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Maurer School of Law  
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# Res Ipsa Jocular

Newsletter of the



Law Library

Indiana University School of Law - Bloomington

Volume 17, Number 7

April 2007

## TERROR IN THE CLASSROOM-- NEW ONE-L CURRICULUM GREEN-LIGHTED!

By Ira Sponsibile

Signalling the final breakdown of western civilization and the ultimate triumph of the dark forces of entropy, the I.U. Law School faculty voted to make the first sweeping changes in the 1L curriculum in over a decade. The vote was by no means unanimous, and an appalled Professor **Roger Dworkin** was seen leaving the meeting muttering, "Guess I picked the right year to retire!" While announcing the changes to a stunned and speechless multitude of five chain-smokers on the front steps of the Law School, **Dean Lauren Robel** vigorously denied I.U. was just planning to "slavishly follow Harvard's lead." "Next year's first years are a different breed of students, with new expectations and a new frame of mind," **Robel** reminded the breathless throng. "And we must make the necessary changes to attract these Millennials."

When asked what makes the incoming class of 2007 so different from their predecessors, Assistant Dean for Admissions **Dennis Long** explained that according to recent psychological studies, undergraduate students are self-involved narcissists. "As such, this year's crop of seniors will have disastrous romantic relationships, are overly controlling, are extremely cut-throat in any competitive environment, and lack anything resembling personal warmth. But

even though these characteristics may make them excellent lawyer material, the traditional curriculum simply does not appeal to their overweening sense of entitlement. Hence the changes."

Educational Policy Committee spokesperson **Hannah Buxbaum** then outlined just a few of the new course offerings. "Professor **Bill Henderson** will head up a Law Firm Culture program in which we will try to explain to these new students why they cannot play World of Warcraft on company time and why they should discourage their parents from contacting the firm's senior partners when they're asked to work more than fifteen hours a week. On an even more practical note, instead of training students how to copyright their clients' creative works, Professor

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**Marshall Leaffer** will show them how to pay off their student loans by charging YouTube viewers to watch their drunken keg-stand performances. Speaking of the Internet, Professor **Jeannine Bell** is planning a seminar on how students can defend themselves against hate speech actions for all the vicious remarks they may blog about classmates and professors, while Professor **Joshua Fairfield** will focus his new electronic communications class on how to expunge all traces of their sleazy Face book bios. And to make sure our students can use their student loan monies for basic educational expenses, like going to France for fall break, Professors **Leandra Lederman**, **Ajay Mehrotra** and **Bill Popkin** will demonstrate how students can amortize their bar tabs.”

Last but not least, Dean for Students and Alumni **Leonard Fromm** added that not all of the “new” curriculum is actually new. “We are going to once more offer the perspectives class,” he told the rapidly dwindling crowd. When asked which perspectives class, **Fromm** hesitated, then mumbled, “Well, since these are narcissists, we’re just hoping we can teach next year’s 1Ls how to adopt any perspective. Besides their own.”

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## QUASH THAT RUMOR: DAMAGE CONTROL

Given the advances in communication technology, it’s little wonder that utterly specious nonsense can circulate throughout the Law School in a matter of minutes and, by the end of the day, will be accepted as gospel by nearly every student. In order to deflate some of the more monstrous confabulations, Director of Student Services **Susan Kerns** sat down with this reporter and addressed the following:

Rumor: Led Zeppelin is reuniting and has asked former Dean **Fred Aman** to take over on drums.

Truth: **Fred Aman** insists that no one will ever be able to “take over on drums” for John Bonham-- he is actually playing drums on the Genesis reunion tour.

Rumor: Professor **Dawn Johnsen**’s appearances in various Baron Hill campaign ads were voted more popular than the Geico gecko.

Truth: There was no such vote, although on a related note, Geico is negotiating with Librarians **Peter Hook** and **Keith Buckley** to do walk-ons as Neanderthals #5 and #6.

Rumor: Professor **David Fidler** told students in his Home-

land Security class that terrorists have infected the owls in the trees around the Law School with bird flu, and that Professor **Rob Fischman** got into a fight with Professor **Alex Tanford** after **Tanford** blasted a great horned owl.

Truth: **Kerns** cannot believe something this absurd gained any credence whatsoever-- everyone knows **Tanford** only shoots the pigeons. (Nota bene: Unfortunately, this rumor made it all the way to Washington D.C., so if you notice Vice-president Cheney strolling around with a shotgun, duck.)

