The Forum (Volume 38, Number 6)

Valparaiso University School of Law

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ON THE RECORD WITH THE DEANS & PRESIDENT

TORTURE: JUSTIFIABLE?

Law Review to host annual symposium

Maria DeMartini
Forum Staff Writer

Valparaiso University School of Law will host its annual Law Review Symposium, February 26th in Wickersham Hall. The event will take place in Peltz from noon until 5:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided and a reception will take place between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m.

This annual event is organized by Law Review students with the support of the law school faculty. Naomi Kleinman, Law Review Executive Editor of the Symposium, worked with different professors on developing a theme for the event, contacting the different speakers, and other organizational related activities. In deciding on an appropriate theme for the conference, Kleinman explains, "we tried to be innovative, looked at other law schools to see what topics they had covered and tried to do something new and different. The professors also helped us in coming up with this particular issue."

The theme of this year's Symposium is "Torture Justifiable?" This very current and controversial issue will be addressed by different speakers from around the country and around the world, including Judge Dennis M. Davis, president of the Competition Appeal Court of Cape Town, who will deliver the opening lecture.

Judge Davis' dissertation on the historical context of torture will be followed by a panel session on international and domestic issues in relation to torture techniques. This panel will count with the participation of Graeme Mitchell from the Department of Justice in Saskatchewan, Canada, and Rhonda Copeland of City University of New York School of Law. Professor Copeland graduated from Yale Law School and has been a member of the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York City for 12 years, where she lobbied civil and international human rights cases with a major focus on women's rights. The panel will also count with the participation of E. Michael Jones, editor of Culture Wars Magazine and Steven Kleiman, a career intelligence analyst.

See Symposium, page 4

Roaring success or just like a Bush town hall meeting? You be the judge

Alecia Pehr
Editor in Chief

Deans Jay Conison, Curt Cluckowski, Mark Adams, Joe Ellen Lind, Mary Parys and University President Mark Heckler assembled down front in Ulbricht for a town hall question and answer session as part of Law Week on Tuesday, February 17. The event was well attended with approximately 70 students there. Paul Kulwinski, Student Bar Association Vice President, served as moderator for the event. He began the event by asking a few of the pre-submitted questions. The following are paraphrases of answers given during the 35 minute session.

Q: With so many bar review courses starting before graduation, does a travel hardship on students leaving college, instead of two? A: Dean Adams: Graduation is scheduled a week after finals end in order to allow adequate time to grade your exams. 3L grades are due the Wednesday following finals, the remainder of time is needed by the Registrar to calculate class honors etcetera. For reducing the spring break to one week instead of two?

Q: What is being done to work more closely with the main campus and undergraduate university? A: President Heckler: I'm the short time that I have served as president of Valparaiso University, has seen its toll on an industry that was once viewed as "recession-proof." Law firms across the country are scrambling to stay afloat amid one of the greatest economic downturns since the 1930s. Dramatic attempts to cut over-inflated budgets resulted in what many in the legal community are calling "Black Thursday." In the span of just a few short weeks, over 500 attorneys and lawyers were laid off from law firms across the country. The by the end of business Friday the 13th, a total of 1,100 lawyers and staffers were either laid off or asked to consider buyouts.

Lawblogs, a website that tracks big law layoffs, states that as of February 15th, there has been close to 3,000 attorneys and staff laid off in 2009 alone for a total of 4,500 layoffs since January 1, 2008. This does not include the untold number of attorneys that have been laid off from small to midsize firms since the beginning of 2008. Additional layoffs are expected as law firms attempt to weather the current economic climate with many believing that an "economic rebound" is not likely to occur in 2009. To avoid layoffs, some law firms have undertaken across-the-board pay cuts that will save twice as much as laying an associate off. While other firms have announced cost-cutting measures such as pay freezes and the reduction of offers extended to incoming associates, including recent law school graduates.

Profitability for 2008 was down approximately 10% industry-wide after two decades of consistent growth. According to the Wall Street Journal, industry business has dropped off in key profitability areas forcing many firms to restructure and focus in on areas of the law where business is robust such as Bankruptcy, Litigation, often the "bread and butter" of many law firms, has seen a dramatic decrease in profitability as clients seek to settle cases, forgo lawsuits, or pressure firms to discount their rates in order to save money.

Several Northwest Indiana law firms reported the need to renegotiate fees with long-term clients in order to maintain their relationship. None of these firms reported layoffs; however, some were attempting other cost-cutting measures such as the implementation of a new phone system which will save one firm over $25,000 a year.

The private sector isn't the only area that is feeling the economic crunch. Many government divisions have implemented hiring freezes and layoffs in an effort to balance their constantly shrinking budgets. Additionally, many public and private sectors have eliminated paid summer internship programs which has removed the much needed "foot in the door" that many 2Ls and 3Ls rely upon.

This news does not bode well for the economic climate in which Valparaiso University School of Law exists.

See Recession, page 6

Beware -- law is not as recession-proof as we once thought

Natasha Bennett
Forum Staff Writer

A firm 15 years of consecutive growth and profitability, the economic downturn has taken its toll on an industry that was once viewed as "recession-proof." Law firms across the country are scrambling to stay afloat amid one of the greatest economic downturns since the 1930s.

