

# inter alia

wednesday, november 30, 2005

## Are There No Prisons? Hunting for Snarks Final Exam No Workhouses? Study Tips

By C. Dale Slack III

I was just sitting down to start researching my paper for International Law on Friday (it wasn't due until Tuesday, after all), when a pale pink flyer caught my eye. "MAKE A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS WISH COME TRUE," it beseeched me. My first thought was "Well, I simply have neither enough autographed photos nor time enough to visit local schools," but then I read further. Apparently someone wants me to purchase items for less-fortunate children in our area and donate them. I went about my tasks unimpeded and with a sad chuckle.

Let me preface what I'm about to say with this caveat: I am a charitable person, if for no other reason than that my church tells me that the gates of Heaven are opened wide to the cheerful giver. Faith and good-works are the cornerstone of my life, along with smoking and Scotch; but I have been questioning the wisdom of Law School "drives" for some time now. Every time I turn around, someone is collecting for the needy.

Let's be honest, folks. I don't think we have any members of the Astor 400 here; there are probably also no Fortune 500 CEOs in attendance at this university (except perhaps Jeff Boyle, but he's in publishing, which is a shady and shameful business at best). I don't know about the rest of you, but I am about \$65,000 in debt from my all-to-brief sojourn at this institution of higher-learning, and I buy a lot of Totino's Party Pizzas and Flav-o-Rite imitation creamed-scallions to stave off the gnawing wolves of hunger. I don't get checks from home. I have long-since spent any money I inherited from wealthier forbears on fixing my car and drinking booze in undergrad. If you don't have to cut costs

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By Christopher Taylor (channeling the close-enough-to-dead CBS commentator Andy Rooney)

You know what I hate? The UI Law Online Job Search. Not only is it harder to use than the old cardboard-behind-glass bulletin board, it is not even accurately labeled. I am not trying to access a "search" in order to find post-graduation employment. I am trying to access a "database." Not that it would do much good either way. No new jobs have been added to the database since August. Now don't get me wrong. I don't blame the Career Services staff. After all, Anne-Marie is in the building three, sometimes four days per week. And she's got her work cut out for her. It must be hard trying to sell graduates of a school like Idaho to employers that can barely find the state on the map. Especially when so many of its graduates turn out to be malpractice-magnets.

Speaking of magnets, I was wiping my hard drive a few months back in order to sell it on eBay. Wouldn't want any of my legal aid clients' personal information to end up in the hands of a stranger. Might blackmail them for tens of dollars. Time was, you could clean out your files with a match and a fireplace. Definitely a warmer way of getting rid of confidential information. Of course back then we didn't have the Sierra Club breathing down our necks about global warming.

The Sierra Club sent me another batch of return address labels yesterday. I must have given someone money who was a little less discreet with my personal information than I was with my clients. But what I can't figure out is this: the Sierra Club keeps cutting down trees in order to ask me for money to help save trees from being logged. Wouldn't it be easier

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By Jim Bielenberg

Final examinations are a stressful time for any student, and, because of the general lack of mid-term evaluations, especially so for those in law school. As your resident mediocre student, I have compiled a list of the most helpful tips for keeping your sanity and preparing your nether regions properly for extreme violation. Gleaned from such reputable sources as an old Ouija board and drunken Mingles patrons, this compilation is sure to garner that C+ you are looking for.

Pre-test—

**1. Reference class materials in all conversations.** This technique, handed down through generations of pretentious bastards, involves answering questions with irrelevant law school drivel. For example, when asked what you would like to order by a waitress at Denny's, respond by saying, "A contract is formed through offer, acceptance, and consideration or a reasonable substitute," followed by, "Scram Slam with a side of sourdough toast."

**2. Make your own wonder-tonic.** Suggested by 'Nother Round Phil, this involves mixing any three liquids and one powder into a magical ingestible that increases brain-activity. My drink includes Windex, Skim Milk, Dr. Pepper, and Hollandaise Sauce Mix. This potent potable increased my GPA by an astounding 1.3%.

