

Breaking News

ABA Threatens to Remove UConn Law's Accreditation

By Claire Kincaid

Sources reveal that UConn Law may be in grave danger of losing its accreditation. A series of shocking and disturbing revelations came to light during the recent visit by ABA representatives including overabundance of student event, lack of attendance in classes, professors pocketing profits on overpriced "course packs," and, the most shocking violation of all, professors without proper credentials.

During the ABA's visit with at the law school, representatives sat down with students and student leaders and discovered some very shocking and disturbing things about the number of student activities on campus. "The student event

saturation level at the school is reaching dangerous levels," said one ABA representative. "Usually we worry about lack of student engagement on campus, but the sheer volume of student events on UConn Law's Campus is staggering... we worry that students are not able to concentrate on their academics."

ABA representatives also visited classes and expressed concern about the level of attendance in classes. Physically, most students were present in the classes that the representatives attended; mentally, however, the representatives found that the students were not present: "In one class I attended, almost 90% of the students were on the Internet, checking their email, or on g-chat. One student

was even playing a video game on his computer. Constructively, the students were not in class."

Of grave concern to the ABA representatives was the pocketing of profits made off of "course packs," sold at the Co-op. Apparently, the Co-op has been selling course packs at inflated prices and illicitly turns half of the profits over to the professors issuing the course packs, and keeps the other half of the profits off the books, a flagrant violation of the ABA accreditation standards.

Finally, some of our most beloved professors may be teaching at the school under false pretenses. The ABA representatives, doing a spot background check of our professors' credentials, found

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After four years of unacknowledged work, *Pro Se* calls it quits

By Abbie Carmichael

The founders of *Pro Se*, ambitious law students with journalistic interests, created the student newspaper with a beautiful vision in mind. They foresaw a lively and relevant student newspaper, with eager contributors and even more enthusiastic readers. They envisioned classes full of students browsing *Pro Se* during the few minutes when everyone is seated but the lecture has not yet begun.

Well, folks, fortunately those students have graduated and are not around to see the demise of that enterprising vision. Those behind the scenes at *Pro Se* have shed blood and tears working tirelessly month after month to produce a student newspaper interesting and informative to all students, faculty, and staff. Editors and writers have endured sleepless nights in order to ensure the publication of *Pro Se* in a timely manner, have pushed aside reading for classes and studying for exams.

It sounds like a worthy endeavor, the reader (if there is a reader), might think. The staff at *Pro Se* have discovered, how-

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Defeated by democracy, former treasurer vows revenge

By Ron Carver

The campus awoke to a shock Friday morning with the discovery of a revolutionary political manifesto believed to have been penned by the former SBA treasurer. The manifesto, a lengthy document of 75,000 words, is believed to have been pasted together from individual letters cut out of SBA budget requests. The untitled manifesto, which has been widely called "the little blue book," is a tripartite document consisting of three smaller works.

The autobiographical first section tells the story of the former SBA treasurer's youth, education, and eventual rise to glory as the fiscal deity of UConn Law. The author goes on to describe his failed bid for the ultimate power in the microcosm of our fair law school: the SBA presidency.

What follows is a steep fall from grace, a heart-wrenching tale of misery and squalor. Readers will be hard-pressed not to sympathize with the author.

The second section is a detailed and immaculately-for-

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Complete overhaul of Meskill Library

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Undercover source from ABA details accreditation risk

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Mysterious campus art revealed

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matted explication of the author's political vision. Included is an illustrated five-year timeline for the law school community, culminating in the annexation of Elizabeth Park as a "strategic asset."

The final and lengthiest section is a perfectly-formatted, amply-cited promise of vengeance against the UConn Law community. In particular, the author seems wroth with the youngest and most vulnerable members of law school. "It would have all worked, too, if not for those meddling ILs," the author laments.

The manifesto promises everything from printer jams and staple shortages in the library to unbearably warm (or cold) classrooms in Knight Hall and elsewhere. Microphone batteries will flicker and die, construction projects will overrun for months, and student parking will be all but impossible, the author vows.

Most diabolical of all is the former Treasurer's plot to construct a weather-controller that will make Hartford a virtually uninhabitable frozen hellhole from November through March.

SBA President-elect Marco Allocca was not available for direct comment, but has made clear his commitment to defend the student population against any threat.

Meanwhile, the Law school community remains at DEFCON 2, pending further intelligence.

