12-2010

The Forum (Volume 40, Number 4)

Valparaiso University School of Law

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholar.valpo.edu/law_forum

Part of the Law Commons

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Valparaiso University Law School at ValpoScholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Valparaiso Law School Forum by an authorized administrator of ValpoScholar. For more information, please contact a ValpoScholar staff member at scholar@valpo.edu.
INDIANA SUPREME COURT VISITS VALPO LAW

By: John Bavard • Executive Editor

On November 4, 2010, Phi Delta Phi law fraternity hosted the Indiana Supreme Court to hear oral arguments on Barnes v. State of Indiana. This case was brought on appeal by the state of Indiana after the Appellate Court heard oral arguments on March 23, 2010, at the Indiana University School of Law, Indianapolis.

The case involved the issue of domestic disturbance and whether the police had the authority to enter a couple's premises after being denied permission. In this case, police had responded to a domestic disturbance, and when they arrived at the Barnes residence, the husband was angered with the officers and did not give them permission to enter his residence. The officers had instructed Barnes to calm himself, but did not tell him that he was facing arrest. The husband then attacked an officer when he attempted to enter the home.

At the oral argument, the counsel for Barnes spoke first, arguing how her client had the right to resist unlawful entry into his home. Several issues raised were whether there was violence towards the property, the state of mind of the parties, and the right of the individual to resist arrest. The counsel for the State of Indiana argued that even if Barnes had not applied to resisting arrest himself. The State of Indiana’s counsel also argued that in domestic violence issues, there is no tort committed by police when entering a building, if extrinsic evidence is present. The counsel did not expressly state what that extrinsic evidence was and Associate Justice Robert Rucker pondered the determination of the line between reasonable resistance and battery.

After the arguments were heard, the Court was opened up for questioning. Tony Howard II and Ryan Rowan, 3Ls, asked questions regarding whether any of the Justices had argued in front of the Indiana Supreme Court before being appointed to the court and whether any of the justices thought there was a difference between elected judges and appointed judges. The court was open and happy to oblige any inquiries and it provided a welcoming forum for other students to participate in the discussion. The Court is to make its decision on this case in the upcoming months.

John is a 3L who can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.

NCAA DIRECTOR PROVIDES VISION AND HER TAKE ON THE BLIND SIDE

By: Sarah Peterlin • Staff Writer

On Friday, November 12, 2010, The Career Planning Office at Valparaiso University School of Law held a distinguished alumni presentation and luncheon. This season’s guest speaker was Joyce Thompson, Associate Director of Enforcement Services at the NCAA. Ms. Thompson discussed her alternative career choice and also described her portrayal in the Academy-Award-winning movie, The Blind Side.

Ms. Thompson earned her law degree in 1999 and began an alternative career path working for the Indiana Attorney General’s office and the Indiana Department of Health. She later joined the NCAA enforcement staff, where she has been employed for the last eight years. As part of the enforcement staff, Ms. Thompson investigates athletic programs to determine whether they are in compliance with NCAA legislation. At the luncheon, Thompson explained that she did not have a strong background in sports law and this made her job challenging, initially. She had to learn a great deal about the sports world, including the legal and non-legal terms. Although the NCAA is located in Indianapolis, Thompson travels across the country investigating athletes and obtaining information from students, coaches, significant others and parents. Surprisingly, Thompson said that most people are very open and willing to talk with her about the situation of a student athlete.

Ms. Thompson has recently received notoriety for her role as the investigator who questioned NFL offensive tackle Michael Oher. As illustrated by the movie, The Blind Side, Michael Oher began his very successful football career in high school when the Tuohy family gave him a new life by adopting and rescuing him from a life in the housing projects of Memphis. Controversy arose when Oher signed to play football for the University of Mississippi, a school where both his adoptive parents had attended and he had made numerous financial donations. Thompson explained that she interviewed Oher to investigate whether the Tuohy’s influence on his decision to play college football for the university violated NCAA rules because the donations they made could be a form of disallowed “boosting.” She traveled to Oher’s home and spoke with him on several occasions before ultimately deciding there was no violation in his recruitment.

The movie, The Blind Side, did portray Thompson’s interview with Oher, and although she indicated that she was flattered, Thompson also indicated that the movie was not an accurate portrayal of the way the NCAA interviews student athletes. Contrary to the movie’s portrayal of Thompson’s aggressive attitude toward Oher in a room alone with him, she explained that the NCAA refrains from intimidating students and always allows parents in the interview.

Thompson’s presentation was entertaining, yet very insightful, because it provided a look into the traditional legal career with a twist. In her job, Thompson uses the skills she learned as a litigation attorney, but is not confined to a courtroom day in and day out. In fact, she said she rarely has to engage in formal court proceedings because most violations are decided before a committee. Joyce Thompson is a great example of an attorney who feels validated in her career choice and she provided inspiration for students to keep an open mind once out of law school because unforeseen opportunities can always arise.

Sarah is a 1L and can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.
EXTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND IN SPRING SEMESTER!

BY: LISA CANNON • CPC DIRECTOR

This excerpt from a recent extern’s journal is just one example of the various opportunities available to law students learning through hands-on, real-life, legal experience in the Externship program offered by the Career Planning Center.

“Oddly calm and thinking to myself, ‘justice lives within those walls.’ Someday, the courthouse isn’t going to make me feel this way. Maybe I’ll be a really grumpy, cynical attorney who doesn’t believe in justice... Rehearsing criminal statutes in my head... Indiana doesn’t have degrees of murder, right? Is conversion a crime or a tort? Both? Too late to figure it out, I am at the security doors. There is a stern-faced Sheriff’s police officer at the door, eyeballing me because I have a laptop. He’s ready to give me a lecture. I pass him a letter from my boss saying I’m working as an extern and his entire demeanor changes. ‘Come on in! You know you have a letter in your hand from God himself.’ (That’s an actual quote.) He introduces me to the other officers; all of them immediately give me a hard time. The way to their hearts is through jokes. I can remember that, so I’ll fondly refer to them as ‘Larry, Curley and Moe’ from now on. They’ll get a kick out of it. Even if everyone at the office thinks I’m a moron, at least the police will enjoy my company for the semester.”

Watch for these events next spring to open the door to gaining an externship for the summer, fall or spring semesters!

EXTERNSHIP VGI Career Session
January 19, 2011 - 12:40 pm - Pelzer

The Director of Experiential Education will discuss preparation and tips for students to search and apply for future extern openings. She will give a brief overview of the program’s requirements and the employers who will visit campus during the spring semester to interview candidates for 2011 externships, as well as, the guidelines for Strategy applications.

EXTERNSHIP EXPO
February 17, 2011 - Atrium

The Career Planning Center will host Valpo Law’s 1st Annual Externship Expo, at which numerous extern employers will showcase their externship opportunities for the upcoming summer and fall positions. CPC will target extern employers, many from Chicago, who don’t typically visit Valpo Law’s campus for interviews. Students will meet with these extern employers in table-talk format. First- and second-year students are highly encouraged to attend this event to discover opportunities in which to gain legal experience during the summer of 2011 and during the next academic year.

