to be going through some tough times (cutting 30k jobs and 12 plants). If they asked you for advice, what would you tell them?  
I am not sure if you are asking me to give advice to GM or to its recently laid off employees, but I do know that the loss of American jobs is tragic, although it comes as no surprise. American manufacturing has continued to decline as production decreases in favor of overseas manufacturing. Though some businesses may have less overall costs by sending their manufacturing outside of the United States, these "tough times" are a tragedy for the families of the workers and the communities that will feel the effect of a population who now has less buying power and stability.  

Any big plans for the winter break?  
I have been extremely busy all semester long, so for break I am going to lay on my parents' couch in Russia, Ohio, for as many hours as possible (which seriously excites me more than I can express). I will also be visiting friends that I have not seen in a while and spending time with my family.  

God forbid you get a poor grade in a class, but any advice for anyone that doesn't get the grade they think they deserved on a final?  
It is just one class—you can always bring up your grade point average. Getting a job will most likely not depend solely on what grade you received in one particular class. Basically, with your grades, law school, and life in  

Joseph Jammal  
2L  
Hometown:  
Grand Rapids, MI  
Undergraduate School:  
University of Michigan  
Undergraduate Major:  
Economics  
Family:  
My parents, two older sisters, an older brother, and a younger sister.  

Alito is getting a lot of flak in the media. What is your take on this latest nominee?  
I really haven't paid much attention to Alito's nomination.  

GM seems to be going through some tough times (cutting 30k jobs and 12 plants). If they asked you for advice, what would you tell them?  
I would hope they have tried to cut costs in every other way before they forced tens of thousands of former employees into unemployment. If that is the case, its better to keep work for the current employees than run the business into the ground.  

Any big plans for the winter break?  
Yeah, I'll be heading up to northern Michigan for a ski trip and, while I'm not falling my way down the slopes, I'll be doing absolutely nothing.  

God forbid you get a poor grade in a class, but any advice for anyone that doesn't get the grade they think they deserved on a final?  
Don't argue to the professors. They'll just reiterate the fact that you were an idiot.
Greeks go head to head
A comparison of two local Greek restaurants

BY GENEVIEVE BOARMAN & CHRISTINE HASKELL

For our restaurant experimentation this month, we chose restaurants that are much different from our past reviews. In light of these eateries weighing in closer to fast food, we will compare two Greek-based restaurants and name a winner (okay, really in part it's because we would feel bad giving a restaurant only one gavel for our last review of the semester).

Our first contender, Pete's Corner Grill, is located on Northland Dr at Rte 2 and US 30. The challenger is King Gyros, which is on Lincolnway near the laundromat and Family Express gas station.

One way to distinguish a Herculean Greek restaurant from a wimpy one is to compare the Avgolemono, which is a heavenly soup with a thickened chicken broth, rice, lemon, and chicken as an optional ingredient.

Unfortunately, only Pete's serves this gem. Even more disappointing is Pete's decision to not follow the standard Greek recipe. The base was obviously cream of chicken soup, and at times I had to search for the rice that was supposedly present. Didn't I say lemon was in the recipe? I couldn't taste much, if any.

This soup is the super cold fighter. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, better than the standard chicken noodle soup! If you need to fend off the nasty sniffles, go to Premier Grill on Calumet to obtain the best version of this cold bug fighting wonder in town or e-mail us at The Forum e-mail address for the recipe.

Onto the main dish of Greek champions: the Gyro. Both places had the standard mixed gyro meat with beef and lamb. Also the standard garnishments of lettuce, onions, tomato, and tzatziki sauce were provided. As with most Greek meat dishes, a heavy dose of breath mints is required once you finish. In fact, just drink a partial bottle of Listerine. There was no clear winner in this category because they both were the standard sandwich. However, a benefit at King Gyros is a better tzatziki sauce and a plentiful supply to douse your pita.

In addition to the Gyros, we tried chicken in a pita from both establishments. Pete's was a chicken shishka-bob, which had a tasty lemon-herb seasoning and was served with lettuce but no sauce. The chicken was still on the sticks when it came out so beware or your tongue might get a splinter.

King Gyros' chicken pita was served just like a gyro except the meat was chopped up grilled chicken not lamb. It had onions, tomatoes, and lots of tzatziki sauce. Tzatziki versus no tzatziki? Come on, you know the winner of this chicken fight.

