I.U. LAW SCHOOL GOES TOTALLY VIRTUAL

With a bold gallop into the 21st century, Dean Alfred Aman announced last week that the I.U. School of Law would become completely computerized by the Fall Semester of 1996. "After watching Johnny Mnemonic about fifteen times in a row with Professor Bruce Markell, I've become convinced that a totally interactive virtual law school is within our grasp," Dean Aman informed a stunned gathering of the Law School faculty. "I've also become convinced that Keanu Reeves is the worst actor in the world," he added.

When told that the professors' personalities would be replaced by computer-generated constructs, debate immediately followed over which professor would get to claim what famous chip-oriented icon. A lottery was eventually held, and a beaming Professor Terry Bethel emerged from the meeting growling, "I got Virtuosity's Sid 6.7--I can't wait to get encrypted!" Professor Craig Bradley quickly left the meeting and wrote three new books by the end of the day under his new nom de plume, Max Probable Causeroom. While this reporter was unable to ascertain who was awarded the identity of 2001...

Law Student Fitted With New Virtual Reality Headgear

Dean Aman's ground-breaking proposal met with mixed reaction from both faculty and students. According to Professor Dan Conkle, "Translating legal education into RAM and ROM is like reducing the First Amendment to a series of hand gestures. Wait a minute...let me rephrase that." Professor Bob Heidt's protests that a virtual classroom might obscure the punchline to his lawyer jokes were met with polite silence. Student representative Herman Hardrive reported his fellow law students would probably support a virtual curriculum because "Heck, we can sit in Nick's all day patched into our powerbooks and no one will know the difference!"
Res Ipsa Jocular

computer Hal, the fact that Professor Fidler asked Professor Joe Hoffmann to open the door to the Faculty Kitchen and Hoffmann responded "I'm sorry, Dave, I can't do that" was pretty much a giveaway.

News of Dean Aman's proposal sent shock waves rippling through the Law School community. When Systems Coordinator Dave Hecht was informed that it was his job in the next five months to make the school completely interactive and design a virtual environment that is at least ten years beyond current technology, Hecht burst into hysterical laughter. Hecht was last seen giggling maniacally at the Indianapolis Airport. (Late-breaking update: unconfirmed reports have placed Dave Hecht at Big Sur, saying he was now working for a species of moss because "while algae do network, they don't require coaxial cable or a server the size of Manhattan!") Library Director Colleen Pauwels told reporters that the transition wouldn't affect the Library at all since "Everyone's addicted to LEXIS and WESTLAW anyway!" Pauwels, however, refused to comment on rumors that reactionary hard-copy elements led by Reference Librarian Keith Buckley were apprehended attempting to stuff cranberry sauce in the diskdrive of the School's local area network computer.

A MULTIMEDIA FINAL EXAM

Okay, so we're still a little low-tech here at the venerable offices of Res Ipsa Jocular--our graphics expert says that pop-up books are about as multimedia as he gets. Since our publications budget was recently cut back to $50,000 an issue, however (most of which has already been spent on, ahem, a series of inspirational staff retreats at Kenny's Tavern in Ellettsville), our readers will have to make do with yet another quartet of obscure yet obtuse vignettes. Why not keep score along with our home audience? If you cannot provide correct answers to any of the pictorial challenges, then have no fear--there's still openings in next year's MBA class. One correct answer suggests that you need to spend a little more time hitting the books and a little less time trying to buy a vowel from Vanna White. Two correct answers means you might want to rethink your oath that you'll never go back to working nights at your father's store. Three correct answers demonstrates your deep knowledge of Law School lore . . . perhaps a little too deep--should you be studying a wee bit more? Four correct answers and, say, didn't we see you at Kenny's Tavern?

The Suggestion Box

(Every month in this space, Associate Director Linda Fariss endeavors to answer your hard-hitting no-holds barred questions about Library practices and policies. This month is no exception, and you've given us some especially rough ones, so here goes!

Question: Where in the world did you find such great reference librarians? They're such wonderful, helpful and knowledgeable people!!! Incredible, the entire lot of them!!! By Jove, they all deserve big fat raises!!!!

Answer: Why, thank you. We scoured the earth for those librarians, and we're so happy to have them here. I'll be sure to pass along your comments to the appropriate administrators.

Question: How do you possibly train your computer personnel to give such fantastic service? Those people are absolute geniuses when it comes to helping me out!!! I love them, just love them!!! By Jove, they all deserve big fat raises!!!

Answer: How awfully kind of you. We're just here to assist you, and finding the perfect people for the job is our primary goal. I'll be sure to pass along your comments to the appropriate administrators.

Question: I'm sorry, but the self-congratulatory tone of this column is about to make me puke. Why don't you just come out and admit the truth--you're writing these questions yourself and stuffing them in the Suggestion Box.