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See Recession, page 6
VUCA

The Docket

He or She?: Transgendered individuals fight against workplace discrimination

Christy Coppers

Staff Writer

This month's focus is on the law that treats transgendered individuals who work in various workplaces. In the last issue, we highlighted the case of a transgendered individual in a state agency who was fired for dressing in a feminine manner. In this issue, we will discuss another case involving a transgendered individual in the private sector.

A recent issue of Indiana Lawyer highlighted one of these cases: A recent article in the State Journal-News reported on a case involving a transgendered individual named Terri Wells. Terri was fired from her job as a secretary at a law firm because she refused to dress in the manner expected of her by her employer. The firm claimed that Terri's gender expression was not consistent with the firm's dress code. Terri filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and her case is currently pending.

The case of Terri Wells raises important questions about the rights of transgendered individuals in the workplace. It is important for employers to be aware of their obligations under federal and state law to accommodate the needs of transgendered employees. Employers should also be mindful of their responsibilities under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, including gender identity.

In addition to the case of Terri Wells, there have been other cases involving transgendered individuals in the workplace. For example, a recent lawsuit filed by a transgendered individual in the medical field illustrates the types of challenges that transgendered individuals may face in their careers.

The case of Dr. Jane Doe v. ABC Hospital involved a transgendered doctor who was denied a promotion because of her gender identity. Dr. Doe filed a discrimination claim with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and her case is currently pending.

It is clear that there is still much work to be done to ensure that transgendered individuals are protected from discrimination in the workplace. Employers must be proactive in creating policies and procedures that accommodate the needs of transgendered employees. Additionally, employees should be trained to recognize and address discrimination based on gender identity.

In conclusion, the case of Terri Wells and others like it highlight the need for continued efforts to protect the rights of transgendered individuals in the workplace. It is important for employers and employees alike to be aware of their obligations under federal and state law to ensure that transgendered individuals are treated fairly and with respect.

The Forum

The Forum is published monthly. August through May, when school is in session. The opinions expressed in The Forum are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of The Forum staff or Valparaiso University School of Law, its faculty, students, or administration. The Forum was established in 1971 as a student organization. The Editors reserve the right to edit articles for punctuation, grammar, accuracy, brevity, and style.

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Active Shooter lecture in the law school

Always expect the unexpected

Andrew Schmuhl
Facultty Guest Writer

On a typical day at 10:28 a.m., you might find yourself in class struggling to pay attention to some obscure concept of law, when suddenly your thoughts go elsewhere. Maybe you find yourself studying in the library. You see one of your classmates out of the corner of your eye. They look tired and as if they haven't slept in days. Unfazed with their expression, you continue on with your readings and Instant Messaging, oblivious to your surroundings.

You are around to see where the shots are coming from you witness a horrific scene. You hear the sound of police sirens approach, the trigger is pulled. Blood, brain matter, and the rest of a student’s life are splattered across the room in a sea of crimson. Callously, the police are unable to stop the student to answer and kill each of them execution style right to the head.

In the pandemonium some students escape, while others do not. Within the span of several minutes 12 students, faculty, and staff members are killed, and another 10 are wounded. As the sound of police sirens approach, the student gunman takes the pistol, aims it at his own head, and pulls the trigger. With that final act, the murderous rampage ends just as quickly as it began.

As you read what you are reading is a work of fiction, but it is a scenario that has played out all too often at other colleges and law school campuses across the nation. No one at Valparaiso, Virginia Tech or Northern Illinois University could have been prepared for events like these.

So the question we are asking ourselves is what are we doing to ensure that our students, faculty, and staff are prepared and trained to handle active shooter situations, just as they would for other emergency situations?}

Lunch, from page 1

This university, we have begun to create a new reality for a more unified campus. It is one that involves the law school more and truly become a number one priority for everyone at Valpo Law. If you still have your doubts, then politely refer them to the Valparaiso University Mental Health Faculty. Remember, that space was not originally built to be the one to kill you. Andy is a 3L and can be reached at fro­

VUPO Assistant Chief of Police, Chuck Garber
Eric Haegekevietz / The Forum

Presenta tion

Active Shooter

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munication between the main campus and law school?

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rating more technology as well. We’re on You­
Tube, Facebook, Twitter. Just check out the law school’s website and look at all of it.

Q: FROM CHRISTINA TALAMONI, IL: WHAT if the law school does not involve the law school more and truly become one campus?

A: Cichowski: Lockers ... well ... the student to answer and kill each of them execution style right to the head.

Q: FROM GABRIEL GATTOY, IL: WHAT if on the 24th floor of a Tier 4 law school, we are working with the K through 12 pipeline to encour­
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Recession, from page 1

...the stream of law school graduates preparing to enter the job market. Economists are tough and many law school graduates have discovered a vastly different world from the one they first entered. When a law school graduate is able to find employment in a legal setting will find increased workloads with lower pay scale according to prior years. Not to mention the burden of repaying the resultant loans (e.g., Facebook). The average law school graduate has approximately $120,000 in student debt upon graduation. According to the National Law Journal, the 2006 private school graduates paid, on average, 130% more for their education than 3Ls in 1996. At the same time, 2006 graduates are only earning 60% more than their 1990 counterparts. Private school graduates also pay, on average, $25,000 more than public school graduates.

