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The Forum

Professors Steps Down to Solicit Toyota Plaintiffs

By Chas A. Nova • Investigative Reporter

The halls of Valpo Law are about to feel a lot emptier on the heels of news that Bruce Berner is hanging up his dry erase marker to return to private practice. Berner reluctantly came to this decision after examining Toyota’s most recent annual report and viewing a few news reports about faulty accelerator pedals in numerous Toyota models. He plans to create a nationwide class of Toyota owners, first announced his departure to the faculty, I made sure that everybody crashed and burned, but this baby has my Crim Law final is fun, but it’s not

But would be his first attempt at the

nationwide class of Toyota owners, first announced his departure to the faculty at its most recent meeting, seeking nothing but damages. This faculty at its most recent meeting,

allowed this news to go public. He

decision isn’t so much about leaving

Berner reluctantly came to this representing the downtrodden value­

Berner is hanging up his dry erase

decision after examining Toyota’s conscious Toyota customer for mega

bucks.”

Berner kept his decision private for a few weeks and only recently allowed this news to go public. He first announced his departure to the faculty at its most recent meeting, where he informed the faculty that he was looking for a new challenge.

“When I announced my departure to the faculty, I made sure that everybody knew that I wanted to ‘Berner’ a few high­priced defense lawyers. Lulling 1Ls into a false sense of security on my Crim Law final is fun, but it’s not a challenge anymore. I want to lull some high­priced defense attorney into a false sense of security. That would be a real challenge.” The faculty, fully aware that Berner’s exams are deceptively impossible, understood his intellectual wanderlust completely.

Berner wants to assure the Valpo Law community that his departure from the faculty does not mean he’ll be leaving Valpo. Berner will be moving back to New Jersey to begin drafting legal documents and court filings, but he is planning a national advertising campaign to find clients.

Once he is finished filming his slew of new television commercials, he’ll

be on nearly every television in the continental United States, with plenty of exposure right here in Valpo. “I might not actually be in Valpo, but rest assured that at every commercial break for all of your favorite shows, I’ll be right there.”

Berner wants his national advertising campaign to really stick in the minds of his viewers. He’s debating a number of creative options to make sure that he emphasizes his years of practice and his vast teaching experience. “I’m on the fence about whether to go with a pirate­themed commercial or a cowboy­themed commercial.” Each idea has its own strengths and drawbacks. The pirate theme really plays nicely with the recent popularity of actual pirate attacks and the popular Johnny Depp movies. Devotees of Berner’s evidence class will also recall Berner’s fondness for talkative parrots and hearsay evidence. Berner is concerned that using an actual parrot in TV commercials may distract viewers from the content of his commercial. The cowboy theme shows his courage and his desire to tame the vast frontier of legal issues and rope in the maximum recovery possible. The cowboy theme would allow Berner to wear a cowboy hat, which would provide less distraction for viewers, but may alienate others.

For any of Berner’s current students, there is no cause for concern. His final act as a professor was to implement a vast overhaul of the State of Grace’s Revised Annotated Statutes, just in time for finals. He plans to record his remaining lectures, which will be available online, and also to partner with the Registrars to administer his final exams. He will grade his exams through the mail, and he still anticipates finishing his grading before the grade deadline.

For those lucky enough to encounter Berner in the hallways before he departs for New Jersey, please be sure to wish him the best of luck in finding clients and making opposing counsel look like a doofus.

Chas is a 4L and can be reached at PhonyEmail.Address@valpo.edu.

VUSL & The U.S. to Combine Forces

By M. Al Content • International Smart Guy

Amidst much furor over the recently implemented student organization event proposal procedure, VUSL administration officials have decided to streamline the process by outsourcing part of it to the United Nations. Henceforth, a student wanting to host an event at the law school must complete a 36­page application (down from 57 pages) and provide very basic information, such as hat size, body­fat index, and daily fiber intake. The student then faxes 22 copies of the application to the UN’s Central Planning Committee for Student Affairs at United States Law Schools (UNCPFAUSLS) where the copies are translated by hand into 47 different languages. After that, each UN member state sends an emissary to serve on a committee that will review the application. To avoid any appearance of ideological bias, VUSL requires that the committee be well­balanced, meaning that it has one conservative and only 191 liberals (the UN has 192 member states). After a two­month deliberation process, the UNCPFAUSLS submits a written report to VUSL. VUSL administration officials decide whether to adopt the committee’s recommendation based on certain astrological phenomena taking place at the time. One unnamed VUSL official told The Forum that “When the moon is in the seventh house and Jupiter aligns with Mars, then peace will guide the planets and love will steer the stars. And the event proposal will be approved.” The same official remarked that this new review method will work better than the one it replaces: “Six months after implementing the approval process, we realized we were flipping a double­headed novelty coin one of the deans picked up at a magic show. We were wondering why every flip of the coin was coming up heads!” VUSL assures students that this new process will add no more than $4,832.67 to each student’s tuition bill. In a seven hour monologue, self­proclaimed UNCPFAUSLS spokesman Muammar Gaddafi told The Forum that “The UN is the organization best­suitied for determining what students can say, think, who they can invite to organization banners should be designed. I particularly like the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund’s banner. It reminds me of the fabric pattern on the tent I set up in Central Park last year.” A response from the student body was unavailable at the time of publication because it is under review by the UNCPFAUSLS.