The sandwiches can be ordered as a dinner, which at Pete's comes with a choice of soup or coleslaw and fries. At King Gyros, the dinner comes just with fries but a side order of coleslaw can be ordered.

I would pick King Gyros' coleslaw over Pete's. It was less sour and was not drenched in so much sauce that you had to have a snorkel to find the cabbage. Pete's offers crinkle fries. I hate crinkle fries but found myself liking these best out of the whole meal from Pete's. King Gyros' fries were like those you would get at McDonald's minus the blood pressure damaging salt.

To add some fiber to the meal, we ordered spinach pies. When served at Pete's, there is a small mountain range of spinach in between two small layers of crunchy filo dough. Although the spinach had a good flavor, the disproportionate amount compared to the cheese and crust lessened the overall appeal. King Gyros makes a thinner pie and fills it with hunks of feta that could pass as soft cubes of salt. This category draws a tie.

No meal, Greek or otherwise, is complete without a dessert. Both places had baklava, a sweet flaky pastry filled with honey and nuts. Pete's version was disappointing and instead of being flaky phyllo that you could cut through with a fork was so tough a knife was needed to cut through it and felt like I was eating some sort of honey-flavored jerky. King Gyros had a lot more honey and had a creamier nut filling but also had to be cut with a knife. The other famous Greek treat is rice pudding, warmed with cinnamon of course. Both places had a standard version. However, watch out for a stray clover lurking in your bowl.

After little deliberation, we have made our decision of which Greek restaurant wins the battle. Drum roll, please……… and the winner is…… King Gyros! Pete's Corner just doesn't even match King Gyros due to its icky version of Avgolemono, tart creamified coleslaw, and 3 year old chewing gum tough baklava. So if you're in the mood for standard self-service style Greek food for a decent price, King Gyros is the place.

Genevieve and Christine are 3Ls. You can send them your rave review suggestions at forum@valpo.edu.
That's Entertainment!
(Quality study breaks for the busy law students)
A plethora of films

BY MICHELINE SPEZIA

Embrace yourself for the blizzard of good films being released throughout the holiday season. Some are out now, and many are coming. Be prepared because it is going to be quite the storm.

WALK THE LINE: James Mangold’s film is worthy of the hype. Comparable to last year’s Ray, this musician biopic follows the life and career of Johnny Cash (Joaquin Phoenix) through all his literal highs and lows. The common thread that ties the film (and Cash’s life) together is his long and painful romantic pursuit of June Carter (Reese Witherspoon). Performances by Phoenix and Witherspoon are electric, and the chemistry between them is palpable. Talented enough to use their own voices for the film, the actors convincingly transform into these legends. Hopefully, both the actors and the film itself will be recognized with Oscar nominations. Walk the Line is an entertaining and powerful film with strong performances. A

GOOD NIGHT, AND GOOD LUCK: Brilliantly directed by George Clooney, this black and white film is captivating without flashiness and special effects. The film illuminates the risks involved in speaking truth to power, and the importance of media responsibility. Edward R. Murrow (David Strathairn) reports on Senator McCarthy’s Communist witch hunts while risking his position and his reputation, and defines the tacit approach to informing the public of a controversial topic. Clooney captures the real feeling and authenticity of a newsroom and will likely get an Oscar nomination. A-

HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE: This latest installment of the Harry Potter saga is the darkest and most dense film yet. Director Mike Newell (Mona Lisa Smile) had to cram over 700 pages of details into the film, and it feels like it. Many moments in the film just don’t feel like they have the breathing room to allow the audience to appreciate them before Newell pushes ahead with the plot. However, according to my critical 13-year-old sister, it needed to be crammed even more, because it was missing the sphinx in the maze. Despite the fast pacing and condensed storyline, the film is entertaining and fun, which are the most important qualities that should be taken from the novel. I hope they recruit Alfonso Cuaron (Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban) to direct another in this series. B

ELIZABETHTOWN: My movie companion told me that sometimes you just need some Cameron Crowe. However, Elizabethtown was not Crowe at his Almost Famous best. The story is ultimately endearing, but the film lacks coherence. It seems patched together with puzzle pieces that do not quite fit. Drew (Orlando Bloom) causes his company to lose a billion dollars. His Father dies. He goes to Kentucky to retrieve the ashes, meets a girl (Kirsten Dunst), discovers his roots and has a cathartic road trip with his father’s urn. Bloom is not believable, but Dunst illuminates the screen. At least Crowe can still put together a great soundtrack. C+

