The Forum (Volume 43, Number 5)

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.
IN THE RECENT STATE OF THE UNION, President Obama said the following, “Today, women make up about half our workforce. But they still make 77 cents per every dollar a man earns. That is wrong. And in 2014, it’s an embarrassment. Women deserve equal pay for equal work.”

It was met with thunderous applause, and it marks the opening salvo of the Democratic party’s strategy of shoring up their standing with single women for the midterm elections in November. In 2012, President Obama won the votes of 67% of unmarried women, while Mitt Romney won 53% of married women. It is key for Democrats that they get those women to turn up at the ballot box, as non-Presidental elections tend to have a more conservative electorate.

When I first heard the “77%” statistic, or its equivalent some years ago, I assumed that it meant that, all things being equal, a woman would be paid twenty-three percent less for the same job than a man. But that’s not what the number means. The 77% is derived from the difference between the median earning of all full-time men and women workers.

The President’s use of the 77% statistic in order to get support from a target demographic is reminiscent of law schools claiming 85-90% “employment rates.” These statistics are technically true, but in such a twisted way to mean nothing (law schools included part-time jobs and non-legal jobs, even though a typical observer would think that 85-90% of the school’s graduates became lawyers).

The true purpose is to mislead people who take something a respected person or institution says at face value. Incredibly cynical, but useful for the person or institution utilizing the numbers.

Let’s look at why the 77% statistic doesn’t hold up. First of all, the definition of full-time is “thirty-five plus hours a week.” On average, men work more hours than women. A 2012 American Time Use Survey from the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that full-time men worked an average of 8.5 hours a day, while full-time women averaged 7.9 hours, a difference of nine percent. Since more hours worked means higher earnings, this will generate a gap between men and women workers.

Another issue is that men tend to be employed in higher wage jobs than women. A Georgetown study showed that men dominate nine of the ten highest paid majors, while women dominate nine of the ten lowest paid majors. Even in occupations not needing a college degree, men tend to cluster at the higher-paid occupations.

...Continued on page
**NEWS**

Small Government Libertarians Want Same-Sex Marriage, but Only Big Government Can Enforce It

**BY: RICHARD STITH † PROFESSOR OF LAW**

Indiana’s Libertarian Party chair, Dan Drexler, announced in early November his opposition to a proposed constitutional amendment that would prevent Indiana from issuing marriage licenses to gay couples. But the libertarian reason he gave for his opposition does not support that opposition.

Drexler stated, “Government does not have the authority to define, license or restrict personal relationships. . . . Consenting adults should be free to choose their own sexual practices and person- al relationships.” He added that he supports efforts “to remove government from intervening in personal relationships altogether.”

Clearly, the logical libertarian conclusion would be to keep government out of the relationship-licensing business as much as possible, not to support the extension of governmental “seals of approval” from heterosexual friendships to homosexual ones as well. Society may have to license and reward different-sex relationships in order to stabilize them for the sake of any children that may be born of them, but why would a libertarian wish to extend the bureaucratic regulations and restrictions surrounding marriage to couples that are inherently non-fertile?

Drexler’s position may emerge from a common confusion, the idea that gay people are not now free to form any sort of relationship they wish, and that a governmental marriage (or civil union) registry is necessary in order to liberate them. But in fact Indiana’s consenting adults, gay or straight, are already “free to choose their own sexual practices and personal re-...Continued on page 7

Defying Odds: The Pursuit of The New Years Resolutions

**BY: NICHOLAS CROSBY † STAFF WRITER**

Every year it is estimated that approximately 46% of adults in America make a New Years Resolution. Even if you haven’t made a New Years Resolution before, it is highly likely that a family member or one of your friends has.

With the new year under way, gyms are filling up with optimistic resolvers attempting to reach their goals of cutting weight, or they may be trying to get their beach bods back before the summer months arrive. Because so many make the resolution to live a healthier lifestyle, I have decided to educate the student body about the success rates of attaining a healthier lifestyle.

Results from a self-reported study over a two-year time period tracking participants who had resolutions to live a healthier lifestyle, showed that in the first week, 77% of the participants were maintaining their resolution. After one month, 55% of participants were still going strong, and after six months, 40% of the participants were still actively pursuing their resolution. During a two-year follow up, 19% of the participants reported that they had been successful in attaining their definition of a successful lifestyle. Between the months of January and July, participants lost an average of 8 lbs.