EXTERNSHIP Valpo-Generated Interviews
Mid-January to mid-April 2011

Local extern employers will visit campus to select externs for Summer 2011, Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 semester externships. Applications for externship interviews on campus will be done on a rolling basis, due in mid-January through mid-April. This enables employers to make offers to students prior to student registration in April for the next academic year’s courses. If students are chosen for externships, they can plan time in their class schedules to accommodate work with the extern employers for extern credit. See Strategy’s Interview Schedules beginning in January and throughout the Spring semester for further details on these interviews.

EXTERNSHIP Strategy Job Postings
January – April 2011

Many extern employers opt to post extern positions on Strategy and collect applications in one batch from Valpo Law students or allow students to apply directly to their organization. This semester, more than 40 extern employers posted openings for Spring 2011 externs. See https://www.myinterface.com/valpolaw/student/in Job Postings for further details.

According to The National Law Journal’s article entitled, The Recession Makes Externships a Sweeter Deal for Students, “With many associate programs to rely on, law students are turning to alternate ways of gaining practical experience and making connections that could lead to full-time employment. Many students are doing externships to fill that need. They work, unpaid, for credit under the supervision of a faculty and an on-site attorney, via a governmental or non-profit organization.” The Career Planning Center offers more than 90 approved externships in which a student can work during the summer or during the academic school year and gain up to three law school credits while working approximately ten hours per week or more during the semester. Further details and the entire list of approved sites can be found on the externship website, https://www.valpo.edu/law/externships/index.php. Current extern postings will be posted in Strategy at https://www.myinterface.com/valpolaw/student/.

Explore the various extern offerings next semester as opportunities will be abundant to obtain real-life, legal skills while you receive academic credit. Add valuable externship experience to your resume this summer and next academic year! If you have questions, please contact Lisa.Cannon@valpo.edu.

FROM THE LAW LIBRARY

THOUGHTS ON E-READERS AND THE FUTURE OF THE PRINTED WORD

BY: STEVEN R. PROBST • EDUCATIONAL SERVICES LIBRARIAN

As you might imagine, choosing librarianship as your profession will, from time to time, cause the occasional person you come into contact with to question, even so delicately, the future of your profession and, that of libraries generally. The chief concern of these individuals is, of course, rapid advances in technology which seem to put buildings and careers devoted mostly to printed sources of information in some jeopardy. The Internet and commercial databases such as LexisNexis are usually the source of their concerns. However, to these skeptics, a similar threat to printed books and thus libraries can be found in the emergence of e-readers and their rising popularity.

While libraries will endure regardless of the form information takes in the future, the hypothetical observation about the popularity of e-readers is certainly accurate. A recent New York Times article reported that by the end of this year 10.3 million Americans will own e-readers, purchasing 100 million e-books—tripling those same statistics from one year ago. However, declaring the death of the printed book at this point, as David Pogue does in a recent article in Scientific American, is premature and loses sight of similar historical developments. After all, as Pogue notes, “when techn[ological] changes do occur, they tend not to wipe out the existing technologies; instead they complement, not eliminate my reading of print materials.

Looking first at the iPad it is, of course, considerably more than an e-reader, also offering access to the internet, e-mail, and a host of dedicated applications that turn the tablet into a teapot, a keyboard, a knife, a game console, a gun, a voice recorder, its function as an e-reader though, it performs more than adequately, offering the ability to hold thousands of books and display them beautifully in color. I also like the simulated page turns that follow your finger and the display of page numbers which help you keep your bearing within a e-book. While these products each offer some advantages over the printed book, they ultimately will only complement, not eliminate my reading of print materials.
By: Mark Adams • Associate Dean & Professor of Law

Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime.

Mark Twain

Studying abroad provides students with the opportunity to develop their global awareness, enhance their academic learning, experience personal growth, advance their careers, gain an appreciation for and understanding of other cultures, and improve communication skills and the ability to live and work effectively in another culture.

Valparaiso Law students can enhance their world view of the law by spending a summer semester studying in either the International Human Rights Program in Chile and Argentina, or the Cambridge Program in London and Cambridge.

Students in the International Human Rights Program in Chile and Argentina examine legal, historical, and cultural approaches to human rights, with a focus on Chile and Argentina. Both nations have recently emerged from periods of significant human rights abuse, and both continue to grapple with the need to protect human rights, while addressing significant social issues. This unique program offers students immersion in a foreign legal system and a comparative perspective on pressing questions of human rights. In addition, students will have the opportunity to enjoy a winery tour, traditional Argentine asado (barbecue) and interaction with law students in both countries.

In the summer 2011 semester, Professor Adams will teach “International Human Rights: Latin America.” This course examines issues in international human rights law and policy and focuses on the law, history, and cultures of Chile and Argentina in relationship to these issues. During lectures by distinguished professors, judges, and human rights advocates, students are introduced to comparative constitutionalism, the transition to democracy and reconciliation, rights of indigenous peoples, and the judicial systems of each country. In addition to classroom lectures, students will visit Constitutional, Supreme, and criminal courts, meet with human rights organizations, and visit government institutions such as the Chilean Congress.

Professor Calo will teach “Religious Freedom: Comparative and International Perspectives.” This course considers the relationship between law and religion from a comparative and international perspective, with particular attention given to issues of religious freedom. The course begins by examining the intellectual history of religious freedom. Students will study seminal primary source documents, particularly from the Anglo-American tradition, and then consider the history of the temporary treatment of religion in various national legal systems, focusing on the United States and selected countries in South America and Europe. The course next addresses the status of religious freedom within international law. In addition to looking at relevant international declarations and covenants, students will examine issues from regional regimes such as the European Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, as well as the United States Commission on International Freedom. The course concludes by considering a number of case studies implicating religion and religious freedom such as proselytism, headscarves, education, family law, and gender and sexuality.

The Cambridge Program begins with the course “Legal London” taught by Professor Gaffney. This course provides a basic introduction to the process of lawmaking in Parliamentary government and the adjudication of civil and criminal cases in England, both at the trial and appellate levels. The course includes guest lectures and visits to important legal and government institutions. After exploring the legal and cultural offerings of London for a week, students then spend four weeks in Cambridge.

In the summer 2011 semester, Professor Telman will teach “International Humanitarian Law.” This is an introductory course on international humanitarian law, a subject matter that covers the intersection between international human rights law, international criminal law and the international law of armed conflict. After an introductory section on the sources of public international law (custom, treaties and general principles common to all developed legal systems), we will proceed through an overview of topics in the area of international humanitarian law. Scheduling and financial requirements permitting, the course will also involve a field trip to The Hague to visit the International Criminal Court and/or the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia.

Lastly, Professor Herzig will teach “Comparative Law: Tax.” This course highlights the international aspects of the United States tax code, and examines comparative tax law. Beginning with a brief overview of United States tax laws, the course seeks to place U.S. taxation in a global context. The course reviews the international aspects of the United States tax code as it pertains to Americans doing business abroad, and also reviews its implications for foreign nationals doing business in the U.S.

If you are interested in any of these programs, please attend an information session or contact Dean Adams with your questions.

Dean Adams can be reached at mark.adams@valpo.edu.

Law Library - Continued from ... page 2

heavy and really only comfortable to read when laying it on your lap or stomach.

