All but one remaining pit bulls in Vick case recommended for placement

O f the 48 remaining American Pit Bull Terriers in the Michael Vick civil forfeiture case, 47 have been recommended for placement with rescue organizations, with many likely eligible for future adoption by the public. The recommendations were made by Valparaiso University School of Law Professor Rebecca J. Huss, court-appointed Guardian/Special Master of the dogs. One dog has been euthanized for medical reasons.

"I am confident in the rescue organizations I recommended for permanent placement. With the experienced care they will provide these dogs, I foresee that many will eventually be able to be adopted by members of the public," Professor Huss said upon submitting her Summary Report to the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Professor Huss recommended the dogs be placed with eight organizations. Those receiving the most dogs are Best Friends Animal Society, with 22, and Bay Area Doglovers Responsible About Pit Bulls (BAD RAP), with ten. The U.S. Attorney late this afternoon filed a motion in U.S. District Court containing the report and urging the Court to adopt its recommendations. The Court will now determine whether to accept or deny the motion.

The summary report details Professor Huss' work. It included traveling to Virginia on multiple occasions to interact with the dogs and their caretakers as well as speaking with animal control officers and numerous rescue organizations. Professor Huss also relied on information from the initial ASPCA report; daily or weekly reports from interim care providers; and reports from BAD RAP, which provided kennel evaluation services. A team from Best Friends Animal Society supplied feedback after evaluating the dogs remaining in shelters.

Several dogs had previously been moved to interim foster care for training and assessment. Other dogs were transferred to facilitate their continued evaluation and dogs from one Virginia shelter were later taken to a Washington, D.C. shelter due to an unexpected staffing shortage.

Professor Huss stated: "While in the foster home, each dog must continue to exhibit behavior indicating it would be safe to the public prior to being adopted. For the dogs that may need to remain in a sanctuary environment, although there will certainly be a period of adjustment, I believe that these dogs may not just survive, but thrive in that environment."

"I thank the shelters and organizations that assisted in the process. They are dedicated, hardworking and have contributed much to this effort. The shelters were very accommodating, and everyone I dealt with in the federal government was responsive to the need to act quickly to set up a structure to place the dogs," Professor Huss added.

In July, the United States filed a civil forfeiture action relating to the Michael Vick case. See page 2

Victory for Law Students on Capitol Hill

BY Marc Baranov
Guest Reporter

In late September, aspiring public interest lawyers nationwide scored a major victory in the battle against ever-increasing student loan debt. After years of negotiations and debate on loan repayment assistance programs, Congress passed, and President George W. Bush signed, the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 (CCRAA). In part, the CCRAA allows recent law school graduates who work in "public service" to pay off their qualified federal loans at a reduced rate, and have the balance of these loans completely forgiven after 120 monthly payments, or ten years.

"This is a decisive victory for law students," said Daniel Suvor, Chair of the American Bar Association (ABA) Law Student Division. "Over the past several years, law student leaders aggressively lobbied for this change, prompting law students nationally to write thousands of letters and hold hundreds of meetings with their Senators and members of Congress."

According to the ABA, eighty-seven percent of law students borrow money to attend law school. The average law student graduates with $83,181 in total educational debt from a private law school, and $54,509 from a public law school. Additionally, according to the National Association of Law Placement, the median gross starting salary at a non-profit public service organization is approximately $40,000.

"With standard loan repayment schedules, some young lawyers were being forced to opt out of public interest work to stay above the poverty line," said American Association of Law Schools Executive Director Carl Monk. "This law will allow public interest entities to compete with the big firms and successfully lure the best and brightest into their ranks."

The new law offers substantial loan forgiveness for "public service" attorneys that make ten years of payments towards qualifying federal student loans. After the ten-year period, "public service" attorneys will be eligible for total forgiveness of their remaining federal loans, regardless of the remaining balance owed. It is also noteworthy that the ten years of "public service" do not have to be consecutive.

"I have wanted to be a Public Defender since Criminal Law during my first year of law school," said Rachel Raymond, a 3L at the

see VICTORY page 2
Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles. “This law will allow me to pursue my dream, and not just for a year or two, but as a lifetime career.”

Per the current language of the CCRAA, “public service” includes all full-time employment by government agencies and “501(c)(3) organizations (among other categories). Over the next year though, the Department of Education will issue regulations that determine how broadly (or narrowly) this term will be interpreted.

The new law also allows borrowers to enter into a reduced payment program that ties monthly payments to an affordable percentage of monthly income, which could potentially reduce monthly payments by two-thirds. As written though, the CCRAA has potential pitfalls with regard to tax payments and marriage disincentives. Specifically, forgiveness at year ten might be construed as taxable income under the law, and the Department of Education might add both spouses’ incomes together to determine how much the borrower must pay, conceivably tripling—or even quadrupling—the borrower’s monthly repayment.

Congress is currently in discussions over these very issues. Learn how to explain this exciting new law to your fellow students and how you can lobby your members of Congress on these and other important issues by visiting www.abanet.org/lsd/legislation. Also, for more information on how the CCRAA can work for you, consult your school’s Financial Aid Department.

--Marc Baranov currently serves as a Delegate from the ABA Law Student Division to ABA House of Delegates.
EDITORIAL


We would like to leave you with some words to live by:

"Character is higher than intellect. A great soul will be strong to live, as well as strong to think." --Ralph Waldo Emerson

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." --Martin Luther King, Jr.

"We are all inventors, each sailing out on a voyage of discovery, guided each by a private chart, of which there is no duplicate. The world is all gates, all opportunities." --Ralph Waldo Emerson

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit." --Aristotle

"Work spares us from three evils: boredom, vice, and need." --Voltaire

"Don't waste your life in doubts and fears: spend yourself on the work before you, well assured that the right performance of this hour's duties will be the best preparation for the hours or ages that follow it." --Ralph Waldo Emerson

"No longer forward nor behind I look in hope and fear; But grateful take the good I find, The best of now and here." --John G. Whittier

"The ability to concentrate and to use your time well is everything if you want to succeed in business—or almost anywhere else for that matter." --Lee Iacocca

"There are two things to aim at in life; first to get what you want, and after that to enjoy it. Only the wisest of mankind has achieved the second." --Logan Pearsall Smith

"There is more to life than increasing its speed." --Mahatma Ghandi

"Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude." --Thomas Jefferson

We wish you all the success and luck in the world. Go forth and make VUSL proud!
NEWS

Holiday job search tip: Build a resume, not a snowman

BY NATALIE KIJURNA
Career Services

The holidays are upon us and so are your finals! Before you know it, however, they'll be a memory. Take time to relax, but don’t forget...after finals is the perfect time to renew your job search, build your resume and make lasting connections! Here are some places and websites you might want to check out or things you might want to do over the holidays.

The Chicago Bar Association has several CLE’s in December. They cost $5 for law student members to attend. Call or contact the CBA for more information. Some of the titles include:

- Preparer Penalties and Related Circular 230 Issues - December 3 (3:00-5:45 p.m.)
- Register for this special program at the Illinois CPA Society’s website or call 800-993-0393 and reference course code C36196. Program held at The Standard Club, 320 S. Plymouth Ct., Chicago.

- Advanced e-Discovery with Emphasis on Illinois Courts - December 3 (3:00-6:00 p.m.)
- Coping with Data Overload Session 3 - December 4 (8:00-10:10 a.m.)
- Advanced Legal Writing - December 6 (12:00-2:00 p.m.)
- Audited by the IRS... Now What? - December 7 (12:00-2:00 p.m.)

- Mechanics Liens and Construction Claims - December 12 (Full Day)
- Taking and Defending Depositions - December 13 (3:00-6:00 p.m.)
- Your Attack on the Affidavit - December 17 (12:00-1:30 p.m.)

Professional Responsibility: Impaired Lawyers - December 18 (3:00-6:00 p.m.)

The American Bar Association is a wealth of information. Check out this site, http://www.abanet.org/careercounsel/statebar.html, which lists different bar associations. There are many more locally (such as the Lake County Bar Association, St. Joseph Bar Association, etc.) and across the country, so no matter where you want to end up practicing, join today! It is a great networking tool and a great resume builder!

Or, keep the pen out after finals and get in on FREE MONEY...many students don't enter writing competitions because they think they'll never win. Because of that, there are few people who enter, so your chances are better than you think to win GREAT CASH PRIZES and get your essay published. There’s no better way to build your resume then to list a publication.

The ABA lists dozens of writing competitions. Check them out at http://www.abanet.org/lsd/competitions/writing-contests/home.html and see the CPC’s board outside their office for even more opportunities! Here are a few examples:

- Business Law Section
  - Mendes Hershman Student Writing Contest
    - Award: $2,500, travel and lodging to attend the ABA Annual Meeting, possible publication in The Business Lawyer
    - Entry deadline: January 4, 2008

- Air and Space Law Forum Committee
  - Law Student Writing Competition
    - Award: $5,000 and published in The Air and Space Lawyer

Entry deadline: March 31, 2008
Co-sponsored by Rolls-Royce North America, Inc.

