New 88-Terminal Computer Area in the Works for Next Year

By Richard P. McGuire

In what Professor James calls a "major, major upgrade," Villanova's law library is undergoing major renovations during the summer, including the creation of a new computer area with eighty-eight carrels for student use.

Each of these new stations will have a computer terminal, access to CD-ROM disks, and databases, the Local Area Network, and the internet, as well as video capability.

The law school has contracted with a Michigan furniture manufacturer to design a study carrel that "gives Law Students everything they should have in a work station."

The keyboard will rest on a sliding adjustable desk. The computer terminal will rest on the floor on the left hand side of the carrel. The CPU itself will rest on the floor on the left hand side of the carrel. The CPU will rest on a sliding adjustable tray underneath the desk. There will also be jacks on the side of the carrel. One will allow students to attach their laptop computers to the internet, and another will allow headphones for viewing video presentations.

The actual computers have yet to be purchased. The cost, estimated to be anywhere from one half to three quarters of a million dollars, came from the Annual Fund participants, and will not cause student tuition increases.

The renovations are expected to begin at the end of May and the contract calls for all work to be done by August first. The architects and planners believe this to be a realistic time frame, according to Dean Frankino. The actual computers have yet to be chosen, so it is not known at this time what capacity the new computers will have.

Dean Frankino says that this renovation "puts Villanova in front of the curve in the transit from book to database."

### Justinian Society Elects New Officers

By Jim Arsenault

The Villanova Law Chapter of the National Italian American Bar Association/Justinian Society met on Tuesday, April 18, 1995 to elect its officers for the 1995-1996 school year.

Elected to serve for the upcoming year were:

- Tony LaRatta, 2L — President
- Tara McFillin, IL — Vice President
- Andrew Vella, 2L — Treasurer
- Jud Canistero, 2L — Secretary

According to outgoing president Paul Clemente, 3L, NIABA was organized at VLS by Philadelphia attorney and VLS alumni Mike Rainone. The national organization serves as a liaison between Italian-American students and members of the Philadelphia bar and bench. Over the past years, NIABA has sponsored several panel discussions on legal issues including the right to die and the legal profession in the 1990's, and engaged in charitable activities to benefit the Salvation Army and the local women's shelter.

Open to all students of the VLS community, NIABA is actively seeking new members for the 1995-1996 school year. Any student interested in joining the organization or wishing further information should contact any officer or leave a note in the NIABA mailbox in Room 34.

### Someone You Should Know: Melissa Wojtylak

Melissa Wojtylak (pronounced VOY-ti-lak) is a major player on the Villanova Law School campus. She has served as Co-chair of the Women's Law Caucus and on the Curriculum Committee, and next year will serve as a Third Year Representative to the SBA.

"I like being a part of where the school is going," Melissa says of her involvement on campus.

Her experience on the Women's Law Caucus has given her visibility, an opportunity to work with the administration, and a chance to meet many of the important people practicing law today. Melissa is leading the way to justify the need for groups like the WLC and notes "There's a long way to go," with regard to changing the "old boy network" attitudes about women lawyers. She fights to make people "understand what feminism is really about."

Next Year, as an SBA rep., she hopes to be "the eyes and ears of the class" and represent more general interests in the law school.

