

inter alia

wednesday, november 2, 2005

Production of Law-Based Video Game Halted

By Jim Bielenberg

SEATTLE—Microsoft announced Tuesday that it will cease the production of its highly-anticipated role-playing game (RPG), “Age of Attorney: The Quest for Punitive Damages,” due to less-than-flattering reviews.

The game, rated Mature for excessive wordiness, involves reading statutes in the fictional state of Plenaria and applying that code to a fact pattern in order to recover the Lost Punitive Damages of Queen Malla, which mysteriously vanished in the Third Procedural War. Special items can be found in the game and used to ease the quest such as The Suspenders of Thor, which increase the character’s influence on certain enemies called Jurors. There is also a dragon.

The action-packed product was pre-released last month to several gaming magazines in hopes of bolstering the sales of AOA when it hit stores on November 15. Surprisingly, the early release had the opposite effect.

“This is, without-a-doubt, the single dumbest venture ever pursued by a company, ever,” said Joel McKee, RPG editor for ign.com. “Whoever thought that this game would sell a single copy was out of their mind. What a bunch of douchebags.” Bielenberg

Other gaming experts were similarly unimpressed by the product. Gaming Monthly magazine gave the product a 0.6 out of a possible 10 points, with the only points awarded because of realism. “The lone salvation for the game is that, as the game progresses, the main character’s hair recedes rapidly, his midsection gets thicker, and his dependency on alcohol increases.” The article continued by stating, “If you have a choice between playing this game and watching ‘Commander in Chief,’ turn your TV to the Geena Davis chick. Seriously, it’s that bad.”

While various parts of the game were blasted by each reviewer, there was one common thread in all of the reviews. As stated by Jeffrey Van Slyke of GameSpot.com: “The game was just too damned easy. I had unlocked all the special items and beaten the levels in less than three hours. I mean, how hard is it to read a couple-

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The 3L’s Corner:

Kudos . . .

. . . to the FACILITIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT, who must have spent countless hours decorating the building with all of those cobwebs in the windows for Halloween. However, now that Halloween has passed is there anyway we can take those down; we do not want to look like those certain neighbors who leave their Christmas lights up all year long.

. . . to the HONORABLE ALAN C. PAGE, who delivered this years Sherman J. Bellwood Lecture. For those of you who were unable to attend but nonetheless are interested in knowing what Justice Page had to say, you are in luck. A very large portion of this year’s speech was verbatim from another speech he gave at the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at Memphis State University on April 23, 1993. See 23 Mem. St. U. L. Rev. 755.

. . . to the HUNTING AND FISHING CLUB, who once again is conducting the “Big Buck Contest.” Without such a competition, the Law School would be completely void of any determination of who is the most manly-man amongst us. Rumor has it that next year the format will change slightly and extra points will be granted for every inch of lift on the participant’s pickup truck.

. . . to the WOMEN’S LAW CAUCUS, for encouraging collegiality and empowerment amongst the College of Law’s women through bone breaking bonding activities like powder puff football. Moreover, double-kudos to team-pink for keeping things in perspective and

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A Public Message

By C. Dale Slack III, Social Committee Chair

I usually like to use my column space in *inter alia* for humor, to lighten your loads a little and to bring a smile to your faces and a chuckle to your lips. I was hoping this week to bring you nothing but a joyous roundup of this weekend’s festivities; to tell you what a roaring and “spook-tacular” success the SBA Hallowe’en Party was this year.

There are days when I look at our student body and my heart swells with pride; and then there are the times when someone does something like what happened at the Hallowe’en Party this past weekend and I just want to cry with shame.

Apparently, someone who never grew out of her second-grade fascination with toilet humor thought it would be hilarious—oh so funny—to use the women’s restroom at the American Legion Cabin last weekend to defecate in such a horrible and robust manner that the smell drove the young ladies in need of using the restroom for more acceptable purposes to use either the unisex bathroom downstairs, or else the gentlemen’s room. The following is an open letter to that person or persons.