Rumor: Probate guru **Don Gjerdingen** and biomedical doyen **Roger Dworkin** have hired a lab to test all males in the Law School community to see if any of them fathered Anna Nicole Smith’s daughter.

Truth: Totally false! Director of Special Gifts and Programs **Catherine Dyar** arranged for the testing, and her office gets a 15% cut if anyone here turns out to be the lucky dad!

Rumor: Speaking of Professor **Dworkin** ... the master of reductio ad absurdum is leaving the Law School to replace Bruce Kapler on sax in Paul Schaffer’s CBS Orchestra on the Letterman show.

Truth: Ummm, you obviously have never heard **Roger** play the sax before, have you? **Dworkin** is actually moving to Seattle to sing with a grunge band, which is appropriately named Proximate Cause.

*by Harry Hand*

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## PET OF THE MONTH

On April 1st of this month, the I.U. School of Law recognizes the 50th birthday of Roscoe Poundzo, the alpha male leader of Professor **Fred Cate**’s pack of trained monkeys. Roscoe is the son of Cheetah, from the Tarzan movies, and was briefly married to Britney Spears just before the singer entered rehab. “Although Roscoe is a chimpanzee and not a monkey per se,” says **Cate**, “the rest of the pack immediately accepted him as their natural leader once he showed them how to use a copy of Karl Llewellyn’s Bramble Bush to fish bottles of beer out of a 3L’s locker.”

Along with the rest of his colleagues, Poundzo lives in a specially maintained faux tropical rain forest housed on the fourth floor of the Law School (in case you’ve ever wondered about that final stop on the elevator). There, the

two dozen primates spend their days busily hammering out law journal articles, monographs and treatises for **Cate** and other Law School faculty members, discussing theories of jurisprudence over bananas and oranges, make hiring and firing suggestions to the U.S. Attorney General's office, and flinging errrrrr criticism from their window and out across Indiana Avenue at the cars parked in the "reserved" spaces. As a number of law students have secretly suspected, for many years the monkeys have also been grading all final exams by tossing bluebooks from a coconut tree into boxes marked A, A-, B+, etc..



Unfortunately, celebration of Poundzo's birthday will be a strictly private affair, lamented Events Coordinator **Nikki Rolf**. "Last year we had a party for Roscoe out on the patio," explained **Rolf**, "and some joker slipped the guest of honor Posner's *Frontiers of Legal Theory* covered in peanut butter." "Who could do such a thing to a poor, helpless animal?" added Assistant to the Dean **Jan Turner**, who's also a noted local animal rescue worker. Professor **Ken Dau-Schmidt** adamantly disagreed with **Turner's** protest. "Do you have any idea how much stuff our faculty posted on SSRN while Roscoe was digesting that book?!" he exclaimed.

Finally, on one last **Dworkinian** note, the Law School's soon-to-be emeritus professor confided to this reporter that "Cloning law students from Roscoe would be a biomedical advance I could get behind because that chimp never, ever uses a commercial outline!"

by U. Ken Nuba

## WHAT'S THE BUZZ?: YET ANOTHER TOP 10 LIST

For all of you students who've been too busy talking on your cell phones or updating your MySpace entries to notice that the academic year is almost over, the editors of *Res Ipsa Jocular* have compiled this list of the Top 10 news stories of 2006-07 here at the Law School and Indiana University so that you get an idea of what you missed.

10. Professor **Jim Barnes** briefly considered as new basketball coach at University of Kentucky until **Luis Fuentes-Rohwer** badmouths him to the search and screen committee.
  9. Professor **Shreve** late to class after getting lost in his own office.
  8. Seventy-five percent of law school community reports dental office phobia after listening to construction noise for months on end.
  7. Professor **Bethel's** bid to replace Donald Rumsfeld rejected because "he's not sarcastic enough."
  6. Property students panic after learning Professor **Stake's** pancakes are source of e. coli outbreak.
  5. I.U. President **Adam Herbert** faces a possible no-confidence vote; trustees outsource his duties to Hali-burton.
  4. Best party year ever, dude-- 3 out of 5 3Ls on waiting list for liver transplants.
  3. Professor **Scanlan** told he cannot title his new seminar on literature and legal ethics "What Would Billy Budd Do?"
  2. Professor **Conrad** forced to explain "I am not a vampire" because no one sees him during daylight hours.
- ... and, our #1 story of the year

That wonderful "new structure smell" at the Lewis Building.