The Kindle, of course, is only an e-reader, and lacks all of the extra capabilities of the iPad. However, given that its cost is a fraction of the iPad's ($139.00 versus at least $499.00), it may be attractive to those primarily interested in an e-reader. Overall, it is much smaller and lighter than the iPad, and therefore more comfortable to read for extended periods of time. Due to its use of e-ink technology, it also has a much longer battery life than the iPad (30 days versus 10-12 hours). The selection of books on Amazon available to Kindle users is also superior to Apple's far less extensive collection of titles (approximately 600,000 versus only 60,000 though the Kindle application for iPad gives you access to Amazon titles too, just not with the same display or functionality). Navigation also seems very clunky on the Kindle with its absence of a touch screen, and page turns are not as smooth as they are on the iPad, but rather require a pause and flashing screen as the e-ink particles are reassembled for each new page. Page numbers are also lacking too on the Kindle, replaced instead with a “location” — whatever that means. In a draw with the iPad, the screen dilemma is reversed on the Kindle - it can be read in direct sunlight, but not in the dark.

Overall, the features of both devices offer some advantages over printed books. They offer the portability of carrying thousands of books with you at any one time (so long as you don’t run out of power). They also offer books at approximately half the cost of a printed copy, onboard dictionaries, presumably less impact on the environment, and the ability to change the size of the text to suit your failing vision.

However, following my experimentation with them, I also cannot get past their two chief limitations. First, and perhaps foremost, is the inability to pass a book that you have finished reading on to someone you know who would enjoy it. E-book publishers, at this point, are extremely concerned with managing the digital rights of the purchasers of their products, giving fewer rights to the purchaser of an e-book than the purchaser of the same title in print. Until this problem is solved, libraries will not be inclined to adopt e-books in a significant fashion — and individuals may behave similarly. This may be a job for you future IP lawyers.

The biggest downside to e-readers though, at least for me, is the way in which they change the reading experience. I simply don’t have the same sense of connection to an e-book that I do to a print volume. No ability to fold the pages back or dog-ear one I want to come back to. No smell of print, feel of the paper, or the same sense of satisfaction on completion – having watched your bookmark proceed steadily through the pages as you progressed.

For many, this equation may come out differently, and certainly there are some immediate applications in which e-books might logically completely replace their print counterparts. For instance, it makes no sense to force law students to carry book bags full of extraordinarily heavy casebooks when they could carry them all on a single e-reader weighing less than a pound. For that reason alone (setting aside the near criminal cost of textbooks), academic book publishing is clearly an opportunity for the growth of e-books.

For now though, the battle over e-books will continue to be waged, as all technological battles are, on a user-by-user basis, with each person evaluating the new technology and its possibilities for their lives. I’ve done my part.

Professor Probst can be reached at steven.probst@valpo.edu.
From October 21st through October 23rd, the Valparaiso University Law School's International Law Society attended the 89th Annual Meeting of the American branch of the International Law Association. The goal was to attain various legal perspectives in the area of international law, while exploring the New York City legal market. Overall, it was an exciting weekend filled with adventure and experiences.

After a quick check-in to the hotel, we were off to the House of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. There we met Patricia O'Brien, the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and the U.N. Legal Counsel. Ms. O'Brien led a panel discussing law and to what extent the General Assembly, through the International Law Commission and otherwise, has discharged its responsibility in the area of initiating studies and making recommendations for the purpose of encouraging the progressive development and codification of international law, including its challenges, successes, and failures. The hour-long discussion had equal segments of humorous moments, thought-provoking moments and somnolent moments. Shortly after the discussion, many of the attendees scurried across the hall where fresh hors d'oeuvres and drinks awaited.

The following morning was the first official day of the International Law Weekend. After a quick breakfast at one of the multitude of delis on each city block, we made our way to Fordham University. There, the group checked in, had some coffee, and split up to various lectures throughout the day. The lectures we attended included: The International Court of Justice's Role in Resolving the Kosovo Crisis, Global versus Local: International Law and Institutions, Customary Law and Human Rights in Africa, Climate Change, Energy and the Implications for International Law, International Litigation and Human Rights, and Using Mediation to Resolve International Parental Child Abduction Cases (for the sake of this article's length, I will only be covering one of our lectures in some detail).

Shortly after the end of the last lectures, the group went back to the hotel and prepared themselves for an evening to take in New York City.

WHY JOIN CLS? ONE STUDENT'S REWARD

BY: ALETHIA VEALE-SMITH • GUEST WRITER

As I reflect on my journey as a law student, I sincerely believe that joining CLS made life as a law student more rewarding in a multitude of ways and I am forever grateful. I remember everything as clearly as though it all happened yesterday. My 1L year was not only academically straining but it was also filled with personal triumphs as well.

During my 1L year, I suffered family loss, family illness and my own health conditions. Like most 1L students, I was struggling to find a balance between law school and my personal life.

It was my first time attending bible study with the Christian Legal Society (CLS). I received a warm welcome and everyone was genuinely happy to have a new attendee. The minute the floor was opened to prayer request I immediately began to cry profusely. I couldn't believe that I was crying like a newborn baby in front of a group of people I barely knew. I cried that day shamelessly because I knew that I was in the right place amongst the right people. Little did I know that attending bible study would be the beginning of my commitment to CLS. Following my 1L year I was nominated and elected as the Vice President of CLS and today I continue to be an active member of CLS. CLS does not serve as just another organizational membership on my legal resume. CLS enhanced my personal growth, actively encouraged my firm moral foundation and improved my lifestyle of fellowship.

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

CLE AND YOU, THE NEW LAWYER: A MESSAGE FROM ALI-ABA

BY: RICHARD MITCHELL • GUEST WRITER

With only a few short days (Dec. 12, 2010) until I graduate from Valparaiso University School of Law in Valparaiso, Indiana, I couldn't leave without sharing some unsolicited advice. It's what three years of law school does to you—but this important, so read on! As a 1L, I was inundated with work and the newness of a new study. It seemed as though law school or my personal affairs were on a tipping scale—the scale was either too low or too high and I needed to find an outlet that was ethically pleasing and invigorating. Everything had become quite unbearable, I was at the lowest point in my life and needed help, so I decided to attend bible study.

It was my first time attending bible study with the Christian Legal Society (CLS). I received a warm welcome and everyone was genuinely happy to have a new attendee. The minute the floor was opened to prayer request I immediately began to cry profusely. I couldn't believe that I was crying like a newborn baby in front of a group of people I barely knew. I cried that day shamelessly because I knew that I was in the right place amongst the right people. Little did I know that attending bible study would be the beginning of my commitment to CLS. Following my 1L year I was nominated and elected as the Vice President of CLS and today I continue to be an active member of CLS. CLS does not serve as just another organizational membership on my legal resume. CLS enhanced my personal growth, actively encouraged my firm moral foundation and improved my lifestyle of fellowship.

Rich is a 3L and can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.
Criminal Law

A senior defense official says lawyers from across government agencies are studying whether it might be possible to proseute WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange under the Espionage Act.

The official says lawyers from the Departments of Justice, State and Defense are among those looking into how to handle the leaking of a massive number of national security and diplomatic documents to the WikiLeaks website and the site's action in then posting them on the Internet.

The defense official spoke on condition of anonymity to be able to discuss internal deliberations. He said lawyers are trying to determine whether the Espionage Act applies in this case, what individuals it might apply to and whether it's possible to use it against the WikiLeaks organization.