Entertainment and Sports Industry Forum Committee and the Recording Academy Entertainment Law Initiative (ELI)
- Annual GRAMMY® Foundation Entertainment Law Initiative (ELI) Writing Contest
  - Award: $5,000, plus all expenses to Grammy Awards
  - For additional information, please contact Cole Sternberg, ELI Project Coordinator.
  - Postmarked deadline: December 20, 2007

Other great sites on the ABA website include:
  - http://www.abanet.org/lsd/jobopp.html - list of internships and fellowships
  - http://www.abanet.org/legaled/studyabroad/foreign.html - list of study abroad programs

Don’t want to practice law? No problem...check out some of these great websites!

Lobbying:
  - www.rollcall.com
  - www.hillzoo.com
  - www.usajobs.com
  - www.avuecentral.com
  - www.hillnews.com
  - www.opensecrets.org

Entertainment industry:
  - www.law.columbia.edu/centers/entertainment
  - www.hollywoodreporter.com
  - www.showbizjobs.com
  - www.grammyawards.org
  - www.grammyfoundation.org
  - wwwabyrinth.com

Finally, note that these are just some great things you can do over the break. There are many more resources and opportunities available to you through the Career Planning Center. All you have to do is visit us!

Most importantly, remember during the holiday break to take time for yourself and recharge your battery. It's a great time to reconnect with family and friends and let everyone know you're one semester closer to your goal! HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
VUSL students and professors join to protest recent events in Pakistan

BY ERIC GETTEMY
Executive Editor

On Wednesday, November 14, VUSL students, faculty and professors gathered in front of the Valparaiso Courthouse to protest recent events in Pakistan. The New York Times reported that Pakistani police have jailed thousands of Pakistani lawyers, and in a sheer display of authoritarian power, General Pervez Musharraf suspended Pakistan's constitution and placed the Supreme Court under house arrest citing a “state of emergency.”

VUSL SBA President Sebastian Smelko issued this invitation to the student body and VUSL community:

“On Wednesday, November 14, the ABA is organizing a lawyers' march in Washington, D.C., to support the rule of law and lawyers in Pakistan. At 11:30 a.m., lawyers will gather in the plaza in front of the James Madison Building of the Library of Congress before walking around the Supreme Court. Lawyers across the country are participating in similar marches in their communities, and the ABA is encouraging and supporting these local efforts.

To support these measures, Professor Ed Gaffney and I ask you to assist us in this endeavor. Some of our very own professors will join us as we take a stand against this arbitrary governance, and I hope I can count on you to be there. There will be media present to document our message and intent.

This is not only a positive way to show dedication to the legal system, but show that we are committed to protecting the Rule of Law all over our World. This is not a political issue; rather, this is a stand for liberty and written constitutions of which we all believe are sacred. It is my duty, as the President of our Student Bar Association, to call upon you to use a half-hour of your time on Wednesday at 11am to show our solidarity towards these ends.”

There was a strong showing at the protest, and many cars passing by honked and waived in support of the cause.

Professor of Constitutional Law, Ivan Bodensteiner, was at the protest, and had these words to say:

“If we can learn anything from these events in Pakistan, I suppose it shows that if you want to start a dictatorship, the first thing you have to do is take out the lawyers and the press.” He also stated, “The recent attack on attorneys and the press in Pakistan demonstrates the significant role attorneys and the press play in preserving the rule of law. For us, as attorneys, it reminds us of our awesome duty and responsibility as guardians of the Constitution and the rule of law. While we are not alone in this, there is a reason why those who want to place themselves above the law see a need to silence the members of our profession.”

Eric is a 2L and can be reached at eric.gettemy@valpo.edu.

FROM THE LAW LIBRARY

BY STEVEN PROBST
Educational Services Librarian

New Artwork Coming to the Library

Despite the fact that law students will be in full exam preparation mode on reading day (Tuesday, December 11th), most will probably still notice some wonderful changes taking place in the library. On that day, five Valparaiso University undergraduate photography students will be coming to hang their own original photographs on the second floor of the Law Library. These photographs were specifically commissioned from the students by Dean Persyn this past August.

Following two successive summer construction projects in the library which renovated the upstairs computer lab and created additional office space, several library staff members noted an overabundance of empty wall space within the library in need of livening up. As we are always trying to make the library surroundings as comfortable and enjoyable as the effective study of law will permit, we felt some new artwork would add a nice touch. However, an ad hoc committee thrown together to investigate the purchase of new artwork quickly learned what may seem obvious: art is expensive. With limited resources at its disposal, the committee opted to consult an expert on how to get the most art bang for the library's buck. VU Professor of Art Aimee Tomasek. Professor Tomasek, in hearing our problem, suggested that the library hire students in her advanced photography class for the job. Given that she felt her students could provide ten original photos matted and framed for what we were prepared to spend on three or four framed poster prints, we readily agreed to this proposal.

Since August, these students; Heather Benson, Sherry Duffy, Erika Lushhoff, Sharayah Schram, and John Williamson have been working on this project in conjunction with a road-trip assignment that is a usual requirement of their advanced photography class. Each of them has been busy traveling around Northwest Indiana and the Chicago area in search of subjects to photograph that would be suitable for display in the Law Library. The only instruction provided to students in advance was that the subjects should either be law-related or depict the area surrounding Valparaiso University.

In mid-November, several staff members from the library met with these students and reviewed their work in order to select which prints would be framed and displayed within the library. It was obvious in meeting with the students that they had taken this project very seriously and that they had put a great deal of time and energy into the assignment. Each student had an abundance of excellent photos to choose from which made the decision-making process rather difficult. However, two photos from each student were eventually selected for display and they will soon be here for your enjoyment. Please take a study break at some point during your preparations for finals and enjoy the new artwork.

Good luck on your exams, and enjoy the holidays and a well-earned semester break! We'll see you next year in the library.
News

From the archives...

Commentary Tribbles

This article was originally published in The Forum on November 10, 1980. Please note that "From the Archives" material does not necessarily reflect the views of the current Forum Editors or Staff.

Is the FBI selectively excusing itself from intervention into Ku Klux Klan terrorist activities? It makes one wonder, especially after reading a recent article in the Chicago Tribune which told the story of the growing rise of the Klan since 1975. Supposedly, the new FBI charter prevents FBI agents from infiltrating and observing private organizations. Klansmen are private citizens and conduct their meetings on private property. Therefore, the FBI cannot observe and infiltrate the Klan.

But were the FBI infiltrating and observing the Klan prior to the adoption of this new charter? In the 60’s, the FBI was observing and infiltrating the Black Panthers and other Black organizations but almost totally ignoring Klan terrorist activities. This was a time when the number of attacks on Blacks increased tremendously. And now the FBI says it still cannot observe and infiltrate the Klan. But what about the ABSCAM scandal? The FBI actively enticed congressmen into taking bribes, recorded and photographed the transactions. The FBI organized the whole scheme. They used FBI agents to contact the congressmen, used marked money provided by the FBI, and secured hotels and houses for the FBI agents to conduct their observations. If the FBI charter prevents observation and infiltration, then how can the FBI charter include tactics such as these which amount to blatant entrapment?

The new FBI charter grew out of a need to protect citizens’ rights of free speech and association. They go even further, attacking, maiming and killing Blacks. Granted, after some of these brutal attacks some Klansmen have been arrested, tried, and convicted. But this is generally the exception rather than the rule. A perfect example is the murder of the Black youth here in Valparaiso this summer.

The FBI now can refuse to do anything about the Klan because of their charter, but I believe that the charter will be thrown out of the window when groups reminiscent of the Black Panthers begin to organize in an effort to protect Black people from the terror and brutality of the Klan. Something must be done to stop the Klan. Nobody knows how many there are, only that the number has grown substantially in recent years and that they have a military training camp somewhere in Alabama. There are rumors that there may be more. It’s obvious that the Klan is actively preparing for a race war and even now is attacking blacks.

Granted, nobody wants to see the FBI retreat to the type of illegal activities they were doing in the sixties. But if the FBI is to be likened to a national police force, they should be able to intervene when there is a clear and present danger to the lives of a group of people. The race war seems to have already begun. If the FBI won’t do anything to combat it, then Black people will need to do something.

By Nora Hudson

Viewpoints

The Stith’s trip to Spain

For my husband’s fall sabbatical, we have a real home in Spain, a very beautiful place with a big balcony and always a breeze from the nearby sea. It is called Playa de Puzol (Puzol Beach), with the main town of Puzol (Pucol in Valencian) eight minutes away by car, from which Richard takes the train every day, fifteen minutes, to his office in the Philosophy of Law Department of the University of Valencia School of Law. Around us are well-watered palm, quince, orange, pomegranate, persimmon, and melon plantations.

