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RES IPSA JOCLAR

Newsletter of the  Law Library

Volume 11, Number 7 Indiana University School of Law-Bloomington April 2001

Eight Days a Week... The Law School Scheduling Problem



by Dave Buried

[Whenever I get ready to compose an article for **Res Ipsa Jocular**, I start out by trying to imagine how a professional (i.e. someone with a sense of humor and an I.Q. over 65) would write the story. Since this exercise would require me to actually read something besides LEXIS documentation and websites that explain how to win Powerball, I inevitably wind up with an April Fool's issue almost as funny as a guided tour of **Gene Shreve's** office. This year, though, I finally got smart: I sent some basic story facts to an honest-to-god comedy writer, along with this nifty blank check I found while rifling through **Mark Hilycord's** desk.]

Recently at the Indiana University School of Law (motto: "Give us your tired, your poor, your huddled masses, your out-of-state students ... but only if they qualify for federal funding"), the administrative staff has been grappling with The Scheduling Problem.

Perhaps you do not think there is a Scheduling Problem.

Perhaps you also spend too much time day-trading on the web.

As we say in Law French, *a propos de rien* (literally, according to Professor **Jeff Stake**: "you don't know the Rule in Shelley's Case from shinola, so no pancakes for you!")

I have here in my hands a memo sent in by a faculty member who calls himself **Ken Dau-Schmidt** but is actually **Bob Heidt**, and whose name can be rearranged to spell "Bite Bohd," although that is not my main point here. "**Bob Heidt**," by the way, has the letters "e, i" and "o" in common with "Monica Lewinsky" so there is no other reason for me to mention her again in this column.

After all, Professor **Heidt** smokes a pipe.

According to a quote which I am not making up, from I.U. Law School Dean **Fred Aman** (formally "Dean Aman," informally "Global global global"), The Scheduling Problem ranks as a major academic crisis just behind the faculty office shortage, where to buy Zildjian cymbals in the Hoosier boondocks, how to find a parking space after 9 a.m., and, of course, how to convince Professor Emeritus **Val Nolan** to keep teaching property for the next fifty years. To give you an idea of how tense things are getting at the Law School, I'm reprinting an actual transcript from a recent faculty meeting:

ASSOCIATE DEAN **ROBEL**: "So, it's agreed-- we'll reduce each semester to seven weeks. Each class will meet for three hours, eight days a week, and we'll be scheduling classes from 3 a.m. to midnight."

PROFESSOR **CONKLE**: "Hand gestures for three hours?! I'll get carpel-tunnel!"

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PROFESSOR GJERDINGEN: "I can still run a marathon in three hours, but if I have to talk about wills and trusts that long, I might go mad."

PROFESSOR CRAIG: "Does that mean I only have to be in this god-forsaken country three weeks?"

PROFESSOR SHREVE: "Can we pack those seven week semesters into the winter months so I can keep parking my Landrover on a ten foot-high mound of snow?"

PROFESSOR BAUDE: "Is **Shreve's** Landrover equipped with the proper mud-flaps?"

Fortunately I have a suggestion for Dean **Aman**. My suggestion has to do with IU's unprecedented run of 1st round exits from the NCAA Men's Basketball tournament, President Myles Brand's endorsement of the seven week semester, and the recent appearance of a new dish at Ponderosa restaurants called "Bobby Knight's Texas Toast," which, when you put them all together, spells "we're America's University, but our professors can't get out of this town fast enough!"

Since the **real** Law School Scheduling Problem is that *nobody's* motor vehicle can get out of Bloomington fast enough (especially **Shreve's** Landrover while it's sitting on a mound of snow the size of Mt. Everest), here's the procedure Dean **Aman** should follow (you may want to write this down):

Exam Results Expunged

Legal Writing & Research Coordinator **Sophia Goodman** announced this week that she and fellow Professors **Crosson, Daghe, Lahn, and Rogers** are tossing out the results of the recent 1L research proficiency exam. "This exam contained a very confusing trick question," **Goodman** explained, "so to be fair to the students, we're giving everybody who took the test a passing grade."

Laura Daghe provided additional details. "The question that caused all the uproar was a true-false problem. Whether or not it was easier to read U.S. Supreme Court briefs in paper or on LEXIS/Westlaw." "I don't know what the authors of this exam were thinking!" exclaimed **John Rogers**. "None of my students consult paper sources now that they have LEXIS and Westlaw passwords!" "That's right, dude," reiterated an anonymous 1L (but whose real name is Larry Lawdog). "If it's not on a T.V. screen, it ain't real. Right? Whatever-- I've got an interview to go to."