Source: Associated Press

Intellectual Property Law

The Supreme Court has turned down an appeal from a Texas teenager who was reprimanded for downloading music without paying. Whitney Harper acknowledged she used file-sharing networks to download and share three dozen songs. But she said the money she owes music companies should be reduced because as a 16-year-old she didn't know that what she did amounted to copyright infringement.

The justices rejected Harper's appeal over a dissent from Justice Samuel Alito. The issue in the case is whether people who illegally swap music online can try to show that they did so innocently.

Harper wanted the money owed for each song cut to $200 from $750.

Source: Associated Press

Campaign Finance Law

The Supreme Court will consider reversing an Arizona rule that gives extra money to publicly-funded candidates who face privately-funded rivals.

The court already blocked the state in June from handing out so-called matching funds in the recent election. The justices agreed to hear an appeal about a federal court order requiring California to reduce its prison population by about 40,000 inmates.

Last year, a panel of three federal judges ruled that reducing California's prison population by about 40,000 inmates is the only way to improve medical and mental health care.

Source: Associated Press

Criminal Law

The U.S. Supreme Court is set to hear arguments about a federal court order requiring California to release inmates from its overcrowded prisons. The case is to be argued from medical care judged so poor it once was blamed for contributing to an average of one inmate death a week. The case pits states rights against the power of the federal judiciary.

Eighteen other states have joined Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's administration in urging the justices to reject the order.

The 11th U.S. Court of Appeals had agreed with the Environmental Protection Agency that transferring polluted water from one navigable body to another does not require a permit.

A federal judge in 2006 had said the pumping constituted a "discharge of a pollutant" under the Clean Water Act and required the South Florida Water Management District to get a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit.

Source: Associated Press

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

By denying cert. in, Friends of the Everglades v. South Florida Water Management District, the Supreme Court won't force Florida water managers to get permits to pump contaminated water from farmland into Lake Okeechobee.

The high court refused to hear an appeal from the Friends of the Everglades, the Florida Wildlife Federation and other groups.

The 11th U.S. Court of Appeals had agreed with the Environmental Protection Agency that transferring polluted water from one navigable body to another does not require a permit.

A federal judge in 2006 had said the pumping constituted a "discharge of a pollutant" under the Clean Water Act and required the South Florida Water Management District to get a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit.

Source: Associated Press

THE SITREP

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS NATIONAL SECURITY IMPLICATIONS PART II

By: Anthony Azcona • Columnist

The effect of climate change on humans will not arise as former Vice President Al Gore explains it in his Inconvenient Truth, nor will it be the cataclysmic Hollywood summer blockbuster brought to you by Jerry Bruckheimer. Instead, it is a slow change that still has a severe impact on the human population of the planet.

Lack of access to fresh water, diminished capacity to produce food, effects on health and the loss of land are the larger impacts of climate change experienced by humans. These factors have an effect on the national security policies of not only the United States, but also all other developed nations in the world.

Studies have shown that the increased ferocity of storm systems around the planet, ranging from Katrina in 2005 to the cyclone that devastated Myanmar in 2009 is affected by the warming of the planet. Models have shown that the planet may see a rise in sea levels by 3 feet (1 meter) by the end of the current century. There is also a possibility that this rise could increase based on receding ice on the planet, uncovering permafrost that expels great amounts of methane that adds to the warming of the planet.

Severe storms and rising sea levels also affect coastal nations, none more than Bangladesh. Bangladesh sits at thirty feet above sea level and is protected by a series of dikes from the rising ocean.

The nation is at great risk against severe cyclones and the rising seas. Estimates of a three-foot rise or greater in sea levels threatens Bangladesh through the sea water's effect on local water tables and crop lands, making it difficult to raise crops.

Threats of powerful cyclones rampaging across Bangladesh raises concerns of the creation of great numbers of refugees in the wake of these storms. The very worst estimates show that Bangladesh will be mostly seawater or devastated by constant storms, leaving approximately 20 million refugees without homes.

The stream of twenty million refugees without homes into India or Southeast Asia is a nightmare for those dealing with national security.

Without government awareness of the negative effects of global warming, nations will be severely debilitated. The change must come now.

Tony is a 3L and can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.
ANGRY ABOUT THE TSA? DEAL WITH IT.

By: Jon Kohlscheen • Columnist

This Thanksgiving break, I, like many of you, flew home to spend time with family and friends. After being bombarded by the endless media uproar and hype regarding the TSA’s new body imaging scanners and pat-down procedures, I half-expected to witness abuses of power, Big Brother, and the rise of a police state in front of my very eyes. I went through the scanner, posed with my arms above the head, and waited for the image to be processed by a TSA officer in a walled-off location not visible to my fellow passengers. And that was it. Would I prefer to have not had some unknown TSA worker see a creepy, plasma-like image of my body? Sure. But is it a reason to revolt? Far from it.

The metal detectors we are all accustomed to in airports were cutting-edge technology... in the 1960’s. Times have changed in the 50-or-so years since they were invented, as have the threats against this country, and our technological capabilities must change to meet those threats. The Advanced Imaging Technology (AIT) machines being placed in airports around the country represent the latest advance in security technology by being able to detect metallic items as well as non-metallic substances, including liquids, powders, and gels like those used in the attempted Christmas Day bombing last year. Is this technology perfect? Of course not, no technology is. But it drastically increases the probability of detecting dangerous materials and substantially reduces the remaining options for terrorists. By limiting those options, it forces those who wish to harm us to resort to less reliable methods or give up downing planes all together.

Further, there are some privacy safeguards to minimize the intrusion. Contrary to popular belief, the imaging technology used cannot save or transmit the images. A rumor began online claiming that images that had been saved by the TSA had been posted online, but some fact-checking proved that the images were actually from a different technology used by the U.S. Marshalls, who do save images. The images are also not visible by the public, nor seen by any officer who sees you in person. And while there have been some abuses and embarrassments, the answer is better training and personnel, not scrapping new technological advances.

Some believe that we can avoid the use of these new technologies by adopting the Israeli-method of profiling. Moral issues aside, that simply will not work in our situation. Bin Laden has recruited terrorists from over 20 different countries, including non-Arab states like Nigeria and Thailand, making such a “profile” hopelessly overbroad. Further, problems of scale exist: Israel has 7 airports servicing 9 million travelers annually, compared to America’s more than 400 airports and 800 million travelers annually.

Think of it this way: what would the public response be if a terrorist smuggled non-metallic, bomb-making materials onto a plane and successfully detonated a makeshift device, killing everyone on board? And how would we feel if we learned that the body imaging scanners could have detected the explosive materials and prevented an atrocity from occurring? The new TSA policies are not perfect. They are more intrusive. But they are a single, yet vital, component of a comprehensive counterterrorism strategy and, given the alternatives, the best option we currently have.

Jon is a 1L and can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.
This statement—clarifying the Pope’s novel position (stated in his new book) that male prostitute can use condoms to prevent the spread of HIV—is pretty clear and truly awesome. Considering that the Catholic Church claims over a billion adherents, its long-term effects for the health of humanity will be immense. Coming just as the holiday season falls upon us, it is certainly something for which to give thanks.

