

DE MINIMIS

SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 2012

Established 1948

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 6

Law School says Yes to Collusion

The High Court has recently ruled that Australian law schools should encourage collusion. Kirby J (as part of the majority) cited *Mabo*, stating that “despite the position against it at international law, it would be inconsistent with the skeletal framework of Australian law to not encourage collusion.”

Such a ruling has led to a declaration by Melbourne Law School that collusion is now ok, and should actually be encouraged.

The reaction to this development has been somewhat negative, with students threatening to hold a rally at University Square. Banners containing slogans such as “Privacy of information” and “Don’t let this be a repeat of Tiananmen” have been erected around the square.

“For me, the best part of law school is keeping my competitors weak,” said a student who goes by the name ‘the Prince’* on campus. “This policy of collusion will foster an unhealthy spirit of cooperation which will in turn threaten my absolute position of power around here.”

Another student has already decided to leave Melbourne Law School,

with an article about his decision to appear on New York Times on his final day of class. “I just feel like the school culture has changed since I first started here. It used to be about results, and now it’s about the people.”

But the most drastic reaction yet has been the emergence of a small ‘unoccupy’ movement which has seen the law library receive its lowest room-booking yet for group study rooms. “No one ever studied together in those rooms,” explains a 2nd year JD student. “We’d book them with the pretend purpose of group discussion and use them alone during take-home exams.”

Do you think the law school is being as inconsistent as Mitt Romney? Let us know via the new interactive feature on our website where you will be able to post your opinions and see other readers’ responses to the issue.

** A copy of the Prince’s biography, written by Machiavelli, can be found in the Bailleu Library*

***This student will be taking up a job at Goldman Sachs*

New Physical Aptitude Testing Component for Clerkship Applications

As if clerkship applications were not already sufficiently intense to reduce jaded law students into tears of despair, the 2012 *Seasonal Clerkship Guidelines*, to which over 50 firms are signatories, contains an additional requirement from previous years. In line with new OHS regulations, the signatory firms will now be required to include the Legal Physical Aptitude Test (LPATs) in their interview processes. The LPATs will measure the applicant’s physical capacity to withstand the rigours of working in a commercial firm, and the ability to work as a team under extreme pressure.

The three rounds of testing are:

1. Complete physical examination by a doctor.

2. Fitness test including, but not limited to:

- *Grip Test*, minimum 30kg in each hand; ensure firm, trustworthy handshake
- *Agility Run*, course to be completed in under 2 minutes; ability to dodge traffic/bicycles/prams/trams to arrive on time at cross-town meeting and/or court.
- *Swim Test*, 100m in under 4 minutes without stopping; lung capacity to speak for sufficient length of time without pause that would allow interruption by opposing council.

3. Simulated client event wrapping up at 2am, followed by a day of **team orienteering**, to begin at 5am (to be conducted in sudden death elimination rounds).

De Minimis has been informed by an anonymous source that a timed stair climb to the 50th floor (testing dedication and tenacity in getting to the office in cases of lift failure) was removed from the LPATs as it was seen to be as excessive. The concession was made in acknowledgement of the firms’ stance that their lawyers have laptops and mobile phones with them at all times, therefore their ability to continue working is unaffected by any disruption of lift services in their buildings.

When asked for comment, HR representatives recommended that law students seeking clerkships should enrol in an intensive boot-camp fitness program in the 10 weeks leading up to the interviews.

LAW BALL TICKET SALES CLOSE THIS THURSDAY

THE CORRS CHAMBERS WESTGARTH LAW BALL 2012 Directors, Anna Eleftheriadis and Nick Baum, today reported that over 6,500 tickets had been sold to this year’s event, and that they intended to keep up with contemporary event management techniques, pioneered by the Australian Grand Prix Corporation, of adding an extra 0 to the total sales reported in the media.

“We believe this year’s world-record-breaking sales were driven primarily by the Hubba Bubba scent infused in each of the tickets,” said Mr Baum, in the same breath denying that they would not be serving dinner this year in order to recoup the cost of this marketing ploy. The dire financial state of this year’s premiere social event, attributed in part to the large signing bonuses paid to Ms Eleftheriadis and Mr Baum, did not appear to concern the directors. “The academic impact of the ball, which increases average marks by over 20%, more than justifies the exorbitant cost to the Law Students Society,” said Mr Baum.