JARHEAD: 20-year-old Anthony Swofford (Jake Gyllenhaal) enters the world of the Marines, makes it through basic training, and is sent to Desert Storm. Directed by Sam Mendes, the film boasts big talent (Jamie Foxx, Peter Sarsgaard, Chris Cooper) but unlike his previous work, American Beauty, he fails to use his actors to their fullest. The film follows Swoff’s sniper unit preparing and building up for their moment of blood and guts glory. However, the film, like the war, is utterly anticlimactic, and after months of boredom in the Saudi desert, their war only lasts four days, and Swoff never even fires his gun. You cannot carry an anticlimactic film when the characters are detached from the viewer. Some people connected to the military personally or through relatives found it honest, while others found it offensive. I found it disturbing and disconnected. C

COMING ATTRACTIONS:
Syriana; The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe; Memoirs of a Geisha; King Kong; Munich: The Producers

THE FILM GENERATING THE MOST BUZZ:
BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN: According to pre-screenings, this film a must-see. Directed by Ang Lee, this controversial film is described as an epic love story between intertwined souls. It is sure to hit some nerves across the world. It is said to prove that Heath Ledger can act, and to remind us that Gyllenhaal is versatile.

Relax over break and enjoy the movies!

Michelle is a 2L and can be reached at michelle.spezia@valpo.edu.

Sports

What were they thinking?

I have a confession to make...please don’t hold it against me: I am a Detroit Lions fan. I know what you are thinking. I have heard it all before.

It is not my fault that the team has the worst record in the NFL since 2001 with a mark of 20-55, which just happens to be worse than the expansion Houston Texans. It is not my fault that the team has won only one playoff game since 1957. It is not my fault that the team has never won a Super Bowl. It is not my fault that the team is one of only seven that have never even made it to the Super Bowl and of those teams, the Jacksonville Jaguars have only been in existence since 1994 and the Houston Texans since 2002, so they at least have an excuse.

Be it that I have only been alive since 1982, I have not had to endure as many of the tragedies that the older Lions fans have endured. However, I have witnessed the estrangement of Barry Sanders in 1998, who is arguably the greatest running back of all-time, I have witnessed the fall from a 9-7 record in 2000 to a 2-14 record in 2001, and I have witnessed the failure of numerous first-round draft picks with unlimited potential.

With all of the moves that I have disagreed with over the years, I have never disagreed with a decision more than the mid-season firing of Coach, Steve Mariucci. I know enough about the Lions to determine that the firing of Mariucci was imminent and even necessary, but never should a coach be fired in the middle of the season like this.

To replace Mariucci at the helm of the Lions is Dick Jauron. What can Jauron do with the Lions in five weeks that Mariucci could not? If Jauron is the answer to all of the Lions’ problems, then why wasn’t he hired in the first place instead of Mariucci?

Just a month ago, the Minnesota Vikings were 2-5 and people were calling for Coach Mike Tice’s head. The Vikings could have fired him, but that would have been the same as waving the white flag on the season. It would be similar to Miami Dolphins’ Coach Nick Saban saying that winning doesn’t matter. The team would be cutting their losses and looking forward to next year. However, the team decided to rough through it. Now, just four
A team we can be proud of

Joey Favata

Philadelphia: Terrell Owens is suspended for four games from the Eagles for conduct detrimental to the team, after which he will be placed on the inactive list. Owens, upset about the decision, held a press conference to issue a public apology, but had Super Agent Drew Rosenhaus field questions.

Most of his responses were next question, which seemed normal to Rosenhaus but not to everyone else. If you really wish to understand Rosenhaus' rationale, though, you should begin by reading his diary entry from that day:

I can't believe I was told that I look like Jay Mariotti if he were given a frontal lobotomy. It's impossible... Mariotti got that lobotomy last month and I don't look anything like him.

Individual selfishness is too prevalent in sports today. I could discuss it... that is, if I wanted to.

Instead, I'd rather focus on a true team: Valparaiso women's soccer. I was fortunate enough to travel with the team to Tulsa, Oklahoma, for the Mid-Continent Conference Tournament.

