Global warming symposium big success

BY RYAN MILLIGAN
Staff Reporter

A
n October 12th global warming symposium took a fresh approach to the ongoing debate over the consequences of global warming by focusing on solutions through emerging economic opportunities. Three speakers addressed a packed house at Tabor Auditorium as the discussion touched on the concerns of global warming then transitioned into an informative exploration of emerging technologies and business opportunities.

Indiana State Senator Karen Tallian moderated the event, which featured Rhodes Scholar and policy advocate Jesse Kharbanda, author Chad Kister and Valparaiso University Mechanical Engineering Chair Dr. Robert Palumbo.

Kharbanda rounded out the symposium by discussing what he called a “golden opportunity” for Indiana to become a leader in renewable energy by advancing a Renewable Energy Standard. That standard would have the state producing 25% of its energy from renewable resources by 2025. He noted that Indiana governor Mitch Daniels is the only second governor in the nation to endorse this standard, which Kharbanda says will lead to six billion dollars in investment in the state, 20,000 new jobs and new sources of tax revenue.

Kharbanda urged political leaders to “respond with responsibility, determination, and vision” to the growing problem of global warming. While Kharbanda stated that bio fuels are a good movement in this direction, he also explored corresponding urgency for renewable electricity. According to his estimation, Indiana has the potential to generate 40,000 mega watts of electricity from wind energy, which is twice the current capacity of Indiana’s coal plants.

This discussion of local issues was preceded by Dr. Palumbo’s passionate and technical discussion of solar thermal energy, an emerging technology in renewable resources. He described a process by which hydrogen can be extracted from sunlight utilizing a process that creates chemical fuels that can be transported and consumed with no wasteful by-products. Dr. Palumbo admitted that the technology is up to 50 years from being fully developed, but said it will change the way people think about solar energy, likening it to sunlight in a car’s gas tank.

Dr. Palumbo called the research “incredibly high risk with high impact potential.” The efficiency of the technology has advanced tremendously in recent years, thanks in part to Palumbo’s

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VIEWPOINT:
The death of the Great Writ

BY RICKEY GLOVER
Copy Editor

O
n Tuesday, October 17, 2006, 135 years to the day after President Grant suspended the writ of habeas corpus for nine counties in South Carolina in order to disperse the KKK, President Bush became the first American President to eliminate the Great Writ. The death came by way of the Military Commissions Act of 2006; signed 19 days after the Senate passed the bill 65 to 34 with barely an hour of debate.

The Act gives the President, or a tribunal appointed by the President, the absolute power to classify any person, citizen or non-citizen, as an enemy combatant to the United States. The Act defines “unlawful enemy combatant” as “a person who, before, on, or after the date of the enactment of the Military Commissions Act of 2006, has been determined to be an unlawful enemy combatant by a Combatant Status Review Tribunal or another component tribunal established under the authority of the President or the Secretary of Defense.” As if the plenary power to grant combatant status upon anyone were not enough, the Act later grants the President power to similarly classify anyone who gives material support to those with combatant status.

Further, the fact that the tribunal mechanism is specified has little to no meaning when considered against President Bush’s track record when appointing legal officials. Most notably his appointment of Attorney General Gonzalez, who, in a 2002 Justice Department memo, stated that laws prohibiting torture do “not apply to the President’s detention and interrogation of enemy combatants,” and that interrogation must include “injury such as death, organ failure, or serious impairment of body functions — in order to constitute torture.” If the President would appoint a man with such a view of interrogation techniques to the highest legal office in the country, one can only

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Israeli-Palestinian crisis topic of lecture

BY MELISSA DURHAM
Editor in Chief

The Valparaiso University School of Law Multicultural Law Students Association hosted author and lecturer Ali Abunimah on Thursday, October 19, 2006. Speaking to an audience of students, faculty and members of the community, Mr. Abunimah addressed the Israeli-Palestinian crisis from a Palestinian perspective and with a focus on the law involved. The lecture had an informal tone, which Abunimah set by telling those in attendance to raise their hands during the lecture to ask questions or address issues he had raised.

The lecture began with a word association exercise to draw out the issues facing Israelis and Palestinians. Land, religion, security and culture were among the words that came immediately to the minds of audience members, and the issues raised formed the foundation for the rest of the lecture.

Abunimah spent the majority of the evening addressing issues of the legitimacy of the state of Israel, likening the dispute to that of clear or clouded title to a piece of land in the United States. “This is not as simple as a house or a piece of real property because the history is simply so-and-so passed it to so-and-so,” explained Abunimah. He further explained that when you combine that with issues of religion and disputed history, it is very difficult to determine legitimacy.

In choosing a form of law to determine legitimacy, Abunimah addressed the three forms of law which could apply in the conflict: national law, international law and God’s law.

Regardless of which form of law is

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CONVERSATIONS PROJECT
Do the Parties Represent You?

BY STEVE EHRLMAN
Staff Reporter

The next Conversations Project event will be held in the Christopher Center Community Room from 7 – 9 p.m. on Wednesday, November 1, 2006... just six days before Election Day 2006. The conversations will center on the current political two-party system.

The panel will be moderated by Professor Alan Bloom (Valparaiso University). We are fortunate to have three diverse panelists, including:

- Professor Albert Trost, Professor of Political Science at Valparaiso University. He has served for over 20 years as chair of the political science department and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for the previous 10 years.
- Attorney and Professor Jacqueline R. Gipson, J.D. (Indiana University Northwest) who is a lecturer in Criminal Justice and Political Science, and a graduate of Valparaiso University School of Law. Her experience is varied on political and diversity issues.
- Valerie M. Jensen, J.D. Ms. Jensen is the Executive Director of Career Planning for VUSL. She is originally from the Minneapolis/St. Paul area in Minnesota, obtained her law degree from William Mitchell College of Law in 1996, and was named Attorney of the Year 2003 by the Minnesota Lawyer for her commitment to diversity and ensuring equal access to legal education and the legal profession. While in Minnesota, she was involved in politics during Jesse Ventura’s term as an independent Governor of Minnesota.

The Conversations Project was created to promote mutual education, understanding and political reconciliation through community conversations and to forge connections between the VU community and the wider Northwest Indiana community as a whole.

All Conversations Project events are free and open to the public and appetizers and drinks will be served after the discussion.

Steve is a 2L and can be reached at stephen.ehrman@valpo.edu.
NEWS IN BRIEF

Supreme Court Lecture to look at international law

The foundations of international law will be explored in Valparaiso University School of Law’s annual Indiana Supreme Court Lecture.

Josie A. Cabezas, a judge with the United States Court of Appeals Second Circuit since 1994, will speak on “International Law by Consent of the Governed” at 4 p.m. Nov. 2 in Wexner Hall on campus. The lecture is free and open to the public, and will be followed by a reception.

Judge Cabezas will discuss international law studies on the well-established, universal practices of sovereign nations in their relations with one another and threats to this basic principle of consent. “If customary international law becomes wholly detached from the idea of consent by the governed, it is losing legitimacy,” Judge Cabezas says.

Judge Cabezas was born in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, before moving to New York City at the age of five. He was the first Puerto Rican appointed to the federal bench in the continental U.S. in 1979 and previously had served as special counsel to the governor of Puerto Rico and head of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico’s office in Washington, D.C.

He graduated from Yale Law School and is author of “Citizen and the American Empire” and “Fear of Judging: Sentencing Guidelines in the Federal Courts,” which received the Certificate of Merit from the American Bar Association. His scholarly articles have been published in British and American law journals and he is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

The lecture is co-sponsored by VUSL and the Indiana Supreme Court. The annual Indiana Supreme Court Lectures are made possible by the generous support of the Indiana Supreme Court. The court’s justices include Robert D. Rucker, a graduate of VUSL.

Symposium to focus on global peace and justice

Valparaiso University’s fifth annual Peace and Justice Symposium will feature a leading scholar of Chinese culture, a Muslim comedienne and one of the nation’s leading immigration attorneys.

This year’s symposium on Nov. 4 will focus on issues of peace and justice throughout the world and is free and open to the public. The annual symposium brings together community members, students and faculty for discussion and to promote engagement in issues of peace and justice.

A pre-symposium program featuring one of the world’s only female Muslim stand-up comedians will take place at 7 p.m. Nov. 3 in the Valparaiso Union on campus. Tissa Hami, an Iranian-American from Boston, has performed at comedy clubs and festivals throughout the country and uses her comedy to break stereotypes about Muslim women and foster understanding between Iranians and Americans. Hami’s comedy program is free and open to the public.