De Minimis’ exclusive coverage of the event in previous years has been undermined this year by the decision of the event organisers to run a live blog, Twitter feed, Weibo account and LMS Announcements stream with second-to-second updates of the latest happenings. “This is groundbreaking stuff,” said Ms Eleftheriadis, and before we could interrupt, she continued, “Photos, videos, scandalous gossip - we have it all. We can’t guarantee the factual merits of the content, and neither can we confirm that Prince Harry, this year’s yet-to-be-announced mystery host, will be guest-tweeting from the official account.”

Ms Eleftheriadis refused to tell our reporter where students could find these online sources, but encouraged students to look carefully at the poster for more information. “Our marketing team employed a professional hieroglyphics technician especially for this,” she said.

Melbourne JD Voted Most 'Chilled Out' Course in Australia

A recent poll has shown that the Melbourne JD is the most 'chilled out' course in Australia. All tertiary students across Australia were asked to rank their own course from 1-100 depending on how stressful they find it. The Melbourne law program came in lowest, with an average score of 7.59.

This statistic is hardly a reflection on the study culture at the University of Melbourne, which also offers the course with the highest stress score. The Melbourne Model Bachelor of Arts degree topped the survey with a score of 83.46.

Melbourne Law School students are notorious for having very little work to do. Tasks such as reading and writing are viewed as unnecessary by the faculty and students are instead encouraged to maintain their mental health through social activities such as drinking and watching TV.

"This result comes as no surprise" says Melbourne University Law Students' Society non-member Tessa Sidnam. "Today someone asked me if I'd done the readings for the day and I asked them if it was a trick question."

Law schools around the world are known for their soul-killing competitive cultures. Some schools in the United States have recently employed dogs to roam their libraries and relieve stress from the sleep-deprived students.

"We don't need a dog," says Tessa, "and if we had a dog there would be no one to play with it. We're pretty much never on campus."

While such a lifestyle sounds ideal, not everyone is happy. "We are being forced out of business," says Half-Beard, the owner of Seven Seeds who claims not to

have a real name. "Students just don't need coffee around here; they're too alert as it is."

"If Seven Seeds were to go out of business, the African economy may suffer. This is something Melbourne Law School should keep in mind when structuring their course for the coming years."



A student pretending to read MJIL while in Ibiza (Source: Facebook)

Laptops out, Latin in

De Maximis [sic] has learned that concern over high student computer usage rates during class hours is compromising the Law School's IT systems and also causing too many students to lose concentration and fall behind. There have been many complaints over the numerous IT failings of late, and the cause has now been identified. Simultaneously, Law School authorities have expressed serious concern that electronic distractions during class will harm students' concentration and marks to such an extent that the School will lose its coveted Quacquarelli Symonds rating.

A source said, "We know that this move will not be popular at first. But we hope to pass on to students the savings in electricity bills. Also, they will understand that it really is time to take drastic action over our Third World IT overload problems."

It's out with the new and in with the old, since the ban on laptops will coincide with a crash course in legal Latin. A member of the faculty confided that the poor statutory interpretation skills will be

honed by a revision of the traditional common law canons of construction.

"Students learned about text, context and purpose in LMR, with just a brief reference to the canons of construction that have guided statutory interpretation for centuries. It's clear that they need revision of those, both to make use of them in reading statutes and also once they enter practice. The Law School wants to be able to boast that it has trained the next Lord Denning — and that means quoting Latin like Cicero!"

Privately, some insiders speculate that the renewed emphasis on traditional values and learning will conceal the fact that Sydney has the country's oldest law school. That Sydney has this accolade has always rankled, and is the secret reason that Melbourne Law School is hellbent on flaunting its status as the most prestigious, hard-working, hard-marking, super-fantastic, orgiastic law school in the country, universe, *urbi et orbi* — amen.

Faculty Looking For Design Submissions for New School Uniforms

Sources have denied that the suggestion by three senior faculty members to phase in student uniforms is due to some kind of bizarre fetish. Instead, the smart new look will serve the twin aims of promoting the MLS brand and grooming JDs for the tough job market and corporate world that await them post-graduation.

The number of young JDs on campus has swelled this year, with stampeding and scuffling in the "quiet" study areas involving students grabbing chairs from one another and ferocious attempts to claim a lab computer not already seized by European backpackers keen to update their Facebook photos.