What does this mean for the average resolver? It reaffirms the popular belief that New Years Resolutions are generally unsuccessful, and that the burnout rate of those pursuing a healthier lifestyle fades over time. The study did indicate that individuals, who were successful, reported that self-liberation, positive reinforcement, positive thinking, and having an avoidance strategy, helped them reach their goal. Resolvers who were unsuccessful in attaining their resolution, attributed much of their failure to self-reevaluation and self-blame. The study also indicated that individuals in their twenties are much more successful in reaching their resolutions than those who older than the age of fifty.

Even though the odds are against the garden variety of resolvers, embodying at least some of these positive characteristics may help defy the odds standing in the way of living a healthier lifestyle.

Nicholas is a 1L and can be reached at vusforum@gmail.com
NEWS

News in Brief

BRIDGEGATE: HAS CHRIS CHRISTIE BURNED HIS POLITICAL BRIDGES?

NEW JERSEY - “Bridgegate” is an ongoing political scandal which New Jersey Governor Chris Christie’s staff and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey allegedly created a traffic jam on the George Washington Bridge, which connects New Jersey to New York City. Supposedly they tried to cover up their actions by suppressing other Port Authority officials from engaging in public disclosures under the pretext that the closures were part of a traffic study. However, Bridgegate is not Governor Christie’s only problem. He is also under federal investigation for allegedly using Hurricane Sandy relief funds to produce tourism ads starring himself and his family. This is bad news for Governor Christie, who ranks at or near the top of potential 2016 Presidential contenders.

FEDERAL JUDGE: YOUR RIGHTS STOP AT THE BORDER

NEW YORK - Judge Edward Korman, a federal judge who endorsed “suspicion-less” searches of laptops, cameras and cell phones at the border, upheld the federal government’s right to search travelers’ electronic devices at or near the border.

This ruling conflicts with a similar ruling in California. The California ruling requires a “reasonable suspicion” of criminal activity before agents can confiscate and examine personal photos, laptops and files, while Judge Korman’s ruling does not. This is ripe for a landmark Supreme Court battle on the continuing erosion of our rights.

WILL INDIANA BUCK CURRENT GAY MARRIAGE TRENDS?

INDIANA - Over the past year and a half, gay marriage supporters have enjoyed many victories, from the state legislative houses all the way to the United States Supreme Court. This trend started on Election Night 2012 when three states legalized gay marriage via popular vote. It continued into 2013 when eight more states hopped on the bandwagon, and two Supreme Court decisions paved the way for gay couples to receive federal benefits and for Proposition 8 to be struck down in California. However, the Indiana General Assembly wants to do the opposite by codifying in its state constitution that one man/one woman marriages are the only valid legal unions in the state. The proposed amendment is currently being debated in committee.

WILL TARGET REGAIN PUBLIC TRUST AFTER HOLIDAY MEA CULPA?

NATION - Target has started a major public relations campaign to regain public trust in the megastore chain after cyber-attacks compromised tens of millions of debit and credit accounts during the Christmas shopping season. However, the corporation is mostly silent as to what it knew and when about the hackings. What we know so far is that the breach started in late November and lasted 19 days over the peak holiday shopping season, resulting in the theft of about 40 million credit card records and 70 million other records containing customer data.

Target is trying to win back customers in a major PR campaign; however, it remains to be seen if it can repair the damage.

Colorado Faces Challenges, Confusion Weeks into Recreational Marijuana

DENVER - Weeks into Colorado’s experiment of legalizing recreational marijuana, the state has seen a number of issues develop that have yet to be tackled by state and local lawmakers.

Lawmakers have been rushing efforts to develop a comprehensive set of recreational marijuana laws since the passing of Amendment 64 over a year ago. Despite efforts that included setting up a “marijuana taskforce” with the goal of regulating the growth and sale of marijuana, a number of issues are looming as the state experiments in legalizing marijuana.

Since the first legal sales of recreational marijuana on January 1st, the state has seen approximately $1 million per day in recreational marijuana sales. However, banks are currently faced with the question of whether they can accept that money.

Under the Bank Secrecy Act of 1970, banks must report transactions believed to be illegal activity. This has resulted in both banks not accepting money from state-licensed recreational marijuana retailers and recreational marijuana shop owners refusing to risk having their transactions being reported to federal authorities.

This is only the first layer of problems resulting from the law. As a result, recreational shops may be forced to attempt to pay taxes in cash, constraining the Department of Revenue to attempt to follow the money originally expected to bring in $67 million of revenue.