I know what you're thinking: I went to Tulsa for the atmosphere. Beaches, parties, celebrities, you can find them all in Tulsa. It makes South Beach look like Scranton. That's what I thought, too, but it was all business once I got there.

This trip really started four years ago. It was at that time that Coach Stephen Anthony, now in his eighth season, decided to turn the team in a new direction.

Anthony hired assistant John Marovich, and the two recruited an incoming class of seven players (all of whom are now seniors). This was the start of a strong foundation.

Portland: Portland Trailblazer Ruben Patterson cursed out coach Nate McMillan because of lack of playing time. It's safe to assume that a blazer should never be given the benefit of the doubt, but come on, this is Ruben Patterson!

After all, his arrest record only consists of forcing his nanny to perform a sexual act, a domestic assault (only one!), and a few possession charges. For a Trailblazer, that's amateur hour!

I could discuss it... that is, if I wanted to.

Captains Emily King, Amanda Meyer, and Allison Swanson along with Kristi Dixon, Danielle Guerra, Ashley Shaneyfelt, and Lorna Torrez joined the team four years ago. The team paid its dues, winning only five games their first season and three their second.

Solid recruits soon followed. Some of the standouts include junior defender Liberty Ziegahn and sophomore goalie Erin Murray. The team expanded, and so did their win total. They finished last season with 10 wins and an appearance in the Mid-Con championship game.

Phoenix: 2004 Nextel Cup Champion Kurt Busch was cited for reckless driving and driving under the influence. Busch raced for Rousch Racing, but is switching to Penske next season.

However, his Roush sponsor, his sponsor at the time, was Canadian whiskey company Crown Royal. Busch felt that if you didn't believe NASCAR promotes drinking and driving when they're flying around an oval but their draw forced them to face their two conference losses: Southern Utah and Oakland.

Drew Rosenhaus Diary Entry #2: Why does Jay Mariotti continue to insult me? I was the only person to compliment his looks after his lobotomy surgery, and this is the thanks I get. He's officially off my Christmas card list.

I could discuss it... that is, if I wanted to.

The team traveled to Tulsa to face their challenge head-on. With a concentration of underclass players, though, it was a senior that led the team.

Emily King scored four goals in the team's two games, leading the Crusaders to a 2-0 shutout of Southern Utah and a 3-1 win over Oakland. The four goals pushed King's total to 11 for the season, which tied her for the school record.

The Crusaders went on to win 12 games, a new school record. They won their first conference championship and received their first invitation to the NCAA Women's College Cup. Also, the seniors, who started their careers with eight wins, finished with 30, the most ever for a class.

It's very possible to become jaded with the headlines from any sport's page today. It's all based on individual over team, selfishness over sacrifice, and (to a degree) money over respect.

The experience that I had watching a group come together and epitomize what a team concept truly is and succeed reinvigorated my love and passion for sports. The hard work and sacrifice of these players led to success that they should all be proud of.

Before this experience, I had become cynical from headlines similar to the aforementioned. I know, my loyal fans believe this statement from all the positive and upbeat columns I have written in the past. In a way, I can't believe it myself. Unfortunately, it is true.

But watching these girls come together and achieve its goals in a true team concept reinvigorated my love for sports. This was an experience that I am forever thankful for.

Joey is a 3L and can be reached at joefavata@valpo.edu. You can also listen to Joey on The Source 95.1 FM every Thursday night from 8-10 p.m.
Across:
1 Brit. Virgin Islands (abbr.)
2 Viking
3 External covering
4 Belonging to (suf.)
5 End (pref.)
6 Mississippi bridge
7 Broad structural basin
8 Water nymph
9 Abdominal (abbr.)
10 Stair post
11 Conquer
12 Anatomical duct
13 Annoy
14 Insect
15 Pesticide
16 Banned
17 Company (abbr.)
18 Razzle-dazzle
19 Convey
20 Gun
21 Abdominal (abbr.)
22 Conquer
23 Anatomical duct
24 Limp
25 Convey
26 Cast
27 Convey
28 Gun
29 Razzle-dazzle
30 Razzle-dazzle
31 Convey
32 Gun
33 Cast
34 Razzle-dazzle
35 Convey
36 Gun
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41 Gun
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43 Convey
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46 Gun
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56 Cast
57 Gun
58 Cast
59 Gun

Down:
1 Football is a game of momentum. After four games, the Chicago Bears were left for dead, now, after seven straight wins, the Bears are atop of the NFC North and whispers of 1985 are spreading so far that even Valparaiso can hear them. Firing a coach in the middle of the season stops any positive momentum that may be hibernating.