For those fortunate enough to graduate from a top-tier law school or large firm, the financial picture is both bright and forthcoming as law firms will continue to seek out the best and brightest. For those not so fortunate to graduate from the mid-tier to bottom-tier law schools, the financial picture is a tougher time finding employment and making those dreaded debt payments. As of January 2008, the National Journal reported that the average starting salary for a Valpo Law graduate is $56,000. So, what can you do to increase your job prospects? The first thing to do, according to the National Journal, is to maintain flexibility. While you may be interested in the Corporate or Inter- est sector or a job in Corporate Law with a big bank, don’t overlook opportunities in other areas of the law. Many law firms will be looking to hire new associates as many corporate clients begin to seek them out in an effort to cut costs. The second, set your social networking (SNS) (e.g., Facebook) in private so that your law school social life can’t come back to haunt you. Although we enjoy laughing at pictures of you falling overboard during Boat Cruise, a poten- tial employer might not find them very humorous. Some bar examiners also search for those during the Character and Fitness exam, and we all know they have no sense of humor.

Ultimately, the economic crisis should abate with time and the econ- omy should rebound, just like it did after the Great Depression. Comfort can be found in the fact that people will always need the services of lawyers in car accidents or by falling down, commit crimes, get divorced and adopt children. Perhaps those aren’t your preferred practice area, but at the end of the day having a job doing something legal is better than doing all other sorts of activities when that first loan bill arrives in the mail. -Nautilus is 3L, and can be reached at new@lawblogs.com.
Melodies ranging from punk to falsettos served to give it a listen. Emo music in general would be well covered the same standard fare for the genre with songs about breakups and the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the Iraq war and improper sexual conduct with minors. For listeners who are in a dark place and seek songs of staying upbeat and hope, India.Arie is a comfort, her voice oozes sincerity and sensitivity topics. She sings about the" music, her previous album, "Vol. 1, Love & Politics," chronicled the end of her previous relationship, and her new record takes a firm step towards resolution and http://www.indiaariemusic.com. She sings about the poor on "Ghetto," and the bonus track "A Beautiful Day," Finds Arie singing that life is a challenge not a competition. She preaches faith and positive thinking in this set of tracks and white that does grind on a listener toward the end, the theme of this album (and all three reviewed albums this month) is to be patient while listening and you will be rewarded. The best track on the album may be "Chocolates High," a duet with co-writer Musiq Soulchild is highly addictive and likely to be put on endless repeat.

The reason behind the use of the word politics in the album's title is that Arie brushes a number of serious and sensitive topics. She sings about the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the Iraq war and improper sexual conduct with minors. For listeners who are in a dark place and seek songs of staying upbeat and hope, India.Arie is just what the doctor ordered. On the whole this album is a little preachy but also makes no apologies for its songs of staying upbeat and helping yourself. Her voice ooze soul and her arrangements are nearly flawless. I give it a 7 out of 10.

Brett is a 3L and can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.
Feeding Gus

Kirsten Haalboom

Kitten had a blast getting up on an Italian town. I, however, was a huge fan of pasta. However, it was very difficult to impress me, because I am a huge pasta lover. However, we were shown to the seating area and were seated. I was slightly apprehensive, but I went in and tried the pasta

3. Cost

Usually, I would probably tend to be on the expensive side. However, at $12 a dollars per person, the pasta was more than very reasonable. I appreciate. So it was that I was given the privilege of trying the pasta. Gus tried the pesto crème brûlée, and said that it had good flavor, but it was not my fault. Frankly I blame the UCC.

1. Ambiance

The first thing you notice when you walk in is the noise level. The noise level made it difficult to hear our servers. A was not aware of what our servers were saying. When I heard about the pasta buffet at Pes, I thought it should try it out and see if it was worth the hassle of being in your own kitchen. The buffet is open on Wednesdays from four o'clock until six o'clock. I must say, I had never heard of a pasta buffet. It seemed like a bad idea to me, as most delicious pasta dishes I have ever had are the ones that I have made myself. Growing up in an Italian town, I am a huge fan of pasta. However, it is not my fault that I was given the privilege of trying the pasta. Gus tried the pesto crème brûlée, and said that it had good flavor, but it was not my fault. Frankly I blame the UCC.

That’s Entertainment!

Wendy Evans

I went to go see Fever Pitch and was forced to review it. I am a huge fan of the movie, but I was not able to see it. But it was right there on the buffet. It was very tasty. The crust was crispy and the toppings were delicious. I was completely deceived. This beer’s palette was very much similar to the Scottish Ales.

Buckley's Brewhouse

Lia Fail Stone of Destiny Ale

Chris Buckley

Buckley's Brewhouse

Lia Fail Stone of Destiny Ale, Inveralmond Brewery Ltd., Perth, Scotland

The forum@valpo.edu.

Lia Fail Stone of Destiny Ale, Inveralmond Brewery Ltd., Perth, Scotland.

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1) So a new book is coming out by Jane Austen and Seth Grahame-Smith called Pride and Prejudice and Zombies. You are planning on buying it, right?

I most definitely am, as a Jane Austen novels are simply amazing, especially with a nice glass of wine. This book would be interesting to read, if the Zombie is actually the spumed lover analogue to Austen's typical character of Wickham, or if there is another twist? Maybe one of the Zombies will be the new Mr. Darcy?? That would be wicked awesome.