Recently Denver City Council approved a resolution asking federal authorities to resolve the issue. Rep. Ed Perlmutter (D) has also made efforts to patch the problem by introducing the Marijuana Business Access to Banking Act. The Bill is currently supported by five other Senators from Colorado.

In the first nine days of “legalization” the Denver Police have reported to city council seven burglaries at marijuana businesses, and...Continued on page 10
Mock Interviews

Preparing for interviews is essential, and one of the very best ways to prepare is to practice. As with every skill you’ve ever learned, you have to learn the technique and then practice it multiple times. The more you practice, the more polish and confidence you will project when it comes time for the real thing.

Mock interviewers can provide valuable feedback both on the content and presentation of your responses to interview questions. You will have the opportunity to hone your answers by making them succinct and focused. In a mock interview you can try out some of the questions you would pose to a potential employer. The interviewer can assess your strengths and point out what you need to work on to improve your performance. Working with a mock interviewer is similar to working with a sports coach on learning how to improve your game. In today’s competitive world you must be prepared and in top shape.

So how does the Mock Interview Program work at Valparaiso Law? While students and alumni can set up a mock interview through Career Planning at any time, there are four months out of the year when many mock interview opportunities are available: August, September, January and February. First-year students can begin participating in this Program in January of the spring semester.

Valparaiso Law’s mock interviewers are usually local alumni many of whom are already part of the Alumni Mentor Program. Career Planning contacts potential mock interviewers first to find out when they might be available to interview students. Then a mock interview session is set up in Strategy just like a job posting. The posting provides the date and time for the sessions, the names of the interviewer and his or her employer, and a brief description about that employer. You can then decide if you would like to interview with a particular person because of your interest in the kind of work the interviewer does. Once you select the mock interview session that you prefer, go into Strategy and sign up for a time slot with the interviewer and their employer.

All of the mock interviews are conducted in the Career Planning suite. Prior to the interview you will receive confirmation of your interview time and a list of sample interview questions that will assist you in preparing. Make sure you do some research on the mock interviewer and their employer.

Come dressed for the interview in appropriate attire. When it is your turn, greet the interviewer with a firm handshake and smile. The sessions last about 30 minutes. The interviewer will spend about 20 minutes asking you questions and then provide you with 10 minutes of feedback. Listen carefully to the questions asked. It is perfectly acceptable to ask for clarification.

Mock interviewers can provide valuable feedback both on the content and presentation of your responses and interview questions. You can assess your strengths and point out what you need to work on to improve your performance. Working with a mock interviewer is similar to working with a sports coach on learning how to improve your game. In today’s competitive world you must be prepared and in top shape.

Continued on page 6

Dining Etiquette

The key is to know what to do before the uncomfortable moment presents itself. A successful business meal requires advanced skills and thoughtful planning. The following are a few basic dining etiquette tips that a young graduate or seasoned executive can’t afford to overlook:

1. The host (the invitee) is responsible for the success of the meal. Everything from selecting the restaurant to paying the bill and taking care of the tip falls under the heading of a “sophisticated host.” However, not all hosts are sophisticated, and as a guest, you must assume nothing.

Make sure to carry money and a credit card in your wallet in the event there is confusion with the bill and the server hands it directly to you (a rare occurrence but it has happened). The host should immediately take control but in the event he or she delays, put your credit card in the leather bill holder without hesitation. If this is a job interview, think carefully before accepting a job from someone who is not prepared to pay for the interview meal.

2. A well-bred executive knows how to make their guest comfortable. He or she knows the importance of offering menu suggestions; giving the guest subtle parameters. As a guest, ordering too little sends the message that you are nervous or unsure.

3. Drink from your own water glass and stay away from your client’s bread plate. A sure way to negate your own professionalism is by making the mistake of drinking from your client’s water glass or eating from their bread plate. Your drink...Continued on page 5
DEAN’S CORNER

Upcoming Annual Lectures

The Forum’s editors will indulge me, I will have more to say about our conferences in the next issue.

On Thursday, January 23, at 4 PM, William E. Nelson delivered the annual Martin Luther King Lecture, entitled “The Ultimate Inhumanity of Slavery.” Professor Nelson comes to us from the New York University School of Law.

There are very few, if any, legal historians teaching at law schools in the United States who have not at some point participated in Professor Nelson’s legal history seminar at NYU, a no-holds-barred forum for the presentation and critique of legal historical scholarship. For that reason, and because of his own very important scholarship, including ten books on subjects ranging from the common law in colonial America to Marbury v. Madison and the Fourteenth Amendment, Professor Nelson is among the most important legal historians of his generation. His MLK Lecture drew on his own archival research to document the destruction of slave families when family members were sold separately to satisfy plantation owners’ debts. While other historians have written on this subject matter, Professor Nelson’s offers the bold thesis that the destruction of slave families distinguished the inhumanity of slavery from the other forms of physical and spiritual degradation that slaves experienced because the others were more generally characteristic of eighteenth-century life.