As a Lions fan, I have learned to become a realist. While Chicago fans always anticipate next year, I know that this is not usually the case for the Lions. However, I had some expectations for this Lions team in the future. A young core is being put together, but it has all quickly collapsed with the midseason firing of Mariucci. Nothing good can come out of this move. The Lions are essentially forfeiting the rest of the season. A firing like this tells the players that management has given up, so why wouldn’t the players?

Of all of the stupid things that the Lions have done in my short life, this has to top the list. Management is sending the message to a young and impressionable team that this season is over. Never should an NFL team fire a coach mid-season. No good can ever come of it.

Whatever, I am used to the disappointment by now, so I have learned to find the silver lining. I am preparing my welcome signs for Matt Leinart.

Nick is a 2L and may be reached at nicholas.schwartz@valpo.edu.

B&B continued from page 17

The egg whites until stiff peaks are formed. Set aside.

Cream the butter or margarine and sugar together. Add the beaten egg yolks and the apricots, and mix thoroughly.

Combine the raisins, candied cherries, candied pineapples, and mixed dried fruits in a bowl coated with one cup of the flour.

Combine the flour, baking soda, and salt. Add this flour mixture alternately to the creamed mixture with the apricot juice. Blend this batter into the mixed fruits. Add the chopped pecans or walnuts and fold in the beaten egg whites. Turn the batter into the prepared pans.

Bake at 275 degrees F (135 degrees C) for 2 hours. Garnish cakes with candied pineapples and cherries. Makes about 24 servings.
Almost four years ago, a couple of Valparaiso University Law Students got together and vowed to bring back The Forum publication. At that time, The Forum had ceased publication for two years since being started in 1971. After a lot of hard work and time, in three years The Forum went from varied page lengths with a staff of a few to being consistently 24 pages, with a staff of 30 and being mailed out to 1200 area law school alumni. At the end of the 2005, The Forum staff recognized the importance of connecting alumni with current students and made a new vow, this time to get the paper out to all alumni who graduated from Valparaiso University School of Law.

As the paper is not funded by the University other than through limited student funds, The Forum uses advertising efforts in order to fund production and mailing costs. After getting enough funding for a magnified advertising campaign and the ability to send papers to the original 1200 alumni in the beginning of the 2005 school year, the whole Forum staff has been pitching in to make an all alumni mailing a reality for every single issue of the paper from now on. We also asked alumni for support and even though we were unsure of the response we would receive, it has proven to be beyond expectations. We found out that not only did alumni want to donate to our cause, but that there were alumni who wanted to let us know how much they really cared about the paper and maintaining a sense of connection of their past to those who are going through that same experience. Donations have been coming in consistently from very generous alumni who recognize the importance of the information medium started in 1971 and maintained almost non-stop for over 30 years.

The donations contributed by the alumni who are featured in every issue of the Forum signify more than a monetary donation given by a couple of caring individuals. But rather these donations signify a belief in something that goes beyond just a law school newspaper. It is the belief that by forming a community and a connection between alumni and students, we will be able to become much stronger as a whole of future and currently working attorneys. This sense of social responsibility shows that Valparaiso University School of Law is much more than just an institution churning out future lawyers, but rather it is an institution that takes pride in encouraging their students in maintaining their moral values when entering the legal workforce.

Donations may be sent to: The Forum, VUSL, 651 S. College, Valparaiso, IN 46383.
The new VUSL bowling league practices on Monday nights in the nursery.

When I was your age, I had to trek to school in sub zero temperatures, in the snow, on my bike, uphill both ways.

The weather in Northwest Indiana is so trecherous even the tree needs mittens.

Legal Trivia
Non-Legal Edition

1) Is poison-ivy a type of ivy?
2) How many inches are in a mile?
3) What are the naturally occurring colors of cashmere?
4) What is the capital of Azerbaijan?
5) Who is the author of "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are dead"?
6) Who are Rosencrantz and Guildenstern?
7) The opera Carmen was composed by whom?
8) Garry Trudeau is the author of what comic strip?
9) Guinea pigs were originally bred for what purpose?
10) On what date does the spring 2006 semester begin?