M. Al is almost out of here but can be reached at gullible@valpo.edu.
DEMOCRATS GRAB HOLD OF HEALTHCARE

BY: M. AL CONTENT • DOMESTIC POLICY SMART GUY

Last week, Congressional Democrats reached a deal on healthcare wherein members of the party would personally provide medical services to reduce the cost of the healthcare bill. Former President Bill Clinton was tapped to perform mammograms. Clinton told The Fauxrum that, “At first I wasn’t too sure about this, but once I got a feel for the job, I knew it was the right thing to do. I’m very excited by all this hands-on experience.” Congressman Barney Frank has turned his Massachusetts office into a prostate exam room. Frank told reporters, “The men of Massachusetts should know that I have a firm grip on their well-being.” Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi have opened an office adjoining Franks’ wherein they perform vasectomies. Pelosi told the Affiliated Press that “With a snip here and a cut there, we’re going to save dollars for Medicare.”

In healthcare costs,” Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano announced that Guantanamo Bay will be reopened as a health spa. Former inmates will be hired as masseuses and manicurists. Spa director Khalid Sheikh Mohammed told MSNBC, “I can’t wait to perform colon cleansings on all you infidel pigs!”

William Ayers and Reverend Jeremiah Wright have opened a mental health facility in Chicago called Democrats Against Mental Negativity (DAMN). Wright quipped that “When America’s children come home to roost, they first stop here for a mental refresher. I tell them, ‘Don’t worry, we’ll DAMN you, alright!’” Ayers agreed, noting that “Just like I did to that New York police headquarters back in the ’70s, I’ll blow your mental problems sky high.” Ayers’ wife, Bernadine Dohrn, has given up her law professorship to become a surgeon. She was overheard as saying, “My years of experience in making b o m b s have made my hands particularly d e s i g n e d for brain surgery.”

Yesterday, Vice President Joe Biden opened a baldness clinic. During its opening ceremony, Biden pronounced, “Democrats chipping in to help the poor and sick is as natural as the hair on my head!” Not to be outdone, President Barack Obama is heading a nicotine addiction program.

Professor Bushbaum’s World Turned Upside Down: Answer NOT Found in Checked Pocket Part!!!

For his tenure as one of the prominent research professor’s in Northwest Indiana, Professor Bushbaum has been able to calm distressed 1Ls and advanced research students with the quiet utterance of four simple words: Check the pocket part. And although this research method, now universally referred to as “The Bushbaumian Answer to Everything,” may seem simple in application; it is certainly grand in its effect.

According to West’s Nutshell, fittingly titled “The Bushbaumian Answer to Everything,” the process occurs in three stages. First, a student will enter Professor Bushbaum’s office and whine about how they “spent thirty minutes looking for the answer,” swearing the answer is not in the volume listed on the assignment sheet. Second, Professor Bushbaum, already knowing the answer, will inquire, “Did you check the pocket part?” Third, the student will reply, “ugh, no, I forgot! Thanks Professor!”

However, what had stood as one of the great accepted dogmas in legal research may now be in jeopardy. Just last week a student did not conform to the third step and replied, “yes.” According to the student, Professor Bushbaum looked at the student with his mouth open “like he was going to say something, but couldn’t.” Professor Bushbaum later confirmed the eye-witness account.

Reflecting on the historic happening, Professor Bushbaum stated, “I still can’t wrap my mind around what happened; I was caught completely off guard. In law school, students and professors deal in the hypothetical daily. But this wasn’t something assumed for the sake of argument. This was real. Too real.”

West Group, LexisNexis and the FBI have all available resources investigating the matter. Professor Bushbaum is on paid administrative leave and is expected to make a full recovery by the fall of 2015.

Indiana Court of Appeals Comes to Valpo-Mistakenly Decides Case Based on Misplaced IL Appellate Brief

A rare treat for Valpo Law students took a turn for the worse on March 29th when the Indiana Court of Appeals heard oral arguments here at Valpo Law. However, during all the pre-trial excitement the Appellate Brief of IL Ndebo Mwosen somehow was copied and distributed to the Justices before arguments were held.