The Catholic Church is certainly not the most antiquated religious organization. For example, it does not treat the text of the Old Testament as the holiday season falls upon us, it is certainly something for which to give thanks.

It does not treat the text of the Old Testament as literal truth (which should not be hard to understand given that Jesus spoke in parables). Considering that the Catholic Church claims over a billion adherents, its long-term effects for the health of humanity will be immense. Coming just as the holiday season falls upon us, it is certainly something for which to give thanks.

The faithful are married to Christ and it is not clear that the marriage between the faithful and Christ can withstand the test of time. This is if you’re a woman, a man, or a transsexual.

The Church certainly does not want to give sexual license to its millions of followers. Abstinence, if practiced, truly is more effective at preventing unwanted pregnancies and STDs. Furthermore, the Church calls believers ‘fathers of the faith’ because it would prevent new and reorganized companies from becoming unjustly enriched from the unpaid debts of previous stock and bond holders who got zilch from bankruptcy proceedings.

However, the losses of these investors will be a powerful asset in the hands of New GM in the form of NOLs. These NOLs will allow New GM to offset any profits (and taxable gain) for a period of up to 20 years.

Early this past month, General Motors (GM) issued a large Initial Public Offering (IPO) in order to sell some of this recently reorganized company’s (New GM’s) debt. Some members of the public seem skeptical of the potential profitability of this company. From a tax standpoint, this company is in the best shape when compared to all other car manufacturers. The reason is, of course, that it does not have a common accounting mechanism called net operating loss carryforwards (NOLs).

When GM went into bankruptcy (Old GM), the previous stockholders and bondholders were wiped out and lost all of their investments. These poor unfortunate stock and bond holders lost all of the money they had invested into Old GM. However, the losses of these investors will be a powerful asset in the hands of New GM in the form of NOLs. These NOLs will allow New GM to offset any profits (and taxable gain) for a period of up to 20 years.

There are some like Cardinal Rino Fisichella who hold that condoms are "intrinsically an evil." Others like Elena Curti, deputy editor of the Catholic Weekly, and The Tablet, are slightly less cartoonish. "The Pope has let the genie out of the bottle. Once you do that it’s very difficult to put it back in. In allowing this chink of light in — despite the careful language he uses — it does open up the debate." What seems clear is that if this is an incision into the body of Christ, it is one the Church can handle. Maybe it is more like a circumcision. Regardless, if Christ can come back from a spear to the side, a crown of thorns, and three days on a cross—if Christ rose from the dead—then condoms surely cannot prevent the witnessing of God’s truth.

Bradley is a 3L and can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.
**PEARLS & POLITICS**

By: Jessica Fabiszak • Columnist

A good friend of mine updated his Facebook status to say, "I don't see why the Left is so upset. If you remember correctly, 'Change' is a good thing." As the election results rolled out this past November, one thing is for certain, Americans want change. Just two years ago, the country was overly excited about having the first African-American male run for President and the first female run as a Vice-President candidate. Regardless if you favor blue or red politics, it is pretty clear that Americans want something new from their elected officials than what was in the past.

Change took place in 2008. Barack Obama was elected President of the United States. Democrats took over the country as they sat as the majority party in Congress. It is two years later and Americans are unhappy about what has NOT happened since the big election. The unhappiness has been proven as Democrats have slowly lost their seats in Congress to the Republican Party. This past November took things to a new dimension. Red overwhelmingly swept the country showing that Americans desire change from the government.

The end results show Republicans taking back their place in Congress and in other government positions. In the House, the tally ended as 242 Republicans to 191 Democrats making the candidates gained spots as Governor in their state race including: Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Ohio, Florida, Pennsylvania and Maine. Change is a good thing, our lives should not remain static. If they were, things would never get accomplished.

One of my favorite phrases that I live my life by is, "Be the rock that changes the course of the river, rather than the pebble that gets swept away by the stream". It will be our generation that influences whether or not our government is going to be continually at odds with each other over a color race. Our government needs our opinions on what needs to be accomplished as well as what needs to be changed. It is not fair that every two and four years bits and pieces of progress are made and then are wiped away by the next round of elected officials from the other party. Not everyone is going to be satisfied. Our generation needs to take this into account and find ways to best suit the needs of our entire country rather than our individual needs.

It has been too long in government that our officials state these big promises and then fall through with accomplishing them. Unfortunately, it seems that our government officials continue to follow the Italian saying of "dolce far niente." Empty promises are made during campaign seasons every year. We need to be the voice of what is to come. We need to become politically active again and make sure that our elected officials do more than nothing. Although it may be acceptable in Italy to enjoy pleasant idleness, that is not what we want here in America. As many stated back in 2008, we want change.

Jessica is a 1L and can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.

**CONFESSIONS OF A 1L**

By: Caitlin Broo • Columnist

Her name was Patty. Like many of us in the 1L class, she came to law school full of dreams and her head spinning with ideas. She was one of those people for whom the word "smart" was invented. Mostly, she was one of my best friends. There was a group of us, these lost souls at Valpo Law trying to navigate our way through the hallowed halls. We were going to be something more than the dazed and dazzled members of the 1L class. We were going to be forces to be reckoned with.

Mostly, we goofed off when needed and studied when we couldn't. She was the one to pull me out of the library when she decided I needed to actually see the sun. But like us all, Patty tried to do too much. She tried to be a better student, a better worker, and a better daughter. And like so many other first-years before her, it all became too much.

Patty left the law school before Thanksgiving and I am left feeling strangely bereft. So, this is my eulogy for a good friend, gone too soon from our hallways.

True friends are hard to come by and making friends in law school was harder. I counted myself lucky with a few good ones and Patty was good one. She was my informal editor with whom I bounced ideas off of and told me when I had slid off the rails. Mostly, she kept my head sane.

It's sort of funny. She would often say this column should be about her. I would roll my eyes and promise further down the line that maybe I would spare a few words about her. Instead, I am left writing a pseudo-eulogy. She is alive, existing in some place beyond law school. But in my own twisted mind she might as well be gone from my life permanently. With exams right around the corner and a new semester almost right after that, I am sad to admit that I probably won't have time for her. Heck, I hardly have time for my other non-law school friends between the papers and the outlining.

That being said, exams are fast approaching. I am planning on studying in a super secret location with a couple of friends. I am keeping it super secret because frankly, I don't want it invaded by a panick hoard of first years. So, sorry to those of you looking for tips for quiet locations beyond the law school. But, my current problems leading up to exams is the massive amount of work and so little time to accomplish it all. So, yes slight exam panic is setting in. I try to fight it with a healthy dose of mindless television, specifically cartoons, but I am failing a little bit each day as exams inchcloser.

Caitlin is a 1L and can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.