2) When you do find time to read for fun, what genre do you tend to find yourself drawn to?

I normally love historical non-fiction, but fiction is also great. I love the Harry Potter series.

3) Who is your favorite horror movie villain? Why?

Jason Vorhees. Why? Because Friday the 13th is one of the best days ever, and really, if you ever were a camp counselor you would relate to him.

4) Which country do you like least: Italy or France? (Mind you, I do not have one.

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5) You're in Madrid. A sniper's in the window above you. There's a grizzly bear behind you, an alligator in front of you. What do you do?

Wrestle the alligator Irwin style. Then give the grizzly bear a hug, as he is really just a sweet teddy deep inside, and hope that by that time the sniper is laughing so hard that he can't get a good shot out. Crap, maybe I need two grizzly bears to reach.

6) You've staged a coup d'état and named yourself President of S.B.A. You've decided to spend all your funds in one big bash for the law school. What's your plan?

Definitely a huge 80s dance party. Costumes required.

7) Valentine's Day is this month. What holiday do you hate the most?

Sweetest Day is pretty pointless.

8) Favorite pet(s) you've ever had?

My current cat, Walter Buckweller. He's a grouch, but I love him anyway.

9) Would you rather meet your favorite band or favorite actor/actress?

Favorite band

10) You're leaving on a 3 hour road trip! Which 3 CDs are you taking with you to pass the time?

He's the only pet I've ever had.

3) Who is your favorite horror movie villain? Why?

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Jason Vorhees. Why? Because Friday the 13th is one of the best days ever, and really, if you ever were a camp counselor you would relate to him.

4) Which country do you like least: Italy or France? (Mind you, I do not have one.

I most definitely am, as a Jane Austen novels are simply amazing, especially with a nice glass of wine. This book would be interesting to read, if the Zombie is actually the spumed lover analogue to Austen's typical character of Wickham, or if there is another twist? Maybe one of the Zombies will be the new Mr. Darcy?? That would be wicked awesome.

5) You're in Madrid. A sniper's in the window above you. There's a grizzly bear behind you, an alligator in front of you. What do you do?

Wrestle the alligator Irwin style. Then give the grizzly bear a hug, as he is really just a sweet teddy deep inside, and hope that by that time the sniper is laughing so hard that he can't get a good shot out. Crap, maybe I need two grizzly bears to reach.

6) You've staged a coup d'état and named yourself President of S.B.A. You've decided to spend all your funds in one big bash for the law school. What's your plan?

Definitely a huge 80s dance party. Costumes required.

7) Valentine's Day is this month. What holiday do you hate the most?

Sweetest Day is pretty pointless.

8) Favorite pet(s) you've ever had?

My current cat, Walter Buckweller. He's a grouch, but I love him anyway.

9) Would you rather meet your favorite band or favorite actor/actress?

Favorite band

10) You're leaving on a 3 hour road trip! Which 3 CDs are you taking with you to pass the time?

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Bar-A-Thon

Rachel Sharron
Sports Editor

Valparaiso University School of Law’s annual Law Week continued Thursday night with Bar-A-Thon, which was held at Inmans on February 19 from eight till midnight.

Bar-A-Thon is an event, “where students can gather in a more relaxed setting to have some fun and engage in simple, parlor-type games in which most everyone can at least participate,” said Justin Staublin, Student Bar Association 3L, class representative and this year’s Bar-A-Thon gaming operations supervisor.

While Law Week has been a Valpo Law tradition for at least the past 20 years, according to the SBA, Bar-A-Thon has only been an event for about three years. Bar-A-Thon is a competition between 2-person teams in Darts, Bowling, Pool and Bags/Corn hole. This year’s competition saw a change from Poker to Bags.

The change was made for a few reasons, said Staublin and SBA Vice President, Paul Kulwinski, including the fact that the Poker event had taken too long in years past. Inmans had also added a room for bags to their facility, and lastly, there was no good way towards a team’s final score. To further changes to the scoring method were made. This year each game will count towards a team’s total score instead of just the first three games, as teams will now get points based on how far they advance in each event.

The new scoring system, “will reward teams which feature players who finish strong in all events,” said Staublin. “We’re trying to avoid a team winning two events and blowing off the importance of the rest of the competition.”

Bags and Pool led off the evening’s competitions, with Bowling and Darts following just after 9:00. In accordance with Bar-A-Thon rules, two players per team competed in each event, but no player could participate in more than one event. Eight teams in all participated, but only two, Team Awesome and Ambulance Chasers, made it into the final rounds of more than one event.

The top three teams overall all received gift certificates to local area establishments, including restaurants and bars. Ambulance Chasers took the grand prize with 297 points, while Team Awesome and Peanut Butter and Jelly Monsters came in second and third with 240 and 165 points respectively. 15 points separated the fourth - seventh placed teams as Team Obliterator finished with 160, the Kinky Kulwinkis and Fertile Octogenarians each had 150, and Team Forum in seventh with a score of 145. Johnny Cochrane and the Excellerators ended the night with 108 points.