Although the Law Library Reference staff attempted to defend the question with their terse statement that "some things are actually easier to read in hard-copy, especially briefs accompanied by over two dozen amicus curiae filings," a majority of experts we interviewed

vehemently disagreed with that opinion. "LEXIS and

1. Instead of giving law students A parking stickers, offer them free shuttle service to the Indianapolis Airport-- this will make it much easier for them to get to Cancun during Spring Break;
2. Web-cast all Law School classes simultaneously with split screens so students can pick and choose which lectures to prepare for and which lectures to replace with day-trading Internet sites, sports news or pornography-- this way students never have to actually come into school, the faculty can get in and out of the building in an hour, and the people from *Howie's* *never* have to show up!
3. Since a Virtual Law School obviously requires no books, gut the Library, seal "The Pit," fill it with water and install diving platforms on each floor ... but watch out for squirrels with snorkels.

And while we're on the subject, I think "The Law School Scheduling Problem" would be a great name for an all-girl pop group.



Westlaw may have grounds for a discrimination action," noted Professor **Julia Lamber**, but added that the pertinent regulations were printed in such small type as to be "almost illegible." Administrators for I.U. computing facilities were much more adamant: "We are shocked and outraged that staff members are engaged in any kind of activity that might dissuade students from overrunning their printing quotas!" bellowed UITS official Ted Technoid. "If each and every law student doesn't copy off at least 10,000 pages this year, I could lose my job!"

Professor **Jeanine Bell** appears to be the lone supporter of the Reference staff's position. "The administration has tried to force me to say this question amounts to hate speech against LEXIS and Westlaw. Sorry-- I can't do that. I like paper, too." Environmental Law Professor **Rob Fischman** offered **Bell** his qualified support, telling us, "Okay, I like paper as well, but only if it's recycled properly."

Since he hasn't been mentioned anywhere else in this newsletter, we also asked Professor **Leaffer** about his position on U.S. Supreme Court briefs. "They're fine by me," said **Leaffer**, "as long as I can sing them to the tune of an Abba song!"

By Rita Rumormonger

Daily Affirmations for New Attorneys

Somebody is in jail because of you. Somebody can't wait to see your clients-- he's called a parole officer. Isn't it nice to know there are at least a dozen paralegals at your firm who want to give you a gift-- and isn't it too bad the gift will make a very loud noise when you open it? Somebody hopes everything turns out all right and you decide not to report him to the cops after consulting the Model Rules of Professional Conduct, according to **Aviva Orenstein**. You know that you're in trouble when you start thinking your office manager's liver would taste good with some fava beans and a nice Chianti. Somebody is thinking of your client ... and filing for a restraining order against him. Somebody wants to be near your client after she's taken her medication. Somebody is drinking to forget you: let's hope it's your opposing counsel and not the judge in your next case. Somebody loves you for all the things

you are, namely, the collection agent handling your student loans. You know your client is watching you-- through a high-powered rifle scope. But you can sleep easily tonight because he trusts you: after all, **you** know where the bodies are buried. Somebody needs your support or, better yet, your willingness not to testify. Somebody can also hear the buzzing in your head that still reverberates from your 1st year Torts class. Somebody wants to talk to your client about missing pets in the neighborhood. Somebody is alive because of you and the kidney he stole while you were passed out at Nick's after that "special night." Your firm mentor wants to protect you from yourself. Somebody will touch you with a ten foot pole but, unfortunately, he's on the State Board of Legal Ethics. The ringing in your ears is your last client's plaintive scream that he "can't afford another paternity suit." And somebody will cry when she reads this-- she's called you.

Samantha Selfhelp

Correction Box

(Every month in this space Associate Director **Linda Fariss** dons her asbestos mitts, reaches into the Suggestion Box and answers your comments about the Library. Due to the inordinate number of typos and misprints in several Library publications this year, however, Ms. **Fariss** has taken a well-deserved vacation so that we can provide you with the following corrections)

Librarians **Gaebler** and **Vaughan** wish to apologize for inadvertently leaving Professor **Terry Bethel's** list of Desert Island movies out of their recent display. Professor **Bethel's** selections are: 1) *What The Care Bears Really Do In The Woods*, and 2) *Ernest Goes To Arbitration*.

In the last issue of this newsletter, we reported that Dean **Fred Aman** was among eight final candidates being considered for the open drummer's spot in the band R.E.M.. Dean **Aman** was actually one of eight candidates being considered as the Bloomington Chancellor for Indiana University. And speaking of the music world, we also regret reporting that Dean of Students **Len Fromm** would be sitting in on accordion on the next Madonna album of polka tunes. Dean **Fromm** will, in fact, be playing accordion on the next Marilyn Manson album.

In our special Halloween issue, we erroneously stated Professor **David Fidler** would be giving out Edmund Burke's bones to Trick-or-Treaters visiting his office. Mr. **Fidler** was actually handing out his homemade Edmund Burke Bon-bons ... and he's still got a lot of them left.

Last September, we mistakenly reported that Professor **Dan Conkle** had defeated noted film director Ed Wood (who was decked out in a stunning scarlet decolletage) in a specially arranged golf match at the Cascades here in Bloomington. Professor **Conkle** actually beat Tiger Woods-- by three strokes! (Besides, Ed Wood has been dead for years.)