Despite pleas from Defendant’s counsel that something was awry, the justices simply told the defendant’s counsel to pipe down, since, as we all know, the appellate brief is far more important than oral argument. Ultimately the case failed on the same thing all appellate briefs do- formatting and citation errors.

The defendant’s family looks forward to seeing their son in 14 years. Mr. Mwosen declined comment, but can regularly be found in the law library, obsessively checking citations and sharpening his quill with quiet sobbing.

Innocent Palm Reading Has Professor Questioning His Life’s Work

What was once a spring break ritual has forever changed the life of one Valparaiso Law faculty member. A tradition he started nearly thirty years ago during the inaugural New Orleans legal aid trip, Professor Derrick Carter had always looked forward to his yearly palm reading. That is, until he was informed his life’s work was done in vain.

According to Gemini Professor Carter took the wrong career path. “When I first heard her say I was in the wrong profession, I, I didn’t believe it. I thought to myself, ‘Man, I love being a professor.’” However, Gemini reiterated the past tense of her statement, noting his role as a professor is well within the professional lines. Gemini further clarified for Professor Carter that the two parallel lines with a diagonal intersector could only mean one thing- Professor Carter was meant to be a prosecutor.

“After she said that, my life flashed before my eyes,” recalled Professor Carter; “not because I thought I was dying. But I thought about all the people I’ve helped, all the zealous prosecutors who I had put in their place. May as well call me Benedict Arnold.”

Professor Carter has indicated he will seek a second professional opinion to verify the results. David and Siegfried are somehow still 2Ls and can be reached at beetyou@valpo.edu.
look out all you guidio and guidette-loving fans, casting is coming soon for the new, hottest show on TV – Gary Shore! If you thought fist pumping and hair poufs were cool, you haven’t seen choreographed dancing and puffed out afros in action! That’s right, we’re talking Jacksons! Casting is taking place at VUSL to fill roles of all your Jackson family favorites! The best part is, the nine castmates chosen for the show will live in the two-bedroom, one bath residence in Gary that once housed the legendary Jackson family. (The roles of “Rebbie” and “Randy” have been dropped because they are just not cool.) Gary Shore producers indicate that those wishing to audition must have a passionate love for the city of Gary and must also be willing to spend grueling hours learning song and dance routines. Producers are also eager to force compromising and hilarious familial situations to develop over the course of the show, but have placed a few restrictions on the show’s roles to ensure a truly authentic “Gary Shore” experience. Joe Jackson – Must be willing to work long hours for little pay at US Steel, but then transform into a money-hungry monster who is willing to exploit the other castmates and who uses the excuse of Butter Pecan ice cream to cheat on his wife in Season Two. Katherine Jackson – Must not speak and must happily “go with the flow.” Michael – Must act sassy and cute as a button, but then be willing to emotionally break down and slowly degenerate into a plastic surgeon’s nightmare while questionably fathering masked children in Season Two. Tito – Must be as cool as his name, hands down. Jermaine – Must be a total stud... and know it. Marlon – Must always back up Michael because that’s all he’s good for.

PROFESSOR VANDERCROY UNCENSORED

By: Spawn Maynard * Stuff Writer

This month I met with Professor Vandercoy and discussed many aspects of his law career and life.

Spawn: So, Professor Vandercoy, why did you decide to give up your flourishing career as a folk singer and become a law professor?

Professor Vandercoy: I found it was easier to lip sync to a class of law students than to sing real music in front of a live audience. I also heard that you get higher admission prices with law students than concert attendees. It was a natural move since most of my songs are about legal ethics anyway.

Spawn: Can you describe the time you managed to take down a 500 lb Grizzly Bear using only the Rules of Evidence?

Professor Vandercoy: What a fun time that was. First, I confined the bear with hearsay evidence rules, and then I strangled him with the new statute to prohibit law professors from bio-engineering man-eating sharks.

Spawn: What do you feel is the best teaching method? Teaching students while scuba-diving or while sky-diving?

Professor Vandercoy: Personally, I prefer scuba-diving. The oxygen rich breathing suits really help the students focus more. Further, they are more inclined to answer questions quickly when surrounded by my bio-engineered man-eating sharks.

Spawn: Where’s the Beef?!

By: Crickey Folgers * Cool Stuff Correspondent

It has been widely reported that with the recent passage of the healthcare reform bill private medical malpractice attorneys are out of work. Apparently, on page 193 there is a rider entitled “Footnote 4,” Representative Harlan Stoner wrote that with this bill’s passage all private medical malpractice attorneys are to find new practice areas because the government is creating the Medical Malpractice Agency of the United States of America known simply by its acronym MMA and they would not be enlisting private practitioners’ services.