In the event finals, Team Awesome edged out the Ambulance Chasers to win at Pool. The Team Awesome members for this event were Steve Olson and Kyle Hougoven. The Fertile Octogenarians came from behind to win Darts when Matt Skilling hit two 20’s in the final round, beating Team Forum 170 - 159. Aaron Giordi was Skilling’s teammate in that event. The Ambulance Chasers took the Bags competition by beating the Kinky Kulwinkis. Twirling for the Chasers were Nikki Morris and Sashi Madlavin. In the final event of the evening, the Peanut Butter and Jelly Monsters bested Team Awesome in Bowling to bring this year’s Bar-A-Thon to a close.

Overall the night seemed to go well. No major incidents occurred, said SBA President, Laura Weilert, who describes Bar-a-thon as one of the most fun law school events. Weilert estimated that there were between 85 and 100 students there, a number of whom were not participating in the competitions, but still came to be supportive and check it all out.

If Nancy Ruiz, who competed in Bags for Team Forum, said she wanted to check it out and see what Bar-A-Thon was like since she’s heard a lot about it. Ruiz said she would consider coming back next year if she had a good team. Many 2Ls were at Inmans as well, including Bar-A-Thon first-timer, Lucy Wess, who said she enjoyed the evening, and taking a break from studying and all the snow. Wess was recruited to play for Team Awesome in the Bags competition, though they lost in the first round.

Law Week is set to close with Bar-rister’s Ball on Saturday, February 21 at Avalon Manor in Merrillville.

Rachel is a 3L and can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.

Counting down to graduation

Amber Waggonner
Forum Staff Writer

For those of you that missed the 100 Day Celebration at Inman’s, you missed the party of the year! It had all the necessities for an all-out bash: pizza, wings, beer, door prizes, gift cards, bowling, bean bag games, and lots of beverage-induced revelry. Those people who were unable to drive home, for whatever reasons, were offered taxi cab services at a discounted rate with the cabs right there waiting for patrons.

The moment you walked in you were greeted and given aaffle ticket for gift cards that were given away. Several draws were made throughout the night. Members of all classes came out in droves to celebrate the last 100 days of law school for the 3Ls. As the night progressed, people split up into teams for bowling. Even those who weren’t so great at bowling were having a good time, mingling with friends and playing other games.

The highest team score was 693, bowled by: Joel Fink, Jon Fay, Steve Olsen, Jon Morris, Steve Gage, and Josh Hood. The highest individual score was 199, bowled by Steve Olsen.

With everything going on before graduation this was a great way to relieve stress. If you missed all the fun, don’t fret because there are many more events to come before graduation. Amber is a 3L and can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.

100 Days to go!
The answer: WE ARE APATHETIC.*

This statement should come as no shock to anybody. We are the generation of apathy. With the exception of the likely temporary surge of political activity that came with the Obama campaign, today's young people are not willing to rock the boat or actively seek change in a system where they see flaws. I have two theories about why this is so: 1) We spent our teens and early 20s in a time when dissent was considered negative; 2) We think that change is a bad thing. Hear me out.

In the past 9/11 world the Bush administration fostered the mentality of "you are either with us or against us." This turned protest and dissent into activity that was considered unpatriotic. Free speech zones were formed and I was told a number of times when I questioned the leadership of our country that if I didn't like my freedom I could move to Iraq. Under the Patriot Act too much dissent could get you in trouble. If your opposition got a little too loud you could have your privacy invaded with one more unconstitutional warrantless wiretap.

We spent the beginnings of our political careers that dissent was bad and leadership was not to be questioned. This permeates our day-to-day life now. We don't question our leadership in the law school for fear of retribution. We are afraid of looking like boat rockers or "trouble makers." Believe me when I say, Dean Lind is not going to give you a bad grade in Remedies because you ask a tough question; she would likely be thrilled to see that kind of concern or passion for this school. And you nobody asked her about how much the Professor teaching were connaît versus how much they have increased our reputation.

This takes me into my next theory about the extremely quiet room at Lunch with the Deans. There was no passion in that room. NONE. This is because we as a society don't like extreme emotion to exist in real life. Jimmy Stewart is allowed to have passion when he is portraying Mr. Smith, but the rest of us have to keep our emotions in check. Passion in the classroom is not only bad, but it is grounds to mock the individual demonstrating it. Think about your Con Law class and the person in that room who was outraged at a particular case, Kelly Keitly irradiated me. This person raises his hand and expresses how much this case is and why. What is your reaction? I know that this person is probably the same person who has raised his hand fifteen times in the last six classes so you have labeled this person a boor and have proceeded to make fun of that person. Passion is looked down upon and mocked so in addition to quiet town hall meetings we have quiet classrooms as well.

This is bad. We, as a student body, need to embrace the opportunities that costs me a fortune to park in, grade shops. Most of the time grade shopping results in a terrible class, which is the karmic punishment for the easy A.

I'm Finn the Legal Gander. Something on your mind? Do you have an opinion, comment or concern to share with the world? Send me an instant massage via AOL (vuslforum) or G-Talk (vuslforum@gmail.com).

I'll make sure your comments show up on the Opinion pages every month. And don't worry, it's completely anonymous.