Puzol is a small town of some 16,000 inhabitants, but not so small as not to have three supermarkets and a few cybercafés as well as the train station. It is pleasant, easygoing and manageable. Even more outstanding than our home are our hosts, the owners of our apartment, Chelo Algora and Jesús Esteve. (Their three grown children still live at home— as is the Spanish custom until marriage.) They immediately adopted us as friends, as simple as that. They are a little younger than we are, charming and unspeakably hospitable.

The week we arrived, their town of Puzol was celebrating the four-hundredth year since the consecration of the parish church, a week crammed with outrageous events. We naturally got very excited about the small-town-non-touristy-festivities. The Esteve-Algora family (he is a native of the town) immediately made recommendations and advised us against activities they thought were crazy, which, of course, made us very eager to experience them. (He’s a doctor and she a nurse, so they see the “collateral damage” commonly caused by such fiestas.)

By now we have attended three fiesta events, two of which we enjoyed with the Esteve family. The fiesta being a religious event, the Patrona, “the Mother of God at the Foot of the Cross” (La Mare de Déu al Peu de la Creu) returned to her place in the chapel of the church, after she had made a visit to a neighboring parish. Surrounded by blossoms, she was mounted on a simple cart drawn by a white horse, accompanied by drumming and gaita bands, young gentlemen in black frocks with their young lady sidesaddle behind them, elaborately dressed in Spanish lacy period satin gowns, and of course the townsfolk.

Late at night, we walked to a fireworks event, something Dr. Esteve had advised against. A little before midnight we heard the rockets and loud explosions coming near and nearer. Then they appeared, about thirty celebrants (in Valenciano called “fester”), young men pulling behind them closed wooden boxes on small wheels whilst holding a wooden pincer contraption to which was affixed a loudly exploding rocket, spewing clouds of sparks. Each rocket sparked fire for two or three minutes and then exploded, to be immediately replaced by a new one from the wheeled ammunition box. This on and on raucous continued. People jammed the entrance to the large field, within which the main event was to take place in a smaller area surrounded by a high fence. The onlookers began to crowd the bleachers, sit on walls or await the action just standing around. They were mostly young. We were wondering what was exactly going to happen.

We noticed that the celebrants, with knowledgeable adult help, were being painstakingly sheathed in fireproof overalls and shoes, any meeting point duck taped over, a helmet put in place, and gloves put on. They began to look like science fiction inventions. These surreal human packages stalked around one by one, pulling their wooden box of rocket ammunition, to make their way to the enclosed area towards the back of the field (euphemistically called a “cage,” though it lacked a roof). The onlookers stayed at a respectable distance. People in a nearby apartment building filled windows and peeped the roof terrace.

At 12:30 a.m., hell burst upon us, an ear-splitting exploding fire spewing rocket that really took us by surprise. For one hour, we watched the fenced-in field go berserk with an unimaginable fire storm, a profusion of rockets, each engendering new rushing fire spurs as they sped and scurried all around the field, spiraling projectiles, often spinning over the fence top into the street beyond the wall, into the watching crowd, which would take to its heels to return quickly. And amidst this hellfire and smoke haze moved small helmeted jumptsuite silhouettes, leaping and often dancing, throwing their arms out or embracing one another, launching new rockets, a hellish ballet on a firey stage. Once in a while the fire storm seemed to die down, to be rekindled with a vengeance within seconds.

More and more rockets escaped outside the fence; one spiralled in a straight path to the terrace on top of the nearby building, maybe a hundred yards away, causing an enormous scramble to definitely empty the roof terrace of people. The bleachers, also under attack, were left in panic by fleeing spectators. We ran to avoid one rocket speeding in our direction, only to have a lady tell us “You’ve got to stay put or they will follow you” (by induction). In their ever greater height, the festers seemed actually to encourage their rockets to escape from their fire-filled cage towards, above and into the crowd. It was then, at 1:30 a.m. that we headed home, having fled the event before its finale an hour or so later. We now understood what the Esteve family had meant.

After a short night of sleep, off to see the toros (bulls). Puzol does not have a bullring, but lets full-size, half-ton, bullfight-type bulls run freely on a set of streets that are barricaded

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The challenge, of course, is to be as daring as possible without getting gored. Acts like touching the horns were awarded with resounding applause by the crowd.

Youths would take on the bull from different directions. It might charge after one fellow running into side streets, sometimes disappearing from our view for a long time, fighting it out someplace else. Each bull was able to terrorize and delight a length of streets of maybe half a kilometer. After a certain amount of time, maybe twenty minutes, he was to be corralled into a holding pen near the church, just opposite our balcony. A huge tall iron gate would then seal the pen.

Meanwhile, however, there had been yet more bulls, this time "on fire". Each time the poor beast was tied by his horns to a stake while an apparatus like a very large old fashioned gas lantern (without the glass) was tightened onto each horn, then set alight. The bull was then released and charged about spewing fire from the torches on his horns. It's rather dangerous. We saw the decorations around a church pillar set on fire, as well as those around a palm tree. This lasts some 15 or 20 minutes; the gas doesn't seem to get exhausted. Finally, the mansos come and the frightened bull is made to enter a corral, where he is again pinned against a pillar while the gas apparatuses are undone. We had a hard time seeing the nobility in this. But the townsfolk love it, so much that both the regular running of the bulls and the fire-bull runnings are repeated every Saturday for four weeks just in Puzol. Something similar happens in almost every small town in the region, we're told.

The important event of the following fiesta day was yet another procession of the "Mother of God at the Foot of the Cross" at 8:00 p.m. in the evening. During that day, we just stayed at our beach home, and for the first time went for a swim in the sea—a day of continuous fun, surf and warm air and warm water, a great treat. We finished the swim off with a dip in our own building's small round swimming pool, then rush off to the procession.

Vicente took us to another brother's (José) home in the old part of the town on a narrow street with a very narrow sidewalk. We lugged five dining room chairs out on to the sidewalk, where we lined them up all in a row. From wall to curb each chair fitting perfectly, we positioned ourselves to watch the procession. Sitting on the sidewalks and partially in the street in the evenings is a very Spanish small pueblo way to escape the inside stored-up heat.

Vicente, quite a rascal, provided us with a generous glass of whiskey, which neither of the hosts accepted. We later realized why. The procession reached us, and men and women and some children, dressed in their most elegant outfits, carrying large lit candles, solemnly walked by in two rows. Suddenly Richard passed on the whispered command, "Hide the whiskey!" which I managed to do just before the processional cross was ceremoniously carried by. Drinking whiskey while watching a solemn religious procession, clearly was an inappropriate idea. Yikes!

Pairs of women and men, young girls and boys walked by, the women dressed in elaborate black dresses adorned with much lace and upon their heads the "teja peitfa" (high comb) covered with a long black lace mantilla (traditional lace covering). Once more the Virgin came home, she seems to be travelling a lot.

Jesus walked by with his eighteen-year-old daughter, Teresa, which made him extremely happy. Teresa being a real teenager, had had to overcome herself to take part in a puebla fiesta procession accompanying her dad. It just isn't cool.

We went back to Jesus and Chelo's garden, then perfumed by an almost intoxicating tree which only spends its aroma at night, and chatted till midnight with the family. These late hours were wearing us out!

Sunday, the last day of the week-long fiesta, began with a solemn Mass at the Virgin's church, who, believe it or not, came home once more that night, in yet another procession with all the accompanying honor and glory. This time Richard took part at the invitation of Jesus, carrying the prescribed large candle, joining the family contingent—which now included Vicente!

Invited again to supper, we wandered over to Vicente's house, where a "paella", very much a dish of Valencia, was just being initiated in Vicente's storage room, where he keeps the melons he grows. A "paella" (the pan is also called that) of a simply enormous diameter, sat on a specialized gas burner with three rings of flames to access this enormous round. Olive oil was generously poured into it, then pieces of chicken and rabbit, where they acquired a toasty-brown exterior. It smelled very yummy. Tomatoes, green beans, a fresh flat white bean, paprika, saffron, garlic and rosmarin also began to sizzle along. A nice aromatic mixture developed, some water was added, all was boiled until a bit reduced, then was added the very fat-kernelled rice, twenty minutes, and, voilà, the huge pan was carried by two people across the street to the Esteve-Algora garden, where a large extended family with much "gusto" made short shriff of it.

One of the guests instructed me on how to whisk a Spanish fan in and out of action in the snappy, elegant click-clack manner of the Spanish women. When one lacks air conditioning but not heat, the fan is the saving instrument. In church on this this fiesta day, practically the whole congregation had been click-clacking their fans with high-speed flutterings in-between, men and women alike.

Valencia itself is a remarkably beautiful city which we are exploring with much enthusiasm, but with this detailed remittance of the flavor of Spanish fiesta time in Puzol, I will close.

Rosemarie Stith
Parting Words, An Introduction, An Affirmative Duty

BY J. SEBASTIAN SMELKO
SBA President

Welcome to December, Valparaiso Law. I sincerely cannot believe it is the end of the year already. As many of you know, this is my last writing to you as the President of your Student Bar Association. It is bittersweet for me as I believe that there is still much to be done. However, I know you all are in very capable hands. I wanted to highlight some actions that your Student Bar Association is pursuing so that Our School continues to move forward.