**DECEMBER TRIVIA:** (ANSWERS P.11)

1. WHO ABOLISHED ALL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS IN 1645 ENGLAND IN AN ATTEMPT TO STAMP TRADITIONS CONSIDERED SINFUL BY PURITAN PROTESTANTS?
2. ALTHOUGH A POPULAR CHRISTMAS SONG, GOOD KING WENCESLAS ACTUALLY REFERS TO THIS HOLIDAY, CELEBRATED THE DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS?
3. IN THE RUDOLPH THE RED NOSE REINDEER TV SPECIAL, WHAT DOES THE ELF HERMEY WANT TO BE?
4. WHO PERFORMS THE VOICE OF KWANZABOT IN THE TV SHOW FUTURAMA?
5. THE SAME CANDLE CHANUKAH COMES FROM THE HEBREW WORD MEANING WHAT?
6. WHO CREATED KWANZA?
7. LANTERN FESTIVAL IS CELEBRATED IN MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE, VIETNAM, AND THIS COUNTRY.
8. HOW MANY CANDLES ARE THERE IN AN ADVENT WREATH?
9. WHAT IS THE TERM FOR RETAILERS SLOWLY MOVING UP THE 'START' OF THE HOLIDAY SHOPPING SEASON?
10. THE CHRISTMAS TREE IS TRADITIONALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THIS SAINT.
W ith the holidays quickly approaching, most of us will be, if not already, shopping for gifts for loved ones. As we go searching for that perfect gift, many of us at the Forum discuss some of our most cherished presents from the past.

**Jolene Cieniawski**
Editor-in-Chief

The best gift I ever got for Christmas was the original Nintendo gaming system from my parents. I was 8 years old in 1990 and the Nintendo system was the most popular gift because gaming electronics were a whole new thing for kids. It was advertised everywhere and every kid wanted one, including me. A few weeks before Christmas, I made my usual rounds scouring the house for hidden presents and found some pajamas that were probably intended for me, but no other gifts. Definitely no Nintendo. I was getting anxious and upset that I wouldn’t get the Nintendo that all my friends would probably get. I will never forget that Christmas day when I saw a rectangle box wrapped for me under the tree. I knew it was the Nintendo. I tore apart that wrapping and woke up my dad to have him set up the system. I played Super Mario Bros. from that day every day until Christmas break ended. I then played it every day after school. I was a bit sad when I went back to school and saw that my version did not have a Game Boy. This wasn’t the little car that you just put dolls in; this was the life-size (at least for a six-year-old) real deal. I knew for sure I would be the coolest kid on my block. I immediately took it for a test drive—since my family lived in Florida at the time, I was able to drive my convertible without worrying about freezing in sub-zero temperatures or sliding into heaps of snow. It was everything I thought it would be—let’s just until my parents ruined it for me by making me stay on the sidewalk with it. I was furious! Who drives a car on the sidewalk? It was ridiculous, especially because we lived on a cul-de-sac—clearly not a dangerous situation. But, at the end of the day, my sister was still super jealous and so I still loved it!

**Melissa Macchio**
Executive Editor of Production

I was six years old when I received my all-time favorite Christmas present. I remember running down the stairs Christmas morning and seeing it—a shiny, bright pink Barbie corvette convertible!! This wasn’t the little car that you just put dolls in; this was the life-size (at least for a six-year-old) real deal. I knew for sure I would be the coolest kid on my block. I immediately took it for a test drive—since my family lived in Florida at the time, I was able to drive my convertible without worrying about freezing in sub-zero temperatures or sliding and so I still loved it!

**Dan Hallberg**
Managing Editor

I remember my favorite Christmas present quite well. I was in first or second grade and one of a large number of grandkids. Christmas was a bit of a present melee, and we loved it. I had gotten lots and lots of presents and was down to two. I opened the first on the stack to find a copy of Super Mario Land 2: Six Golden Coins for Game Boy. The problem was that I didn’t have a Game Boy. The flash of realization hit my face when I saw that the last present left was the correct size for the classic green and black, brick style Game Boy. It was my first video game and I still play Six Golden Coins to this day.

**John Bayard**
Executive Editor

The gift I most remember from my childhood was the Nintendo Entertainment System I received Christmas of 1990 (I think). That’s right the old NES and believe it or not it still works after twenty years. My young mind was fascinated by its 8-bit glory. Looking back at hours I spent playing Dr. Mario or Capcom’s DuckTales were a blast, if not a possible sour on my eyesight (perhaps why I am now near sighted). The best memories associated with the NES were the enjoyable times spent playing all those video games with my friends.

*Any of the Forum staff can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.*

---

**LOONEY LEGAL**

**By: John Bayard • Executive Editor**

W ith the Holiday season upon us once again, it is good to know that lawyers will have plenty of legal issues to face. I’m not just talking about the standard “let’s put a Christmas tree up on public property and see who sues us for First Amendment violations.” Instead I am referring to all the other legal liabilities, contractual obligations, and intellectual property disputes that arise during this time of year. “What’s that Timmy? Santa gave you a subpoena for Christmas!” Well don’t worry because you can always have him arrested for breaking and entering. This is not mentioning the numerous other issues that are raised. An old man that loves children, knows when they are sleeping, and has a naughty and nice list - are you telling me that doesn’t raise red flags?!

Besides glorifying a person who brings gifts in return for tributes of milk and cookies, the holidays are full of actual legal poten-tigls and boons for lawyers. Intellectual Property issues are always at the top of the list. In 2008, Louisville, Kentucky, abruptly abandoned plans for a Christmas display based on the story How the Grinch Stole Christmas. It wasn’t because of public uproar, or the big green meenie terrifying small children. No, it was the cease-and-desist letter from lawyers representing the estate of legendary children author Dr. Seuss, threatening to sue for copyright infringement if the city went ahead with the Grinch-themed display. “It appears these lawyers’ hearts are two sizes too small,” Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson told reporters at the time.

Trademark experts say that “Santa Claus” has become part of the public domain and that the trademark probably would not pass muster in a legal challenge. But apparently, the U.S. Patent and Trade Office didn’t agree. In 2000, it added the “Santa Claus” trademark to the long list of approved holiday-themed, legally recognized trademarks, which include everything from “Santa’s Elf” clothing to “St. Nick’s” beer to “Santa Claws” pet apparel.

For those lawyers who aren’t involved in IP, don’t worry there are plenty of liability issues out there for employers holding yearly Christmas parties. The Christmas and holiday season, according to a survey by the ADA, is the second most popular reason, after birthdays, for sharing food in the workplace. The British Columbia Safety Council states that if proper food safety procedures are not followed, food set out for sharing in the workplace can serve as a breeding ground for bacteria, and recommends that perishable foods (for which it gives pizza, cold cuts, dips, salads, and sandwiches as examples) should not sit out for more than 2 hours.

So in this holiday season, be thankful for what’s really important, coming together with friends and family and suing the paints off your neighbor for putting up that eye soar of lights he calls decorations.

Santa Claus is another case in point. Father Christmas, a British company and owner of Santa-Claus.com, owns a trademark for “Santa Claus.”

*six Golden Coins*
HUNTER & ROB'S HOLIDAY WISH LIST

BY: ROBERT ELLIOTT II & HUNTER NOBLE

Well loyal readers its about that time again. The time of listening to Mariah Carey's Christmas CD on repeat while wrapping one's self in an electric blanket snuggie and sipping on Egg Nog that may very well be slightly spoiled. Yep! You guessed it! It's Christmas time and what better way for you, the loyal followers of all things Hunter and Rob, to celebrate this fine time than partaking in Rob and Hunter's Football Christmas List. You're welcome America.