VUS is so concerned with policy in the classroom... how about public safety? Has anyone been outside yet? CLOSE SCHOOL... this is ridiculous -- Feb 4

I'm waiting for VUS to CANCEL classes. I can't head out of my front door!! -- Feb 4

I know what it takes for Valpo to cancel classes. If 20 inches of snow means a two hour delay, we would need about 80 inches for full closure. -- Feb 4

HOLY SNOW BATMAN! -- Feb 4

Apparentley the school is using a multi-factor balancing test to determine whether to cancel classes... no single factor will be determining. -- Feb 4

Valpo should just cancel all classes today as it's supposed to keep snowing until 3pm. -- Feb 4

I think I'm going to need a snowsuit to get to class. Seriously. -- Feb 4

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Why is it that the same two people have attended these different conferences on the school's dime this year alone? Is this fair? Or is it just that no one else is taking advantage of the funding from the school? -- Feb 16

Can someone please tell me why it feels like the tundra in the Chicago Restaurants? -- Feb 16

Umm, Sprint was being mean and wouldn't let me upgrade, so then I brought out the hammer and smashed them. I got what I wanted. Was I too hard or did this multinational faceless entity deserve it just like Best Buy did? -- Feb 16

Oh, where does the snow go at night? I heard it go to Papisuzzo but I can neither confirm nor deny. -- Feb 16

I parked in the spot marked Visitor Parking behind the clinic and I was given a ticket. I looked into it and in order to get a "Visitor Parking" pass you have to go to Krentzman and get a pass....how precisely would a "visitor" know about this? I didn't even know about this. -- Feb 18b

As nice as it was to have the parking lots plowed this morning before most classes began, they didn't plow all of the lots, and law school parking can be tight especially in the mornings. -- Feb 19

So I heard that the school is financially insolvent, is this true? -- Feb 19

LETTERS POLICY: The FORUM reserves the right to edit any contributions and/or reject them without notification. Letters must be a page and a half or two pages long, typed double spaced or in hard copy to THE FORUM, Mail Box 14384, Valparaiso, IN 46383; or sent as an email attachment to or in hard copy to THE FORUM's mailbox located in the SRA office. Unsolicited letters will not be printed. When referring to specific articles, please include the date and title.

Contributions can be sent to THE FORUM, 655 S. Greene Street, Valparaiso, IN 46383; or sent as an email attachment to or in hard copy to THE FORUM's mailbox located in the SRA office.

Circulation: 5,000 copies
**Barely Legal**

**Dear Barely Legal,**

I got an email from Dean Comminos explaining that tuition was being raised to nearly $35,000 per year. Please tell me that this is a one-time increase, and that I will be consulted the next time this issue comes up!!

Sincerely,
Nichole D. Dilling, J.D.

---

**Dear Nichole,**

This rise in price may have come as a shock to you, but don’t worry – this is an annual tradition here at Valpo Law. Every year Dean Comminos sends out an email that outlines how much the school has improved over the last year, and notifies us that our tuition will be raised. Now, you might be thinking back to your last semester’s Contracts class, and you might be asking yourself – “Really? Did I have any input into this decision? What did I do about this rise in price, really?”

No, you were not – but don’t worry! If you want to finish law school, then you don’t have to pay the tuition you were raised. Now, that’s what we’ve been getting at by the end of the column. You can answer why you are assigned such ridiculously high grade point averages compared to other law schools. Sincerely,

Disadvantaged Dana

---

**Dear Dana,**

We will try to answer your question as best we can. The truth is there is no good reason to why our GPAs are significantly lower than those of other schools. While we appreciate the Deans and President Heckler taking time out to field questions, we walk away confused more than ever from this particular Q & A. While we were told we are selected based on our life attributes and quality of personhood (or something to that effect) and employers look at this as well, this did not resolve the problem that employers still largely select their employees based on GPAs and class rank. The painfully obvious truth is that GPA and class rank would be the same in this system. We also do not see a difference in curriculums GPA of 3.0 or higher, the school would have to strip that many more students of their scholarships if they were more marketable.

While we truly believe we are receiving a better education here, you can’t forget you are attending all school that at the end of the day remains a business with profit objectives that include retention of income. We recommend you suck it up buttercup, and focus on your career and use transfer application in anyway possible.

Dan & Jon are 3Ls and can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.

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**Juris Doctor of Love**

Drew Taylor
Staff Writer

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**TRIVIA**

Rachel Sharron
Sports Editor

1) in which year was the great fire of London that started on Pudding Lane?
2) Which famous rock report- edly shot a line of ants?
3) Which song by The Beatles, also covered by William Shatner, is rumored to be about LSD?
4) Which major league baseball team has won the most World Series?
5) In which year did the Dodgers relocate from Brooklyn, New York to Los Angeles, California?
6) Which famous economics book was first printed in 1776?
7) Which famous female author published her novels under a male name?
8) Which religious affiliation was Valpo reportedly first con­ nected?
9) What is the original name of the Milky Way candy bar?
10) On which soap opera did both John Stamos and Demi Moore star in the 1980’s?

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If you would like to become a patron, please contact: The Forum at: The Forum, VUSL, 805 S. Green Street, Valparaiso, IN 46383.
What's your beef?

INTER-RACIAL vs. INTER-RELIGIOUS DATING: WHICH ONE IS MORE DIFFICULT?

Drew Taylor
Forum Staff Writer

Three Stories:

Mildred Loving. On May 2, 2008, Mildred Loving died at age 86. In the landmark case Loving vs. Virginia, 388 U.S. I (1967), the Supreme Court overturned Virginia’s miscegenation laws which prohibited interracial marriages. Loving, a black woman, was basically guilty of falling in love with Richard Loving, a white man.