Let me tell you, not only was this sick “joke” not funny, it was disgusting and immature; someone could have been hurt or much worse. This did not make you “cool” or “rebellious,” it just made you unprofessional and irresponsible. I won’t stoop to your level and tell all the details, but suffice it to say both SBA President Taylor Mossman and I were quite put out by your sophomoric antics. President Mossman used half a can of Lemon Pledge and I poured a good half-gallon of citrus-based cleanser into that toilet to try to make the bathroom safe for the use of your fellow students. The thick, greasy, almost palpable waves of your “joke” had begun to creep into the main hall, where

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Hiking in Latah County, Continued

By Christopher Taylor

As promised, I've got a few more additions to the apparently well-received "Hiking" list. And this time around, I actually have a Latah County trail listed. [Ed: the "Hiking" list author was not responsible for the double inclusion of Steptoe Butte's description. Instead, that fault lies with the Dali Lama, whose guest editor status has since been revoked.]

Hobo Cedar Grove. Back in the olden days, we actually used to cut down domestic trees in order to print out the requested eleven copies of SBA budget requests. Now we get our timber from Canada, Cambodia, Chechnya, and other "C" countries with vast hard- and softwood reserves. So our forests are rebounding. Evidence of this is that a very old cedar stand outside of Clarkia—which was spared because cedar, unlike the sturdier white pine, explodes when it is floated down rivers—is now surrounded by an entire forest of somewhat old non-cedars. Lucky us. The trail through Hobo Cedar Grove—possibly named after an old north-central Idaho homesteader called "Hobart" or "Herbert"—is rather pretty and rather easy on the heart. It is, however, rather far away. So plan several hours total if you go.

Directions. East on Troy Highway (Idaho State Route 8) for 35 miles to Bovill. Left on to Idaho State Route 3 for 15 miles to Clarkia. Right on Forest Road 301 for short distance. Right on Forest Road 321 for long distance. Right on Forest Road 3357 to trailhead.

Spring Valley Reservoir. The first and only time I've ever been involved with a freshwater fishing expedition as an adult was at Spring Valley. My friend—who fishes regularly—and I bought four of those giant PBRs at a gas station in Troy, drove to the reservoir, and threw some hooks in the water to see if something would bite. Well, she did. I sat and drank while she was busy playing around with bait or flies or something. Rather enjoyable, actually. There is a short trail that

Friday's second annual Powder Puff Pummel resulted in more than its fair share of injuries. Participants were tackled and broken. Spectators' ocular nerves were severed. The tainted hot dogs caused in an outbreak of anal leakage and other digestion-related misery. And the Women's Law Caucus raked in more moolah than the mind can comfortably conceive. Let be a lesson to the other student organizations: violence always pays.



wraps around the reservoir which is often muddy and dog-urine-smelling. But in a good way. I recommend going during the early Spring to see the waterfowl as they travel like undergrads to Mexico. Lovely.

Directions. East on Troy Highway for 15 miles. Left on Spring Valley Road. Follow signs.

Hayden State Park. This park is located on the extremely beautiful Lake Chatcolet (which is actually just the southern tip of Lake Coeur d'Alene). It has a lovely into-the-marsh wooden boardwalk for wildlife viewing. It has boating. It has a portion of the paved Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes, which is useful for some pleasant non-rustic-but-non-cardodging cycling. It has camping. But the jewel of the park is the gorgeous Indian Cliffs trail, which snakes four miles through heavily wooded areas (infested with friendly woodpeckers); over a series of natural, if small, caves, spewing chilled underground air and reptiles; and culminates with a view that will likely stop your lungs working for a moment or two.

Directions. North on 95 for 50 miles to Plummer. Right on Idaho State Route 5 (toward St. Maries) for seven miles. Follow signs.

Halloween Costuming

By Dr. Cornelius Von Van der Blut

The law school sanctioned Halloween party was this last weekend. It was a great party and the Social Committee did a fantastic job. In addition to the good food, the good beer and the good music there was, of course, the costumes. And there were some great ones, costumes like the fake Shemp Professor Anderson and the Zombie Rehnquist.

However, there were a fair number of mediocre costumes. I know that the day of costumed fun has passed but I propose a few costumes for next year's festivities that might brighten things up. [Author: I would have gotten this out before Halloween assuming our fine editor hadn't been dancing the night away in California. Oh and if I understood the concept of deadlines.]

• All things sexy. The trend in costumes aimed at adults has been going the decidedly sexy route for years. And while there were some fine costumes worn this past weekend like Sexy Cop, Sexy

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Blut continued on page three.

### inter alia

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*inter alia* is the University of Idaho, College of Law's official humor and opinion pamphlet, published on alternating Wednesdays. Submissions for publication are encouraged. Any opinions represented herein are those of the indicated author or *inter alia*'s staff and in no way represent the opinions of the Student Bar Association. *inter alia* did not laugh when it heard Pele cracked some girl's ribs.