Martin Luther King Jr. has inspired much of the recent scholarship of this year’s Tabor Lecturer, University of St. Thomas School of Law Dean Robert Vischer. The Tabor Lecture in Legal Ethics consists of two lectures, one scholarly and the other more practice-oriented, both of which will take place this year on Thursday, February 27th.

Next Lectures are
February 27 and April 10

“I strongly encourage students to attend these lectures”

...Continued on page 12

Career Planning

Career planning is a joint effort that involves you, the Career Planning Center (CPC) staff, faculty advisors, and mentors (often graduates of VULS). You, the law students, have always been the key players in the process with us, staff and faculty, playing a support role. Both roles are quite challenging in the current job market. As you may have noticed, we are making changes in an effort to provide the assistance you need.

First, the CPC staff is taking a more active role by initiating regular career advising sessions with each of you. I understand that law students are busy, but I also understand that you are very interested in your career. Regular communication between you and your career advisor is essential to this team effort. I urge you to embrace these sessions so you can maximize the assistance CPC wants to provide.

Second, last fall we established a Student Advising task force designed to improve not only academic advising but also the communication between your CPC career advisor and your faculty/academic advisor. Dean Probst is the Chair of this task force and Valerie Johnson (3L) is the student member. This task force works closely with the Career Planning Committee (Prof. Levinson, Chair, and Jacobie Whitley (2L), student member) in an effort to integrate these vital services. I am sure that both of these groups welcome your comments and suggestions.

In addition, CPC has a student advisory group, with 7 members – Ashley Bullock, Ashley Gilbert-Johnson, Wally Hernandez, Cecelia Lopez, Brandon McCoy, Jessica Sullivan and Jacobie Whitley. I encourage you to communicate with the members of this advisory group.

Third, beginning in August 2013, VULS contracted with a consultant, Gail Peshel, to assist us in serving you. Gail is a graduate of VULS and has more than 35 years of experience, at VUSL, Notre Dame and Northwestern, in career planning for law students. She is assisting in our transition to the more aggressive advising program, and she advises a limited number of students.

In short, career planning is a priority at VULS, and I want to make sure we are providing the services you need. As stated above, this has to be a joint effort and we, faculty and staff, want to work with you.
The Financial Crisis, Business Ethics & “A Pound of Flesh”

By: Jacquielynn Wolff • Staff Writer

Many company executives often seem to have thrown out or forgotten the traditional text, the doctrine of a healthy business model and written their own, “the world is a stage and if you’re not one of us, you’re not a member of the cast.” An auditor who cannot understand why a company is taking out subprime mortgages, if they are gaining or losing money, has to think “something’s rotten with this accounting.”

Like Shakespeare’s Shylock, some of these big-time executives maybe thought they were clever, and they were, but like Shylock, they missed something important. You cannot have your pound of human flesh without taking at least one drop of blood, and if your try, you are likely to take far more than one drop.

The financial crisis of the 21st century is a sad parallel to the plot of Shakespeare’s The Merchant of Venice. Take, for example a 21st century borrower, a homebuyer. This homebuyer goes to Bank A to take out a loan, a mortgage, to purchase a house. The homebuyer does not have any proof of a steady income but does own a car and a valuable collection of porcelain. Bank A teases the homebuyer with an unprofitably low interest rate for the first two years. Bank A however forgets to mention that this interest rate will effectively triple during the third year and remain at this new rate for the following 20 years. Thus, many U.S. homebuyers in 2005 enjoyed their home mortgages at relatively low interest rates for two years. However once the end of 2007 and beginning of 2008 rolled around, defaults came up left, right and center, and many of these previously placated borrowers were defaulting on their loans. As a result of these defaults, there were hundreds; even thousands of foreclosures on homes and many people were left with no house, no car and fewer personal assets.

“Nay, take my life and all, pardon not that, - You take my house, when you do take the prop That doth sustain my house: you take my life When you do take the means whereby I live (Shakespeare, The Merchant of Venice, 4.1 370-373).”