Moreover, we expect a lot from our student body; you in turn should expect a lot from your representatives. Thus, the Valparaiso University School of Law Student Bar Association will be dedicated to professionalism, pride, and vision so that your elected representatives truly represent you. A concerted effort on all fronts with respect to employment will occur. Further, we, as your elected representatives, will have events that will further the needs and goals of our constituents. We will endeavor to help our students become integrated with our Alumni, and we will use our resources effectively and efficiently so that we, as a student body, can benefit from the fruits of our labor. It starts with us, it starts with you, it starts now.

Please join in our endeavor to improve Our School. Always remember, if you have a concern or a question, please ask your representatives, or myself for assistance. The SBA office is always open to your concerns. Thank you and have a pleasant summer.

Sebastian is a 3L and can be reached at sba@valpo.edu

SBA Minutes:
Date: 11/11/07

EXECUTIVE REPORTS:

President: MLSA is having Thanksgiving basket drive. Encourage students to contribute.
Veterans Day – we hope you were able to show appreciation.
Care Packages for soldiers – participate if you can.
MLSA/HLSA immigration panel on Tuesday, 13th 5-7. Participate if you can.
Paving info has been submitted to main campus. Bureaucracy could not be avoided.
Website is up. Check it out.

Vice-President: Working on law week. Trivia night should be happening, but movie night is up in the air. Some issues with bar-a-thon. Poker night might not occur. EB is taking over decorations for barristers.

Treasurer – PAD provided check for Boat Cruise

OTHER ITEMS:

Jordan – Vice President office – Campaigning 11/26 – 12/3. Elections on 12/4. Office will be filled by special election. School wide nominations will occur.

Next year’s board will handle admin board openings.
Changing exec board elections from Feb. to end of first semester. At request of J. Barbuffi. Comments were taken and issue will be discussed later.

Attendance Policy (at request of EB)

Lounge TV – Anthony – TV purchased 9/21/06, but didn’t get warranty. 100 trip fee to come out. For 41 minutes or more, $175 for labor. Parts will be more. Might also contact the manufacturer, Westinghouse.

Bike Rack – Bailey – Still needs to contact Buck’s Bicycle Shop.

Plaque for SBA Office to Foster Tradition – Sebastian to contact plaque maker.

SBA Retreat – Bailey – Suggests Chuck E. Cheese.

NEW BUSINESS:

Housekeeping – Sebastian – no Thanksgiving break meetings. Next meeting 12/2. Probably last meeting of the year.

STUDENT CONCERNS

Speed Bump/Cross Walks – Josh – study determined that it was not cost-effective. Sebastian will continue to pursue issue.

Date: 12/2/07

EXECUTIVE REPORTS:

President – In regards to the TV, parts have been ordered. The company is being cooperative. On December 10th they are going to try again to fix it, if it doesn’t work they will give us credit.

Elections: Jordan – The VP election will happen this week on Tuesday and Wednesday. Elections will be tallied on Wednesday. E-mail will be sent out tomorrow morning.

Amendment – Rob motions to accept the amendment with the corrections listed made to the text of the document. Josh seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Petition for Parking Lot – the petition is to the board of trustees and the president of the university. This petition will be in the SBA office. Hopefully will be signed and delivered to the board next semester.

NEW BUSINESS:

Are the librarians going to tell people to be quiet? This is a huge concern because offices leave doors open and there is unwanted noise. Joe sent e-mail to these individuals, but it is mostly up to the students.

STUDENT CONCERNS:

Movie at the Imax during law week.

EMERGENCY MEETING:

Bailey wants people to come to the meeting prepared. Sebastian read the parts of the SBA Constitution that apply to the amendments.

Paul drafted and distributed a copy of the suggested amendment.

E.B. suggested that there could be serious issues with having a 1L student as the Vice President. They have a huge caseload and have never even attended the events of Law Week.

Bailey suggested that it’s not right to put that on a 1L student. They don’t even know if they’re going to make grades to stay in law school.

Josh agrees. Gaby agrees that 1L year is difficult but that at this point we can’t revoke what went out already.

Ian suggested that SBA handle appointment and succession in the same manner as the US Government. Anthony agreed that Ian’s idea was the better idea.

Josh suggested that if there is going to be an appointment, have the person with the authority appoint someone within the SBA to the position so that they have some kind of context already for the position.

Paul makes a motion to continue the election as is and extend the time to vote. Rob seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

SBA Minutes: What you need to know

ORGANIZATIONS

Your SBA Members:
J. Sebastian Smelko, 3L—President
Laura Wishart, 2L—Vice-President
E.B. Newberry, 3L—Secretary
Ian Lucas, 3L—Treasurer
Bailey Cunningham, 3L—ABA Rep
Gaby Guzman, 3L
Jordan Gwiazdon, 3L
Anthony Nwaneri, 3L
Sherwin Tsai, 3L
Megan Krol, 3L
Paul Kulwinski, 2L
Justin Staublin, 2L
Kelly Kruger, 2L
Erika Harder, 2L

SBA Minutes:
Date: 12/3. Elections on 12/4.

Still sba@valpo.edu.

Sebastian is a 3L and can be reached at pleasant summer.
BY ERIC GETTEMY
Executive Editor

The Anti-Champions of 2007

We all know who the winners are because they are the ones wearing the rings, hoisting the trophies, or have DVDs for free with a paid subscription to Sports Illustrated (which of course you have no use for because you get The Forum for free!). However, who is at the opposite end of the spectrum? Who is the anti-champion? It can't simply be the team that came in last place or has the worst statistics. That really doesn't tell the whole story.

It is like saying the champion is the team with the best record or the best statistics. We know this not to be the case. In fact, in most instances, the "Champion" is the team that makes things happen at the right times. Therefore, the Anti-Champions are the teams which (A) Don't make things happen at the right times AND (B) Were in a objectively reasonable position to be a Champion to begin with. Obviously, if this analysis would stop at A, you could include roughly every team in every sport at some point during the season.

The real turning point is what are the teams that actually shoulda coulda, and did not. So, being an Anti-Champion is a rather dubious distinction, but it isn't the worst thing in the world. A team could just be terrible, at which point they would become ineligible to be an Anti-Champion. Which is worse, well, that is up to you.

The Anti-Champions of Baseball:

This one has been a hot race as the Cubs, Mets, and Yankees are all great contenders. However, I think when all is said and done (and it is), the Mets pull this one off.

The Yankees bring a lot to the table, but I have to say its all a little redundant. The Yankees again spent nearly $200 million on their squad this past year, and yet, fell short. This is nothing new. Some salaries that, at this point, become comical are Jason Giambi's $23.5 million, Bobby Abreu's $15.6 million, Mike Mussina's $11 million, and Kyle Farnsworth (Who? A mediocre middle reliever/setup guy) at $5.6 million. Yes, they are in the most profitable market in the game and have it to spend, but to spend it on these guys...really? With this kind of contract negotiation you have to wonder if the AARP has a lobbyist inside the GM's staff.

Yea sure, the Yankees signed them when they were younger, but apparently they didn't bring an abacus with them to determine that Giambi would eventually be 37 years old and making roughly a tenth of the payroll while platooning at first base with Shelley Duncan. Even so, despite their best efforts at championship futility, mere boardroom miscalculation is not enough to earn the coveted Anti-Championship. It must be coupled with a healthy mix of a strong collective negative self-fulfilling prophecy urge and several in-game managerial and/or team meltdowns.

I would say the Cubs satisfy this fairly well being that next year we can all celebrate an entire century of the Cubs not winning a championship. In fact, the Cubs tend to personify the self fulfilling prophecy prong of the Anti-Championship analysis. But, all things considered, they did mount a comeback to swipe the division championship from the Brewers this year to even get into the playoffs. Thus, you can't really consider their loss in the playoffs to be a meltdown, when they barely made it in to begin with. Also, the Cubs displayed competent coaching from Lou Pinella and had a solid showing from a young pitching staff. Taken as a whole, I think these facts tend to preclude to Cubs from being anti-champions, and move them into; dare I say, the "contender" category. Even so Cubs fans, don't pound the Old Style just yet, because being a contender means that with a strong showing next year, they are also in the running for the Anti-Championship.

Finally, the moment you've been waiting for: The Crowning of Baseball's Anti-Champion of 2007. Congratulations Mets. You've managed to have the third highest payroll in baseball, a team full of stars, and still had one of the worst collapses in baseball history. The Mets went 5-11 in their last 16 games of the season to relinquish the division to the Phillies by one game, and subsequently missed the playoffs. All this after the 2006 performance of coming one game away from the World Series. Simply devastating.

The Anti-Champions of Basketball:

The Dallas Mavericks are your 2007 Anti-Champions. This team led the league in wins with 67 only to be thoroughly disposed of in the first round by a team that hasn't made the playoffs since 1994, the Golden State Warriors. The score of the final game in this series was 111-86. It also should be noted that Mavs owner Mark Cuban is no slouch when it comes to the payroll either. Thus, not only did the Mavericks become the 2007 Anti-Champions of Basketball, they set the precedent forevermore of what we look for in our Anti-Champions. The Mavs could win the next three NBA championships, and people will still remember when they lost in 2007.

