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Vol. 16, No. 07 (April 2006)

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Recommended Citation

"Vol. 16, No. 07 (April 2006)" (2006). *Res Ipsa Loquitur*. 65.

<https://www.repository.law.indiana.edu/resipsa/65>

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Res Ipsa Jocular

Newsletter of the



Law Library

Indiana University School of Law - Bloomington

Volume 16, Number 7

April 2006

BRAIN-SUCKING ALIEN ZOMBIES TO OCCUPY LEWIS BUILDING!

By Harry Hand

Panic. Terror. Chaos. Gut-wrenching fear. Blood-curdling screams of horror. Yes, it's another issue of Res Ipsa Jocular in your mailbox, final exams are only weeks away, and you still haven't found a job. So let's talk about upcoming renovations to the Law School and the new Lewis Building across the street!

Dean **Lauren Robel** rolled out sweeping plans for change at last week's Town Hall meeting in the Moot Court Room. "I am sure you will be just as surprised as I was to learn that the Indiana General Assembly recently approved a bill giving Governor Mitch Daniels the authority to outsource the I.U. Law School to a Japanese-Kazakhstanian investment consortium for the next 235 years," **Robel** told a stunned audience. As Professor **Joe Hoffmann** made a quick getaway from the scene, Dean **Robel** said that while details of the bill were "nearly void for vagueness, one thing is certain: there are going to be tollbooths. Lots of tollbooths. At the doors to every classroom, at the entrance and exit to the library, and in front of every professor's office." After the ensuing riot was brought to an abrupt halt by mountains of free pizza and bottles of Prozac-laced Evian, Professor **Gene Shreve** asked if he could get an antique Shaker tollbooth for his office. Calls for a general strike (organized by Professor **Ken Dau-Schmidt**) again threatened to disrupt the meeting when Library Director **Colleen Pauwels** stated that all carrels and the seventeen remaining books in the library would be fitted with coin-op devices. "In order to make room for the

Trans Japan-Kazakh interstate that will bisect the school, the other 750,000 library volumes and the entire library staff will be placed in remote storage at the ALF," Pauwels reluctantly announced. "As the shortest member of the Reference staff, **Keith Buckley** will stay behind in a small change dispensing machine where he can provide you the tokens you'll need to do just about everything in the school from now on." Complete anarchy broke out when Recorder **Sherrilyn McCoy-Lawrence** added that copies of transcripts and access to grades would now be subject to leveraged student loan buyouts by third party lenders, with interest rates starting at the prime plus 25 points. "And did I mention that anyone who wants to graduate cum laude better have a very healthy portfolio?" **McCoy-Lawrence** malevolently chuckled.

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Following another calming round of free pizza and electric Jello shots that quieted the tumultuous masses, Assistant Dean for Admissions **Dennis Long** gave students some more welcome news. “The consortium has decided that the best way to maximize their investment profits is to convert the new Lewis Building into a three-story bar rather than waste prime real estate on staff and faculty space,” **Long** said. Loud cheers erupted when **Long** declared that the Law School’s benefactors promised to sell two dollar pitchers until the year 2106, when the price would rise to the title for a Hummer H2. In order to make the bar more accessible to students, Building Committee member **Julia Lamber** said a conveyor belt would be installed to carry the students from the roof of the Law School across Indiana Avenue to the Lewis Building, then over the top of the Gables to Starbucks to sober up. Students offered a more subdued reaction when Dean **Robel** mentioned the consortium had also reached an agreement with Emeritus Professor **Bill Oliver** to supply all Law School restrooms with hot and cold-running Camelot Mead. Professor **Bill Hicks** ended the Town Hall meeting with a series of day-trading tips for anyone interested in earning a B plus next year.

[Editor’s Note: We humbly apologize for the sensationalistic headline which, obviously, has nothing to do with the text of this month’s cover story-- to the best of our knowledge, no member of the consortium is a zombie. The headline was just another pathetically lame attempt to keep you from automatically depositing this newsletter in the recycling bin, where it so completely belongs.]

LATE-BREAKING DEVELOPMENT!

We have just learned that President Bush has withdrawn his nomination of Harriet Miers as the next I.U. men’s basketball coach. “Despite Harriet’s stellar performance as the first female point guard for the Texas Bar Association’s basketball team, those wacky liberal Hoosiers didn’t believe she had enough experience to get to the Final Four,” the President lamented at today’s press conference. “Go figure-- I always thought Indiana was a red state!”