**3. Abstain from coitus.** First of all,

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it relaxes you and relieves stress. The last thing you want to do is walk into an examination all loosey-goosey without the urge to vomit. Secondly, it saps your endurance. When crunch time comes, you don't want to omit that five-dollar word you've been saving up for Rah-Rah Miller because you're too tired from your animalistic three-minute romp. Finally, I won't be getting any, so neither should you.

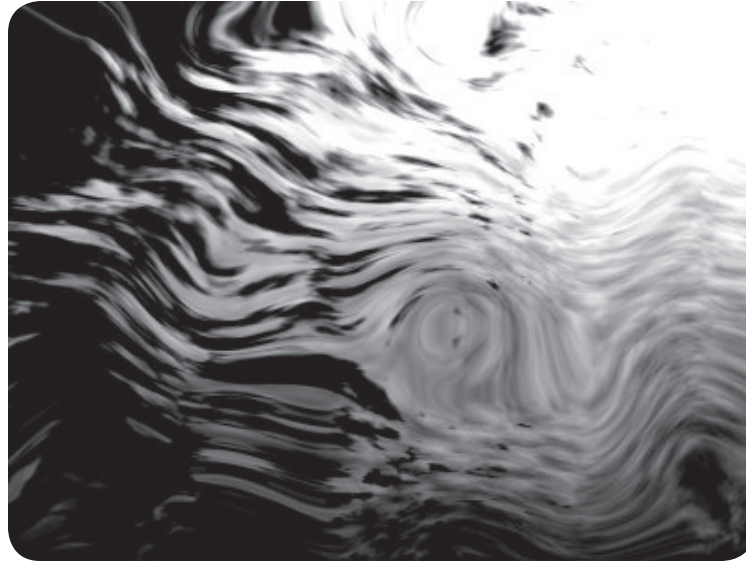
**4. Ignore your professors.** They give you tips on how to succeed on their exams. They provide access to various study materials, including past exams. This is all a hoax. Remember that these people used to be law students. They enjoy inflicting pain. At heart, they want to see each and every one of us fail miserably. They want to break you, and will take any opportunity available to torment you to that end.

During test—

**1. Mumble loudly to yourself.** Although this won't help you, per se, it will annoy others, causing them to do worse. Remember, law school isn't as much about succeeding yourself as about hindering the success of others.

**2. Use alliteration.** They don't talk about it much in class, but law school professors are suckers for junior high literary techniques. Making the most out of this method maximizes exam mastery for many. Hyperbole, onomatopoeia, and metaphors are also encouraged.

**3. Cheat.** Honor Code be damned. This is about survival. Use any and all means necessary to get what's coming to you. If



Others have nightmares about laptop failure, alarm clock malfunction, and unintentional nudity. Whereas I wake up before exams in a cold sweat, terrified of a swirling sea of ink.

you're not cheating, you're not working hard enough.

**4. Avoid proper grammar.** Think about it. How can your argument be critiqued when no one can possibly understand what the hell you are talking about? Begin each sentence with a hanging preposition and punctuate randomly. Take ten minutes at the end of each exam and delete every fifth word, replacing it with a punctuation mark.

**5. Don't answer the question.** Instead, answer an alternative question you have predetermined. For example, my answer for the third question for Anderson's BA test is as follows: "From the structure of this question, it is most obvious that the real issue herein concerns the Chicago Bears' chance to win the Super Bowl next February. While the Chicago defense has been stellar this season, their offense does not have the firepower to prevail over any of the upper-tier teams in the AFC." Anderson, if you want to just mark me down

for an "A" now, it'll save us both some trouble.

After test—

**1. Cry.** Remember that your worthiness as a human depends solely on the letter grade attached to the test you just took. Note, in particular, that you probably bombed the test and dwell on that for as long as possible, especially if you have more finals to take. Remember, if you don't cry after taking a test, the terrorists have already won.