1. I wish that Brett Farve breaks both his ankles, shatters his pelvis bone, sustains four concussions then plays through the pain, throws eight interceptions and one touchdown for the win against the Bears at Soldier Field. Nothing less would suffice for Mississippi's greatest son.

2. I wish that Michael Vick gets selected for the Pro Bowl and flies the Executive Board of PETA out to the game. I'm not saying it's right, but I don't see anything wrong with free Pro Bowl tickets.

3. I wish that Randy Moss spends an exorbitant amount of money building his own media set after each game and literally interviews himself. Sounds like great TV.

MMA MATCHUPS: DECEMBER

BY: DAN D. HALLBERG - MANAGING EDITOR

It's an exciting time to be an MMA fan people. The UFC and the WEC have finally merged. Now you can see the best fighters at featherweight and bantamweight alongside some of the top UFC stars. This also means that a couple of the fights at the last WEC event this month will have UFC title implications. On top of that, it's also another all championship fight month...if you include the New Years Eve UFC show; which I am. So, lets get started!

5. Champion Ben Henderson (12-1) vs. Anthony Pettis (11-1), WEC 53, 12/16/2010

It's the last WEC Lightweight championship match ever, and the winner gets a title unification match with the winner of fight number three on this list. Ben Henderson was considered an underdog by many, including yours truly, in his past three championship bouts, but has emphatically proved us wrong in each fight. He is a wrestler that has truly evolved and picked up other aspects of the MMA game to become a great all around fighter. Pettis is just like Henderson but in reverse. He was a proficient striker who has learned to wrestle through his time in the cage. So it becomes a question of who has evolved their game most effectively to help them succeed in MMA? I have to go with Henderson, who also possesses a unique ability to escape chokes that will serve him well in this fight.

4. Champion Dominick Cruz (16-1) vs. Scottie Jorgensen (11-3), WEC 53, 12/16/2010

Though this fight is technically a WEC title defense for Dominick Cruz, it is in reality to decide the inaugural UFC Bantamweight champion. Cruz has looked good both in his title win, and his first defense against Joseph Benavidez. He's a quick fighter with good movement that's hard to keep down. Scott Jorgensen is perhaps more famous in the UFC for his skin colors (he has vitiligo, the same disease Michael Jackson had), then his controlling wrestling technique. The problem is that Cruz has showed markedly improved wrestling since his loss to Urijah Faber three years ago, to the point that he out-wrestled Faber's teammate, Benavidez, twice. Though Jorgensen is bigger then Benevidez, I still see him running into the same problems. So, look for Cruz to frustrate Jorgensen for five rounds on his way to becoming the first UFC Bantamweight champion.

3. Champion Frankie Edgar (14-1) vs. Gray Maynard (10-0), UFC 125, 1/1/2011

Now we get to see just how good Frankie Edgar has gotten. So far his career has been built on the fact that he gets better every single fight. Just look at his last two run-ins with B.J. Penn. The first fight was close; many even argued that Penn won, but in the second fight he dominated Penn. Two years ago he lost his first and only fight to Gray Maynard, so for Edgar's sake I hope he has improved. On the other hand, in many ways Maynard is still the Gray Maynard he's always been. A hulking, smothering wrestler with just enough boxing to set up his takedowns. I think it's his inability to evolve that will cost him this fight. Frankie proved in his fight with Sean Sherk that he's improved his takedown defense enough to keep the fight on it's feet where he can circle and out box Maynard for at least 5 rounds if necessary. I'm going with the champ on this one.

2. Champion Jose Aldo (18-1) vs. Josh Grispi (14-1), UFC 125, 1/1/2011

There are lots of guys that hit hard in MMA. Just watch any of the UFC Ultimate Knockouts and you'll see that. Then there is UFC Featherweight champion, Jose Aldo. When he hits someone, it's like a little piece of their will power dies. You see the look on their face and you can just tell aren't the same. Nobody in MMA looks more mortified then somebody who has just been hit by Aldo. If I had a choice between getting hit by a car going 30 mph and spending five minutes in a cage with Aldo, I'd seriously consider the car. So really all I have to say to is...good luck Josh, glad I'm not you.


Josh Koscheck is a piece of crap. No denying it. Anybody who has watched him in either season of The Ultimate Fighter he's been on or just his general demeanor before or after fights you'll be able to see that. He's an immature bully meat-head who deserves to be beaten. Lucky for us, GSP exists. He's the picture of professionalism in MMA. He's always polite, wears a suit to official events, and doesn't talk trash. He just goes in, beats people, and goes home. Hopefully that's what will happen here. In their first fight, GSP thoroughly out-wrestled the former NCAA Division 1 national champion. Since then he's only gotten better. Koscheck has improved as well, however he has mostly improved his striking, and even though it's good, it's still not as good as GSP's. Look for this fight to go similarly to the last fight, with GSP controlling most of the fight, and if we've been good boys and girls, GSP might just knock Koscheck out for us for Christmas.

Dan is a 2L and can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.
After a tumultuous year that included losing his dream gig as host of the Tonight Show, a multi-million dollar payout from NBC and his staff, negotiations for where he would do his next show, and the huge growth in popularity due to his fans' Team Coco campaign that launched a website, summer comedy tour, and a popular twitter account, Conan O'Brien triumphantly returned to television on November 8th on TBS to monstrous ratings and critical acclaim. His first show blew away the plethora of competition that evening in the ratings as his average audience age was 30-years-old, well below that of his competitors Leno and Letterman and even better than his new cable competitors Colbert and Stewart. Television networks coveted the 18-49 demographic and Conan appeals most to that section of the television watching public. Now during his uncomfortable seven month Tonight Show reign, the ratings were big and Conan himself seemed overwhelmed. Having watched him for many years, I did during his uncomfortable seven month Tonight Show to the Tonight Show that launched a website, a summer comedy tour, and a different feeling than is typically generated from late night television.

Overall, it is great to have the immensely talented O'Brien back on television. TBS clearly wants to establish him as the face of their network and with baseball playoffs and the NCAA tournament now coming to the network, a lot of eyeballs will continue to hear about Conan's new venture. The network is developing more original series such as Glory Days to serve as lead-ins for Conan, which can only help him. With no pressure to clean his act up like he had on the Tonight Show, the shackles have been removed and O'Brien is free to do what he wants in the way that he wants to. Now having removed the rust of his ten-month layoff, the sky is the limit for the entertainment value his new show will provide and the heights he can lead TBS towards. Conan airs Monday through Thursday at 10 ET on TBS and his website is www.teammoco.com.

John is a JL and can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.

DECEMBER TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. OLIVER CROMWELL
2. BOXING DAY
3. A DENTIST
4. COOLIO
5. TO DEDICATE
6. RON KARENGA
7. CHINA
8. 4
9. CHRISTMAS CREEP
10. ST. BONIFACE

David Shurr
Work by Appointment

Suits 299 to 895
Same Day Tailoring

David's
Men's Clothier
Downtown Valparaiso
Established 1987
113 East Lincolnway, Valparaiso, Indiana 46383
Mon. - Fri. 9:30-6:00 Sat. 9:30-4:00

P: (219) 462-0012
F: (219) 464-3516
www.davidsmensclothier.com

Cost Rica Rental
shurradventures.net

PHOTO TAKEN BY: ERIC HAECCKQUEVISST
MODEL: MATTHEW BLACKBURN

CONAN'S
Dog,

Celebrity Survey,

designed by "Coco" nickname that Conan has taken to great heights, Hanks was witty and fun, allowing himself to be doused with water in a stunt showing off the powers of Conan's new set that depicts a body of water with a moveable moon. Conan even dusted off his guitar and jammed out with Jack White of the White Stripes during his first week at TBS. Both these guest appearances helped create a different feeling than is typically generated from late night television.

