It’s True! Perry and the Masons Make Their First Final Four Appearance

by Captain Perry, Head of Technical Services

If you happened to catch the locally-produced CATS network a couple weeks ago, you might have spotted Perry and the Masons, the Law Library’s own trivia jocks, competing in the Monroe County Public Library’s VITAL Quiz Bowl. After eleven (!) heart-wrenching years of humiliation and utter despair, we finally experienced the sweet taste of success (sort of). We didn’t win the championship, mind you, but we made it the Final Four for the first time in our quasi-illusory history. For the uninitiated, the VITAL Quiz Bowl is an annual event that pairs local teams against one another in order to raise money to support the Library’s adult literacy program. At the conclusion of every quiz bowl, I write a whimsy, pathetic article for Res Ipsa detailing the ways we get cheated every year.

Our ever stalwart crew comprised of Ralph Gaebler, Dave Lankford, Dick Vaughan, and Nonie Watt met a team from the Rotary Club in Round One. Our performance that night was, well...it’s just called awesome. We not only answered the questions put before us with skill and ease, but also questions they didn’t even get a chance to ask yet. “What do the following: bear, giraffe, lion, elephant...” BEEP. Dave’s answer—“They are all in a box of Animal Crackers”. Now, that’s just plain good. Our final score after Round One was a record-breaking 190-85.

Time to return to Planet Earth for Round Two. Our competition, La Forza Viola, attempted to pass themselves off as an Italian bicycle racing team, but their membership included none other than the Law School’s own Professors Heidt and Hoffmann. (They might very well be members of an Italian bicycle team in their spare time, but somehow we kind of doubt it.) In any case, these guys are impressive. They won the whole thing a couple of years ago, so...
collections over the past few years, but we really try to limit ourselves to only purchase the very best, and most needed, titles. And while Sage's new Encyclopedia of Crime and Punishment really tells more into the discipline of Criminal Justice than Law, the reviews and awards for the publication helped us decide that it would be appropriate for our Reference Collection (1st floor).

Among the "best books" lists this impressive four-volume set made in 2002 were:

Library Journal's Best Reference Titles
Choice magazine's Outstanding Academic Titles
Booklist's Editor's Choice
Reference and User Services Association (American Library Association) Outstanding Reference

The set consists of more than 425 signed (by 275 contributors) articles on subjects ranging from A( Abolitionism) to Z(Zero Tolerance Policing.) The collection is edited by cultural anthropologist, and veteran editor of major social science reference publications, David Levinson, with the assistance of an Editorial Board of academic criminologist and librarians. In his preface, Levinson writes,

The goal of the Encyclopedia of Crime and Punishment is to bring together, in a single publication, knowledge from these various sources (sociological surveys, ethnographic observation, government reports, clinical interviews, evaluation research, media reports, crime fiction, etc.) to provide readers with comprehensive, authoritative, and twenty-first-century reference resources on crime and punishment. The title Crime and Punishment was chosen carefully, because it conveys both the current emphasis on the use of punishment to control crime and the complexity of both topics as set forth in Fyodor Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment.

In addition to the encyclopedic articles, each volume contains a "Reader's Guide" that sorts the 425 articles into thirteen general topical categories (Crimes and Related Behaviors, Law and Justice, Policing, Forensics, Corrections, Victimology, Punishment, Sociocultural Context and Popular Culture, International Concepts and Theories, Research Methods and Information, Organizations and Institutions, and Special Populations.) At the end of each volume is a chronology listing of important events in the history of crime and punishment from 1795 B.C.E. to 2002. At the end of volume four, readers will find the following:

Appendix 1: Careers in Criminology
Appendix 2: Web Resources for Criminal Justice
Appendix 3: Professional and Scholarly Associations
Appendix 4: Select Bibliography
Index to V.1-4

Dick Vaughan
Acquisitions & Serials Control Librarian

(Continued from page 1)