The Anti-Champions of Hockey:

This has been really difficult. The 2007 NHL playoffs proceeded was one of the most predictable in recent memory. Nearly all the top seeded teams beat the lower seeded teams throughout the playoffs. There were no collapses, there were no meltdowns. Be that as it may, there is a championship to be awarded and an article to write. Thus, the Detroit Red Wings are your 2007 Anti-Champions of Hockey. But they fared well in the playoffs, and even lost in the western conference finals in game 6. That they did. However, you just can't go around and call your city "HockeyTown USA" and expect not to set yourself up for an Anti-Championship. The burden is on Detroit once they hold themselves out to be the be-all-end-all of hockey to win. If they don't, welcome to the Anti-Championship, the Forum Sports equivalent of the 2nd showcase showdown in the Price is Right. Enjoy your Foreman Grill and random camping equipment Detroit!

Eric is a 2L anc can be reached at eric.gettemy@valpo.edu.
GRADUATION

Congratulations
December 2007
Graduates!!!!!!

Pictured (Left to Right): Lesa Engle, Sebastian Smolko, Heather James, Brian Bennett, Nicole Huir, Victoria Wolf, Brandon Sanchez, Zachary Butler, Daron Newman.

GRADUATION
GRADUATION

Student Profiles

Al Koritsaris
Do you have a job lined up following commencement? If so, where and in what area of law? Yes. I plan to work as a law clerk for a district court judge in Chicago.
What is your favorite memory at VUSL? The annual Law Review Banquet was my favorite event.
What state(s) bar exam will you sit for? Illinois
Where do you see yourself in 10 years from now? I hope to be a successful attorney at a large law firm in Chicago.
What is your ideal practice area? Criminal Law

Damon Newman
Do you have a job lined up following commencement? Yes, I will be working at a medium-sized general practice firm.
What is your ideal practice area? Sports Litigation
Where do you see yourself 10 years from now? Hopefully about 5 years from retirement.
Which state(s) bar exam will you sit for? Illinois
What is your favorite memory at VUSL? Cambridge '06 is as close as I can get to answering this question.
What organizations or activities were you involved in while attending VUSL? SBA 1L Student-Faculty Representative, Vice-Magistrate for Phi Delta Phi, Law Clerk for Judge DeWitt and Judge Busch, Juvenile Law Clinic Intern, Legal Eagles Softball Team, ABA Client Counseling
If you could do everything over, would you still attend law school? Absolutely!
Any parting words? Say hello to each other - hold the door - get to know your peers. Enjoy the opportunities law school provides and remember, each person admitted to a law school means there are many others who were disappointed by their inability to obtain your seat. Do not take it for granted.

Robert L. Gullette III
Do you have a job lined up following commencement? Yes. I will be working in a general practice office in Nicholasville, Kentucky. I anticipate the bulb of my practice will focus on criminal defense, estate planning, and family law.
What is your ideal practice area? Criminal Defense
Where do you see yourself 10 years from now? Still trying to pass the bar.
Which state(s) bar exam will you sit for? The Commonwealth of Kentucky
What is your favorite memory at VUSL? I have so many great memories that I cannot possibly mention only one. Knowing full well that what I am about to say is completely cliché; my favorite memories are the nights I can barely remember with the friends I will never forget.
What organizations or activities were you involved in while attending VUSL? I was a member of the Criminal Law Organization and the Law Review. I also worked in the Juvenile Law Clinic.
If you could do everything over, would you still attend law school? Absolutely.

Victoria Wolf
Do you have a job lined up following commencement? Yes. I will be working as a law clerk for a district court judge in Chicago.
What is your favorite memory at VUSL? My favorite memory is the annual Law Review Banquet.
What state(s) bar exam will you sit for? Arizona

Lesa Engle
Do you have a job lined up following commencement? Yes. I will be working as a law clerk for a district court judge in Phoenix.
What is your ideal practice area? Criminal Defense
Where do you see yourself 10 years from now? I hope to be a successful attorney at a large law firm in Phoenix.
What is your favorite memory at VUSL? The annual Law Review Banquet was my favorite event.

Nicolette Brande Muir
Do you have a job lined up following commencement? Yes, I will be working as a law clerk for a district court judge in Seattle.
What is your ideal practice area? Criminal Law
Where do you see yourself in 10 years from now? I wish that I will be a Professor of Law at that time.

Mansour Alhidy
Do you have a job lined up following commencement? Yes, I will be working as a law clerk for a district court judge in Chicago.
What is your favorite memory at VUSL? The annual Law Review Banquet was my favorite event.
Where do you see yourself 10 years from now? I wish that I will be a Professor of Law at that time.

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Where do you see yourself 10 years from now? I hope to be a successful attorney at a large law firm in Phoenix.
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What state(s) bar exam will you sit for? Arizona

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Where do you see yourself 10 years from now? I hope to be a successful attorney at a large law firm in Phoenix.
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What state(s) bar exam will you sit for? Arizona

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What is your favorite memory at VUSL? The annual Law Review Banquet was my favorite event.
What state(s) bar exam will you sit for? Arizona

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What is your ideal practice area? Criminal Defense
Where do you see yourself 10 years from now? I hope to be a successful attorney at a large law firm in Phoenix.
What is your favorite memory at VUSL? The annual Law Review Banquet was my favorite event.
GRADUATION

Brandon Sanchez

Do you have a job lined up following commencement? If so, where and in what area of law? Yes, continuing to be an indentured servant to my parents.

What is your ideal practice area? Sports Law or Gaming Law

Where do you see yourself 10 years from now? Living on the streets of Chicago using my diploma as a blanket.

Which state(s) bar exam will you sit for? Illinois

What is your favorite memory at VUSL? Binwilly’s every Thursday, and Trailer parties that lead to debauchery at Broadway.

Do you have a job lined up following commencement? If so, where and in what area of law? I’m going back to active duty in the United States Marine Corps; as an officer in JAG. But I’ll still get to blow stuff up, too.

What is your ideal practice area? I’m really eager to get back to being a real Marine, but I’m also interested in construction defect law and entertainment law.

Where do you see yourself 10 years from now? Unemployed, barefoot and pregnant. Yeah, I actually said that. God help me.

Any parting words? Everyone can’t be number one so you might as well be mediocre and party. But, seriously, party all the time and go Hoosiers!

Don Nagel

Do you have a job lined up following commencement? If so, where and in what area of law? Yes, I have taken a position with Arquilla & Fink, Ltd. which is located in Chicago’s Loop. They practice Plaintiff’s Personal Injury law.

What is your ideal practice area? Anywhere doing anything that allows me to pay back my overly large student loans.

Where do you see yourself 10 years from now? Unemployed, barefoot and pregnant.

Which state(s) bar exam will you sit for? I’ll only sit for it if it asks nicely. I am taking the Illinois Bar Examination in February.

What is your favorite memory at VUSL? I haven’t had it yet, I imagine it will be the last time I drive away from this $96 & * place.

What organizations or activities were you involved in while attending VUSL? Illinois State Bar Association – Young Lawyers Division.

If you could do everything over, would you still attend law school? No – I would take Andy Martin’s advice and stay a mechanic while sucking my wife’s finances dry.

Any parting words? So Long Sucka’s!!! No, really, if anyone ever gets hurt in Illinois, refer them to me and you will get a big fat referral fee, peace out!

Jordan Mitchell Gwiazdon

Do you have a job lined up following commencement? If so, where and in what area of law? Yup. After I pass the Bar, I’m going back to active duty in the United States Marine Corps as an officer in JAG. But I’ll still get to blow stuff up, too.

What is your ideal practice area? I’m really eager to get back to being a real Marine, but I’m also interested in construction defect law and entertainment law.

Where do you see yourself 10 years from now? Hopefully settled in a position with Fink, Ltd. in Chicago’s Loop. They are a big deal in Illinois.

Any parting words? Everyone is tense because of the exams. The only way I have handled this is cut out I have to pay off in student loans. That is an excellent question, and I have racked my brain about this so here goes: other than meeting my James during orientation thanks to Al Koritsaris, during my 1L year, Andy Martin sat in the center of a crowded room for our Civil Procedure Final with Professor Lind. Everyone is tense before the final, and after Professor Lind gave us the last few reminders, Andy loudly stated, “you better bring it Professor Lind!” To that statement, Professor Lind looked at him rather curiously and said, “Well, OK kid, I think I brought it.” Everyone went stone cold after she left and the test began...trust me, she brought it.

What organizations or activities were you involved in while attending VUSL? The Student Bar Association, President; Valparaiso Law Republicans; The Conversation’s Project Steering Committee; Federalist Society; Volunteer within our community.