Another great change is the permanent addition of Andy Richter to the couch during comedy segments and guest interviews. Him and Conan have tremendous chemistry and play off one another well. Some of the funniest moments of the first few weeks have been Andy's oddball one-liners that come at the most random moments. I am hopeful that he will get back to some of his trademark comedy bits after awhile, even if that means renaming them. Bits like Celebrity Survey, Triumph the Comic Dog, and Looking into the Future with Andy are all too good to stop doing entirely. Conan has continued to do his bread and butter outside the studio bits where he acts like a moron while interrogating or attempting to learn something. One bit had him meeting with TBS's head of standards and practices and running through a list of stuff he could say or wear on the air. He also investigated the basic cable process by going to a local cable center and getting trained on what it takes to make cable television work in people's homes. Highlights included Conan acting like an idiot climbing cable wires and asking if he was doing it right along with him visiting people's homes on cable installs.

Tom Hanks appearing on the second show demonstrated Conan’s ability to attract high-level celebrities at his new destination. As the creator of the “Coco” nickname that Conan has taken to great heights, Hanks was witty and fun, allowing himself to be doused with water in a stunt showing off the powers of Conan's new set that depicts a body of water with a moveable moon. Conan even dusted off his guitar and jammed out with Jack White of the White Stripes during his first week at TBS. Both these guest appearances helped create a different feeling than is typically generated from late night television.

Overall, it is great to have the immensely talented O'Brien back on television. TBS clearly wants to establish him as the face of their network and with baseball playoffs and the NCAA tournament now coming to the network, a lot of eyeballs will continue to hear about Conan’s new venture. The network is developing more original series such as Glory Days to serve as lead-ins for Conan, which can only help him. With no pressure to clean his act up like he had on the Tonight Show, the shackles have been removed and O'Brien is free to do what he wants in the way that he wants to. Now having removed the rust of his ten-month layoff, the sky is the limit for the entertainment value his new show will provide and the heights he can lead TBS towards. Conan airs Monday through Thursday at 10 ET on TBS and his website is www.teammoco.com.
TRAVIS WEBER - 3L

Hometown: Saginaw, MI
Undergrad School: Michigan State University
Undergrad Major: Political Science

What do you plan to do once that last final of the semester is turned in?
I’d rather not leave a paper trail for the Bar Examiners, but I’m sure it will involve some sort of Boyfriend Chameleon.

What is the ugliest Christmas ornament on your tree?
Grandma Ruchti’s chocolate chip cookies ... yummy ....

If there were a drink named after you, what would be its contents?
Maker’s Mark, Dr. Pepper, and the tears of Chris Van Rybroek.

What dessert do you most associate with the holiday season?
Lots and lots of sugar cookies.

What is your planned response for when people ask you how law school is going over the holidays?
“It’s going.”

If you could remove one Christmas carol from the standard rotation played this time of year, what would it be and why?
Jingle Bells is way played out.

Suppose there was a sudden outbreak of Christmas tree blight and as a result there were no longer evergreens available for the holiday season. What would you replace the tree with as the new centerpiece to the holiday season?
A Festivus Pole! Obviously.

What is the ugliest Christmas ornament on your tree?
That’s easy— the aluminum Festivus pole! Festivus for the rest of us!

What dessert do you most associate with the holiday season?
Lots and lots of sugar cookies.

Justin Paris - 2L

Hometown: Hobart, IN
Undergrad School: Ball State University
Undergrad Major: History

What do you plan to do once that last final of the semester is turned in?
I plan on putting law school out of my mind, while keeping my fingers crossed about grades at the same time.

What is the ugliest Christmas ornament on your tree?
My Indianapolis Colts ornament, if for no reason other than that I just don’t like the Colts. I was young and naive back when I got that ornament, but now I’ve got my priorities straight. Go Bears!

If there were a drink named after you, what would be its contents?
The Justin R. Paris would have vodka, Sprite, and Jolly Rancher-flavored pop as its ingredients. The result is spectacular.

What is your planned response for when people ask you how law school is going over the holidays?
Roll over and play dead. Hopefully, people will be tricked into walking away.

If you could remove one Christmas carol from the standard rotation played this time of year, what would it be and why?
I would eliminate the carol that mentions chestnuts roasting on an open fire. The song is built on lies; nobody even knows what a chestnut looks like, let alone roasts one. Replace it with “Father Christmas” by the Kinks!

Suppose there was a sudden outbreak of Christmas tree blight and as a result there were no longer evergreens available for the holiday season. What would you replace the tree with as the new centerpiece to the holiday season?
That’s easy— the aluminum Festivus pole! Festivus for the rest of us!

What dessert do you most associate with the holiday season?
Grandma Ruchit’s chocolate chip cookies ... yummy ....

Justin Paris

What is the worst thing you’ve ever gotten for Christmas?
Well there are a lot of things, but more simply change these questions from their obligatory locker reference, my unemployability.

If you could change anything about Valparaiso School of Law, other than price, what would it be?
The library, the silly administrative/academic/perspectives graduation requirements, obligatory locker reference, my unemployability.

Jake Zucker - 1L

Hometown: Glen Cove, NY (Long Island Baby!)
Undergrad School: Swarthmore College
Undergrad Major: Political Science and Public Policy

What do you plan to do once that last final of the semester is turned in?
Pretty much forget the misery that has occurred over the last four months and go on a shopping spree on my parent’s credit card.

What is the ugliest Christmas ornament on your tree?
Sorry, no tree here, full blown Jew.

What is your planned response for when people ask you how law school is going over the holidays?
Tobor shoots Tobor - what crime? SHOUT OUT TO ALL OF BERNER’S CRIM STUDENTS! HOLLAAAA!

If you could remove one Christmas carol from the standard rotation played this time of year, what would it be and why?
Helen Keller’s “I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Clause.” GIRL, PLEASE YOU DIDN’T SEE ANYTHING! Also her singing “Silent Night” is not that silent.

Suppose there was a sudden outbreak of Christmas tree blight and as a result there were no longer evergreens available for the holiday season. What would you replace the tree with as the new centerpiece to the holiday season?
I would hire Yitzhak Rabin (if he was still alive) to be my interior decorator and replace the tree with a huge ornate, gaudy menorah.

What dessert do you most associate with the holiday season?
I don’t know. I don’t eat desserts....too many calories.

What is the worst thing you’ve ever gotten for Christmas?
Well one time I asked for a Cartier Love Bracelet, but instead I got a Burberry Toggle Coat. I was pissed! HAHAAH JK I don’t get bad things for HANUKAH!

If you could change anything about Valparaiso School of Law, other than price, what would it be?
Enlarge the law library, whether by expanding into the remainder of the basement or by constructing a separate library building on campus. The current facilities are rather small, and I think the students and faculty of Valpo Law deserve better.