Keynote speaker Dr. Henry Rosemont Jr. is the author of “A Chinese Mirror,” “Rationality and Religious Experience” and the forthcoming book “Radical Confucianism.” He is a senior consulting professor at Fudan University in China and a distinguished visiting professor of East Asian and religious studies at Brown University. Dr. Rosemont will discuss “Individual Freedom vs. Social Justice: A Confucian Meditation” at 9 a.m. in the Valparaiso Union.

Following Dr. Rosemont’s talk, a number of workshops will take place from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Among the workshop presenters is Chris Brejle, one of the leading immigration lawyers in the U.S., a Valparaiso alumnus and chair of the board of directors of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services.

For more details about the workshops and presentations at the symposium, or to register, call the Office of Multicultural Programs or visit its website at www.valpo.edu/organization/multicultural/omp.html.

Artwork views notorious Cambodian prison

A series of images from a former Cambodian prison where thousands of people were murdered will be featured in a new exhibition at Valparaiso.

Liz Wuerfle, a Chicago artist and adjunct assistant professor of art, will display recent works including a series of digitally manipulated images from Toul Sleng, a high school-turned-prison.

The exhibition will be on display through Nov. 3 in the Strimbu Gallery of Photography. There is no admission fee for the exhibition. During the Khmer Rouge regime, up to 20,000 people were interrogated and imprisoned at Toul Sleng before being sent to its extermination center and then buried in the killing fields. In the exhibition, Wuerfle combines images of skulls, x-rays, the prison and its corresponding extermination center and killing field, Cheoung Ek.

Wuerfle is a multi-media artist and performer. She graduated from Valparaiso in 2000 and joined the Peace Corps, where she worked with environmental programs and women’s issues in Kazakhstan. She recently earned a master’s degree in interdisciplinary arts and media from Columbia College in Chicago.

Strimbu Gallery is located on the second floor of the Center for the Arts, adjacent to Room 2413. The gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Festival features Native American artisans, musicians and more

A day-long festival featuring artisans, musicians, storytellers and more on Oct. 28 will highlight Valparaiso University’s month-long celebration of Native American culture.

VU’s sixth annual Native American Festival in the Valparaiso Union on campus will culminate with a performance by Lakota musicians and dancers Ash and Reuben Fast Horse at 7 p.m. They will perform the “Eagle Dance,” “Buffalo Dance” and other traditional Lakota dances.

Admission to the concert is free, but tickets are required to assure seating. Tickets are available at the Union Information Desk.

Native Americans from across the country will display their artwork and provide demonstrations during an arts and crafts sale taking place from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. The arts and craft sale and all other activities Oct. 28 are open to the public.

For more information about the festival, visit the festival’s Web site at valpo.edu/organization/multicultural/nativeamerican or call Valparaiso’s Office of Multicultural Programs at (219) 464-5411.

Compiled by The Forum

The FORUM Monthly Photo Contest

The first person to correctly identify the picture above will win a $10 gift certificate to Jimmy John’s.

E-mail your responses to forum@valpo.edu

September answer - The Prairie Project is on Bullseye Lake Road

September winner - Kate Patterson
The Docket
2006 Midterm Election Edition

BY NICK GAEKE
Staff Reporter

Crawford v. Rokita, 06-2218 (7th Cir. October 18, 2006).

Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals hears oral arguments on Indiana’s voter identification law, posing particular concern about lack of evidence and viability of the Voter ID law as a solution to voter impersonation fraud.

The Indiana Democratic Party filed suit against Indiana’s secretary of state and others to enjoin the enforcement of a voter identification law in Indiana. The law, passed by Indiana’s Republican-controlled General Assembly, requires that voters show government-issued identifications containing a photograph before voting.

The Democratic Party, claiming that nearly one million Indiana voters who are otherwise lawfully registered to vote would not be able to vote because they do not have the required ID. In particular, Democrats pointed to possible effects on the poor, minorities, people with disabilities and the elderly. The secretary, in similar fashion to the Missouri case, argued that voter fraud in Indiana is a compelling interest that the law was designed to prevent or minimize. The law was upheld by the Southern District of Indiana, in an opinion that recognized the partisan nature of laws like these.

Oral arguments were held before Judge Posner, Judge Sykes and Judge Evans. Judge Posner first targeted his questions on the lack of evidence in the case. In particular, he asked why there was a lack of evidence of impersonation fraud necessary to support the voter ID law. On the other hand, he asked a number of questions concerning the lack of evidence about people who are burdened by the law’s requirements. The judges also showed much concern with how to balance the interests of the state versus the interests of the individual voter.

Missouri Supreme Court enjoin enforcement of Voter ID law because it is not necessary to achieve the compelling interest of combating applicable types of voter fraud.

In 2006, Missouri’s legislature passed a law that in part required citizens to present photo identification as a condition precedent to voting. The law applied to “otherwise qualified and lawfully registered voters.” A group of taxpayers subsequently sued the state of Missouri and its secretary of state. They brought challenges under both the Missouri and U.S. constitutions.

At trial, evidence tended to show that up to 240,000 citizens (some three to four percent of Missouri’s population) lack the requisite photo ID and, therefore, would need to obtain a Missouri driver’s or non-driver’s license or a passport to vote. Missouri charges $15 to provide a birth certificate required to obtain a non-driver’s license, and non-native residents must pay between $5 to $30 to obtain their birth certificates. The wait for a birth certificate is up to eight weeks. A similar wait for passports exists, and the cost is substantially higher, between $97 and $236. The plaintiffs argued that the costs to be paid by indigent residents, the difficulty and delay in obtaining IDs, and the fact that voter impersonation fraud is not a problem in Missouri, amounted to a violation of the state and federal constitutions. The trial court held, and further determined a violation of the Missouri constitution requiring proper appropriation of funds as the laws require for implementation.

The Missouri Supreme Court held that the law violated the equal protection clause of the state constitution and the right to vote as guaranteed by the state and federal constitutions. In reaching these conclusions, the court applied strict scrutiny analysis, in which any limitation on a fundamental right must serve compelling state interests and must be narrowly tailored to meet those interests.

Specifically, the court found two clear burdens on Missourians as a prerequisite to voting: 1) the law requires payment of money, and 2) the law forces difficult navigation through bureaucracies, potentially causing an inability to cast more than a provisional ballot. According to the court, these burdens “represent[] a heavy and substantial burden on Missourians’ free exercise of the right of suffrage,” thereby necessitating strict scrutiny.

The court did agree with the secretary of state that Missouri has a cognizable compelling interest in combating voter fraud, but the court dismissed the secretary’s arguments as essentially speculative. “While it is agreed here that the State’s concern about the perception of fraud is real,” read the per curium opinion, “if this Court were to approve the placement of severe restrictions on Missourians’ fundamental rights owing to the mere perception of a problem in this instance, then the tactic of shaping public misperception could be used in the future as a mechanism for further burdening the right to vote or other fundamental rights.”

Finally, the court held that the law was not “necessary” for any of the state’s asserted interests. “While the Photo-ID Requirement may provide some additional protection against voter impersonation fraud, the evidence below demonstrates that the Photo-ID Requirement is not “necessary” to accomplish this goal,” the court ruled.

Thurman v. Cobb, 2006-CA-2619 (Cir. Ct. 2d Dist. Leon County Fla.).

Court enjoins candidate replacing former Rep. Mark Foley in Congressional election from posting notices explaining that a vote for Foley on the ballot is a vote for the new candidate.

Former Rep. Mark Foley recently resigned from his seat in the United States House of Representatives after allegations surfaced of improper communications with underage pages. Prior to his resignation, Foley ran uncontested in the primary election, and his name appears on the current ballot for the 2006 election. Once Foley resigned, the Republican Party was allowed to replace Foley with a new candidate, Mr. Joseph Negron, by operation of law. However, those same election laws prevented the Party from replacing Foley’s name on the ballot. As a curative measure, the Republican Party proposed to post notices at polling locations explaining that a vote for Foley is in reality a vote for Negron.

The Florida Democratic Party sued the Secretary of State of Florida to enjoin the posting of these notices, arguing that Florida law prevented their posting. Specifically, the Democratic Party argued that there was no authority permitting the posting of such notices.

The Republican Party, as an intervenor in the action, argued that the Secretary of State’s job is to educate the public. In particular, the Republicans and the Secretary of State argued that certain Florida laws, which authorize the distribution of a Voters’ Bill of Rights and Responsibilities and sample ballots, could be extrapolated to allow for the posting of these notices as a permissible form of education.