*Slack continued from page one.*

were it not for the vigilance and quick action President Mossman and I took, some serious damage could have been done. Two female 3L students were nearly killed by your "joke." Even after President Mossman and I did our best to clean and freshen up the restroom, it still was hours before the other ladies could use the facilities. Not only were your antics dangerous and not funny, they were a violation of the College of Law Honor Code and Professional Ethics.

Not only did your chicanery show a complete lack of respect for your fellow students, it also demonstrated your uncaring attitude toward the American Legion Cabin, a building listed on the National Register of Historic places, and the men and women whose sacrifice built that cabin. We were forced to forfeit our security deposit and have been told that we are not welcome to return as their guests for future events.

You know who you are; but more importantly, we can and will find out who you are—we have the technology. Believe me, it would be best for all parties involved if you were to come forward on your own and admit to your shenanigans. There will be disciplinary action taken, but you can make it much easier on yourself and your future career if you turn yourself in. If you

do the professional thing and come forward to take responsibility for your misdoings, we may only suspend you for the remainder of the semester and this little incident will not appear on your record (which, as you know, is given to the State Bar Association) or come before the Honor Court. We may be able to work something out so that your record does not reflect what a childish and unprofessional thing you have done; but if you refuse to own up to your irresponsible behavior, if you force us to find out who you are, we will have no choice but to remove you from this Law School and report to any state Bar Association that inquires that you committed this act. The only Law School with a place for someone like you will be either East Bay or Yale.

If you think this kind of thing is "no big deal," then let me give you a reality check. Last year in New Mexico, a young attorney with a promising future and a six-figure earning potential was disbarred over a stunt like this at a CLE class in White's City. He now sells used cars and dental supplies, and his life as well as the lives of his family have been ruined due to one moment of unthinking foolishness.

Students, please help us keep our school a safe, nurturing environment in which everybody is free to learn. If you know anything about this event, please tell either me or Taylor Mossman. You may think you're doing the right thing by

Events and Announcements

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Monday, November 7  
4:30 PM  
SBA Council Meeting

Monday, November 7  
5:30 PM  
SBA Budget Meeting

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Send event details and announcements to [crtaylor@uidaho.edu](mailto:crtaylor@uidaho.edu).

"standing by" your friend and not sharing her identity with us, but believe me, the kind of person who would do something like this is not a friend; a real friend would not ask you to keep silent when your student colleagues were nearly killed or seriously injured.

*If this was not a joke and was the result of a recognized disability, I apologize to the responsible party, and wish you success in spite of your no-doubt painful and debilitating condition.*

*JB & LD continued from page one.*

remembering that good sportswoman-ship is less important than winning. Has the WLC thought about having a less violent fundraising activity...maybe boxing?

. . . to the ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SOCIETY, who sold the 'candygrams' and managed to turn the professional law school 'environment' into that of a prepubescent grammar school. Cannot wait until Valentines Day to see what you have in store!

. . . to our 1L FRIENDS, for their "knockout" performance as Bill and Ted at this years Halloween party. Perhaps Johnny Knoxville and Steve-O would have been the more appropriate costumes.

- JB & LD

*Blut continued from page two.*

Judge, Sexy Snow White and Sexy Other it's time for some new Sexy regalia. Thus I propose some new sexiness for Halloween '06. Why haven't I seen a Sexy Oncologist? Or a Sexy Bootblack? Or maybe even a Sexy Carnie? When I fail to graduate this year and I'm at the next Halloween party (as a non-Sexy Janitor) I expect to see all of these in force.

• More law themed costumes. Judges and professors work well but why not a 12(b)6 Motion or an Interlocutory Appeal? Or a Catholic prosecutor working on a death penalty case (see it's funny because Catholics are supposed to be anti-death penalty and... ah, forget it).

• TV characters. We've all seen Superman and Skank #4 from "Laguna Beach" but why not some of the less loved personalities of TV Land's past? I would gladly show up for Tax if it meant I could see a Zombie Burt Mustin or that Cooter guy from "Dukes of Hazzard" who is now in Congress. Hell, why not all the people who went on to Congress from the Teevee? Sonny Bono (Zombie or otherwise) and Zelda from "Dobie Gillis" would both be great.