"If they behave like hooligans in the professional world, they will bring disgrace upon the law school and never last in a job. It's really doing them a favour to institute a dress code that will foster professionalism."

Imposing a professional and uniform look on students has an advantage not overlooked by the Law School's self-promotion unit, which devotes considerable resources to branding and merchandising in its ceaseless attempts to position itself as the country's — indeed world's — premier institution of legal learning.

"As budgets tighten, we believe that having students wearing smart uniforms is a cost-effective way of raising our profile in the community and differentiating ourselves from the riff-raff who throng to lesser institutions. As the MLS logo and brand are emblazoned on accessories such as ties, tote bags, socks and scarves, the students become walking, talking publicity for the law school. We are always thinking of creative ways to enhance our profile and remind the world that we're Number Nine." (The unmistakable reference is to the MLS's coveted and much-discussed QS rating, though official approval of the words slogan 'Ninth Best in the World' has yet to be received.)

THIS DAY IN LEGAL HISTORY

April 1, 2008 - Norway Bans Twilight Books

On this day in 2008, the Norwegian Parliament enacted *Twilightforbudvedtekt*, otherwise known as the *Twilight Prohibition Statute of 2008*.

The controversial law, which banned the popular Twilight series of novels from Norway, was introduced in response to the public outcry which followed an incident at an Oslo middle school, where a group of students were showered with glitter and subsequently mobbed by girls who mistook them for vampires.

The students had been the subject of a 'glitterbomb' prank during the day. Due to

their pale complexion, the glitter sparkled quite brightly in the sun and led many female students to believe that they were vampires due to the similarities between their newfound appearance and that of fictional heartthrob Edward Cullen from the popular young adult novels.

The mob surrounding the glittering group soon became out of control, going so far as to tear the clothes off one boy and shatter the eardrums of another in their excitement.

Teachers commented that it was a miracle no one was crushed.

Three girls were charged with assault.

Following the incident, concerned parents demanded the books be taken off the

shelves for the safety of all pale-skinned boys. Parents of girls also became concerned that their daughters' minds were being warped by these strange novels.

In lieu of further incidences of stalking by teenage girls coming to light, the Norwegian government decided to take action.

Critically acclaimed author Stephenie Meyer unsuccessfully brought an appeal against the ban, which had garnered considerable outrage from Norway's youth.

Members of both Team Edward and Team Jacob united to protest the ban, putting aside their differences to throw support behind the appeal.

**The layout editor is in Team Edward*

JUDGMENT WATCH

Bovine and others v The Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (2012) 322 CLR 507

The High Court has ruled that a statute that allows marriage licences to be granted to domesticated animals in Queensland is constitutionally valid. *The Domestic Animal Marital Act 2012* (Qld) (the Act) was pushed through the Queensland Parliament following the election success of the local conservative government. The newly appointed Minister said in the second reading speech that the Act would protect citizens from consuming the illegitimate offspring of unwedded animals. The Act grants power to specially appointed celebrants to conduct mass ceremonies on farm animals before they reproduce.

The appellants, representing numerous dairy and meat industry shareholders and executives, argued that the power to make laws under s 51(xxi) of the *Constitution* was limited to human citizens. In the factual scenario ascertained by the lower courts, it was found the industries would suffer enormous losses following the rigorous requirements of the Act. Schedule 3 requires that any animal that engaged in unlawful conduct would be subject to immediate destruction. Unlawful conduct is detailed in ss 25–47 of the Act, including prohibitions on multiple partners (s 32) and same-sex coupling. Divorce procedures are detailed in ss 112–125 of the Act.

The appellants further contended that the cost of buying wedding bands for tens of

thousands of livestock as required by s 73 was an insurmountable burden on their ability to conduct business.

Gummow J and Hayne J delivered violently opposed judgements. Gummow J interpreted the word 'marriage' in s 51(xxi) by referring to an issue of *Good Housekeeping* magazine from Christmas 1942 which he found in his great aunt's garage. The rest of the court delivered a joint judgement; following the decisions in *Wagon Mound I* and *II* and a case decided in the Peruvian Magistrate's Court in which a drunk grandfather alleged a common intention constructive trust against his own foot. French CJ did not deliver a decision as he was attending an exclusive preview of *Titanic* in 3D.

ASK AGONY AUNT

Dear Aunt Myrtle

I had an affair with my Professor, and it went bad. Do you think this will affect my marks???