**2. Abstain from coitus.** I'm still not getting any, so neither should you.

**3. Thank me.** Your success depends not on the effort you exert or the aptitude you have, but upon reading this article. For that reason, shower me with gifts of gratitude including (but not limited to) money, gift certificates, statues portraying my likeness, and Spongebob Squarepants collectibles. In expressing your thanks, you may ignore the previous rule.

## inter alia

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to get through law school, then screw you; go home and have some caviar and Cristal whilst sitting on your throne of Fabergé Eggs. I'm broke, and while I'm pleased to give of my rapidly dwindling time and dubious skills, I simply can't spend my money on others.

I suppose the mainstream of this opus is that asking law students to give to every good cause is a little like asking someone in a wheelchair to come out dancing with you—they might be able to make a valiant effort, but in the end it's just not going to happen. I've thought about donating to some of these causes, but in the end when I looked at my pantry and weighed the absence of a box of Shopper's Valu Mac-n-Cheese against the soothing five-minute glow of munificence, I chose the one that required milk and butter to prepare.

However, I do understand the genuine issue and driving-force behind these drives: they are an extremely easy way to fulfill the SBA requirement of public service—much easier, in fact, than actually volunteering to serve thin, watery soup to homeless people who might smell bad, or to read to children at a local school who may be sticky and ask a lot of uncomfortable questions. I see this trend in a lot of law firms as well. They give extremely generously to good causes, but when it comes time to volunteer to help an abused woman file for divorce and a NCO, they'd prefer she took the check and got out of their palm-tree laden marble lobby. But that's okay. I'm not here to judge, especially since my own impecuniousness makes it impossible for me to even write the check.

Since these drives are a reality that we must deal with, however, here are a few modest suggestions for drives that I actually could get behind and support.

**1. Furniture Drive For the Homeless.** I have an old sofa and an occasional table in my storage-unit that would look great in the alley behind One World. I also have an old rug that would really tie the dumpster area behind Hastings together.

**2. Booze Drive for the Unemployed.** A number of my mother's side of the family—the horrible Mick ones—were laid off from Potlatch a few years ago. They had some tough times with feelings of depression and hopelessness; but alcohol changed all that, and now they can face their empty days with a grin on their lips and a flame in their sneezes.

**3. Used Law Book Drive for the Less Fortunate.** Nothing clutters up a law student's apartment like a bunch of old dusty tomes on Contracts and Property; and nothing makes a roaring, cheery fire in a fifty-gallon drum in the living-room like a pile of law books. Let's help those not as blessed as ourselves stay warm this winter by donating those used law books to local families without enough money to pay their electric bills!

Until then, I fear my response to any pleas for monetary contributions must be that of Ebenezer Scrooge: "I don't make merry myself at Christmas, and I can ill afford to make idle people merry. I help support the establishments I have mentioned—they cost me enough: and those who are badly off can go there."

Events and Announcements

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3Ls interested in sitting on the Honor Court should contact SBA President Taylor Mossman at moss9557@uidaho.edu.

Charitable Events Update:  
ILSA raised approximately 50 lbs. of goods consisting of cleaning products and personal health items for Katrina Relief. The donations were sent to the non-profit organization CanDo for distribution in New Orleans.

ACLU sent 46 lbs. of goods to the troops in Iraq. The items included books, DVDs, magazines, snacks and health products.

Sincere thanks to all those who contributed to these efforts. Also, thank you in advance for supporting the Women's Law Caucus in the Christmas for Kids project.

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Send event details and announcements to crtaylor@uidaho.edu.

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if they just stopped sending me letters and called it a day?

Way back in August the Clinic purchased this "case management software" called Legal Files. And I thought the Clinic's last edition of "legal files" was poorly managed. When I started at the Clinic in May, I found it necessary to spend many hours organizing and

filling-in the gaps in the paper case files. Now that everything has been digitized, the need is the same, but the ability is not. I don't need anyone's permission to use a three-hole punch, a binder, and a photocopier. Apparently I do need someone's permission to add documents to the electronic case file. And no one can tell me who has the authority to grant that permission. So I've been forced to have Todd do it for me. This is progress?