President Barack Obama. The first multi-racial president ever elected in the U.S. President Obama is the son of a white woman and an African man.

Charlie Strong. Despite having one of the top defenses in college football, Strong has consistently been passed over for head coaching jobs. Recently, strongly voiced concern that his marriage to a white woman has hindered his ability to get a fair shot.

These stories demonstrate the past, present, and future when it comes to interracial dating/marriage in the United States. What Mildred fought for is what Barack had to overcome and what Charlie continues to struggle with. Much progress has been made in terms of acceptance. On the other hand, part of this stems from our society’s disapproval of these types of relationships.

Furthermore, within their race, these people who engage in interracial relationships face scrutiny and ridicule from their own people. Examples of this include the story of the young Latina girl whose parents object to her relationship with a young white man. The story of the successful black man who is viewed a sell-out in his own community for his marriage to a white woman. I ask you what these people do besides choose someone that makes them feel complete.

These stories bring me to my position that interracial relationships are extremely difficult in today’s society. The pressure which first existed just from outside forces now comes from inside the person’s culture. Some argue that you shouldn’t just do what makes you happy. But that is easier said than done. Trust me. It is much easier to ignore the outside, but when your family and culture question your decision it becomes much more difficult. This is personal to me because I’ve been dead smack in the middle of all of this by way of living in “white society” for the better part of my adolescence and adult life thus far. I happen to possess crossover appeal which has endeared me to many different kinds of women in my lifetime. Entirely too much of my relationships with these women have been influenced by outside pressure and outside opinions. I’ve named too many of these relationships in part based on these types of “silly” considerations. Are these well-founded concerns though? Maybe... maybe not. However, there is a HUGE difference between acceptance and approval.

Drew is a 3L, and can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.

Teranii Randolph
Forum Staff Writer

Interracial dating tough? Wait a minute... WHAT? (in my high school vernacular). Is that argument really being made by the same guy who practically said that Obama’s election has magically transformed race relations in this country? It can’t be! Okay... Who are you, and what have you done with the REAL Clarence Thomas supporter? He’s been writing this new column now entitled “The Juris Doctor of Love,” and for the sake of entertainment, I’d actually like him back.

Now that there’s an article in the paper written by some Clarence Thomas supporter imposter desperately trying to mislead you into believing that interracial dating is harder than interreligious dating, I feel that it is my ethical duty to lead you back into the pasture (not that any of you are dumb, lost sheep...no really). So here we go. It is quite obvious that race relations have indeed gone through a significant change for the better in this country over the years. For one thing, it is no longer illegal to marry outside of your race, and interracial dating is something that happens quite often today and is widely accepted. I don’t get out much, but when I do, I feel like I’ve seen more interracial couples in two and a half years in the city of Valparaiso than I’ve seen in my entire life, and nobody seems to care.

Now I’m not saying that interracial dating is not something that happens quite often today and is widely accepted. I don’t get out much, but when I do, I feel like I’ve seen more interracial couples in two and a half years in the city of Valparaiso than I’ve seen in my entire life, and nobody seems to care.

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I think the bottom line is that religiosity is something people really take to heart. There are religions out there that believe that members of every other religion are going straight to hell. Now dating someone of another religion that you or your family thinks is headed down to Hades can make things pretty tough, not to mention running the risk of upsetting the church you belong to and infringing on religious views that you might be more than willing to disown you for such a thing. But dating someone who merely looks different than you can’t be that bad, can it?

Interracial dating tougher than interreligious dating? Sillyness, will the REAL Clarence Thomas supporter PLEASE STAND UP!

Teranii Randolph; 2009
http://www.donquijote.restaurant-in.com/

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Monthly Photo Contest

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The first person to correctly identify the mystery photo above will win a $15 gift certificate to a mystery restaurant!

E-mail your responses to forum@valpo.edu

Janice Sudoku Answer

February 2009

THE FORUM
Opinion

Editorial, from page 12

know when they are doing something right, cough hiring Joe Baru:ffi cough. We are lucky to have an administration with an active open door policy, and if all we are going to do is throw these softball questions when they give us the chance to ask tough questions, then this kind of luck is wasted on us.

We need to start asking the questions that are important to us or we need to stop whining about how the administration doesn’t care about our concern. They do care about our concerns, we just aren’t taking the opportunities we have to voice them.

This is on us. If you want the pot-holes filled in the parking lot you are going to have to speak up and ask the administration where to send the bill for your new tires because you are not responsible for that mess out there, they are.

Sarah is a 3L, and can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.
Jazzercise

I must admit that it’s on a different set of muscles, with leg muscles.

Length and require a shocking amount and that I forgot I had.

Middle East, according to various travel

The 1972 Summer Olympic Games in Munich, Germany proved that political-based violence can and does occur in major sporting events. But Peer played in a tournament in Doha, Qatar last year, making her the first Israeli to play in a Gulf-Arab state, and she has also partnered for doubles with Santina Miren, an Indian player who is Muslim.

Jazzercise class. I must admit that it’s on a different set of muscles, with leg muscles.

The United States boycotted the 1972 Summer Olympic Games in Munich, Germany proved that political-based violence can and does occur in major sporting events. But Peer played in a tournament in Doha, Qatar last year, making her the first Israeli to play in a Gulf-Arab state, and she has also partnered for doubles with Santina Miren, an Indian player who is Muslim.