The court held that this reading of the statutes would take Florida election law into “uncharted territory.” Rather, the court held that the specific law that prevents the name change on the ballot from occurring should also be read to prevent the posting of notices informing the public of the name change.

“Florida’s legislature specifically directed that the ballot shall not be changed, and the former party nominee’s name will appear on the ballot,” opined the court. “This provision on the ballot refutes the defendants’ argument that [the law] is silent on the issue of what should be done.”

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VIEWPOINTS

Secondary Authority

Minimizing the politics that get in the way of election law

BY NICK GAEKE
Staff Reporter

I am not under the illusion that the title of this article is some new revelation. However, when election time rolls around, as it will in a little less than two weeks time, it always bears examination to see what role courts play in our political process.

We will (hopefully) be voting this upcoming November 7 at a time when more turmoil than usual has been injected into the political scene. Reports constantly barrage readers with the corruption and complacency of the Republican Party as well as the indefiniteness and impotence of the Democratic Party. If we only account for what we hear from our “political” branches, we already have enough trouble choosing between tweedle dumb and tweedle dumber.

However, not to be outdone, courts have taken up cases and produced opinions that speak volumes as well. Nowhere is this discussion more apparent than in the decisions surrounding voter identification laws. The purported purpose of these laws is to combat voter fraud in its various forms, especially voter impersonation fraud. However, any law that places a burden on a voter’s right to cast a ballot will have to satisfy the court’s highest test, which has always been a tall order. As the Missouri voter identification case per curiam opinion aptly pointed out, the mere specter or perception of voter fraud may not even be enough of a substantial interest, on a legal level, to even consider protecting.

But more to the point, election law cases, and particularly cases such as those concerning the Mark Foley legal fallout, give judges a chance to play an integral role in the political process. Now everybody knows that judges are impartial referees of the facts or legal arguments before them (wink wink). But the decision in that case is reflective of just how political a judge either can be, or even just how his or her opinion can be. In that case, when you have an election law with two reasonable, legally sound interpretations, but leading to differing, more harmful results for one side, then there must be some X-factor that causes a judge to decide it against the side who stands to receive greater harm.

In short, you must admit, as the Florida Circuit Court did to itself, that there is no ill motive in a party wanting to communicate in the most efficient and effective way possible to voters for whom they are actually voting. All other things being equal, if the judicial branch is charged with what the United States Supreme Court has carved into the outside of their courthouse (Equal Protection Under the Laws), and there is an opportunity to do that, then it should be done.

It is my contention that, unfortunately, judges will never be able to separate themselves from their politics. Whether their motivation arises from personal beliefs, loyalty, or the fear of losing a retention election, judges will always be connected to their politics. Thus, in the area of election law, their decisions can be particularly troublesome. The only effective cure is for legislatures to draft laws that reduce ambiguities to the fullest extent possible and legislatively override judicial opinions that produce inequitable results among candidates.

Courts are in a privileged position to be the great equalizer. This is especially true (or false) with regard to election law. In a political process like an election, it is important to give deference to larger, more readily accountable arms of the government. That way, if there has to be some politics involved (which there always will be), the forces that counterbalance will not exist in the mind of only one person.

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The event was sponsored by the Valparaiso Environmental Law Society and lasted nearly two hours. Organizer and third-year law student Kim Ferraro hoped the event would help educate and encourage communities to take action on global warming issues and said, "Global warming, while a global crisis, also presents an opportunity for local economic growth and an avenue for Indiana to take the lead in addressing this global challenge."

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research at the Solar Technology Laboratory at the Paul Scherrer Institute in Switzerland. Utilizing the technology at current efficiency levels, an area smaller than the state of Wisconsin could generate enough energy to serve the needs of the entire world. He cautioned, however, that this technology is only one front in the solution to global warming, which he called "one of the most important topics of the 21st century."

Author Chad Kister set the stage for the discussion of solutions by outlining the problem of global warming. Kister has traveled 700 miles through the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, most recently visiting in 2005. He called global warming the "biggest issue of the century" and said all of the impacts of global warming are "negative and alarming." Kister detailed what he called the cataclysmic consequences of global warming by detailing declines in permafrost, glacial mass and wildlife in Arctic areas using a series of slides. "There is no question we are the cause," Kister said, "but we can also be the solution."

The event was sponsored by the Valparaiso Environmental Law Society and lasted nearly two hours. Organizer and third-year law student Kim Ferraro hoped the event would help educate and encourage communities to take action on global warming issues and said, "Global warming, while a global crisis, also presents a significant opportunity for local economic growth and an avenue for Indiana to take the lead in addressing this global challenge."

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imagine whom the President will appoint to a tribunal with the specific purpose of applying combatant status.

What happens to citizens classified as unlawful enemy combatants is not clear. It is clear that you may be detained, although it is not clear for how long. It is clear that the Attorney General will not apply torture rules to you, but it is unclear how the President will interpret the Geneva Conventions and define torture (and it will remain unclear because the Act does not require him to disclose such definitions). It is most likely clear that you will still have use of the Great Writ, but it is unclear how you will be able to convince the government that you are not an alien enemy combatant or that they should have it in their good graces to give you a hearing.

What happens to aliens classified (or awaiting classification) as unlawful enemy combatants is very clear. "[N]o court, justice, or judge shall have jurisdiction to hear or consider an application for a writ of habeas corpus filed by or on behalf of an alien detained by the United States who has been determined by the United States to have been properly detained as an enemy combatant or is awaiting such determination."

Thus, we are left with having to rely on the good graces of the President in order to avoid combatant status, a position never intended by the framers of our system. They imagined a government of shared power and responsibility, a system where one person or branch could never have the ultimate authority, a system where the president could never have the sole power to imprison and throw away the key.

Perhaps the most tragic development has been the collective yawn of the country. In fact, the Republican Party has viewed this unprecedented elimination of an essential freedom as a political victory, evidenced by RNC chairman Ken Mehlman’s numerous interviews championing the Act and Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert’s reference to Democrats as "pampering" terrorists. Quite to the contrary, 12 Democrats voted for the bill, most of them voting for reelection and recognizing the attacks awaiting those who dared to stand against the bill.

Those Democrats who stood against the bill almost uniformly cited its elimination of essential freedoms. Senator Barack Obama, defending his vote, stated: "instead of not just suspending, but eliminating, the right of habeas corpus—the seven century-old right of individuals to challenge the terms of their own detention, we could have given the accused one chance—one single chance—to ask the government why they are being held and what they are being charged with. . . . But politics won today. Politics won...."

During the signing of the Act, President Bush, relying on his ever-present vision that history will paint him as a great president, stated, "With the distance of history, the questions will be narrowed and few: Did this generation of Americans take the threat to its essential freedoms seriously? Did America do what it takes to defeat that threat?" I pose that question to you all, future, and current members of the legal community. Did America take the threat to its essential freedoms seriously? Did America do what it takes to defeat that threat? Or, did we roll over, yawning so loudly that even the prisoners with no hope of release awoke thinking their day to ask a single question had come, but quickly realizing it was only the sound of an apathetic Nation, a Nation idly giving away its freedoms?

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applied, the question of legitimacy is not an easy one to resolve because not all the parties involved in the conflict would be convinced by whatever law is used to determine legitimacy. Abunimah explained that there is no legal argument that can be made to both Israel and Palestine; therefore, a different framework must be used, "some preface to the law or something in addition to the law."

Having recognized that at this time there is no solution to the disagreement between Israel and Palestine, Abunimah suggested that a good place to begin looking for a solution may be with the list the audience made at the beginning of the lecture. He explained that all of the words those in the audience had associated with the conflict are actually the needs of people of both sides of the conflict.

Abunimah closed the lecture with a word of advice to the law students in attendance, stating, "Sometimes the law does not help us to solve the problem."

MLSA President Anthony Nwaneri was very pleased with the lecture and felt it was extremely informative. Nwaneri went on to say that MLSA would like to bring in more speakers with "left of center" views in order to spark more dialogue and encourage people to think more broadly. Nwaneri explained that you don't get to choose your clients, and if you don't understand or have the capacity to understand what they have gone through and who they are, I don't know how you can represent their interests."

Melissa is a 3L and can be reached at melissa.durham@valpo.edu.
Students in my intellectual property and trademark classes have heard me speak of branding. Branding is commercial strategy that, when well executed, generates tremendous returns.

One clear example is the Coca-Cola brand. If you wanted to purchase the entire inventory of physical assets held by Coca-Cola Inc., you would have to pay around seven billion dollars. Now, if you wanted to purchase the brand Coca-Cola (to go with those physical assets) you would have to pay an additional 70 billion dollars. In other words, if some catastrophic disaster erased the physical holdings of Coca-Cola, and if all they were left with was their brand, they would still be a $70 billion company.