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### SUGGESTION BOX

Every month in this space, Library Associate Director **Linda Fariss** gets out her Kevlar vest, dons her asbestos oven mitts, gingerly opens the Suggestion Box, and exercises nearly superhuman restraint by responding to your endless kvetching with grace, aplomb, and politesse. This month, however, Librarian **Fariss** discards any pretense of civility by turning her responsibilities over to guest writer, Simon Cowell.

- Q: Help! I lost my outline for Professor **Lamber**'s Civil Rights Statutes class in the Library! Why hasn't it shown up in the Circulation Lost & Found????!!
- A: Your outline isn't lost-- it's hiding from you. You couldn't get the definition of "disparate impact" right if we read it to you straight from a legal dictionary! Your interpretation of *Griggs v. Duke Power* would make a deaf man weep, and your notes on *TWA v. Hardison* were uniformly flat. Truly pathetic. How in the world did you make it out of your first year to this stage of the competition? Next!
- Q: I'm sorry, I confess: I'm the one who broke the new three hole-punch. I was trying to do too many pages and I kind of sort of stepped on it. Too hard. So ... when are you going to get a new one?
- A: I have to admit, I didn't think this was possible. Compared to you, all the rest of the flat-footed, ungainly, lumbering clods who've stumbled across this stage look like Fred Astaire. And you have the unmitigated gall to ask us to reward your horrendously clumsy performance by giving you another chance? Maybe Paula can appreciate your jacklegged bungling, but as far as I'm concerned, we're punching you out out out! Next!
- Q: Can you install more security cameras in the Library? I keep forgetting to lock-down my laptop and--
- A: Oh, please! Stop right there! I can't stand it any more! This is worse than William Hung's latest CD! They've put docking bolts on nearly every square inch of the Library! How can you possibly forget?!
- Q: Hey, back off, man! I'm a 1L, and I've got a lot on my mind right now!
- A: A lot on your mind, eh, you miserable, talentless twit? Well, try this on for size! How about a docking bolt in your forehead?! Now you'll never lose your laptop!
- Q: AAAGGGHHHHHHHHH!!!
- A: BWAHAHAHAHAHA! That was fun! This is what we should've done to that crook, Bucky Covington! Next question!

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### WORKING WITH TROWELS

Professor Emeritus "Cap'n" **Tom Schornhorst** apparently made good on his promise to be "a gentler, kinder" teacher, and only keelhaunched three students enrolled in last fall's Evidence class. "I realized I had to change my approach for this new generation," **Schornhorst** grinned, "so I went pretty easy on anyone who wasn't prepared." His smile, however, faded away as he growled, "But those punks who walked into the classroom wearing ballcaps ... they obviously needed an abject lesson!"

There will be an emergency meeting of all faculty members this coming Friday to discuss and interpret a recent e-mail from I.U. Provost and President-designate **Michael McRobbie**. Citing NASA's horrifying announcement on Saturday that an enormous asteroid would slam into our planet at 1:47 p.m. ET, April 18th, wiping out all terrestrial life, **McRobbie** ordered "the closing of the I.U. campus for that day." "I've scheduled a Con Law review session for that evening," said Professor **Dan Conkle**, "and I want to make sure I can still hold class." "What I need to have clarified is whether I should count this as an excused or unexcused absence," added Professor **Craig Bradley**. "And I hope we can make it clear to all of our students that the provost said nothing about cancelling classes on the 19th!" Professor **Bob Heidt**, on the other hand, congratulated **McRobbie** on reducing the university's liability by keeping students away from campus, but wondered aloud "whether this will interrupt my Internet connection?" to which Systems Coordinator **Randy Sparks** replied, after recovering from a bout of apoplexy, "I think we can definitely plan on a server crash." Dean **Lauren Robel** has already announced the first order of business will be to settle once and for all the thorny question of whether "I.U. campus" includes the Law School ...

But seriously, folks: your humble editor would like to take this opportunity to give his best wishes to departing faculty members **Roger Dworkin** and **Fred Aman**. We hope your new lives in Seattle and Boston, respectively, offer all the rewards and happiness you desire, and we will sorely miss you. Good luck!