At long last, we made it to the "Big Dance". The adrenaline was flowing as we matched wits with the Hazz Benz, an oddly inaccurate name for a group of contestants, who between the three of them, had something like 32 quiz bowl championships under their belts. Attired in our finest Cinderella team garb, we launched into a knuckle-whitening round. The lead bounced back and forth as the tension mounted. As the match wound down, we could tell from the hand signals we were receiving from our fans (whose ranks had now swelled to at least a dozen) that we had the lead. The moderator had barely begun to ask another question when the buzzer sounded. And wouldn't you know it? We got robbed again. The judges allowed him to finish the question (clearly a violation of the rules as we all know). He proceeded to ask a Three Stooges question. Perry and the Masons may not know much, but we certainly know our Three Stooges. As we sat clutching our little buzzers, the Hazz Benz, who probably portrayed the Three Stooges in a previous life, managed to ring in ahead of us and answer the question, thus tying the game.

For those of you who haven't dozed off yet, we now found ourselves facing the dreaded SUDDEN DEATH. The final question begins..."Cortez overthrew the Aztecs...". Perry (a.k.a. Ninnie) wanted to impress her loyal fans, buzzes in much earlier than she should have. Thinking there could be two possible answers here—Mexico or Montezuma—which one is it? She goes with Mexico. And...it's wrong. The Hazz Benz come back with Montezuma and our valiant efforts come to an end. We take little comfort from knowing the Hazz Benz went on to handily defeat their next opponents in the championship game.

Well, we may not have any banners hanging in the Law Library just yet, but we are getting closer. This time we came away with nothing more than consolation pens, but just wait until next year. Yeah, yeah, don't hold your breath. And whatever you do, don't ask me anything about Montezuma.

NEW & NOT EWORTHY:
AWARD WINNING
CRIME!

Levinson, David (ed.)

Sometimes it seems like publishers love to produce massive multi-volume encyclopedic works just because they know libraries will buy them, regardless of the price. The IU Law Library has bought its share of these

Res Ipsa Loquitur
U.S. FOREST SERVICE ANNOUNCES THAT SOME PUBLIC COMMENTS ARE NOT WORTH READING

The United States Forest Service is the federal agency that administers the national forests, national grasslands, national trails (e.g., the Appalachian Trail), and national wilderness areas (e.g., the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in northeastern Minnesota). Because the Forest Service is a federal agency, it has the power to make law in the form of federal regulations. This law-making power is subject to the requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. §§ 551-706).

Congress passed the Administrative Procedure Act in 1946 in part as a reaction to mounting criticism that, largely as a result of FDR’s New Deal expansion of the administrative state (as well as an increasingly timid Congress’s habit of passing politically divisive “hot potato” issues off onto the agencies to decide), unelected agency directors and their underlings now held a great deal of law-making power that often adversely affected private interests and could theoretically adversely affect those of the general public, as well. The APA requires agencies to publish notice of proposed new regulations and proposed changes to existing regulations. In addition to providing notice, the agencies must allow a period of time for interested parties to submit written comments arguing against or in favor of the proposal. Nowadays, the public can comment on all proposed federal regulations at one convenient website: www.regulations.gov. In addition to collecting written comments, an agency may decide to hold oral hearings on the matter.

The APA’s notice-and-comment provisions guarantee that the public has a say in federal agency law-making. If a federal agency does decide to promulgate a proposed regulation, an injured, interested party can challenge the agency’s decision in federal court. The record of comments submitted to the agency will be examined by the court, and if the court determines that the agency ignored the comments, the court can hold that the agency acted “arbitrarily and capriciously.” This is democracy in action.

In a horrifyingly but not-too-surprising recent move, the Bush administration has begun limiting the public’s access to the federal regulation-making process. Last week, the Forest Service announced that it will no longer accept public comments if they are submitted in the form of a pre-printed postcard, a form letter, or an e-mail that is sent via certain web servers (e.g., an environmental organization such as the Sierra Club) rather than from the sender’s own server. Only comments that are originally composed by the sender will be accepted. Forest Service spokesman Joseph Walsh advises those who wish to comment to “put some effort into it.”