Companies use brand strategies to carve an emotional niche in the minds of consumers and then take up residence in that niche for as long as they possibly can. Emotion breeds loyalty. Loyalty breeds profit.

Harley Davidson does a great job at branding. They do not sell motorcycles. "What we sell is the ability for a 43 year old accountant to dress in black leather, ride through small towns, and have the townspeople fear him." If you know any Harley aficionado, you know how emotionally connected he or she is to the Harley brand. Those emotions are expressed in what seems to be a perpetual drive to purchase everything Harley. Not just a motorcycle, but Harley jeans, boots, jewelry and, new to the Harley family, beef jerky. They live the brand.

Another example, surely more universally shared by Forum readers, is Starbucks. Starbucks is not in the business of selling coffee drinks. They are in the business of offering to a crowded and bustling world what they call a "third place"—somewhere other than home or the office where you can escape—a personal oasis. That is why they can charge four dollars for a latte. The experiential added value makes it all worthwhile.

Branding is the process of establishing and maintaining an identity that has value in the mind of the consumer. Scott Bedbury (the person behind brands such as Nike and Starbucks) in his book The New Brand World defines a brand: "A brand is not a product; it is not something you drive. It is not something you drink. Those are all products. A brand is the total of everything a company does—the good, the bad and even the off strategy—that creates a large context or an identity in the consumer's mind. As a result, they are visceral. They reside in people's heads, and once they are there, they are very difficult to control."

The legal profession is a service industry. Within that industry, lawyers are "products" in and of themselves. As a law student, you are a product that will soon enter this marketplace. So what is your brand? To paraphrase Mr. Bedbury, what is the sum total of everything you are doing—the good, the bad, and even the off hours (or on-line) activity—that creates a large context or an identity in an employer's mind? Your task is to establish and maintain an identity that has value not in the mind of the consumers, but in the mind of the employers.

When you are seeking employment, you are selling your brand. Qualifications listed on your resume may get you an interview. But your brand will get you an offer. Be very conscious of your brand and work to make it one that firms want to add to their brand portfolio.

Understand that your brand is under constant surveillance. Have a myspace.com page? You may think of yourself as a hard working person. Maybe you really are. But if all the photos of you and your friends on myspace.com show casual non-working scenes, what brand image do they portray of you, especially to someone who doesn't know the real you? Have a colleague read to you, aloud, everything on your myspace.com page, and make sure they describe to you, in detail, everything of knowledge and ability that the client knows he does not possess, the person who the client hopes can fix his problem, the client wants to see someone who looks like he or she is up to the task. The client is not a lawyer. The client knows that he will likely never be a lawyer. When the client looks at his lawyer, he sees someone who is not like him. He would wear sweatpants, but his lawyer never would. His lawyer projects a sense of self-confidence that makes the client feel at ease.

There is nothing wrong with sweatpants. Everyone has a bad day, and sometimes the thought of putting on a suit seems enough to break the spirit. Yes, a lawyer is still the same lawyer on the inside, but manner of presenting oneself is half the battle. If people do not know what else to base their judgment on, one of the easiest things to fall back on is appearance. Perhaps it is wrong to base judgment on what someone is wearing, but some people may think: "if someone takes little care of him or herself, does that reflect on the amount of care that will be given to the case?"

Judging someone based on his or her appearance usually results in the drawing of an incorrect conclusion, and so it would seem that after several wrong conclusions people would begin to see that appearance can be deceiving. Maybe one day the world will change, and maybe you will be the one to change it. Advocating nonconformity is a noble cause, but do not do it at the expense of your future.
Don’t give up, don’t ever give up

Student Bar Association

Aaron Beck

We’ve reached the point in the semester when it is time to get serious, whether it is about studying for your exams or getting that summer associate position or associate position. Hopefully, most of you have kept up with your reading and outlining. First year students, if you haven’t already started studying for finals, now is a good time to start. If you have questions about studying for exams, find your favorite 2L or 3L to help you. Remember, we’ve all been there. Second and third years, hopefully you have gotten all your resumes out fully you have gotten all your resumes out or 3L to help you. Remember, we’ve all been there:

The statistics tell a story that Valparaiso University School of Law just recently started graduating students to all areas of the U.S. Most students see this as a burden, yet this is also an opportunity to blaze a new trail for Valpo Law. We, as students, should think of this as an opportunity to be THE group of students that lets the world know about Valpo Law. Although this might not be the easiest task in front of us, it is one that can be quite rewarding. Nebraska football built a dynasty on the shoulders of a walk-on program in major college football. There are many examples of student athletes that came to play football with no scholarship and turned out to be All-Americans. These same athletes are now making millions of dollars playing professional football.

The CPC Liaison Committee works tirelessly with CPC to meet the needs of the students, we all need to be accountable for blazing our own trail. While you are networking with attorneys in your desired location, team up with those students at Valpo Law who want to work in your desired location and desired area of law. If you don’t want to team up with one of your classmates because the competitive drive might conflict, find a student one or two years ahead of you. If you are a 2L and befriended a 3L that wants to go to, say Texas, and practice, say Corporate Law, teaming up will benefit both of you. The 2L will have a contact already when she starts her search for an associate position the following year and the 3L can use the contacts the 2L already has.

Another way to help network is through SBA and other student organizations. Most student organizations attend conferences in the area of law where they specialize. This is a great chance to meet practicing attorneys in the field where you want to practice and, if it is a specialized area, I am willing to bet they know an attorney in your desired city who works in the same field. All in all, there are many ways for you to meet people within your desired location and area of law.

Ultimately, whether it is studying for exams or searching for a job, remember the great Jim Valvano when he said, “Don’t give up, don’t ever give up.”

Aaron is a 3L and can be reached at aaron.beck@valpo.edu.

DON’T FORGET THE HALLOWEEN PARTY IS ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28TH, AT THE OLD TOWNE BANQUET HALL (ACROSS FROM NORTHSIDE TAP).

Moot Court prepares for its premier event

BY BRAD SHIVELY
Chief Justice, Moot Court

Valparaiso University School of Law’s Moot Court Society is gearing up for its annual Luther M. Swygert Moot Court Competition. The 2006 Swygert Intraschool Competition truly will be an exciting occasion as VUSL will proudly host a very prestigious panel of federal judges. This year’s panel will include the Hon. William Bauer (former Chief Justice) of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, Hon. Michael Kanne of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, Hon. Charles Wilson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and Hon. Joan Erickson of the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota.

This year’s Swygert Problem, drafted by 3L Moot Court Associate Justice Kimberly Stevens, features the complex and controversial issue of whether prayer by school officials at public university functions violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. Currently, there appears to be a split among the circuits as to the proper test to apply in determining the constitutionality of prayer in a university setting and both the Petitioner and Respondent have convincing arguments for their clients.

The competing Moot Court members have prepared their briefs and have engaged in intense oral arguments. This year’s society has 23 competing members from which four finalists will be selected to argue in the Final Round. While the members have, thus far, established their enthusiasm for appellate advocacy and have vigorously competed for a chance to represent VUSL before a national panel of federal judges, the true test lies ahead.

Without exception, each judge in the Final Round is very knowledgeable with regard to Establishment Clause jurisprudence and those oralsists arguing before them will have no choice but to be well-prepared for a relentless barrage of difficult questions.

The Final Round of the Swygert Competition is an excellent opportunity to see Moot Court in action and to learn about the Society. 1Ls and 2Ls who have an interest in trying out for Moot Court in the spring of 2007 are strongly encouraged to attend this event as the Final Round provides a very accurate portrayal of oral arguments in an appellate court.

I further encourage the rest of the VUSL community to attend to show support for VUSL’s Moot Court oralsists and to welcome judges who have traveled across the nation to visit Valpo Law.

The Swygert Competition Final Round will be held on Wednesday, November 1, 2006, at 4:00 p.m. Tickets are free and will be available in the near future. When ticket availability is announced, please don’t delay as seating is limited and last year’s tickets went fast. This is an event you won’t want to miss!

If you have any questions about the Swygert Competition or the Society in general, please drop by the Moot Court office or ask any member of the Executive Board.

Executive Board Members include: 3L Andrew Asma, 3L Kimberly Stevens, 3L Alaina Kennedy, 3L DeVondolyon Simmons, 3L Georgianne Siepka and 3L Bradford Shively.