It may be hoped that the future holds audition to new, happier characters: perhaps not as wealthy, but more caring, perhaps not as lucky, but less frivolous, perhaps not as rebellious, but shown more love. Much can be gleaned from a looking-glass, a hair out of place, a ruffled collar. Perhaps the future big players on Wall Street will open that curtain. Perhaps they will allow the spotlight to shine on something truly golden; not just pieces of paper to be sold as securities on something worth less than the insurance covering it.

Jacquielynn is a 1L and can be reached at vuslforum@gmail.com
...Same-sex marriage continued from page 2

Marriage advocates are asking the government to intervene on one side of a profound moral controversy, are asking in effect that we officially establish sodomy to be right, as part of what we will label “marriage,” making the other - still strongly held - moral view to be wrong. Especially from a libertarian point of view, this attempt to establish a new moral orthodoxy about a deeply felt and intimate question is most dangerous. Like the religious establishments of old, a contested but officially established morality is bound to come into tragic conflict with the individual liberty of many persons, from that of wedding photographers forced by anti-discrimination laws to participate in applying a seal of approval to sex acts they regard as gravely wrong, to the freedom of parents not to have their children taught in school that there is no difference in dignity between vaginal and anal intercourse. I once asked an old and dear friend (who later died of AIDS) whether his struggle for gay rights was based on the principle “All people are created equal.” He responded, in his wry and funny way, that it was based upon the principle “All orifices are created equal.” Because the latter principle remains deeply divisive, it is not one on which we can build a free and harmonious life together. To ask the government to make it an official moral norm, in preference over the contrary moral judgment, certainly seems out of keeping with a libertarian position favoring limited government.

Professor Stith can be reached at vustforum@gmail.com

Editor’s Note:
This article was originally published at MercatorNet.com. See more at http://www.mercatornet.com/conjugality/view/13243#sthash.7WknDePn.dpuf.

...Interviews continued from 46

will always be placed on the right side, above your knife and soup spoon, and your bread plate will always be placed on the left side, above your fork(s). A tip for remembering: bring the tip of your index finger to the tip of your thumb as the other 3 fingers are straight. The right hand will make the shape of a “d” -- a reminder that the drink is on the right-hand side -- and the left hand will make the shape of a “b” for bread. Your salad and entree plate will be placed in the center of the utensils, below the bread plate and water glass.

4. Salt and pepper are married. When someone asks for salt, pass both the salt and pepper. This small gesture indicates you are familiar with the rules of the table, as well as, extending a courtesy to fellow guests.

5. Try a little of everything on your plate unless you have a food allergy. You will present yourself as unsophisticated (and juvenile) if you eat only your steak and potatoes, turning your nose up at your peas and carrots.

6. When leaving the table during the meal, place your napkin on your chair and push the chair back under the table. It is not important to announce where you are going, or what you will be doing when you get there.

7. A cough or a sneeze should be directed into your left shoulder, shielded by your left hand, keeping your right hand germ free. Avoid using your napkin as a tissue.

8. If an accident at the table occurs, handle it and move on. Ask for assistance from your server and don’t give the situation more attention than it deserves.

9. A dropped utensil stays on the floor. Kick it out of the way so other restaurant guests will not trip or slip. It’s not necessary to dive under the table to retrieve it. Signal your server for another fork and encourage your guest to continue eating.

10. Use the business meal as an opportunity to build a relationship. People do business with people they trust. Employers hire those they feel will represent their company in the best possible light. A lunch meeting is a great opportunity to showcase your professional knowledge, strong communication skills, and attention to detail. Taking the time and making the effort to hone your dining skills is an investment in your business success.
Fall, 2013 Brandeis Bowling Champs

Pictured here are the members of the bowling team, Intent to Strike, from left to right is: Zach Melloy, James Williams, Andrew Kitchel, Ethan Legg, and Cliff Mason II.

BY: ETHAN LEGG • Staff Writer

Intent to Strike is the fall 2013 semester Brandeis bowling league champions. The team, made up of five first-year law students averaged their best score in the finals. They edged out Team 8 181-146.

Throughout the season, Intent to Strike was the underdogs of the Brandeis league. However, they overcame obstacles, such as injuries and poor performances, and rallied to the league championship match. The league consisted of eight week of regular season play, followed by two weeks of playoffs.

The Brandeis bowling league begins another season this semester. Students can register their team of three or more players at the SBA Announcement board directly outside the SBA office. New teams are always welcome to play, and all games take place at Inman’s Fun & Party Center in Valparaiso. The league is fun, competitive, and a relaxing way to socialize with classmates. A special thank you to Katie Yaremelle for managing the league throughout the fall semester. To find out more information see the SBA bulletin.