Remember, 3L's, when you have a idea for something you want SBA to do next year, Melissa Wojtylak is the one you should know.
Stories. Tell them what they need to know! Write up reviews of local watering holes! Try introduction to the law school for the new done. Our orientation issue will be an intentionally left have a job to work on instead,) but it can be an issue over the summer (hey, hopefully I'll law Docket wants to have an issue out for our YOUR HELP! It's very difficult to co-ordinate duty of legitimate public authority to punish "...the traditional teaching of the Church has commensurate with the gravity of the crime, death penalty" (2266) acknowledged as well founded the right and confidence in the new "Catechism of the Catholic Church" that there is a justification for capital punishment. The catechism states; "...the traditional teaching of the Church has primary function of ruling authorities is to see vengeance is the state, which has received its servant to execute his wrath you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain; he is the servant of God to execute his wrath on the wrongdoer." Vengeance or justice does indeed belong to God. But in this world, the agent of God's vengiveness is the state, which has received its authority from Him to serve the common good of society by punishing evildoers, rewarding the good and protecting the innocent. The primary function of ruling authorities is to see that justice is done in the social order. They have the monopoly in the use of coercive force to see that justice is done. They are God's servants at the service of justice, not private citizens. Our Constitution affirms the right to life of the country's citizens and says they can be deprived of that right only after due process of law has found beyond a reasonable doubt that a citizen is guilty of a capital offense. Such a position is compatible with traditional Catholic teaching. Private, individual citizens, however, can never presume to take the life of another, even if the other is guilty of a grave crime. That right belongs to the state alone, and it can be carried out against a convicted criminal only by an agent of the state — and never with a sense of vindictiveness. However, these principles have become confused in the United States so that today, without due process of law, innocent human beings (unborn children) are killed directly by private citizens. This is an unspeakably unjust situation that finds no support in the Catholic moral tradition or the American constitutional system of justice. It might rightly be asked if a society as confused about the fundamental nature of justice as our own can fairly administer the death penalty to those guilty of serious crimes. Can a state that sanctions the direct killing of innocent unborn children have the necessary understanding of its role as a servant of God's justice to impose the death penalty on anyone, even those convicted of terrible crimes? These are surely the kinds of concerns the bishops have in mind when they acknowledge that the state has the right to impose capital punishment but then go on to say that the state should not exercise that right. Human life has been so cheapened in our day that the state should find other ways to impose punishment on criminals. Furthermore, the Church always hopes that even criminals will repent and reform their lives if they are given the opportunity. It should be clear to Catholics that abortion - the direct taking of innocent human life by private citizens - is always and in all circumstances wrong. Capital punishment, however - the state acting as the agent of God's justice, imposing a just penalty on a convicted criminal - might sometimes be morally permissible depending on social circumstances. But the Vatican and the bishops of the Church have increasingly asked the state not to make use of this harsh punishment so that we as a society might develop a greater respect for human life and work more effectively for the protection of the innocent.

Plea to the Students!
The Docket needs your help! The Villanova law Docket wants to have an issue out for our new 1L's during orientation, but WE NEED YOUR HELP! It's very difficult to co-ordinate an issue over the summer (hey, hopefully I'll have a job to work on instead,) but it can be done. Our orientation issue will be an introduction to the law school for the new students. Tell them what they need to know! Write up reviews of local watering holes! Try to explain the color combinations in the lounge! Write a comic! Take some pictures! Just get all that stuff off your chest! Share your experience! Subvert the minds of incoming students with your own personal narratives! It's fun and easy/Submit to the Docket mailbox in room 34 by WEDNESDAY AUGUST 14! This is your opportunity to see your name in print! Thank you for your future support.
CHECK OUT OUR NEW PROGRAM FOR THE PA BAR!

Contact your student reps

Jim Heeney (3L)
Joe McMahon (3L)
Molly Shannon (3L)
Ron Sierzega (3L)
Bill Twardzik (3L)
Megan Whitcopf (3L)

George Senich (2L)
Tara Lattomus (2L)
Tony LaRatta (2L)
Joe Macom (2L)
Brian Paszamant (2L)
Rob Roshkoff (2L)
Jane Ward (2L)

Jeff Baker (1L)
Jennifer Bebko (1L)
Larry Verderame (1L)

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Impressive Turnout at NIABA Chapter Wine and Cheese Party

By Michael C. Ramone

At a very impressive gathering of law students, practicing attorneys, officers both of the local Justinian Society of Philadelphia and the National Italian American Bar Association, Professors Gafni and visiting students from Widener and Temple University, a Wine and Cheese Party held by the Villanova Chapter of the NIABA/Justinian Society was an outstanding success.

A catered dinner included many Italian Specialties and there was ample wine and soda with snacks prepared there for the attendees.

This is the sixth year of Villanova’s NIABA Chapter, which has presented in the past many wonderful seminars and programs.

The Villanova NIABA chapter co-sponsored a meeting with Justice Scalia two years ago here at Villanova.