• Anything which requires multiple fire permits, plenty of explosions, a road crew and a Haz-Mat team on site. That all has to be in one costume, so maybe you could be AC/DC's 1981 Back in Black tour. A bit esoteric, I know but it would still be pretty awesome.

**WANTED:**

**An unknown female law student for scent related crimes. An unknown assailant caused extensive property damage and numerous assaults through her careless use of bathroom facilities. These attacks are violations of the Patriot Act, the Chemical Weapons Convention, Article 8 of the UCC, Articles II, VII, & XVI of the Idaho State Constitution and all sense of common decency.**

**If you have any information as to the identity of the attacker please contact the Federal Bureau of Investigation Immediately.**

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thousand pages of code, write a brief, make a closing argument, and kill a dragon.”

Despite the embarrassment the public flogging of AOA has generated for the Seattle-based corporation, Microsoft maintains that they will continue to make video games with occupational themes. Due to come out next year for the software giant are “Loretta the Middle-Aged Pole-Dancer,” and “Paul: Park Bench Bird-Poo-Scraper-Upper,” both of which are projected to be more intellectually stimulating than AOA.

**“Carrel Gate”  
Strikes Idaho**

*Basement-dwellers left craving inches*

By Jim Bielenberg

MOSCOW, ID—A small Northwest college was rocked by scandal last Thursday when it was discovered that several members of the law school community misappropriated assets, directing more than their rightful share of property to themselves at the expense of other law students.

Prior to Thursday, the University of Idaho, nestled within the rolling hills of the Palouse Country, was known mostly for its terrible football team. Not so anymore, as the unethical conduct of the players in “Carrel Gate” have forever sullied the crystal clear waters of Paradise Creek.

The misappropriation was discovered Thursday morning when Carrel-Width Inspector Jamie Townsend, conducting his routine Carrel checks, noted that some Carrels were spaced anywhere from 1.5 to 6 inches wider than others along the west wall of the basement in the Menard Law Building.

Upon making the discovery, Townsend called the American Bar Association with the recommendation that swift and severe action be taken. “The ABA doesn’t mess around when it comes to proper carrel-space allocation. It’s in the handbook,” Townsend said. “I don’t really want to speculate, but I’d imagine there will be blood shed...lots of blood shed, maybe even a public lynching.”

Word of the fiasco spread quickly throughout the law school and, although there is little concrete evidence as to the identity of the perpetrator(s), early speculation points to “That Chick Who Won’t Shut Up In Con Law” or “The Creepy Dude Who Tries To Schlep All The 1L’s.”

Student reactions to the scandal have ranged from complete indifference to utter disbelief. Upon hearing the news, Jonathan Ahten said, “Oh, really. The carrels are unevenly spaced in the basement. That’s kind of weird.” Ahten’s damning remarks were further expounded by Leonard Mackedon III.

“I’m hurt, and I’m angry. This is the type of thing that rips communities apart. I’m ashamed today, ashamed to be a part of this school. What am I supposed to tell my kids, assuming I ever stick around long enough to form a meaningful relationship with one or more of them.”

As of press time, the Moscow community continued to struggle with the aftermath. Independent counselors have held round-the-clock group sessions for those affected. At Ground-Zero, there have been tears, sorrow, and consolation for the victims. Nikki Owens, directly affected to the tune of 2.73 inches stolen, spoke to reporters from her ruined carrel: “I put most of my life in this carrel, and now it is a complete wreck. Between the six carrels in my area, we’ve lost more than a square foot of room. That would have come in very handy, especially considering [Katie] Garcia’s body odor. We could have fit a power strip in that space and plugged, like, three or four Glade Plugins into the sockets. Whoever did this, I hope you are in smell-range.”

Along with public outcry, there has been strong support for Townsend, who is expected to incur substantial backlash from the perpetrator(s) for revealing the violation.

“I’ve got cards and flowers coming to my house daily, thanking me for having the courage to stand up to these powermongers. Am I a hero? Sure, but that’s my job.”

The SBA-sponsored Halloween Party at the American Legion was a rather shameful exercise in legal ethics in which Menard inhabitants drank to excess, attempted to solicit illicit sexual favors from professors, and drown in a sea of devil-worshipping ribaldry. Between the tasteless costuming, the toilet humor [Ed: see “A Public Message” on page one], and the countless back alley abortions, it is no wonder that the College of Law has the reputation it does. Take a page out of WLC’s book, SBA: you win more friends with violent sugar than satanic vinegar.

**HALLOWEEN 2005**