If you could do everything over, would you still attend law school? Absolutely, while it was challenging, I learned not only from casebooks, but also from my professors and my colleagues. Law school for me was not simply about learning the “law” per se, instead, it was a mode of thinking, a way of life—an incredible journey. Not everyone is cut out to be an attorney, and I thank my supportive family, my James, our wonderful professors, administration, and staff as well as my faith for getting me through it!

Any parting words? See Article.

Ahmed Alzaabi

Do you have a job lined up following commencement? If so, where and in what area of law? Commercial Law- e-commerce / E-Business Law

Where do you see yourself 10 years from now? After finishing my SJD program I’ll be professor at the UAE University.

Which state(s) bar exam will you sit for? I don’t know.

What is your favorite memory at VUSL? Many favorite memories, great professors, nice classmates, etc.

What organizations or activities were you involved in while attending VUSL? The Student Bar Association, President; Florida State Bar Association- Young Law Students; Florida State Law Review; Volunteer within our community.

If you could do everything over, would you still attend law school? Unemployed, barefoot and pregnant. Yeah, I actually said that. God help me.

Any parting words? Everyone is tense because of the exams. The only way I have handled this is cut out I have to pay off in student loans. That is an excellent question, and I have racked my brain about this so here goes: other than meeting my James during orientation thanks to Al Koritsaris, during my 1L year, Andy Martin sat in the center of a crowded room for our Civil Procedure Final with Professor Lind. Everyone is tense before the final, and after Professor Lind gave us the last few reminders, Andy loudly stated, “you better bring it Professor Lind!” To that statement, Professor Lind looked at him rather curiously and said, “Well, OK kid, I think I brought it.” Everyone went stone cold after she left and the test began...trust me, she brought it.

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If you could do everything over, would you still attend law school? Absolutely, while it was challenging, I learned not only from casebooks, but also from my professors and my colleagues. Law school for me was not simply about learning the “law” per se, instead, it was a mode of thinking, a way of life—an incredible journey. Not everyone is cut out to be an attorney, and I thank my supportive family, my James, our wonderful professors, administration, and staff as well as my faith for getting me through it!

Any parting words? See Article.

Eric Oliver

Do you have a job lined up following commencement? If so, where and in what area of law? Yes, Danville, Indiana general practice.

What is your ideal practice area? Don’t know, I having only been doing this for about 3 years.

Where do you see yourself 10 years from now? Still working at the same firm in Danville.

Which state(s) bar exam will you sit for? Indiana

What is your favorite memory at VUSL? The day I take my presentation thanks to Al Koritsaris, during our 1L year, Andy Martin sat in the center of a crowded room for our Civil Procedure Final with Professor Lind. Everyone is tense before the final, and after Professor Lind gave us the last few reminders, Andy loudly stated, “you better bring it Professor Lind!” To that statement, Professor Lind looked at him rather curiously and said, “Well, OK kid, I think I brought it.” Everyone went stone cold after she left and the test began...trust me, she brought it.

What organizations or activities were you involved in while attending VUSL? The Student Bar Association, President; Valparaiso Law Republicans; The Conversation’s Project Steering Committee; Federalist Society; Volunteer within our community.

If you could do everything over, would you still attend law school? Yes

Any parting words? Good luck
Law as a Profession of Service

Starting several years ago, we moved to a web-based system for collecting this information. This method, which replaced the old system of filling out hard-copy forms in each of your classes during class time, is more efficient. It will, however, only continue to be useful to the institution and to future students if the level of participation is high. You will receive or have received a series of e-mails about the process of filling out the web-based forms. One will come from Digital Measures, the web vendor whose services we are using. I'll send one out. Professors will announce it in classes. It will be on the big screens downstairs and, of course, you're reading it in the Forum right now. The SBA has indicated support for this effort. To add a bit of fun and underscore the school's own interest in this endeavor, the law school will give a $2.00 gift certificate redeemable at our student-lounge coffee vendor, Anneliesje's, to every student who fills out all of his/her course evaluations and will have a drawing among all such students to give out a $200.00 gift card to Best Buy.

Once the time period opens for receipt of your evaluations, you navigate to www.digitalmeasures.com/login/valpo/student. You will be prompted for your student e-mail address and your student I.D. Then follow the program to complete the evaluation forms which include spaces for textual comments but do not require them. You should be able to do each course in a few minutes and the whole set within a half hour or so, a bit longer if you add text further to explain your response. You can fill them all out at one sitting or do them one or two at a time. We will be able to tell which students filled out all the forms but a student's identity cannot be matched to his or her responses. Thus, it is a completely anonymous evaluation process. In fact, the system is so constructed that even Digital Measures cannot determine which persons completed which particular responses. (And since I could not tell which of my students wrote that misspelled comment on my evaluation last year, let me use this column to tell him/her that there is no "o" in "awful." You're welcome.)

The window for filling out the forms for Legal Research and Legal Writing was from November 6 through November 26 and is thus closed. For all other courses, the window opened November 27 and will remain open until 11:59 PM on December 11. Professors are given access to their evaluations only after the grading deadline has passed and all grades are in. Please fill out the forms to help us become better teachers. We view it as important and hope you do as well. May the Angel of Winning Raffles be with you. And finally, if those coming down this path years from now are also willing to understand that lawyers are servants, they will do their service in part by thanking you for doing yours. Let them stand on your strong shoulders.

Bruce Berner

THE DEAN'S CORNER

Law in the Fab Lane

Frugal Holiday Edition

We're all low on cash, but that doesn't mean you can't give great gifts. It's all about being frugal and being thoughtful. Gift giving has to be specific to the person you're giving to, but here are some low budget ideas to get your mind going...

--For the friend you've known for years, consider making a collage of old and new photos. Wal-Mart offers a cheap way to scan your photos and make cheap prints.

--For the friend you work with, think about finding a cute coffee mug and filling it with samples of designer coffee. Another alternative would be to find a cheap basket and fill the basket with different kinds of biscotti, coffee and chocolates.

--For the friend you grew up with, a great idea is to give that friend a nostalgic blast from the past like a board game such as Candyland or Twister. Or some packs of baseball cards. Another idea is to give small logo items from a team you used to root for. Or the CD of a band that you used to listen to. Being thoughtful is key.

--For grandparents, it's all about the thought. A great gift idea is to give homemade cookies in some kind of interesting container. Knowing that you can bake will put a smile on your grandma's face.

--For your parents, get out the boxes and start digging. A great idea for any parents is to find an old piece of your childhood artwork and have it framed. This is an inexpensive way to take your parents back to the day you were cute and cuddly.

--We all put too much emphasis on gifts for the holidays. The most important thing is to enjoy time spent with the people you love and respect your family's religious beliefs, to keep in mind the real reason you're celebrating.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

EB is a 3L and can be reached at ellen.newberry@valpo.edu.
**LEGALLY BRUNETTE & BRUNETTER**

*Advice for*

**Law School & Life**

**The Final Farewell...**

By JORDAN GWIAZDON and BRANDON SÁNCHEZ

*Dear Legally Brunette and Brunetter,*

As an avid reader of your column I was crushed to learn that this will be your last submission. However, I have heard rumors that someone is going to try and replace your column next semester. Any truth as to the survival of this great and noble column?

*Vincent Dorsette, 3L*

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**LEGALLY BRUNETTE & BRUNETTER**

*Advice for*

**Law School & Life**

**Rest in Peace B & B...**

By JON BERBARI and KELLY KRUGER

*Dear Brunette and Brunetter,*

Ah yes, the age old question of how to deal with leaving the Vale-of-Paradise. Every year law students go through the all-too-familiar withdrawal of having to migrate out of the metropolis of the world that is Valparaiso, Indiana. While no place compares to the smoke-filled bars packed with people drinking competitively as in Valpo, this is the perfect time of year to tell your friends and family how great law school is. On second thought, not such a great idea. As a matter of fact, refrain from all conversations involving law school (unless there is a potential networking possibility). Your friends from home just don’t care, won’t “get it,” and/or most likely won’t invite you out if you are talking legal beagle jive with them. Talking about law school to outsiders comes off as weird.

Also, refrain from checking for updates on your grades on DataVU. Most likely the date your professors promised to submit your grades will not be met. Chances are your professors are preoccupied lounging on the white sandy beaches of Prince Edward Island, drinking mass quantities of Black Velvet, writing various constitutions for the developing world, or finding good homes for Michael Vick’s dogs in time for Christmas. Bottom line is, professors have better things to do and will tend to your grades when they absolutely have to. The insecurity of not knowing this bit of information that will largely affect your future can be an assault on your mental fortitude, and more importantly, may inhibit your holiday merriment. Out of site, out of mind.

*Becca Booter, IL*

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*Dear Becca,*

...
I Wish I Would Have Known...