DANGER, DANGER, WILL ROBINSON!

Thanks to a recently-discovered bandwidth overload, I.U. Law School students, staff, and faculty should immediately

cease and desist all use of wireless Internet service in order to avoid permanent neurological damage. “iPod access is especially vulnerable,” Law School Systems Administrator **Randy Sparks** announced today. “Any student listening to material they downloaded over Spring Break are considered at risk,” **Sparks** added. As if on cue, a well-tanned 1L on her way to Constitutional Law screamed “AIEEEE!” when her earplugs exploded. **Sparks** sadly shook his head as a team of emergency medical technicians wheeled an unconscious Professor **Dan Conkle** out of the building to a waiting ambulance. “Even a confirmed old Luddite like **Conkle** couldn’t resist snagging the infectious beats of the Blackeyed Peas. Although I still can’t understand how **Dan** got an MP3 to play on Word Perfect 5.1.. His injuries don’t appear to be too severe, but I doubt he’ll be able to draw any flowcharts with straight lines again.”

Meanwhile, Internet and information technology expert Professor **Joshua Fairfield** explained to this reporter that he’s narrowed down the problem to one of two sources. “The wireless crisis is either the result of a recent deluge of spam ads for imitation Rolex watches, or an unpublicized provision of the reenacted Patriot Act giving Alberto Gonzalez the authority to monitor the movement of alpacas in and out of **Cathy Crosson**’s office.” When asked how the wool-producing quadrupeds could possibly pose a terrorist threat, Fairfield shrugged, saying, “Alpaca? Al-Qaeda? Homeland Security sees a connection. Don’t you?” he asked, desperately trying to pull his shirtsleeve over his shiny new wristwatch. At which point this reporter went off in search of some non-wireless communications device to warn Professor **Alfred Aman** to extend his stay in Europe.

by Robbie D. Robot

CORRECTION

Thanks to Professor **Amy Applegate** for pointing out our erroneous report in last month’s issue that Michael Jackson would be working as a practitioner in residence for the Family and Children Mediaton Clinic. Mr. Jackson, in fact, is scheduled to give a guest lecture in Professor Roger **Dworkin**’s seminar on Law & Biomedical Disasters. Mr. Jackson has graciously offered to serve pizza and ~~Jesus Juice~~ soft drinks following his lecture. [Note: please inspect your slice for any misplaced body parts. Especially noses.]

SUGGESTION BOX

Every month in this space, Library Associate Director Linda Fariss assiduously attempts to answer the addled antisocialites who address the Suggestion Box with their iniquitous inquiries and their idiopathic interrogatories. (Advanced Legal Writing Professor Perry Hodges has just warned this reporter to knock it off.) This month, however, we are releasing a transcript of secret conversations held between the Suggestion Box and Supreme Court Justice nominee Samuel Alito during a break in his confirmation hearings.

Q: You've been described by both your supporters and detractors as a strict, old-fashioned conservative. Does your by-the-book approach to legal doctrine extend to your attitude about retaining a hard-copy library versus moving towards an all electronic research facility?

A: Mr. Suggestion, I cannot possibly discuss how I will research specific cases that may come before this august Court. Any speculation on my part as to whether I would choose to reverse the decision physically printed at 410 U.S. 113 or merely press a button and zap it into oblivion would be utterly inappropriate.

Q: 410 U.S. 113? Wait a minute-- isn't that the citation to Roe vs. Wade?!

A: I'm sorry, Mr. Suggestion, but I strongly believe providing you with any additional information such as case names goes well beyond the purview of these hearings. If you closely examine the debates of the Constitutional Convention, I think you will agree the Founders did not believe nominees should be asked to divulge that data.

Q: (madly waving his arms over his head) Can I get a witness to corroborate this? Alito just told me he wants to reverse Roe! He admitted it!

A: Get a grip, young man. Next question.

Q: Well, let's see ... Wouldn't you agree that there are some types of research that are still easier to do with books? Like statutory research? Look at this volume I've got here-- it contains exactly one code section along with thousands of annotations. Don't you think using Westlaw to plow through all this material would be inefficient?

A: Once again, I must remind you that the cherished American tradition of judicial independence prevents me from interpreting statutes that will almost certainly be the focus of docketed cases. (pauses) Hmmm, that's a copy of 42 U.S.C.A. 2000e, isn't it? That volume won't be around much longer now, will it? Congress certainly overstepped Article I, Section 8 on that sucker.