(http://www.guardian.co.uk/us/story/0,1282,2806238,00.html)

The reasoning behind this new policy is that “form letter” comments can be overwhelming and provide little useful information. Spokesman Walsh explained, “A bunch of e-mails that say the same thing with no specific comments don’t tell us anything.” This argument is rather unconvincing. If, for example, the Forest Service proposes to spend taxpayers’ money to build new roads through a particular national forest in order make it easier for logging companies to haul trees out of that forest, and 10,000 individuals visit various environmental organizations’ websites to take action by sending e-mail in opposition to this proposal, then a very clear, obvious message is communicated to the Forest Service: There are at least 10,000 people who oppose the proposal. It’s beyond ludicrous for the Forest Service to argue that such a show of interest tells it nothing.

It will be interesting to see if anyone challenges this new policy in court. Even more interesting will be seeing whether other agencies also adopt this policy and further limit the public’s right to participate in law-making.

Liz Larson,
Reference Librarian

COOL WEBSITES

In the course of my work, subscriptions to discussion lists, and just interests that I have, recently I have come across a number of interesting websites. For this month, I would like to highlight a few.

ABBA—www.abbastie.com

For anyone who enjoys the Swedish group ABBA, this should be your first stop. It is an incredible website with forums, news, the music, and links to other ABBA websites.

Elvis Presley—www.elvis.com

Another great website—this is the official Elvis Presley website. The opening starts off with Elvis dancing and singing “Hound Dog.” There are links to the Heartbreak Hotel, Graceland, and in any others.

(continued on page 4)
This site will calculate inflation from 1800 to 2001. You plug in the amount, the starting date, and the ending date and press submit. For example, what cost $100 in 1951 would have cost $707.70 fifty years later in 2001. It is fun to play around with the calculator.

The Kennedy Assassination Home Page – [http://msadams.post.oaru.edu/home.htm](http://msadams.post.oaru.edu/home.htm)
This is an incredibly comprehensive website, pulling together information from many different aspects of the murder of President Kennedy. The creator of the site states that “This web site is dedicated to debunking the mass of misinformation and disinformation surrounding the murder of JFK.” You could spend hours going through it all.

The Battle of Hastings 1066 – [http://battle1066.com](http://battle1066.com)
The Battle of Hastings in 1066 was one of the most significant events in English history, which consequently has greatly influenced American history. The website is unbelievable in its coverage: “This site is 18 Mb and consists of 95000 words.” The creator recommends reading it in bits overnight and not in one sitting.

Port Royal Project – [http://haubarch.jamu.edu/portroyal](http://haubarch.jamu.edu/portroyal)
Port Royal was a city in Jamaica that was a haven for pirates and other notorious individuals during the latter part of the 17th century. On June 7, 1692, the “Wickedest City on Earth” was destroyed in an earthquake. The city simply slid into Kingston Bay, killing over 2000 people initially, with another 3000 dying later on from disease or injuries. This website details the history of Port Royal and the archeological work going on there today by Texas A&M University in conjunction with the Jamaica National Heritage Trust.

Michael Maben
Cataubing Librarian

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**LAW LIBRARY FINAL EXAM HOURS**
April 26 - May 9, 2003

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<td>April 26</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
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**LAW LIBRARY SEMESTER BREAK HOURS**
May 10 - 18, 2003

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**LAW LIBRARY SUMMER HOURS**
May 19 - August 14, 2003

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**WORKING THE HALLS**

**Congratulations to this Year’s Graduates!**

Happy May Birthday to:

- Law Librarian Ralph Saebler on the 3rd
- Jeanne Brown on the 19th
- Prof. Fred Cats on the 20th
- Prof. Donald Gjerdingen on the 22nd