THE DOCKET WANTS YOU NEXT YEAR!

A variety of positions available. If you can edit, photograph, write, draw, kvetch or proof-read, Drop a line to Rich McGuire in the Docket mailbox in Room 34.

(Spelling optional)
By Sean H. Porter

I was three-quarters the way through a assez.

I was three-quarters the way through a summer job at Harry'savel Room on South Clark, Chicago) when it all...
Three Years in Review: A Review of the Law School's Best Parties

by The eyes and ears of this institution.
Well, it's time to move on. My three year lease on the lounge expires in a few weeks and I'll need a new place to live soon. I could write a lot of mumbo jumbo about lessons of life, blah, blah, blah that you would half-assedly read. (Is that an adverb?) Anyway, I'll write something more entertaining. Here is the highlight film of the Class of '95:

BEST PARTIES
(Of course the anonymity of students will be maintained.)

"The Fray Party" (a.k.a. "The Fray Meler," "The Lig Gig")
April 3, 1993 - A date which will live in infamy.
Party breaks out into scattered wrestling matches including one in which D.L. and E.F. break a 2nd story Suganown window.
The last time I have a drink before finals end 40 days later (a.k.a Constructive Lent).

"The Parking Lot Jam" (a.k.a. "Jailhouse Rock")
May 12, 1993 - A date which will live in infamy.
Criminal Exam ends. 4 kegs in the parking lot.
The annual cocktail party is being held in the Cafeteria Commons. (By day it's a mild-mannered cafeteria, at night it turns into... The Cafeteria Commons!!!) S.O. is there with his date M.C. He does not know her all that well. M.C. proceeds to get completely out of hand talking it up with professors, using them to prop her up, etc. M.C. talks to Professor T., who is a teacher of S.O. He is S.O.'s teacher. Professor T. responds, "Well, I haven't seen him in 2 and a half weeks". He was not smiling. Upon receiving fall grades, S.O. learns why they call it Bankrupt-C!!

"Spring Semester Karaoke TG" (a.k.a. "Holy Mess Batman")
April 6, 1995 - A date which will live in infamy.
The fourth karaoke TG in our three year stay. Easily the best.
People were singing who we hadn't heard talk in 10s. I.L., I.K. and M.S. are singing Prince's "Raspberry Beret" but not doing too hot a job and skipping half the words. S.O. gets on the mike and informs them, "There are words you know". M.S. responds "They're not on the screen." S.O. responds, "Oh, yes they are. They're those things on the screen with the letters. Those are words." The crowd cheers. Later, the aforementioned J.K. is doing backup vocals to Young M.C.'s "Bust a Move". Again not very wholeheartedly. J.L.D.A. proceeds to grab the free microphone and do a kickass job of the whole song while dancing frantically. Again, the sports fans cheered.

I'm sure that there are many other good times not mentioned. But, hey I've got finals and sourcechecks and other "too much time activities that need attention too."

"Chris Pepe's 70's Party" (a.k.a. "The March of Death")
October 29, 1993 - A date which will live in infamy.
70's party at former SBA President Chris Pepe's house in Broomall. After many hours of deliberation, K.M. feels it would be a fine idea to walk home to Norristown at 3 AM.

"Rock St Party" (a.k.a. "The Fray/Partay" (a.k.a. "The Fray Melee", "The Lig Gig")
October 3, 1993 - A date which will live in infamy.
A group of about 25 students has assembled in the lounge to watch a Phillies game. The Phillies are playing the Pittsburgh Pirates. The Phillies are leading rather late in the game when Mariano Duncan is named the Gillette Most Promising Civil Litigator. Go Phils!!!!!