The fall 2013 Brandeis bowling league final standings, listed first to last, are Intent to Strike, Team 8, Alley Cats Strike, Motion to Strike, Pin Heads, Hernandez is Innocent, Glory Bowl, Bowl So Hard, and Who Needs a Name.

Ethan is a JL and can be reached at vusiforum@gmail.com

Chicago Sports Team Name Origins

BY: KRISTEN SHLAKMAN • Staff Writer

Chicago sports are no doubt a staple in the great Windy City. Every season, fans rally to cheer on their teams regardless that most of them end in heartbreak (at least when it comes to the Cubs). However, the teams that make the city what it is were not always how we know them today.

As a minor league team, The White Sox started as the Souix City Cornhuskers. With the formation of the National League, the team owners changed the name to the White Stockings; they grabbed the nickname after the north side team officially became the Chicago Cubs. They shortened the name to White Sox in their first year. The White Sox won their first World Series in 1917. Just three years later, they would be known as the Black Sox for their infamous World Series scandal against the Reds.

The Cubs were formed in 1870 as the Chicago White Stockings. By 1890, sportswriters started calling the team’s and experience. After the team lost their popular coach, Cap “Pop” Ansons, media took to calling the team the “Orphans.” Following a management change in 1905, the franchise was named the Chicago Cubs. The name change brought the team some luck as they won back-to-back World Series in 1907 and 1908. However, that was the last time they have ever won a World Series giving them a new nickname, “The Loveable Losers.”

Long before Jay Cutler became one of the most overrated quarterbacks in the NFL, the Chicago Bears were named their team The Staley Company; the known Chicago Bears. In 1922, after manager, George Halas, bought the team, he changed the name to the Bears. At the time, Chicago’s only baseball team was the Cubs. Halas decided on the Bears because football players were generally bigger than baseball players; so, logically, he thought the football team should be named the Bears. Frederic Mclaughlin was the Chicago Blackhawks original owner when it entered the NHL in 1926. A World War II Veteran, Mclaughlin named the team after the 86th infantry Division which he had served. The “Black Hawk Division” was named after Chief Black Hawk of the Sauk American Indian Tribe. Mclaughlin thought this would be a perfect name for the newest team in the NHL. Big changes to the name came in 1986 when the space was dropped from the Black Hawks to become the Blackhawks.

Believe it or not when Richard Kinder, was owner thinking for the Chicago Bulls, now go Bulls, thoughts...Continued on page 9
Record-Breaking Super Bowl

BY: ETHAN LEGG • STAFF WRITER

For the fourth time in five years, Super Bowl XLVIII was the most-watched television event in U.S. history, drawing 111.5 million viewers. The game also set standards for the most-streamed sports event online and, with 24.9 million tweets, the biggest U.S. live TV event on Twitter. Also nearly fifty million people accounted for more than 185 million game-related interactions on Facebook.

The social media environment was packed full of tweets, shares, and posts all about the game. Hearing these numbers is a little surprising given the poor quality of the game with a 43-8 score rendering the Broncos holders of the Lombardi trophy. The game was set to answer one of the questions that football has been trying to determine since creation, which is more important the offense or the defense.

The Broncos had the number one offense throughout the regular season and the Seahawks had the number one defense throughout the regular season. The Broncos had the best offense overall and in passing yards, while the Seahawks had the best defense overall and against the pass. The teams were matched up seemingly well, but just by looking at the final score you would have never guessed that. Sure it is extremely easy to say that the Broncos had a horrible day on offense, but in reality they didn’t.

In reality the Broncos offense had a fairly good game and even set several offensive records for Super Bowls. Peyton Manning had a good game throwing 34 for 49 with one touchdown and two interceptions broke the record for pass completions in a game with 34, while the previous record was 32 held by Tom Brady. Demaryius Thomas was also another record breaker with the most receptions in the Super Bowl at 13, while the previous record was 11 held by multiple receivers including Jerry Rice.

Super Bowl XLVIII also had some other records broken, but in the favor of the Seahawks. The Broncos broke the record for the most turnovers and also tied the records for the fewest rushing touchdowns and the fewest field goals.

The Seahawks broke the record for the quickest score in the Super Bowl with a score in just 12 seconds on a safety, while the previous record was in 14 seconds held by Devoin Hester with the Chicago Bears on a kickoff return. The Seahawks broke the record for the largest halftime lead with a shutout with a lead of 22. The Seahawks also tied the records of the most safeties, the fewest punts, and the fewest fumbles. The Seahawks, Percy Harvin tied the record for the most kickoff returns for touchdowns.