BY ALLY PEHR & SARI CROUCH
Managing Editor & Copy Editor

So we are pretty sure you are tired of listening to us talk and so we have decided to shirk our responsibility for a month and have other 2Ls give you advice on what to do over break. Here you go:

Christmas: gifts, family, friends, opened and softened hearts, the Holiday Spirit, and A BREAK FROM SCHOOL!!! Make the most of your break by doing the things you have not been able to do since August when school started. Go to Chicago and sight-see, shop, watch some football, but most importantly give time to those who have been neglected the past few months: your family and friends. Over breaks my wife, son and I like to spend time watching movies, going shopping at the outlets in Michigan City, and taking a short vacation to new places. We also love to make goodies and take them to friends, and also put our Christmas email together to send to friends and family throughout the country. Last of all, we love to enjoy the Christmas holiday. Our families share many of the same traditions, so we both love Christmas morning - we still feel like kids on Christmas Eve. So, the first half of the break is spent in anticipation of Christmas morning and trying to guess what we got each other. Doing these types of activities helps us take a break from the stress of law school.

--Matt Chandler

The beginning of winter break is one of the times in law school when you actually have zero school work to get done. Take advantage of that! I like to start off break by going home and baking as many desserts as I can and watching my favorite holiday movies. Make sure to take plenty of time to be with your family, because when January rolls around you’ll be back in the books. (Side note - don’t forget to come back in enough time to get your books and do your homework for the first day of classes) Also, if you dare, make time for old friends from home. You all will have changed, but it’s a great time to hear their stories and to catch up.

--Tamara Carnahan

What to do during break? Maybe it’s better to start with what not to do! Don’t talk to your friends about the tests you just labored through and survived - nothing good can come from it. Don’t check for your grades every single day on DataVu - trust me, your friends will call you and tell you when they are posted, ask what you got, and one of you will probably be more disappointed than the other (it’s pure probability). Don’t write your professors or the administration asking when the grades will be out - they don’t know. Don’t try to get so far ahead that you are already outlining for spring finals - but be wary of Con. Law I. Don’t neglect to have fun, be with your friends and family and steal all of the Candy Canes from the Christmas Tree - trust me, you won’t make St. Nick’s naughty list for this. Don’t forget to leave the law jargon

in Valpo - trust me your friends who just finished their undergraduate degree in geography do not know what Promissory Estoppel is. Editor’s note: Nor do your friends care what promissory estoppel is.

--Bob Prince

Okay we lied...we are actually going to chime in.

I agree with all of the above suggestions. Though the first thing I usually do after finals is clean. My house is a disaster area after finals because for whatever reason I think twenty minutes is far too much time to spend doing dishes and tidying up. As a result, deep cleaning my house is usually my first task post finals. After my house is clean I get out my neglected free reading list and spend the next two weeks reading the most mindless literature I can get my hands on. I also recommend that you take full advantage of your parents over break. I head home and eat myself silly on Mom’s home-cooked food and it is quite possibly the most therapeutic act ever. Basically try not to think about law school until about four days before school starts again. I am going to have to repeat Tamara’s suggestion. Don’t forget to come back a few days early to get organized and get your reading done. Have a good break!

--Amy

The manner in which I suggest you spend your winter break is simple. Couch + Beer + College Football + Napping - (Law Books, Law Talk and Law People) + professional massage = The downtime you will seriously need when finals are done. Oh and one last thing, pay no attention to the emails about book lists and confirming registration that you will inevitably receive during finals. That can all wait until your mind has sufficiently turned back to it’s pre-law school jell-o-like state from all that football watching over break. Have a wonderful and relaxing break!

--Ally

Buckley’s Brewhouse
Bah! Humbug! Christmas Ale

BY CHRIS BUCKLEY
Columnist

The name of this beer could not be more appropriate. It shows out in the night at every attempt at cheesy, cheery Christmas seasonals. It is this very collection of brews that typically strives to annoy the senses, with outrageous spices and distracting flavors galore. For some reason, brewers around the world (some very respectable) come together one time of year to pollute their beers with bizarre additions such as orange and lemon peel, dried plum, coriander, cranberry, orange, hibiscus, rose hips, tamarind, vanilla, allspice, cinnamon, licorice; the list of outlandish things that have appeared in Christmas brews I have sampled goes on...

"Bah! Humbug!" was a long time coming to the other annoying seasonal brews, and thanks to Head Brewer Jeremy Moss at Wychwood Brewery in Witney, Oxfordshire, England, they finally got it. This ale literally exceeded every expectation I had of it as a "Christmas Ale." In just seventeen ounces, this bottle was able to light my Yule log, roast my chestnuts, and take me on a long and enjoyable sleigh ride through the winter countryside—bells, bobtails, and all—without the need for frivolous additives. Actually, this is partially due to the fact that this beer is not really a Christmas Ale at all. In fact, it is closest to what brewers refer to as a “Winter Warmer.” Winter Warmers are more like English “strong” or “old” ales, although perhaps slightly less glamorous for marketing purposes. They are known for being extremely malty, sweet, and rich, and generally weigh in between five and eight percent (5-8%) ABV. They usually have a deep majestic copper reddish brown, and this one pleased the eye in typical Winter Warmer fashion.

I could have stared at its elegant color all evening, except for the fact that its aromatic nose poured right over the side of the glass and wafted up, inviting me to break my poise and glutoniously gulp it. I was somehow able to resist the temptation to do so for several moments, and in the process I noticed a very unpronounced head which quickly receded, though traces hung around the glass for some time. It displayed no noticeable motion or carbonation, either, to the point of appearing still. Its scent smacked of a bold, malty character along with an equally strong butyrate sweetness. Any hop presence was understated, while adding a subtle floral aroma to the inviting backdrop of sweet malt.

My mouth rejoiced when this Warmer hit my lips. It felt very full and thick in the mouth, with an ambush of carbonation I did not expect. An explosion of flavors then began to emerge. The first and most obvious of these was a dominant butterscotch or toffee, along with the winter essence of a rustic fireplace. This was immediately followed by the creamy essence of coffee liquor, confirmed in a second generous mouthful. The next sweet array of essences included peanut brittle, dark molasses, and dark brown sugar, though not to the point of becoming syrupy. Its finish was a very interesting cinnamon spiciness. It left the palate with just enough dryness to balance the extreme nectar quality of its body, but thankfully, there was no evidence of an actual cinnamon additive. Sugar plums danced around my head and palette for the precious few moments my glass retained the copper beauty, but like Christmas itself it was over before I knew it.

Even the Ghosts of Christmas couldn’t scare me into caring for the other Christmas seasonals, but I hope many of you will look for this one in your local brew store over Break. I assure you, it will definitely contribute to making your Season bright. I wish you all a very pleasant and fulfilling Christmas Season. Happy (and responsible) sampling!

Chris is a 2L and can be reached at christopher.buckley@valpo.edu.
As the holiday season rests upon us, stores and radio stations bombard our ears with heavy amounts of Christmas music. It's not that the public forgets about Hanukkah and Kwanzaa, it's just that Christmas songs have managed to cross a bridge from the religious hymn world to the pop standard world (I do realize that some Christmas music bears no relation to the religious origin of the holiday). Some would argue a lack of solemnity exists in the fact that Christmas is so commercialized and is now a product of Hallmark and retailers across the country while Hanukkah songs are considered more revered and not subject to such commercialization.

Recently, this theory of mine was put to the test. I had succumbed to the notion that Christmas music is played the day after Halloween. However, I was surprised to learn that's not the only type of music getting air-play so early. About a week or so ago, I was in a large retail store (which I will keep nameless) and heard some music over the loudspeaker which caught my attention. I stood still, listening, not realizing I caused a traffic jam of shoppers behind me. Moving on my merry way, I realized that the song was in Yiddish. Since the two Hanukkah songs I know are "Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel!" and Adam Sandler's "The Chanukah Song", and since what I heard was neither, I was impressed. After spending some more time in the store, I heard other snip-its of Hanukkah and Yiddish music as well as some readings in Hebrew (which is unusual since stores generally only play music over the sound system).

Once I returned home and let the events of the day sink in, I began to question the purpose behind such a shift in holiday music. Being the skeptical-Sally that I am, I couldn't decide whether what I heard was a push to open the eyes of the Christmas-jaded world or whether it was a creative marketing ploy to exploit another holiday. Have I become so cynical over the years that there has to be an underlying motive to any good intention, especially by a corporation which thrives off consumerism? In the end I decided to take the situation for what it was, and that it was just an attempt to remind us that it isn't just about Santa Claus and gift-giving this time of year. There is a bigger picture to be had regardless of our faith or lack of it. With that said, I wish you all a happy holiday season, and remember to embrace those who are different, for you never know what they may bring to the table.

This month's article I am sharing with my good friend Andy Palmison. He has been telling me about two albums for roughly a year now, so I figured I would give him the opportunity to tell you all about them. Enjoy!

Putumayo Presents New Orleans Christmas
Released October 2, 2006; Putumayo World Music

Normally, I am very stingy with my Christmas music. I tend to stick to the classics as they were sung by Bing Crosby, Burl Ives, and Brenda Lee and very rarely go astray. This year I decided I would step outside the box and find a new Christmas album. "New Orleans Christmas" is the perfect mix of holiday music and jazz. I could probably listen to this album any time of the year (I say that now, but ask me in July if I am listening to it).