Desperate and Heartbroken

Dear Desperate,

What a devil of a pickle you've gotten yourself into! I would like to say that it would not affect your marks, due to your Professor's professionalism and the

anonymity surrounding submission of assignments. However, given that your Professor doinks his students, you probably can't rely on that.

It also depends on what you mean by 'went bad' Did you split amicably, or does your Professor have a restraining order against you? Do you know what he looks like through a pane of glass while you're standing in his garden bed? Does he have graffiti on his front fence displaying obscenities regarding his penis size? These are all questions that will impact on whether or not your marks will suffer, and

indeed, whether or not you need professional help.

All in all, the best advice I can give you is to, in the future, not sift through your life and sleep with the exact worst person possible. The one who can determine your future with marks and references. To simplify, fingers crossed your marks are fine, but to ensure that you are fine in the future, don't sleep with any more professors.

Sincerely

Aunt Myrtle



L IS FOR...

Liars.

Last week, my dad told me I was adopted.

Do you know what it's like? Discovering you've been lied to your whole life?

I don't. That didn't happen. April Fools.

But you know what happens all too frequently?! People lying about law-school stuff. I will now present the law school's five most frequently told lies, and demonstrate why they shouldn't be told. If you can read ciphers you will also find a delicious recipe for passionfruit scones.

1: "I haven't done the reading."

Shut up. I saw you on level 5 last week, only mega nerds go there.

2: "I haven't even started that assignment yet."

Then how come you had 20 questions for the lecturer during the break? No subject is that interesting.

This one is especially dangerous. Over the course of the degree, it seems the cohort decides on a timeframe in which it is uncool to start an assignment; to admit to starting an assignment too early is social-suicide (maybe not that bad, maybe it's like, social-face-injury-that-takes-a-while-to-heal). It's dangerous because impressionable people like me put off starting assignments under the sincere belief that no one has. My poor time management is other people's fault — like my drug habit.

3: "I'm going to apply for clerkships because it's good training, but I really want to do public law and help people."

Not only are you lying to me buddy, you're lying to yourself.

4: "I volunteer for X Student Society because I'm passionate about student administration."

.....
bahahahahahahaha.

5: "I'm single because it suits me right now."

Law school and romance is like Ben Cousins and sobriety; every time it seems achievable, the law ruins everything.

Charles Hopkins also writes for the Murdochs because they're super awesome people who deserve everyone's respect.

PROCRASTINATION STATION

Quiz: True or False?

On April Fools' Day...

1. In 1957 the BBC announced that the dreaded spaghetti weevil had been eliminated, accompanied by a photo of people 'harvesting' a spaghetti crop from trees; people wrote in asking how to grow their own spaghetti tree.

2. In 2001, Insurance Australia Group offered policyholders the chance to upgrade their policies to cover, 'general idiocy' which was to include clumsiness and accidents caused by overconsumption of alcohol.

3. A radio station in Western Australia announced Rottnest Island was drifting away from the coast and put out an urgent request for rope; people actually offered.

4. In 2006, the Wildlife Queensland announced that fossils had been found in the outskirts of Cairns that were thought to be the the ancestors of the elusive Dropbear; prompting the 'Dropbear Awareness Foundation' to be established.

5. In 2006, a prestigious Sydney Boys School was put up for sale by a group of students in a full-page advertisement of the Sydney Morning Herald; a developer offered just under one billion dollars for the land.

6. Burger King announced the introduction of a new 'Left-Handed Whopper' (with all the ingredients of the original, but rotated 180 degrees); they were forced to issue follow-up releases announcing it was a hoax due to thousands of customers requesting the burger.

7. Macquarie University Press released a statement in 2011 announcing new words to be published in the upcoming edition of the dictionary, including 'whatevs'.

8. In 1996, Taco Bell took out a full-page advertisement in several major newspapers announcing it had bought the Liberty Bell and was renaming it 'The Taco Liberty Bell'. Hundreds of outraged citizens complained, prompting the White House press secretary to announce it was a hoax.

Blank space for doodling instead of listening to the lecturer

Idea: Draw your dream profession

Sudoku

3	8		1		4		9
			3				
		1		6	8	3	
5							9
		8	9	7	5		
	4						1
	1	4	7		3		
				2			
9		5		1		7	6

1. T, 2. F, 3. T, 4. F, 5. T, 6. T, 7. F, 8. T, 9. T.