Answer: That's the most preposterous thing I've ever heard and I can't believe I wrote it. Aren't you forgetting something?

Question: Oh, sorry. You and your staff all deserve big fat raises.
Question 1

1. The person on the right is:
   A) A law student who needs to review Kelly Townes' tips on interviewing demeanor.
   B) A law student who will soon be having a heart-to-heart talk with Earl Singleton on how not to respond to the needs of a Community Legal Clinic client.
   C) Reenacting one of the livelier sidebars from the O.J. trial.
   D) Going after a fellow student from Prof. Popkin's tax class who just bought the last *Gilbert's on Income Tax*.

Question 3

3. This law student:
   A) Has been cite-checking for the *Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies* for the last 48 hours.
   B) Just got his 57th ding letter.
   C) Forgot to back-up his Moot Court brief before a power outage hit the Computer Center.
   D) Got beaned by a high-inside Jeff Stake pancake.

Question 4

4. These law students:
   A) Close Nick's every night.
   B) Have consumed far too many Snack Bar espressos.
   C) Are fighting for a parking space on Indiana Avenue.
   D) Are trying to get hold of that last copy of *Gilbert's on Income Tax* after getting beaned by Jeff Stake pancakes just before hearing one of Professor Boshkoff's limericks.
Correct Answers:
1. (A) 2. (D) (better get a road map to Cairo!)
3. (C) 4. None of the above--they're all racing to find the Library Conference Room where a couple of classmates are having a particularly heavy date.

PROFESSORS PLOT SECOND CAREERS
by Ima Pseudonym

In the face of the Law School's conversion to virtual reality, a number of faculty members are already making plans with what to do with the spare time they'll have after their pedagogical methods are downloaded to diskette. "Once we're all nothing more than binary code, we'll be completely free to explore optional pursuits," explained Professor Alex Tanford. "As for myself, I'm going to take all the Law School's video equipment and try to snag the film rights for John Grisham's next novel. I've already got a cast in mind... once Ed Greenebaum coaches Ann Gellis on role-playing, I'm betting she'll act Julia Roberts under the table!" Professor Lynne Henderson told our reporters, "Gosh, I've been in Bloomington almost two entire semesters. I've got to catch up on my travel plans!"

When informed of developments at I.U., Professor Roger Dworkin said from London that "This is a really tough decision. On the one hand, I'd like to stay here in London and iron out the organ donor questions in a certain divorce action should Prince William ever need a kidney transplant. On the other hand, I've always wanted to return to my first love, the alto saxophone, and get in on the Bloomington jazz scene!" Upon hearing of Professor Dworkin's quandary, I.U. School of Music Professor David Baker quickly responded "I think Roger should go with the first hand."

WORKING WITH TROWELS

Professor Fred Cate categorically denied a State Board of Health bulletin that monkeys formerly in his employment were responsible for an epidemic of the deadly Ebola virus in Bloomington last month (see previous issues of Res Ipsa Jocular for equally overworked stories about Professor Cate's monkeys). "The monkeys were given a complete bill of health when I brought them to this country," Cate maintained. "Besides, I gave the monkeys to Lauren Robel last year when she told me she was contemplating a new text on civil procedure." Professor Robel hastily distanced herself from the simian controversy, claiming "Unlike your average 1st year, a rhesus monkey will never master the intricacies of in rem jurisdiction. I packed the apes off to the Library months ago!" And so it was three days ago that our staff of investigative reporters discovered that Head of Circulation Jennifer Bryan has been using the monkeys to reshelve books. "The monkeys are not Ebola carriers," Bryan told us. When asked about the fact that Acquisitions Librarian Dick Vaughan had to be rushed to the hospital with a bloody nose after tripping over one of the monkeys, Bryan said, "He was chasing a troop of squirrels and got bitten by one of the rodents. And in any event, all of our monkeys get the same order: apes shall not kill men."

Students in Professor Rob Fischman's Environmental Law class embarked on a novel clinical project this Monday—they are suing the National Weather Service on behalf of all the trees damaged in last week's apocalyptic snow storm. "My students will be rooting through the Library for an answer to the age old question, do trees have standing," Fischman said. "They'll start with state statutes, then branch out to the common law. I expect them to come back with all the data they can carry with their limbs!"

Children's Law advocates Bill Kell, Aviva Orenstein and Francie Hill announced they are drafting legislation which would allow minors in Indiana to settle their own legal disputes. Tentatively titled "The Romper Room Act," the proposed bill would create inferior courts that would decide such matters as who got to play with the Legos next. "We've got the entire faculty behind us," Professor Orenstein stated. "Pat Baude is working on additions to the Model Penal Code that would criminalize talking during nap-time, and Sarah Jane Hughes is considering the Article 3 ramifications of using Play-Doh as currency." She did admit Professor Shreve wished to distance himself from the project because "he doesn't want anyone messing with his Lincoln Logs."