Days after the creation of the government’s newest agency, it came as a surprise to government officials that mixed martial artist fighters across the country were outraged that the government had stolen the MMA acronym. Accordingly, Roy D. Veinhead, a spokesman for the former “MMA” and the Union of Medical Malpractice Lawyers (UMML). Jessie Senior, Jr., a representative of UMML spoke about the merger briefly and often repeated, “They took our jobs....They took our jobs.”

Senior Correspondent Geraldo Donahue of Global News believes that the merger could create turmoil within the early days of the new MMA’s success. Donahue remarks, “Although the merger and the new MMA are seemingly completely unrelated insofar as the purposes which they serve, 96.4% of Americans believe that this merger will create instability for the new MMA.” Although the cited poll had a +/- 25% margin of error, Donahue was still adamant about the future risk to come and thus suggested scrapping the entire agency altogether.

The public overwhelmingly subscribed to Donahue’s gloomy projection about the new MMA and immediately began protesting “Footnote 4,” and the adoption of the new MMA. One angry Amish man from Bremmer, Indiana, traveled all the way to Washington, D.C. by wheelchair solely to express his outrage that the government had disparaged the title of his favorite sporting event. Tim Witted, a private medical malpractice attorney, was protesting because the government’s newest agency unfairly deprived him of an opportunity to work. As such, the two groups of protesters, although they are protesting for vastly different reasons, have become united in an effort to dismantle the new MMA.

Only time will tell whether the new MMA Office figuratively crumbles and justice is restored for both mixed martial artist fighters and private medical malpractice attorneys around the U.S. I for one think that the new agency is just another example of business as usual within Washington, and I agree with former President Harry Truman’s wise words: “If you want a friend in Washington, get a dog.” However, I will acknowledge that cats are great companion pets as well.

Crickey hasn’t failed out yet and can be reached at howcould失望possiblybetray@valpo.edu.

This April Fool’s story was inspired in part by a great law professor’s hypoes.
WHAT'S GRINDING SID'S GEARS?!  
NOTHING AT ALL...

That's right, Sweet Valpo High. Nothing's grinding my gears lately. The entire world is sunshine and rainbows with candy and sprinkles on top. Even though under Comrade Obama's new health care overhaul, candy and sprinkles are now illegal.

Seriously, nothing's upsetting me lately. Jersey Shore is on hiatus, meaning that I don't have to see those buffoons embarrass states that touch the Atlantic Ocean. Heritage Hall is no longer a hole in the ground; even if it isn't actually historic anymore, it's not a hole in the ground either! I know where to find Northwest Indiana's best burgers. People who drive luxury cars that they didn't pay for aren't parking across three spaces. I don't study in the library anymore, so I don't have to watch the 1Ls running around like headless chickens panicking about Legal Research assignments. The Buffalo Bills overhauled their coaching staff with plans to put talented players on the offensive line. Most importantly, the only remaining Super Bowl commercials that I still see on TV are beer commercials. Things must be looking up.

April Fools. You think I'd get a gripe column if I was always happy? Yeah right. I'll be back next month with an actual gripe.

Sid is an unemployed VU Law graduate and can still be reached at angryman@valpo.edu.

APRIL FOOLS' DAY TRIVIA

1. This is considered the oldest prank-related holiday from which April Fools' Day draws its roots?
2. This king of France officially changed the first day of the year from April 1st to January 1st. Those who still celebrated New Year's on April 1st were called Fools. Name the King.
3. On April Fools' Day in 1988, physicist Mark Boslough claimed the Alabama legislature change the value of this mathematical term?
4. Another possible root for April Fool's Day is that people were considered fools if they prematurely started planting on April 1st, instead of later on this holiday?
5. In 18th century Rome, April Fools' Day was also known as this.
6. For one prank on April Fools' Day, a Dutch television station reported that this famous tower had fallen over.
7. On April Fools' Day in 1985, Sports Illustrated reported that a prospect for this team could throw a 168mph fastball with pinpoint accuracy. The prospect, Sidd Finch, had apparently learned to pitch at a Buddhist monastery. What is the team he was a prospect for?
8. In 1997, the hosts for "Jeopardy" and "Wheel of Fortune" switched places as hosts. Who are the hosts for "Jeopardy" and "Wheel of Fortune"?
9. When Google launched this site on April 1, 2004, many people thought it was a prank. Name the site.
10. In Scotland, there are two whole days of pranks (April 1st and 2nd). The festival is called Hunt-the-Gowk-Day. Gowk means what in Scottish?

SEE PAGE 2 FOR THE ANSWERS!!

APRIL FOOLS’ DAY TRIVIA

GOTCHA!!!

HAPPY APRIL FOOLS' DAY
FROM THE
2009-2010 FORUM STAFF!!!