Some of the tracks on this album carry a strong New Orleans vibe while others simply lean toward contemporary jazz. For example, Heritage Hall Jazz Band's "Silver Bells" feels like you should be dancing all around Jackson Square whereas Ellis Marsalis' "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" sounds like something you would hear in a quaint jazz club.

This album maintains a balance between the new and the old. James Andrew's rendition of "Christmas in New Orleans" with its 1940s vibe, John Boutte's "White Christmas" with its modern jazz flow, and Ingrid Lucia's scatting in "Zat you, Santa Claus?" are just a few of the many different styles in this compilation. I would imagine it very hard for anyone not to enjoy this album. On a side note, there are dozens of albums in the "Putumayo Presents" series that range from "American folk" to "Acoustic Africa" to "Turkish Groove" with at least one album from every continent except Antarctica. Go figure.

My gift to you: Andy's Review.


Usually, your holiday music options are traditional (see e.g. Manheim Steamroller), twangy (see e.g. Dan Fogelberg, Martina McBride), or cheezy (see e.g. Transiberian Orchestra). For something new, check out the "Punk Rock Christmas" series from Immortal Records. The first in the series features 21 songs and has a mix of traditional Christmas songs and originals which are Christmas themed. As to the former category, examples include "It Came upon a Midnight Clear" (The Red West) and "So this is Christmas" (Acceptance). Where this album really shines is to the latter category. The originals range from the fun (The Mighty Mighty Bosstones - "This Time of Year", Sosin - "Mookie's Last Christmas", Nerf Herder - "Santa's Got a Mullet") to the hilarious (Blink-182 - "I Won't Be Home For Christmas", Stand Still - "I Saw Daddy Kissing Santa Claus") to the sarcastic (Something Corporate - "Forget December", New Found Glory - "Ex-Miss", Fall Out Boy - "Yule Shoot Your Eye Out"). Overall, this album has too many good songs to name and only a few skip-able songs. 3.5/5 Stars.

The second album features 26 songs. While it has some originals, this album is definitely more mistletoe than punk rock in both sound and attitude. It appropriately starts out with an upbeat "All I Want for Christmas" (Dave Melillo). It also features great versions of "Holly Jolly Christmas" (The Format), "Oh, Holy Night" (Umbrellas), "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas" (Daphne Loves Derby), "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" (Sugarcult), and many other very well done songs. Also check out "Gary the Green-Nosed Reindeer" (MC Lars), a hilarious tale of how Rudolph's half-brother, Gary, saved Christmas after Osama Bin Laden (yes, Osama Bin Laden) kidnapped Rudolph. Overall, this album has greater consistency throughout. It also has broader appeal without entirely losing its identity. 4.5/5 Stars.

Note: the proceeds from each album go to charity to fight AIDS and Autism respectively.

Megan is a 3L and can be reached at megan.krol@valpo.edu.
Student Profiles
By Alecia Pehr and Sari Crouch

Hometown: Livingston, NJ
Undergraduate School: Brandeis University
Undergraduate Major: Politics and History

Family: Only child, parents got it right on the first try.

Ready for finals yet?
I am definitely ready for my one final. Damn it feels good to be a 3L!

Happy Holidays or Merry Christmas?
Xin Nian Kuai Le!

What do you want for your respective winter holiday present?
A job would be nice.

What are you doing New Year’s Eve?
Crankin’ dat Soulja Boy!

Do you have any idea who you will be voting for yet?
I am pulling for Dani because I think she and Tila would make a great couple.

How do you feel about Facebook advertising your purchases to your friends as part of your newfeed?
The news feed should just stick to important information...like the fact that I beat EB on the “Saved by the Bell” quiz and that Christy Commers has joined the group “Top Ten Reasons To NOT Get Drunk With Jen Sheetz”

Do you believe in Santa Claus?
There’s no way anyone can get away with committing residential entry (Ind. Code § 35-43-2-1.5 (2007)) that many times and still be at large.

Hometown: Highland Park, IL
Undergraduate School: Illinois Wesleyan University
Undergraduate Major: History and Psychology

Family: Parents: Jeff and Diane, Sister: Kate, Cat: Clark W. Griswold Jr.

Ready for finals yet?
If it means that classes are over and I don’t have to read anymore cases for a few weeks, then yes please!!!

Happy Holidays or Merry Christmas?
Happy Holidays, especially because it is appropriate to say during the entire holiday season. I don’t really understand what our world has come to if this is really what we are debating during the holiday season, I guess nothing else interesting must be happening in the world…

What do you want for your respective winter holiday present?
Well I could be lame and say peace on earth, but in reality all I want is to never have to see my con law book anymore, does that count as a present?

What are you doing New Year’s Eve?
I cannot even figure out what my plans are for tomorrow let alone remember what I did yesterday. But I am sure it will involve some random family antics and champagne, which will only make the family antics even more interesting.

Do you have any idea who you will be voting for yet?
I am an Obama fan, but I have always been very tempted to write my father in, despite the fact that he is a republican.

How do you feel about Facebook advertising your purchases to your friends as part of your newfeed?
I cannot even figure out what my plans are for tomorrow let alone remember what I did yesterday. But I am sure it will involve some random family antics and champagne, which will only make the family antics even more interesting.

Do you believe in Santa Claus?
Heck yes, and reindeer really do know how to fly!

Hometown: Burlington, NC
Undergraduate School: High Point University
Undergraduate Major: Accounting and Economics

Family: Janet (mom) and Del (dad); ONLY CHILD, which means I have all of my parents love and don’t like to share things.

Ready for finals yet?
Absolutely not, I’m really banking on the curve and grade normalization.

Happy Holidays or Merry Christmas?
Definitely Happy Holidays, you can’t neglect New Year’s.

What do you want for your respective winter holiday present?
I want it to get warmer!!

What are you doing New Year’s Eve?
Definitely not going to be in the law library, that’s for sure.

Do you have any idea who you will be voting for yet?
5 letters, 3 syllables: O-BA-MA

How do you feel about Facebook advertising your purchases to your friends as part of your newfeed?
I had no clue they were doing that nowadays...my life has become so un-hip and depressing.

Do you believe in Santa Claus?
No. There was a rather unfortunate incident at the mall a couple of years ago, since then I’ve lost all hope.
Crossword 101

By Ed Canty

Across
1. Austrian desserts
7. White House souvenir
10. It may need a boost
13. Consecrate
14. Survived
16. Hammer originator
18. Prod
19. For fear that
20. “What’s the _?”
21. One or more
22. NASA vehicle
23. Before: Prefix
25. Music genre
28. Arctic deer
30. Road ___
31. Thailand, once
33. Building wing
34. Sicilian smoker
35. Dupin originator
39. Sports equipment
40. Have a bug
41. Boat propellers
42. Postponement
43. Shakespeare output
46. Sidekick
47. Easy mark
48. Half and half
49. Choose
52. Be in hock
54. Survive
56. Way, way off
57. Miss Marple originator
60. Culinary art
61. U.F.O. crew
63. The “p” of m.p.h.
64. Double agents

6. Hairdresser
7. Livens (up)
8. November media source
9. Nonexistent
10. Terminal info
11. Windmill, e.g.
12. Flowery verse
15. Veer
17. Highway hauler
22. Tibetan monk
24. Wear the crown
26. Infamous 1972 hurricane
27. Prankster’s projectile
28. Shrewd
29. Former Rep. Abzug
30. Settle up with
31. Nasal dividers
32. Theorizer
36. Pro follower
37. Place for an ace
38. Lymph lump
39. Sixth sense, for short
44. “Holy cow!”
45. Catch
47. Places for props
49. Many times
50. House coat
51. Head lock
53. Sing the blues
55. Super server
56. China setting
57. Make a scene?
58. Cool
59. Down with the flu

Down
1. The Bucs stop here
2. Gibson garnish
3. Stallone role
4. Child
5. Lansing-to-Flint dir.

6. Hairdresser
7. Livens (up)
8. November media source
9. Nonexistent
10. Terminal info
11. Windmill, e.g.
12. Flowery verse
15. Veer
17. Highway hauler
22. Tibetan monk
24. Wear the crown
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49. Many times
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51. Head lock
53. Sing the blues
55. Super server
56. China setting
57. Make a scene?
58. Cool
59. Down with the flu

Quotable Quote

The length of a film should be directly related to the endurance of the human bladder.

••• Alfred Hitchcock

Answers to last months crossword:

ROT C T R A D E S C A T
O R E O R I L E Y E L B A
S C A M A G I L E R A Y S
S A L E S C H A I R F I R S T
D U E T S L E A S E
A R T I E R U F O S
L I R A A U G E R B O A
A V O N P I N K L E A D I N G
S E T H O N E Y I N T O
C O N E T O P D O G
S H O O T S C A B S
L A N D O L D E R L I T L E
E N I D A E R I E I R O N
P O O L M A V E N C U R D
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