The Seahawks are the only team to have scored a safety, an interception returned for a touchdown, and a kickoff returned for a touchdown. The Seahawks also have the record now for having the lead for the longest with 59 minutes and 48 seconds.

The game was record breaking to say the least, but the game was just plain boring to anyone that was not a Seahawks fan, even then some Seahawks fans wanted to watch a good game.

As a whole people who tuned into the Super Bowl tend to place the blame on the Broncos offense, but that is just not the case. The Seahawks played a phenomenal defensive game and as a result dominated the scoreboard. This game will go down in history for finally proving the statement that defense wins championships.

The Super Bowl halftime show had an estimated 115.3 million people watching as Bruno Mars and the Red Hot Chili Peppers took the stage. More people tuned into the halftime show than ever before making the halftime show the most watched portion of Super Bowl XLVIII. This was the first year the halftime show had more viewers than the actual game. Super Bowl XLVIII was full of record breaking and record tying but overall the game was just not that interesting after the 43-8 victory of the Seattle Seahawks over the Denver Broncos.

Ethan is a 1L and can be reached at vusforum@gmail.com
Letters to the Editor

Do you have an opinion you want to express? Do you agree or disagree with an article? Voice your opinion by writing a letter to the editors.

LETTERS POLICY

The FORUM reserves the right to edit any contributions and/or reject them without notification. Letters must be limited to 400 words and columns to either 400 or 800 words.

Written contributions must be typed and include the author’s contact information; law students must include their year in school.

Unsigned letters will not be printed. When referring to specific articles, please include the date and title.

Contributions can be sent to: The FORUM, 656 S. Greenwich Street, Valparaiso, IN 46383; via e-mail at vuslforum@gmail.com; or in hard copy to The FORUM’s mailbox located in the SBA office.

vuslforum@gmail.com

NEWS

...Colorado continued from page 3

nine citations for public marijuana consumption. However, the Police said that the numbers in public use and burglaries are not an increase relative to before January 1st.

However, this has not kept retail marijuana business owners fearing criminal activity. With the inability to deposit money, recreational shop owners fear for their business and their safety. With the inability to deposit, owners are concerned that there will be more burglaries as thieves become wary of the piles of cash unable to be safely deposited. Safety and money are not the only issues growing in the face of state legalization.

Recently, State Senator Vicki Marble (R) sponsored SB 14-037, which would add marijuana dispensaries to the list of places public benefit cards would not be accepted. Public benefit card-holders are already prohibited from using the food stamp portion toward items other than food. There have been no reported uses of the cards at any marijuana dispensaries or recreational shops, but Republican senators are claiming this as a “preventative measure.”

The bill was filed a day after the Douglas County Republican Committee linked a satirical news article claiming public benefits were being used to purchase marijuana in Colorado, to their Twitter feed. In addition, there are still concerns over whether counties who have refused to allow recreational marijuana sales will receive any tax revenue from sales in counties that allow recreational sales.

It is clear that the state has a long and winding road ahead in creating a fully-operational industry.

Andrew is a 3L and can be reached at vuslforum@gmail.com

...Gender gap continued from page 1

such as construction or plumbing, compared with women clustering in clerical positions. Men make up the vast majority of workplace fatalities, meaning they capture a greater amount of hazard pay. Men and women weigh different factors in employment differently.

Men put much more emphasis on pay then women, while women put much more emphasis on flexibility and safe working environments. Men are generally more successful in negotiating salaries than women, which can account for some discrepancy.

Taking time off of work causes one to lose seniority and experience, meaning you command a lower wage.

Women leave the workforce much more often than men for family reasons.

An interesting study tracked MBA graduates from the University of Chicago between 1990 to 2006.

Upon graduation, men had a very slight advantage in starting salary, but fifteen years later the gap had widened to 40%, due to women working less hours and having more career interruptions (women in the study who married wealthy men had an even larger gap). Thus, most of the gender gap in wages are the products of men and women making different choices.

As Dr. Warren Farrell, an author of a book examining the gender pay gap, put it: “men make decisions that result in their making more money . . . women make decisions that earn them better lives.”

Does this mean that there is no wage gap for equal work, or that there is no...
Student Profiles

3L

James Weber

Hometown:
Le Grand, IA

Undergraduate School:
Iowa State University

Undergraduate Major:
Political Science

What is your New Years resolution?
To be featured in the premier Valparaiso University Law School newspaper.