Brad is a 3L and can be reached at bradford.shively@valpo.edu.
The First Annual

Ryan Abresch

I might celebrate the major holidays every year, but I really only get into the spirit of certain holidays every few years. For whatever reason I have been swept up in the Halloween fever this year. Because of this, as well as my inability to think of a law school related topic, I have decided to give this month’s column a Halloween theme. Without further ado, I present to you the first annual “Ryan Abresch Halloween Awards.” All categories, all nominees, and all winners have been arbitrarily determined by yours truly. If anybody would like to argue over my selections, my office hours are weekdays from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. at Duffy’s.

Worst Candy - Good & Plenty’s

The name “Good & Plenty” is a half truth in that it definitely is not “good” but for whatever reason I always received “plenty” of it on Halloween. Good & Plenty’s are the worthless older brother of Mike & Ike’s. They are a purple and white, pill-shaped candy which defy conventional candy logic. In candy terms, the color purple always means a grape flavor, and the color white usually signifies a lemon flavor. Yet, paradoxically, both the purple and the white candy pieces in a box of Good & Plenty’s both taste like crap (i.e. black licorice). As a result, many a child has experienced the horror of biting into a piece of candy which they expected to be grape - the best candy flavor - but ended up tasting black licorice - the most disgusting substance found on the face of the earth. Whoever came up with the idea for Good & Plenty must hate children.

Honorable Mention: Circus Peanuts, Candy Corn, Jawbreakers.

Sexiest Monster - Elvira

Is she a vampire? Is she a witch? Does she hook up on the first date? Who knows, who cares, and I freakin’ hope so. Elvira has graced our televisions for years, and although I cannot figure out what she is famous for, she has managed to become the unofficial Halloween pin-up girl. She is also proof positive that sorcery exists in this world, because nothing short of sheer witchcraft could continue to make Elvira’s 60 year-old-rack appealing to millions of discerning young gentlemen such as myself. Apparently eye of newt is a better alternative to plastic surgery.

Honorable Mention: The chick from “Species,” Naomi Campbell.

Best Halloween Song - Monster Mash

It’s the “Freebird” of Halloween songs. Simply put, it is not Halloween unless you hear the “Monster Mash.” Sang by Bobby “Boris” Pickett and the Crypt-Kickers, the song is about a mad scientist whose monster comes to life one night and performs a new dance - the “Monster Mash.” When the mad scientist and other monsters get together for a party later on, the new dance becomes the hit of the party. The “Monster Mash” actually peaked at number one on the Billboard Hot 100 chart in 1962, but most importantly, it is the song I get dressed to every morning.


Worst Halloween-Themed Activity - Bobbing For Apples

For those that don’t show much skin on Halloween, let me be the first to tell you that it generally is freezing ass cold on Halloween. So once you get out of the elements, why not dunk your head in a big bucket of cold water and try fitting your mouth around a piece of fruit? Seems to make perfect sense to me. But what do I know? I’m pretty drunk right now.

Honorable Mention: Grave-robbing, Ritualistic Human and/or Animal Sacrifice.

Best Halloween Prank - Kidnapping

Bear with me on this one. You form a plan with a little kid down the street, he has to be in on it or else you can get in serious trouble. When he’s waiting at the bus stop with his Mom on Halloween you come running down the street dressed up as a clown and scoop up the kid. You take off to a friend’s apartment to lay low. During the day while you are getting drunk with the kid, make some fake ransom notes and send them to his mother. Set up a drop-off point and tell the Mother to meet you there with $100,000 or the kid “gets it.” When she shows up have the kid lie in the trunk of your Oldsmobile and pretend to be dead. Tell the Mother, “I don’t know how you put up with that little bastard, he just couldn’t keep his mouth shut. Tell you what; since he’s dead I’ll let...
you keep $50,000.” When she starts crying, the kid jumps up and you both shout “HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!!” At that point the Mother will immediately realize that it was a joke and you will all have a good laugh. Plus if she’s a single Mom, you might get to make out with her. Honorable Mention: Toilet Papering Houses, Flaming Bag of Dog Poo, Waking the Dead.

Best Costume - The Human Mammogram

Although Katie Couric’s “I’m a Serious News Journalist” costume is fantastic, it pales in comparison to the guy who came up with the idea of dressing himself up as a mammogram machine. This genius took a cardboard box, and put it around his head. At the top of the box he taped a sign that said “Free Mammogram, place breasts here.” The place he cut out for women to place their breasts was right in front of his face. This idea has since been copied by male college students all over the country. Sir, enjoy your award, because you have earned it.

Honorable Mention - Shijo and Bode’s “Miami Vice” costume, any costume that shows a naked ass. (Ryan’s Rules of Comedy - Naked asses are always funny!)

Most Overrated Monster - Frankenstein

First of all, he is only a dead body with the brain of a retardated person inserted in his head (kind of like Larry King), yet Frankenstein is regarded as one of the scariest monsters in our culture (again, kind of like Larry King). Frankenstein is just a dead body...like all of the ones my roommate tucked under his crawl space back home (I know your secrets, Joe). What’s so scary about that? Furthermore, every monster has a unique way to be killed. You need a wooden stake to the heart to off Dracula, a silver bullet to defeat Wolfman, or a mirror to turn Kirsten Dunst to stone. None of that crap is needed to kill Frankenstein. Give me a handgun or a board with a nail in it and I’ll go kill Frankenstein right now.

then we’ll have beers afterward and I’ll tell you about how awesome it was. Plus Frankenstein’s afraid of fire! A monster that is afraid of fire? Oooh, I am so scared. You suck, Frankenstein.

Honorable Mention: Chucky, Michael Myers, Bea Arthur.

Scariest Monster - Chuck Norris

Zombies, Dracula, Jason - all are scary monsters, BUT AT LEAST THEY CAN BE KILLED. It is a fact, you cannot kill Chuck Norris. He’s a red-bearded, roundhouse kickin’, one-man killin’ machine who feasts on the innards of his victims. Plus he is one handsome sonofabitch. You don’t believe me? Just look at these facts I found on the internet (all facts pulled from www.chucknorrisfacts.com).

“When the Boogeyman goes to sleep every night he checks his closet for Chuck Norris,”

“When Chuck Norris does a pushup, he isn’t lifting himself up, he’s pushing the Earth down,”

“Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles is based on a true story: Chuck Norris once swallowed a turtle whole, and when he crapped it out, the turtle was six feet tall and had learned karate.”

“Scientists have estimated that the energy given off during the Big Bang is roughly equal to 1 CNRhK (Chuck Norris Roundhouse Kick).”

There is no killing a monster like that! Just pray you don’t run into him this Halloween, but if you do and God’s sake don’t rile him up! I’ve lost five brothers that way. Bearing that in mind, have a safe and spooktacular Halloween, everyone!

Ryan is a 3L and can be reached at william.abresch@valpo.edu.
Anna and Alicia’s Appetite Advice

Taste of Thailand

Cuisine: Thai
Location: Chesterton
Website: www.tasteofthailand.org

Looking for an exotic experience? By walking through the doors at Taste of Thailand you are transported to the South Pacific. The walls surround you with exquisite jewelry and statues from the culture. We were at once greeted by the friendly hostess and wait staff who were ready to teach us about the Thai dining experience. From appetizers to noodles and curry dishes, our helpful waiter recommended dishes he thought we would enjoy. The menu provided a range of very spicy to medium and mild dishes. The extensive menu offers traditional dishes such as the Pad Thai, and the “East Meets West” section includes steak.

We began the night with the Thai Iced Tea, which was a blend of sweet creamy tea. It is very different from the tea, both hot and cold, that most are used to drinking. It is an acquired taste that some will love, but most tea drinkers will dislike. For appetizers, we ordered the fresh spring rolls and the pot stickers. The spring rolls had fresh vegetables and the pot stickers were filled with pork and fried in a wheat shell. Both were served with sauces that added to the flavor.

For the main course our group ordered a variety of dishes. They were all presented on jade green dinnerware which came in many fun shapes. We had the Chicken Pad Thai noodles, Sweet and Sour Chicken Stir Fry, Cashew Chicken Stir Fry, and the Spicy Garlic Chicken Stir Fry. The Pad Thai noodles are probably the most popular dish on the menu. It is a stir fry rice noodle in a sweet and sour sauce with egg, bean sprouts, carrots and scallions. You also have the choice of shrimp, chicken or tofu. This is a tasty dish and a good size portion. Although the chicken was a bit bland, the combination of the other ingredients made a good mix.

The Sweet and Sour Chicken Stir Fry with Jasmine Rice was served over pineapple, water chestnuts, baby corn, mushrooms, tomatoes and peppers. This reminded us of a typical Chinese dish because of the sweet and sour sauce. The vegetables and sauce provided a range of flavors to accompany the chicken and rice.