Congratulations to the new SBA officers:

President: Holli Sands
Vice President: John Scheib
Secretary: Elizabeth Drey
Treasurer: Jonathan Spadt

Third Year Class Representatives
Carlos Guzman
John G. Richards
Mariissa Fortillo
Melissa Wojtylak

Second Year Class Representatives
Michael Mullen
Andrew Monkmeyer
Sean Bellow
Teresa Reid

ABA Representative
Sherri Affrunti

University Senator
Ray Walheim

The Moot Court Board is pleased to announce the 1995-1996 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Chairperson
Jamie Perrapato

Reimel Administrators
Bench Memo Coordinator
Christine Busch
Bethany Spear
Stacy Slattery

Reimel Evaluator
Fatima Sulaiman
Business Manager
Alison Petrycki

Outside Competition Coordinator
Gene Schriver

Writing Competition Coordinator
Michelle Kenney

THE VILLANOVA SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT LAW SOCIETY PROUDLY ANNOUNCES ITS 1995-1996 OFFICERS:

President: Dave Hackett
Vice President, Programming: Dean Harrison
Vice President, Communications: Thomas Sries
Treasurer: Mike Mullin
Secretary: Jennifer Klaman

Look for more good times in the upcoming weeks. Until then remember,
SIT!!! He's a vegetarian. SIT!!!
SIT!!!!!! Tought about fertile octogenarians!
Panel Discusses UN Convention on Children's Rights

By Jim Arsenault

On March 30, 1995, the Family Law and International Law Societies sponsored a panel discussion on the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child. Moderated by Professor Abraham, the panel of lawyers and educators addressed the effects the Convention would have on US law should it be ratified.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on November 20, 1989. The treaty requires signing nations to take affirmative steps to protect the social, economic and political rights of children, including all of the fundamental rights and basic civil liberties enjoyed by adults. Additionally, the Convention proposes specific reforms in child labor, education and juvenile justice.

The Clinton Administration signed the Convention on February 16, 1995, allowing the United States' intention to ratify the treaty. After conducting a full executive review of the proposed treaty and its impact on domestic law, the Administration must submit the Convention to the Senate for ratification. Because the treaty will require implementing legislation to bring it into full force, the House of Representatives will play a crucial role in implementing the treaty.

Panelist Sanford J. Fox, Professor of Law at Boston College Law School, stressed that prior to the adoption of the Convention "the United Nations had no power to act" to protect the rights of children. He said the Convention is a "milestone in the ability of the international community to protect children.

The key hurdle facing the Convention will likely come from states' rights advocates. Because the treaty's subject matter "is one that traditionally belonged within state jurisdiction," the individual states will feel the brunt of the treaty's domestic impact. Since the Supremacy Clause of the Constitution puts treaties on an even par with acts of Congress and the Constitution itself as the supreme law of the land, any inconsistent state law would be trumped by the treaty. The Congress may feel pressure from the states opposing the changes the treaty would impose on the states.

According to Fox, this would be a major factor that would have to be addressed during the ratification process.

Dr. Stuart Hart, Chairman of the National Committee on the Rights of the Child, hailed the Convention for its attempts to secure "the best interests" of the child, a standard he finds to be ill defined both domestically and internationally. The best interest standard is incorporated into several key sections of the Conventions as the test to judge compliance of nation states signing the compact.

Domestically, opinion on the Convention varies. In 1990, the Congress unanimously passed a non-binding joint resolution in support of the treaty; the ABA House of Delegates added its conditional support to the Convention in 1994. Despite these endorsements of the treaty, there has been significant criticism of the Conventions from various US public interest groups. Besides opposition on the preemption of state law grounds, the Convention has also drawn fire from pro-choice camps because of its guarantee of every child's right to life before and after birth. Further, the national Home Schoolers Association has taken exception to the guarantee of a right to education that does not include home schooling.

The Clinton Administration shares these concerns and has raised its own reservations about the Convention, despite suggesting the nation's intention to ratify the treaty. Specifically, the State Department has taken exception over the treaty provisions prohibiting the death penalty as punishment for juvenile offenders and an interpretation of the fundamental right to education that includes mandatory sexual education. Panelist Dorianne Beyer, Director of Defense for Children International, has consulted with the Administration about its concerns. She reports that the President will likely negotiate with the critics of the Convention to build the broad based support that will be necessary to ensure ratification.

The treaty will begin its legislative track in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee...
The Docket would like to congratulate the graduating third year students. You have worked long and hard, and deserve the best in life. Remember your time here fondly, and remember to hire Villanova third years next year.