How did you spend your winter break?
I worked some and then went back to Iowa to visit family and friends.

How did you survive the polar vortex?
I grabbed all my blankets, put on Netflix, and did not leave my couch.

What's your favorite winter activity?
Watching college basketball... if that counts as an activity.

What is your favorite winter olympic sport?
Figure skating because the elegance of the skaters' movements touches me on a deeply emotional level.

What is the best movie you have seen recently?
I saw the Hunger Games: Catching Fire a couple weeks ago. RIP Plutarch

2L

Jessica Sullivan

Hometown:
Columbus, OH

Undergraduate School:
The Ohio State University

Undergraduate Major:
Sociology (Pre-law)

What is your New Years resolution?
To be a better me in every aspect of my life.

How did you spend your winter break?
Working and being cold in C-Bus with my boyfriend, friends, and family.

How did you survive the polar vortex?
Layers upon layers of clothing.

What's your favorite winter activity?
Staying in bed as long as possible. Why should I leave when it's so warm?

What is your favorite winter olympic sport?
Figure skating because I competed as a skater in singles and dance for 11 years.

What is the best movie you have seen recently?
Do Bollywood movies count? Only movie I've seen lately is Dhoom 3.

1L

Natalie Aguilar

Hometown:
Round Lake Beach, IL

Undergraduate School:
Denison University, OH

Undergraduate Major:
History & Spanish

What is your New Years resolution?
I opted to not make one this year. Instead, I decided to hold myself to a higher standard in all aspects of my life.

How did you spend your winter break?
I spent it reuniting with friends... and shoveling the driveway, unfortunately.

How did you survive the polar vortex?
I had a horrible case of cabin fever! Thankfully I had an excuse to brave the elements that Monday.

What's your favorite winter activity?
Sledding? Does that count?! I don't like the cold much, but sledding does make me happy!

What is your favorite winter olympic sport?
I would have to say bobsledding because it looks incredibly fun. It also reminds me of Cool Runnings.

What is the best movie you have seen recently?
Wolf of Wallstreet was pretty funny!

Attention Writers!
The FORUM wants you!
e-mail: vuslforum@gmail.com
Lectures continued from page 5

to Lecture on “Teaching Torts in the Twenty-First Century.”

In this lecture, Professor Pryor will reflect on fundamental changes in tort lawyering, legal education, and the legal marketplace. The Lecture will address the ways in which the traditional first-year course or upper level tort-related courses can be modified in ways that take account of these changes. The Lecture explores ways in which legal instruction will continue to evolve away from a focus on case law in order to enable our students to develop the professional competencies called for in the current legal environment.

I strongly encourage students to attend these lectures. They are at the heart of the Law School’s academic mission, as they expose students, faculty, local attorneys and alumni to the views of scholars and practitioners of national prominence and thus provide an opportunity for our community to both learn of and join in conversation.

Gender gap continued from page 10

discrimination in the work place? Of course not.

When studies attempt to control for relevant factors such as experience, industry, and hours worked, there still exists a gap: different studies put it at between five and ten percent. How much of this is due to discrimination, or other factors not taken into account in the study is hard to tell. The University of Chicago MBA study found a 12% earnings gap between men and women using “apples-to-apples” comparisons, but women were more likely to work for small firms or non-profit organizations, further demonstrating that men and women value different things in the workplace.

There is no excuse for using a misleading statistic in order to generate votes short-term. The President is causing us to waste time and energy, and by using it as a cudgel against the Republicans, he is dividing this country further. By insinuating that women are paid less for the same work as men, he is creating baseless resentment in workplaces across the country where people still take the President at his word.

Let’s have a real debate, free from garbage statistics used to appeal to the emotions.

Is that too much to ask for, Mr. President? The fact that the President deployed that statistic in the State of the Union makes me think that it is.

Steve is a 3L and can be reached at vuslforum@gmail.com

Legal Trivia

1. Which president was also a member of the U.S. Supreme Court?

2. Who is the most famous American attorney who never attended law school?

3. How many presidents were attorneys before taking the nation’s highest oath?

4. Name four of the five law schools who can claim as their former students both a Supreme Court Justice and a president?

5. Who is the only full-term president to never appoint a Supreme Court Justice?

6. Which president has nominated the most members to the Supreme Court?

7. Which president suffered the most failed nominations to the Court?

8. Which president planned to increase the size of the Court from 9 to 15?

9. Which U.S. President was the last to argue before the U.S. Supreme Court?