The Cashew Chicken Stir Fry comes with chicken or tofu and is served with a variety of vegetables in a special sauce. Once again, this combination was a tasty blend of flavors. Although it is very different from the Sweet and Sour Chicken, this is another great chicken dish to try.

The spiciest dish ordered was the Spicy Garlic Chicken Stir Fry. Accompanied by steamed broccoli, this dish does not seem spicy at first, but definitely leaves you in need of water. This also comes with a choice of chicken, pork, beef or shrimp. This is the perfect choice for those who enjoy spicy cuisine.

We left the restaurant having tried something new and different, and were happy to find it so close to Valparaiso. To top off the night, instead of fortune cookies, we received a Thai cookie with a fortune scroll rolled inside. Our fortunes ranged from the funny to the bizarre. Overall, this was a very satisfying and fun meal. We would definitely recommend everyone try this foreign cuisine at least once.

Alicia and Anna are 2Ls. Alicia can be reached at alicia.meyerhoff@valpo.edu. Anna can be reached at anna.cios@valpo.edu.

Attention Writers

The FORUM wants you!
e-mail: forum@valpo.edu
That's Entertainment!
(Quality study breaks for the busy law student)

Cops or criminals: Blurring the line in The Departed

Michelle L. Spezia

Triple-deckers in 'Southie,' Sam Adams on tap, and Dropkick Murphys on the ca(r) stereo paint the picture of Boston for The Departed, where the Massachusetts State Police Department is attempting to infiltrate the organized crime ring headed by the gleefully sadistic Frank Costello (Jack Nicholson).

Officers Queenan (Martin Sheen) and Dingnam (Mark Wahlberg) plant Billy Costigan (Leonardo DiCaprio), a South Boston native and recent graduate of the State Police Academy, to gain Costello's trust in order for them to take him down. However, Colin Sullivan (Matt Damon), another new academy graduate and rising star in the Department, is pulling double duty himself, working for Costello and keeping him abreast of the Department's actions. Both Costigan and Sullivan are living double, intertwining lives (at one point, they are involved with the same girl) that come closer and closer to intersecting when both sides realize there is a rat. Tensions mount as each rat races to catch the other first and save its own skin.

Because the characters were not developed enough for the audience to care about them. For this reason, The Departed cannot be said to be another Goodfellas. The violence in The Departed often felt gratuitous, and like a Tarantino film, it was blood for the sake of blood.

However, the cast was excellent. Mark Wahlberg was hilarious and believable as Dingnam, whose hardnosed honesty was intimidating but got the job done. Jack Nicholson was frightening and often side-splitting, even though after some reflection his performance seemed somewhat showy and leaning toward self-indulgence. Matt Damon began with his native Boston accent but lost it as the film progressed, though his performance was still solid. DiCaprio had probably the weakest performance, but it was not bad. All of the performances were 'good' but could have been 'great' if the actors were given full characters to play. Regardless, The Departed was still a fun action movie, just not the profound "best movie of the year" that some critics are claiming. Scorsese has set the bar high for himself from previous works, and this particular film falls short of greatness.

Grade: B

I also saw Man of the Year. Don't.

Michelle is a 3L and can be reached at michelle.spezia@valpo.edu.
Leaving Valpo...
You Have Mail... Wait, no you don't

By Marina Ricci

Most people have a love/hate relationship with e-mail. Some people hate it. They say it's because they feel that it takes away from any really "meaningful" communication, but we all know it's really because they are unsure of how to attach. Most people love it or hate it, depending on whether it's working properly... Which brings us to the last couple of weeks where most people at VUSL, regardless of age, have had a hate relationship with their e-mail and the factors that have made it extremely difficult to communicate with others.

While I know the peanut gallery is going "pick up a phone," the e-mail situation over the last few weeks brings me back to an incident a couple of years ago. I received an e-mail from someone over a week late. That day a cable internet company that should remain nameless received more than one phone call and e-mail. The inconvenience of receiving an e-mail that had no effect on my career or anything really important set off many emotions that we all hold very close to our hearts.

Fast forward a couple of years and we are in law school. The other half of the campus is in their undergraduate studies. Remembering my undergrad days, I know how important e-mail is but it does not compare to the importance of e-mail to law students. Many employers, scholarship recipients, student organizations and other important contacts receive their applications and communications exclusively over e-mail. This provides for an extremely unprofessional image when VUSL students cannot communicate or respond to these individuals in a timely manner.

It makes the student look incompetent, as "our e-mail isn't working" has become as common an excuse as "I really read the case but I don't remember any of the facts." An unidentified student even confided in me that this whole situation has forced her to mail a letter through USPS. But kidding aside, this situation has gone from bad to worse.

After countless e-mail explanations from the main campus, the reason for the problem is completely clear to me but the reason as to why it has taken so long to pinpoint and fix is not. What is even more puzzling to me is why I can access my spam in the spam filter but why I cannot access the 300,000 e-mails that are apparently backlogged on the campus server. Three hundred thousand is a large number of e-mails even when divided by the whole student body.

When the wireless network went down in the law school, this problem was addressed immediately and the law school started taking measures to fix this problem as soon as it occurred. However, because we share our e-mail system with the main campus, the e-mail situation was not addressed in the same manner and has taken much longer to start addressing.

There are many functions that the law school undertakes separately from the main campus in order to cater to law students and for good reason. E-mail efficiency should also be one of those functions and we should either have our own system set up or our staff should be allowed to immediately address these problems when they come up in order to serve the best interests of the law students. So as I leave Valpo, I hope that this is the first and last time e-mail irregularity is a problem at VUSL.

Marina is a 3L and can be reached at marina.ricci@valpo.edu... if it's working.

FROM THE

LAW
LIBRARY

BY MICHAEL BUSHBAUM
Associate Law Librarian for Access Services

Get Inspired

From the opening screen, it is apparent that Inspire. Net, Indiana's online research library, has a lot to offer. It is funded by your Indiana taxes, so if you haven't been there, go there. To quote information from the opening screen:

"When you need reliable, verifiable, quantifiable, accurate information, go where the experts go. INSPIRE offers magazines, books, encyclopedias, and other resources to all Indiana residents. Research current events, science, business, health, notable people, hobbies, and much more from your library, school, home or office."

But, you say to yourself as you read this, "I'm a law student and I can get all that stuff from Lexis or Westlaw, why should I bother?"

"Ah, Grasshopper," as Master Po was fond of saying, these online services are expensive, and even more important, they may not cover the broad spectrum of resources that Inspire offers. If you're a first year student, you may think that the only resources you are ever going to research are legal in nature. If you are a second or third year student, you should know by now that is far from the case. In the world of law and legal research, much of what you are going to need is not in reporters or statutory sets. Instead, it's the everyday kinds of information that makes the internet so useful. The databases of Inspire offer a simple, one stop for that information.

After entering the search area, you have the choice of either entering a general topic area, such as academic, business & careers, health & medicine, military & government, or newspapers. You can also choose to search individually or collectively 39 separate databases, including Access Indiana (the official Indiana state website), Business Source Premier, Clinical Pharmacology (medications), Medline and Medline Plus, Regional Business News and World Cat.

In addition to searching from the Inspire screen, some of the databases give direct access to their website, where you can do further searching. Searching from the initial screen can be done by keyword, author, abstract, publication, title or subject or a combination of any two of these. You can also limit to full text of material or by a date range. On the other hand, you can choose to search a specific database. At this point, Inspire has designed a search screen that for the most part is common to all their databases. This search screen allows you to search full text, restrict by date or publication, and even search by related word.

My personal favorite search method, however, is to search by what Inspire calls a visual search. Visual search allows you to search efficiently across broad subjects, and then returns a visual map of results, organized by topic. This can be very handy when you are attempting to get a handle on a topic, letting you see the relationships among various search results. Searching for information about carpal tunnel syndrome, for example, gives areas from research support to United States Supreme Court decisions, allowing the researcher...
The Best Bang for Your Buck
Romance Edition
By Andrea Greene and E.B. Newberry

Valpo isn’t very romantic—so it’s time to get creative! Bust out your best moves and go with the best bang on this one!!

Rustic Bang
Take a night to go camping. The Dunes National Lakeshore has all kinds of sites. Taking time out to enjoy each other and some time away from the library will do you both good!

Bang in a Basket
Take lunch and hit the shore! It’s chilly now, so take advantage and cuddle up with someone hot.