Q: He did it again! He wants to throw out Title 7!

A: Listen up, sonny-- if you don't ask me a bona fide Suggestion Box question, I'm going to approve Schornhorst's cert petition to keelhaul you and the entire rotten Res Ipsa crew.

Q: Wouldn't that be a blatant violation of freedom of the press?

A: Har har har! Freedom of the what?

WORKING WITH TROWELS

Congratulations to Professor **David Williams** on the publication of his newest article, “See Dick, Run!: Does the Second Amendment’s Right to Bear Arms Extend to the Executive Branch?” in The Peppered-Eye Law Review’s recent “Licensed To Kill” Colloquium (Volume 007). **Williams**’s thesis that unregistered Vice-presidential fowl-flushing should not be constitutionally protected has met with stiff opposition from at least one I.U. Law School faculty. “Dick Cheney and his shotgun may be this country’s last line of defense against the pandemic spread of bird flu,” intoned Professor **David “Bug-boy” Fidler**. Au contraire, maintains Professor **Jeff Stake**. “The Vice-president invited me down to Texas for some target practice last fall,” **Stake** told this reporter. “He asked me to toss some of my world-famous pancakes in the air, just a friendly little skeet-shooting competition with **Alex Tanford** and **Earl Singleton**. I’m still picking shot out of my personal property!” In a completely unrelated story, Professor **Fred Cate** has withdrawn his last 439 journal articles and essays from publication. “I have recently discovered that my staff of genetically-engineered monkeys sleep-wrote many of the pieces while under the influence of Ambien,” **Cate** sheepishly admitted. “I want to humbly apologize to all readers who relied to their detriment on any of these articles ... especially the one that said the Law School would be footing the bill for the first one hundred heart transplant patients who called the Dean’s Office.” “Now he tells me!” muttered a beleaguered Assistant Dean for Finance & Administration **Mark Hilycord**.

Speaking of shots in the dark ... I.U. law professors **Luis Fuentes-Rohwer** and **Ajay Mehrotra** are rumored to be in a toe-to-toe battle to succeed outgoing basketball coach Mike Davis. “Does **Mehrotra** got game?! I got game!” **Fuentes-Rohwer** exclaimed at a recent press conference. “A tax professor? Are you kidding me? What’s he going to do-- tell Marco Killingsworth how to avoid the marriage penalty? Hey, I’m the one who knows every inch of Assembly Hall!” “Basketball is not a civil procedure,” countered **Mehrotra**, “which means **Luis** is totally unqualified for the job. The man’s got a bum ankle! Can you imagine anything more undignified? The pep band starts playing the national anthem, he runs out to grab the mike to sing, and his ankle gives out? That’s going to boost our national ranking?” [Late-breaking Newsflash: I.U. Athletic Director Rick Greenspan announces law & sports expert Professor **John Scanlan** provisionally appointed basketball coach, but “only if he agrees to wear pressed Italian suits and keep his shirt tucked in during games” ... **Scanlan** reportedly has hired Professor **Terry Bethel** to negotiate for “more favorable terms,” including Professor **Pat Baude**’s substitution of “mud-flaps” for “pressed Italian suits.”]

Executive Associate Dean **John Applegate** announced today that law students should do what they’ve always done and continue ignoring the erroneous settings of all clocks in the Law School building. “As we all know, the University’s clocks do not in any way correspond to reality,” **Applegate** told students and faculty gathered in the Moot Court Room for a lunch presentation entitled Is It Really Time For Post-Modernism: Indiana’s Adoption of Daylight Savings and the Possible Ramifications. “So pay no attention to the fact that some prankster moved our clocks ahead one hour.” At the behest of Events Coordinator **Nikki Rolfe**, **Applegate** also apologized for the cold pizza and warm soda being served to the crowd. “The delivery guy from Aver’s obviously was on the wrong time zone,” **Applegate** hypothesized. On a related note, Library Head of Circulation, **Rebecca Bertoloni-Meli**, announced that all checked-out hornbooks and nutshells would be marked as overdue at midnight, April 3rd. And 1 a.m.. And, again, at 2 a.m.. And, possibly 11 p.m.. “Our new fines are absolutely smashing!” **Bertoloni-Meli** declared. “Given the confusion surrounding the new times, I strongly advise all students to consult with Director of Financial Aid **Jim Schutter** before they even think about borrowing any library materials!”