Pro Se

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Editor in Chief: Drew Schaffer
Executive Editor: Erica McKenzie
News Editor: Karen Rabinovici
Features Editor: Tim Cieslak
Commentary Editor: Brendan Horgan
Layout Editor: Michelle Davison

Contributors

Elise Baun
Patricia Martins
Scott Robson
Matthew Szafranski

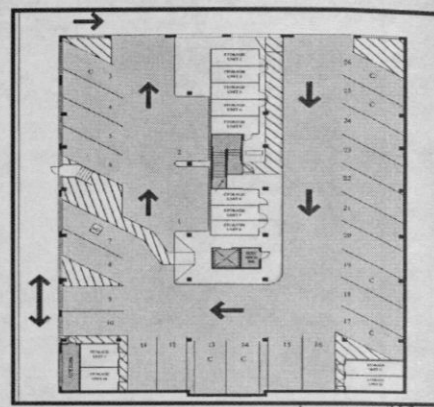
Meskill Library set to close to make room for parking garage

By Jack McCoy

Due to the severe lack of parking on the UConn law campus, Dean Paul had to resort to drastic measures. In a recent address to students, he relayed the information that he and the other twelve deans have decided that the area where the library currently stands would be better suited for a five-level parking garage. "I know it seems knee jerk" said Dean Paul "but it's what the students want and need."

In the address, Dean Paul noted that the library will now be split between Blumberg Hall and the Starr Reading Room in order to accommodate the books as well as about 25 first come first served study corrals.

"This is the first step in our campus-wide restructuring plan which will ultimately bring dorms to the soccer field area and a pool to our underground gym" said Dean McLean after the announcement. In an effort to point out the positive aspects of the change, it was noted that the library was falling apart anyway and that at least the parking garage, which will be



Parking garage plans unveiled.

open well past 11pm, will actually have hours that accommodate the needs of students.

IBM supercomputer "WATSON" to replace faculty

By Lennie Briscoe

After a resounding shellacking of Jeopardy unbeatable Ken Jennings, IBM is putting WATSON, the recently invented supercomputer, to work in Connecticut. In a move fraught with controversy, WATSON is pegged to replace the entire faculty of the UConn School of Law in the Fall of 2012. Governor Dan Malloy is set to announce the drastic strategic shift next week, citing budget concerns and labor costs in the public university system.

The decision is sparking obvious controversy statewide, especially within the current law school faculty. Former Dean and current professor Hugh MacGill commented in a strongly worded open letter to the governor: "You can't honestly expect a computer to replace all of the subtle nuances of human interactions! How am I supposed to feed my [expletive deleted] dogs? Raaah!!!"

Similarly, some students are apprehensive about learning case law from a supercomputer without emotion or mercy. "You thought a B median was tough? How am I supposed to sneak one by the smartest machine ever to exist?" questioned a visibly fearful Steve Zakrzewski. "I mean, most of my law school success has been smoke and mirrors, you can't schmooze a machine without a soul."

Aside from the budgetary considerations, WATSON creators are hoping their supercomputer will elevate the level of education provided at UConn Law. In preparation for its new gig, WATSON already published 42,000 treatises on every area of law ever taught at the Law School. The "Year of The Book" is now being pegged as the "Milli-Second of the Book." WATSON is now the second most prolific legal scholar in the world behind only Angel Oquendo.

Pro Se reached out to IBM, and got the following response from WATSON regarding its future plans for UConn Law. "Who is Rocky Marciano?" *Pro Se* followed up the next day for an explanation, to which WATSON replied, "Who is Rocky Marciano?" In the immortal words of Ken Jennings and Kent Brochman, "I for one welcome our new computer overlords."

Student reported to have secured job through OCI

By George Huang

In a shocking email originating from Career Services, students were surprised to learn this week that UConn law has finally seen a student get a job through the cut-throat OCI process. A spokesperson from Career Services commented that "We knew it would happen eventually; never in our wildest dreams did we think 2011 would actually be our year. This is a great step for UConn that we hope might propel us back into the top tier." *Pro Se* caught up with the student who desires to remain anonymous to prevent a media blitz and backlash from the other 400 students who were not so successful. When asked how he did it, the student responded, "Honestly, I went in to the process like VCU approached the NCAA tournament, high hopes but knowing that the chips were stacked against me. What I think really did it though were the 'A's that I was able to pull in my 4 Birmingham classes coupled with my leadership position in the school's nationally recognized Phi Alpha Delta chapter." The student, who will be starting at a three-attorney firm in Moodus, Connecticut in May will be making little over minimum wage but feels that the experience will be invaluable for his development and could potentially lead to him being one of the only students with a job come graduation next spring.