Jazzercise class. I must admit that it’s on a different set of muscles, with leg muscles.

Length and require a shocking amount and that I forgot I had.

Michael Wild

Yes, I went to Jazzercise class.

According to an Associated Press story, UAE officials stated security concerns as the reason for denying Peer’s visa request. A statement from the Dubai Tennis Championships cited fan anger over Israel’s recent military offensive in the Gaza in defense of its denovo. Yet no visa has ever been granted to any players traveling to the UAE on an Israeli passport.

No one is questioning the UAE’s ability to grant or deny visa applications, especially if there are legitimate security concerns regarding an applicant. The 1972 Summer Olympic Games in Munich, Germany proved that political-based violence can and does occur in major sporting events. But Peer played in a tournament in Doha, Qatar last year, making her the first Israeli to play in a Gulf-Arab state, and she has also partnered for doubles with Santina Miren, an Indian player who is Muslim.

Sports

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A Finnish method of domestic violence

David Johnson
Forum Staff Writer

Arguably, there's not much to do in Finland. I suppose one could spend his day visiting all the beautiful forests, but even that has to get old after a while. It's situations like these that call for the invention of a sport like Eukonkanto.

But what, pray tell, is Eukonkanto. Well, the direct English translation is Wife Carrying, the sport that promises adventure around every 90° of now.

Although seemingly silly, there is a specific set of rules that Eukonkanto contestants must abide by. For starters, the female partner of the team needs to weigh at least 49 kilos (about 110 lbs), if she doesn't the judges will add weights to her to make her the minimum weight. Further, she has to be at least 17 and married. Oddly enough, she doesn't need to be married to the same fellow for the entire event. Apparently the Finns are fine with letting their friends and neighbors carry their wives around like a bag of potatoes.

The course the Eukonkanto contestants have to run is quite challenging. The length of the track is 253.5 meters, it includes two sand obstacles and one water obstacle that is 1.2 meter deep. The winners of the event, on average is around, the whole course in about 1 minute. I know many of you may be wondering about some of the less at-large beach boys doing the carrying but I am here to tell you that this is not the case. Coach Lute Olson (also a junior) who is playing unhappily overseas, Brandon Jennings (who is playing unhappily overseas), Emmanuel Negedu and Jon Leuer are all locks to be dancing for the tournament. The Siena Indians are all locks to be dancing for the tournament.

These teams are putting together stellar seasons. Beginning in the state of three teams will be looking to hear their name called on Selection Sunday. Utah, BYU and Utah State are all likely to be included in the Field of 68. Utah State is especially certain of being in the tournament by virtue of their 24-10 (12-7) in conference play and a 19-game winning streak. Led by senior power forward Gary Wilkinson the Aggies will be a popular pick due to their balanced attack is poised to get old after a while. It's situations like these that call for the invention of a sport like Eukonkanto.

Have you come to the right place. You have come to the right place. You have come to the right place. You have come to the right place. You have come to the right place. You have come to the right place. You have come to the right place. You have come to the right place. You have come to the right place. You have come to the right place. You have come to the right place. You have come to the right place.

For instance, in Merrillville just off Highway 30. If you weren't a "gym rat" you give yourself a chance to frink when you walk in the door. On your right you will see a full boxing ring with a handful of cardboard masks waiting for you. You will be surrounded by a lot of sweat. Next, we put on our gloves and did 1 minute combination rounds of punches and kicks against the bag. The bag weights 150 pounds and is a lot harder to get moving than it looks on TV. Between the 3 minute combination rounds, there was 1 minute of active rest during which you would have to do some sit ups, plank poses, and other lighter workouts to catch your breath before you right back into the combinations. The class ended with 10 minute sprints and stretches. The total class time was an hour.

I asked him how precisely a person could burn 1000 calories an hour. His response, "Oh you'll see". He went on "It depends on the person, some people will burn 200 because they are taking it easy, others will burn over 1000 because they are going off on the bag."

Kickboxing Class started and in the first 15 minutes we did a warm up designed to get your heart rate going. This included jumping jacks, push-ups, jump squats, sit ups and running in place with high knees. All these movements led to a lot of sweat. Next, we got on our gloves and did 1 minute combination rounds of punches and kicks against the bag. The bag weights 150 pounds and is a lot harder to get moving than it looks on TV. Between the 3 minute combination rounds, there was 1 minute of active rest during which you would have to do more sit ups, plank poses, and other lighter workouts to catch your breath before you right back into the combinations. The class ended with 10 minute sprints and stretches. The total class time was an hour.

Now, I know what you are thinking, this is just another aerobic class, but that is not the case. I have been to the class you are thinking of, you know the one where by the end you can only think about ways to stretch the 90 th Barbie doll teaching the class with the string hanging off of Satan's stopwatch that has somehow turned to a ten minute interval into a twenty minute one... This class was different. It goes fast for start ers. The class is non-stop, but in the best way possible.

The instructor breaks up the monotony of the typical aerobic class by creating workout intervals throughout the class and he's done a lot about how long they will be. When he says 30 seconds more, he means 30 seconds more. Some of that "Oh let's try another 10" nonsense here. When he says 30 seconds more, he means 30 seconds more.

The instructor moves through the class with punning