Caffeinated Bang
Espresso Yourself, at 505 Silhavy Rd., provides a charming and warm atmosphere appropriate for getting to know each other.

Bordeaux Bang
Take your sweetie across the boarder into Michigan for a taste of something sweet! There are various wineries that are all great date options. Most of the wineries have very charming restaurants that could add to the romance of the afternoon or evening. Our fave is Tabor Hill Winery, which is about an hour away. Even if it tastes great, spit to avoid intoxication.

Read Bang
You have friends. So does your mate. Pick one and take a road trip to see them! Let’s face it, getting out of town is something we all need to do. The time in the car makes for the perfect bonding conversations.

Baking Bang
Cook dinner! Have people over and make a meal. Not only will you romance the apple of your eye, you may make a friend. Let’s face it we all like free food!

Commuter Bang
You’ve heard stories about the South Shore. You know you’re curious. Grab a date and head up to the city for a day. The ride is about six dollars each way and is free of construction traffic and parking fees! The ride up provides time to talk. While in the city check out Millennium Park and the Magnificent Mile. Read up on the city

see BANG page 18
How to Go to Law School and Graduate Broke

BY JUDITH EARLEY
Lawcrossing.com

Congratulations! You have been accepted into law school; hopefully, this distinguished academy of higher learning was your first choice. This begins a whole new chapter in your life. Your undergraduate days are behind you; parental authority is far away, back at home. You are an adult now, and you can do whatever you want. Right?

Unless you win the lottery or are independently wealthy, you are going to finish law school with a substantial amount of student loan debt anyway; so you might as well get all you can now, before you have to settle down and start paying bills. Therefore, here are ten tips on how to make the most of your time and the least of your money while at law school.

1) Do not bother to sit down and make a budget. You know that you will always have some money coming in from a variety of sources such as your scholarships, student loans, part-time jobs, and (with a bit of luck) handouts from your friends and family. You'd cause yourself too much trouble to keep track of it all. Use that sheet of paper for something more useful, like a coaster.

2) Use your credit cards freely. If you need more cash, you can easily apply for a card with a higher limit. If your current card only has a $5,000 credit limit, spend it! That is the whole point of minimum monthly payments.

3) A quality law education is expensive, but it is also a once in a lifetime experience. You do not want to miss out on anything today worrying about what frivolous things you might need tomorrow, like rent and utilities.

4) Money can buy you a lot of friends and the euphoria that comes with having power. Savor it. Take care to exploit that feeling whenever you have the chance. Law school is not just about studying. You have important emotional needs that have to be met, too.

5) You know the cliche: stuff happens. Sure, emergency situations come up; but since you can not predict them, do not worry about them. Just keep in mind that in three years, you will be making all the money you need.

6) Do not ever look ahead. If there is a big expense coming up, rest assured you will find some way to take care of it. You always have before. It is so annoying to set aside money every month when there are things you need to buy now.

7) When it comes time to give a gift to someone, i.e., a best friend, a family member, or a girlfriend or boyfriend, do not let them fool you into believing that it is really the thought that counts. You know perfectly well that person does not actually want your time; he or she wants your money. So suck it up and buy them something really expensive. You know they will do the same for you!

8) Do not keep track of how much money you spend for pleasure items such as alcohol, drugs, tobacco products, and music CD's. These items can add up very quickly and you do not want to be aware of the total. Do not depress yourself by thinking about what you could do if you cut back in those areas.

9) Do not value your education until after you graduate. People will tell you that earning a law degree may require sacrifice on your part. Do not listen to them. You will have the rest of your life to make sacrifices.

10) A law degree will provide you with the chance to work in the profession of your dreams and if you play your cards right, make a whole lot of money. It is common knowledge that a college graduate—especially a law school graduate—will earn significantly more in his or her lifetime than someone without a degree. Remember this when you are tempted to save.

So, whenever you start to worry about your finances, read over these tips as many times as necessary to reground yourself in fantasy. Following this advice faithfully will put you well on your way to achieving your real goals and objectives while you are in school. And always remember, manage your money, never let it manage you.

Judith Earley is a staff writer for Lawcrossing.com, a legal job website.
Student Profiles

By Heather Montei, Executive Editor

3L
Michelle Masoncup

Hometown: Geneva, IL

Undergraduate School: University of Iowa

Undergraduate Major: Business Management

Family: Father – Harold; Mom – Jolene; Older Brother – Sean; Sister-in-Law – Andi; and Baby Cup is on the way.

How did you end up here in law school? The nickname “Vale of Paradise,” so I thought it was a resort town.

What do you see yourself doing after graduation? Starting the Hanson, Martinez, Masoncup firm in Denver and collecting large contingent fees.

It’s election time. Is the American two-party system still the way to go, or is it in need of reform? As long as Barack Obama gets elected in 2012, the system works for me.

The Foley Factor: Do you think it will impact the upcoming election? Foley certainly did a disservice to the country and his party, the momentum of the investigation is not showing any signs of stopping before the election and will probably do some damage at the polls.

Has the airline industry taken the fight against terrorism too far? Not at all; I would much rather have dry hands for two hours than have the plane being taken over.

What’s your “Must See TV” hour? Dr. McDreamy, McSteamy and McVet hour on Thursday nights with “Grey’s Anatomy”.

Should Madonna be allowed to adopt a Malawian baby? I think we should question whether that would in the best interest of the child since she wore a cone-shaped bra and taught the world to vogue.

Can the Bears go undefeated this season? Hopefully, but Brian Urlacher and the rest of the defense cannot carry the game every time (see Cardinals game for details).

Mike Tyson is talking about fighting women. Do you think a woman should be allowed to enter the ring against him? Sure, but if he looks extra feisty and hungry I would protect your ears.

Halloween, the perfect time to act like a kid, or better left for kids? Halloween is the perfect time to act like a kid, because now there is no limit on candy pieces you can eat in one sitting from your mother.

What idea do you have that you think may be worth billions someday? I have tucked one away, but I am not sharing it with The FORUM.

What Words of Wisdom do you have for the 1Ls? Strong coffee is a wonderful thing when exam time comes.

2L
Jordan Gwayzdon

Hometown: Nashville, TN

Undergraduate School: University of Washington

Undergraduate Major: Psychology/English

Family: Dad, Dennis; Mom, Kathy; younger brother, Taylor; a dog and a fish.

How did you end up here in law school? I remembered Valpo from the ’99 NCAA tournament and the other law school I applied to, Northwestern South Indiana University of Eastside Indianapolis City College, didn’t accept me.

What do you see yourself doing after graduation? Well, I’m a 2nd Lieutenant in the Marine Corps, so I’ll be in the fleet for several years after I get my J.D. Probably as a lawyer, but I still have the option to switch back to being a bullet sponge in the infantry.

It’s election time. Is the American two-party system still the way to go, or is it in need of reform? Seeing how our wildly popular graduation speaker this year doesn’t hail from either major party, I’m going to have to go with reform. It’s always good to have choice, even if that choice included Ross Perot. Choice is what makes a democracy.

The Foley Factor: Do you think it will impact the upcoming election? Even though he withdrew from the election, it’s probably in his best interest that prespubescent teenage boys can’t vote. Something tells me he couldn’t win them over.

Has the airline industry taken the fight against terrorism too far? The problem I see is that they’re focusing on preventing what’s already happened, instead of anticipating what an attack might be in the future. Look how vulnerable we are bunched up in airport security lines. Scary and ironic.

What’s your “Must See TV” hour? Time stops when Nip/Tuck comes on. “Tell me what you don’t like about yourself.”

Should Madonna be allowed to adopt a Malawian baby? Wait, are you implying that Madonna isn’t the perfect model for motherhood? Regardless, she should be trying to adopt baby Suri from Tom-Kat. That kid’s in a much more dire situation.

Can the Bears go undefeated this season? After Monday night, anything’s possible with that team. Especially if Rex Grossman stops doing his best Kyle Orton impression. But please, no Super Bowl Shuffle Redux.

Mike Tyson is talking about fighting women. Do you think a woman should be allowed to enter the ring against him? Tyson-Oprah. That would make a GREAT Pay-Per-View.

Halloween, the perfect time to act like a kid, or better left for kids? I’ll always be a kid at heart. Halloween is the perfect time to let him out... and, of course, see Brandon Sanchez in a diaper.

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College football fiasco

Nick Schwartz

The NCAA states that its core purpose is, "to govern competition in a fair, safe, equitable and sportsmanlike manner, and to integrate intercollegiate athletics into higher education so that the educational experience of the student-athlete is paramount." It does not take a rocket scientist to figure out that the NCAA is not making the educational experience paramount, especially in the area of college football. An education is more than just learning a playbook and passing a math class, it should also involve learning how to become an adult.