Our sincere apologies to all Trial Techniques students: Professor **Alex Tanford** vehemently assures us he "was only joking" when he told our reporters he planned to send at least a dozen in-class tapes to *America's Funniest Home Videos*. On the other hand, **Tanford** refuses to discuss why he has strongly advised his students not to watch the new TV series, *First Years*, or why he is driving a new Ferrari.

Finally, upon the advice of Constitutional Law experts **Dawn Johnsen** and **David Williams**, the Library is cancelling its "Guess The Date Of Whizzer White's Death & Win A Free Laptop!" contest. **Johnsen** and **Williams** have informed us that, after extensive consideration of the U.S. Supreme Court's recent 9-0 decision in the case of *In re The Harvard Law School's John Paul Stevens Deathpool*, betting on the demise of a justice is "a really, really bad move."

Your Copy of the Declaration of Independence

During the last year, the Law Library was received an astonishing number of reference questions regarding the authenticity of patrons' copies of the Declaration of Independence. In the public interest, here's a list of clues that *your* version of the document is bogus.

1. New clause states Professor **Bill Oliver** shall "bottle no wine before its time."
2. Your "Declaration" is printed on the back of a Big Mac wrapper in Times Roman font.
3. A picture of Dolly Madison posing as Miss Fourth of July in a bathing suit appears at the top of the page.
4. William Whipple lists his state as "Kazakhstan," and adds the comment, "Next time, Seth, bring some Fritos!"

5. Word "United" consistently misspelled as "Untied."
6. "That Thomas Jefferson is dating Sally Hemmings" included under "We hold these Truths to be self-evident."
7. One of the complaints against King George III is that "He doth not bathe regularly whenever he goeth insane."
8. James Wilson appends a dedicatory note to **Steve Conrad** to his signature.
9. Text includes notation for guitar and drum solos.
10. John Hancock's signature is written in crayon.

Hope this clears up your Declaration problems!



By Harry Hand

Working with Trowels

Construction will begin this summer on a new addition to the Law School to house the title of Professor **Kevin Brown's** next law journal article. The warehouse-like structure will require the demolition of the Fiji House.

Speaking of upcoming publications, tax masters **Bill Popkin** and **Steve Johnson** are teaming up on a text especially designed for law students to be published by West this fall. Be sure to check the bookstores for *How To Deduct Your Day-trading Losses in A Nutshell*--according to Professor **Hannah Buxbaum**, the approaching recession is going to make this new book a lifesaver for most of you investment chumps.

A bitter inter-office storm is brewing among the faculty: I.U. Human Subjects Czar **Ann Gellis** announced this week that she has nixed Professor **Roger Dworkin's** special student project for his next course on Law & Biomedical Advances. "While I certainly respect **Roger's** expertise in this field, I have serious reservations concerning his request to clone Professors **Boshkoff** and **Hughes.**" **Dworkin** and members of the Faculty Appointments Committee were outraged by **Gellis's** decision. "U.C.C. and bankruptcy teachers don't just grow on trees!" Professor **Dworkin** complained to this reporter. "You've got to grow them yourself!" Library Director **Colleen Pauwels**, who's also in charge of building facility issues, sided with **Gellis**, citing possible safety problems. "Professor **Boshkoff** has a habit of climbing up on top of the lecture podium to make a point. I'm not sure our podiums can bear the weight of two **Boshkoffs.** During

the Moot Court octafinals, a student who realized he was losing his case went straight through the podium when he got up on his knees to beg the judges for a favorable decision." "I really think Professor **Dworkin** should consider a more modest and feasible project," **Gellis** suggested. "For instance, why not clone out-of-state students who score 180 on the LSAT?"

In a related story, Professor **Joe Hoffmann** has asked **Gellis's** permission to clone 100 versions of each current LL.M. student. In a somewhat less related story, Professor **Lisa Farnsworth** was rushed to Bloomington Hospital with heart palpitations and "a pounding headache" after being informed of **Hoffmann's** request. In an even less related story, Foreign and International Reference Librarian **Ralph Gaebler** was last seen barricading the door to his office.

Finally, the U.S. Coast Guard has announced they will "blow **Tom Schornhorst's** boat out of the water" if he ever attempts to enter American shipping lanes. Community Legal Clinic attorney, **Earl Singleton**, who is representing Professor Emeritus **Schornhorst** in several pending piracy actions, has flatly denied allegations that **Schornhorst** has keelhaunched law students wearing ballcaps. On the other hand, environmental law expert **John Applegate** recently told *Res Ipsa* staff members "If **Schornhorst** is, in fact, dunking law students, he's in clear violation of the Clean Water Act." In a completely unrelated story, sports law maven, **John Scanlan**, opined that dunking law students is also in direct violation of the NCAA rules for basketball. In an equally unrelated story, Professor Emeritus **Harry Pratter** is appealing **Scanlan's** statement on behalf of Bob Knight.