I noticed that the front office has decided to place a "disaster relief" jar where students drop off their completed exams. At \$1 suggested donation, with 310 students taking approximately 4 exams a piece, that's \$1240. That can purchase a lot of po' boys. Or biryani. Maybe I'll wear a sign around my neck, proclaiming my preference for gado-gado.

## Classifieds

[If you have any questions or comments please don't bother asking the Classifieds editor, Jeff Dearing.]

### Section 100 - Real Estate

3 bd, 2 bath, fam rm, A/C, slightly haunted. \$100,000.

15 acres outside of Potlatch, Superfund site, 11 acres contain 7 year old tire fire. Still burning. Taking offers.

### Section 200 - Pets

Seeking home for "Old Feltcher" former champion race horse. 28 yrs old, blind in both eyes, is bit of biter, near constant diarrhea. \$150.

Free to good home! Sir Winifred Von Huggypants, 7 yr old orange male tabby. Morbidly obese, extremely surly. The cat belonged to our daughter but now she's dead so Kitty has to go!!!

9-yr old Chicockertsudoole (Chihuahua, cocker spaniel, Shitzu, poodle mix) for sale. Profoundly inbred despite being a mixed breed, three legs, will eat only Ball Park hot dogs, responds to either Godofredo or God damn dog. Make an offer!

### Section 300 - Personals

SWM seeking F 18-80 for pretty much anything. Must be really into side burns.

SM seeking SF. I am currently listed as the fattest man in Idaho. I like watching long walks on the beach, knitting, and Beanie Babies. I am looking for someone to be my partner in crime and soul mate. I am currently incapacitated due to my weight, so it's easy to find me! No fatties.

DM seeking anybody. Must enjoy extreme bondage, ritual

self-mutilation, dendrophilia, gulag role playing, diaper fetishism, hair cut fetishism, male pregnancy fetishism, harpaxophilia, klismaphilia, robot fetishism, and cannibalism. No weirdos.

### Section 400 - I Saw You!

[To respond to I Saw You ads, please contact *inter alia* for advertiser's contact information.]

Last Tuesday at Pullman Dairy Queen. You were polishing off your third chili dog. You were wearing a Tweety Bird t-shirt and beige stirrup pants, had lazy eye, obviously no bra. I was smitten like a kitten, so call me! November 7th in Slurp & Burp parking lot. You were the sexy man vomiting in the back of a truck, I don't know if it was yours. It had a Taz sticker and a Dale Earnhardt flag. Your butt looked so cute in those jeans!

### Section 500 - Autos

1984 AMC Eagle. 4x4, good for snow. 278,000 miles. Rare engine fires. \$500 OBO.

2006 Bugatti Veyron, stupendously fast and dangerous. Guaranteed sex magnet. \$1,500,000. I'll even throw in a pack of shop towels.

### Section 600 - For Sale

Packard-Bell PC, 386, 256 meg hard drive, 5.25 floppy, makes horrible wheezing noises. \$25.

Healthy white baby. Age two weeks, good for salt mining or just part it out. \$10,000.

One gently (but extensively used) copy of "Where in the USA is Carmen Sandiego." Free OBO.

## President Pardons Turkey

By Christopher Taylor

CARACAS—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, four days after U.S. President George W. Bush's traditional Thanksgiving pardon of two turkeys dominated the headlines, pardoned a third turkey. The turkey, sentenced to death three years prior for massacring a small farming community in Massachusetts, is expected to vacation in Disneyland sometime next year.

## Turkey Pardons President

By Christopher Taylor

ANKARA—Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan officially pardoned U.S. President George for his "crimes against Islam." The crimes, which went unspecified in the decree, likely included President Bush's 2003 defiling of a copy of the Quran ("the mustard and pretzel incident").



iPod, who cares how much it holds or costs just buy it you trendy prick.

WAREHOUSE FULL! We're getting rid of a metric assload of ceramic bookends shaped like Willem Defoe! Buy them by the gross, these are hot!