College football is littered with student-athletes who are being used for their athletic ability and the student aspect is forgotten. First of all, there is the infamous Maurice Clarett. Clarett attended Ohio State University and led them to a National Championship. After attempts to leave college early for the NFL failed, he resorted to a life of crime. After being arrested on August 9, 2006, for making an illegal u-turn with a hatchet, a loaded AK-47, a Hi-Point Pistol, two other loaded guns and a bottle of Grey Goose on the front seat, he plead guilty to previous robbery charges and now faces between three-and-a-half and seven years in prison.

In addition, I remember reading an article in ESPN The Magazine about Seattle Seahawks safety Ken Hamlin. Hamlin is praised for his hard-hitting style. For those of you who do not remember, Hamlin was involved in a bar fight in October 2005 that left his life hanging in the balance. The article celebrated his long-awaited return to the NFL. The article mentioned that Hamlin reacted appropriately in the bar fight because he was a football player and violence is all that he knew. I guess his years attending the University of Arkansas did not teach him the difference between a football field, where violence is accepted, and a bar, where violence has severe consequences.

Also, recently Lawrence Phillips has returned to the news. Lawrence Phillips was a standout running back at the University of Nebraska which led to him being drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals with the sixth overall pick in the 1996 NFL Draft. Phillips immaturity, among other problems, led him away from professional football, but he never stopped playing. In August of 2005, Phillips was arrested for hitting teenagers with his car after a dispute during a pick-up football game. Phillips was found guilty of seven counts of assault with a deadly weapon and now faces up to 20 years in prison.

Of course, there is the incident that everyone is talking about, the Miami-Florida International brawl. The brawl started with nine minutes remaining in the third quarter of the game. Just after an extra point was scored, the fighting erupted. One player took off his helmet and attempted to use it as a weapon, another player was stomping on the heads of others, and after watching the replays, I definitely saw a body slam. This all occurred at an institute of higher education.

During the brawl, Lamar Thomas, a former University of Miami football player and recently fired color commentator, commented on behalf of Miami's defense. He said, "You come into our house, you should get your behind kicked. You don't come into the OB playing that stuff. You're across the ocean over there. You're across the city. You can't come over to our place talking noise like that. You'll get your butt beat. I was about to go down the elevator to get in that thing." Apparently he did not learn that what was happening on the field was wrong during his tenure at the University of Miami.

All of these incidents should be sending red flags to the NCAA. It is time to focus on the educational aspect of the NCAA. These athletes are attending school to play football, but they need to be attending school to get an education. Had their educations been stressed, situations like these could have been avoided. Athletes can be taught to be adults rather than acting violent and immature. Education needs to become priority over athletics. After all, "there are 360,000 NCAA student-athletes, and just about all of us will be going pro in something other than sports."

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they see on your page. Listen carefully to what they say and describe. They are telling you what your brand is as found on your myspace.com page. Would a law firm want to associate itself with that brand?

Do you come into class late on a regular basis, or have a habit of not coming to classes? What brand message does that deliver? If asked about what they thought of you as a student, imagine what your faculty members would be likely to say. Are you the type of student who always waits until the last minute to study for exams, only to rely on your friends to share their outlines and tutor you? Imagine what your friends would say when asked about your work ethic. What about someone who signs up for an on-campus interview and then decides (without telling anyone) not to keep the interview appointment? What is the employer who was stood-up likely to think about that person? What are they likely to think about the school? Your brand is comprised of everything you do with everyone you come into contact with.

One last branding maxim: It takes time and consistency to build a brand, yet it takes only a scant few errors to ruin one. Firestone was a top brand in the automotive tire industry for as long as there have been automobiles. Then some Ford Explorers with Firestone tires began to develop a roll-over problem. The Firestone brand was ruined. Often the loss of brand is not the fault of the brand holder. Sony makes batteries for laptops. Dell purchased them to use in their laptops. The Sony batteries have now become famous for bursting into flames. Who loses more brand share? Dell. In the press this situation is referred to as a "Dell problem" and headlines read "Dell Laptops Explode" and "Dell Recall for Defective Batteries." Even when Dell did nothing wrong, their brand suffers. Stay brand vigilant. Be wary of brand detractors. You are the company you keep.

It is often said that you get a job and promotions not by what you know but by whom you know. In our profession, there is a great deal of truth in this saying. What really counts is not who you know, but what they are saying about you. They are certain to be talking about your brand.

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before you go to impress and to prevent mid-trip map referral. Be sure to pick up a train schedule so you know when to leave!!!!!

Artistic Bang – Take a trip to Ceramics 101 on Roosevelt. This may seem cheesy, but artsy-fartsy type dates will eat it up! This is a great way to get to know someone while making something you can continually enjoy!

Andrea is a 2L and can be reached at andrea.greene@valpo.edu. E.B. is also a 2L and can be reached at ellen.newberry@valpo.edu.
to directly pinpoint areas of interest.

Other areas of interest include the ability to search over 1700 full text general periodicals and nearly 500 full text reference books. If you’ve discovered World Cat here at Valpo Law, you don’t have to give it up when you graduate. Inspire offers a direct link. World Cat, if you haven’t used it, is a web-based service offering access to most library catalogs in the U.S. and other parts of the world. Currently, World Cat contains over 1.3 billion items in over 10,000 libraries.

So, think beyond Lexis and Westlaw and forgo Google at least once and try Inspire for your non-legal research questions. I don’t think you will be disappointed.

PROFILE

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What idea do you have that you think may be worth billions someday? Hmm...how about some kind of muzzle to shut up “That Guy” in class? C’mon, you know who I am talking about.

What words of wisdom do you have for the 1Ls? Relax. Law school can be hard, but it’s not impossible. Take a good look at the upperclassmen...chances are you’re smarter than one of us. That should at least be slightly encouraging. Also, grades are important, but it’s your effort that you put into school and the profession that will determine just how good of a lawyer you can be.

Cronies

Across

1. Cyber ___
2. 5 Big deals in India
3. 10 New England players
4. 14 Sign
5. 15 Wipe out
6. 16 Reverb-rate
7. 17 Type of type
8. 18 Bush crony
9. 20 Slalom
10. 21 Humble
11. 22 Emeril’s work tools
12. 23 Radiograms
13. 25 Tsunami
14. 27 Born on The Fourth of July actor
15. 29 Disposed of documents
16. 33 Clues
17. 34 Decay
18. 35 Pay dirt
19. 36 Adjoin
20. 37 Social group
21. 38 Bow
22. 39 Get on in years
23. 40 Light bulb cover
24. 41 Comprehend
25. 42 New England boat
26. 43 Name of type
27. 44 California to NYC flight
28. 45 Take a cab
29. 46 ___ name
30. 47 Peru-nian natives
31. 48 21 A., e.g.
32. 49 Skim
33. 50 Intact
34. 51 Medical practitioner
35. 52 Fiend
36. 53 Masticate
37. 54 Jerry Lewis crony
38. 55 Powdery residue
39. 56 Agitate
40. 57 Powdery residue
41. 58 Ms. Brockovich
42. 59 Asian official
43. 60 Belief in a god
44. 61 Big name in TVs
45. 62 Elephant groups
46. 63 Distort

Down

1. Swans’ fathers
2. Berserk
3. Oscar Madison’s crony
4. Finish

Solution to September’s crossword

Quotable Quote

When the character of a man is not clear to you, look at his friends.

Japanese Proverb

Look for the answer to this puzzle in November’s issue of the Forum.
### CLOSING ARGUMENTS

Was there room to dance at the boat cruise?

Where there's a will, there's a way!

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### Halloween Trivia

1. Why are the colors orange and black associated with Halloween?
2. From where did Jack o’ Lanterns originate?
3. In what other colors do pumpkins come?
4. Who brought Halloween to North America?
5. What was the first wrapped penny candy in America?
6. What did ancient Celts believe happened on Halloween night and what did they do in response?
7. How much do Halloween candy sales average annually in the U.S.?
8. What is the number one most popular candy for trick-or-treaters?
9. True or False. Halloween is the second most commercially successful holiday?
10. Bobbing for apples is thought to have originated from the roman harvest festival that honors Pannonia, the goddess of what?
11. What were once believed to be witch’s familiars who protected their powers?

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**Have a safe and happy Halloween!!**

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**Answers:**

1. Black cats
2. The godness of Isis
3. Witchcraft is false
4. Trick or Treaters
5. Orange and black are Halloween colors because