Former UConn student John Bellanger tapped to teach I.B.T.

By Arthur Branch

UConn's rich tradition of practicing attorneys stepping into the realm of academia recently took an interesting turn. Dean Paul announced that this upcoming Fall, the adjunct professor team will expand by one, as the administration and faculty extends an offer to John Bellanger to come back and teach International Business Transactions.

John Bellanger rose to fame with a complex drug trafficking business involving operations in both the United States and

Canada. John's UConn education was an integral to helping his business team navigate border security, tax regulations, and even price negotiations.

As stated by Dean Paul, "John was always our number one choice. His unique perspective on business deals, health care law, and even Indian Tribal law make him the only candidate for this position." Dean Paul went on to say, "We would have loved John to join the faculty a few years back, but he was unable to get out of his previous commitments."

The adjunct program is de-

signed to provide an applicable, real world counterweight to the theoretical approach of academics. Showing students how certain topics apply to the practice of law is an important link between the classroom and real practice.

In the world of international business deals, John Bellanger is that link. Due to his unique living situation, Bellanger will be required to teach the class remotely for the next four years pending good behavior. Dean Paul is not concerned about this unique teaching situation, pointing to the vast leaps and

bounds of educational technology: "If we can put nine flat screen televisions in each classroom for no reason, I think we can handle Skype."

The student body is already abuzz with anticipation. Word has it that Bellanger already planned an on the ground field trip to Ontario. Students are only to bring an empty backpack and an open mind.

Voices from the Gunners

By Sonya Paxton

[Gunner: (n) Guh-ner : (1) A law student who speaks incessantly in class with the intent to impress and/or intimidate; (2) A law student who casually divulges grades always slightly better than yours; (3) someone who tabs statutory codes in the first 2 weeks of class.

"If I try to explain it to you, it'll mess it up in my own mind."
-Gunner During Finals

"I can't come out tonight, I'm only three weeks ahead in the reading for intellectual property. I'd have to bring flashcards."
-Overheard on a Thursday Afternoon

"You need to move...you're in my chair...I always study in that chair."
-Bottom Floor of the Library

State-of-the art gym recognized in *Fitness* magazine

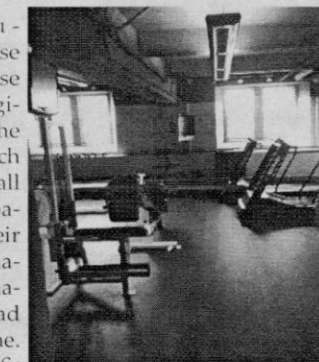
By Casey Novak

After an unprecedented move of adding a second treadmill and a twelve-inch flat screen television to its elliptical section, the UConn law gymnasium has been featured in *Fitness* magazine as the best law school basement gymnasium in the greater Hartford area. Now boasting two treadmills, two bikes and three elliptical machines in addition to a complete set of weights, UConn's gym was able to set itself apart from the competition.

"I still don't know how we pack so much great equipment into such a small space, but I really think it was the installation of DirecTV that put us over the top" commented one of the gym's devoted student workers/personal trainers. After word of the honor got out, Dean Paul received a call from Coach Jim Calhoun inquiring about the gym's availability for the Huskies to train for the final four in Houston.

Unfortunately, because of the intense training regimen of the UConn's Touch This softball team in preparation for their upcoming national tournament, he had to decline.

When *Pro Se* asked one of the students on campus what he thought of the honor he responded: "Whoa, we have a gym?" I guess it still remains one of UConn law's best-kept secrets.



The Award Winning Gym.

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ever, that their efforts have been in vain.

Despite vigorous attempts to secure an office, a normal allocation for student publications, *Pro Se* has repeatedly been rejected in this undertaking. *Pro Se* staff has found itself working on layout in very strange places on the eve of publication. Storage of back issues, critical to the study of the history of *Pro Se*, and a quiet community writing environment for contributors are not options. Despite such meager resources, *Pro Se* has blasted onward zealously.

Every month *Pro Se* publishes 300 copies, most of which are gone by the time the next edition is published. Where do they go, you

ask? Scattered around campus, left on desks, in library carrels, and in student lounges. This might be a good sign - if not for the consistent answer of, "I'll read it when I get a chance!" in response to the question, "So did you read my article?"

In the words of an anonymous and disheartened editor, "While we firmly believe in the importance of having a campus newspaper, it's simply impossible to continue. We barely have a readership, and as such, writer morale is down...*Pro Se* is simply dying. We will finish the semester proudly, and will mourn the death of the "voice of the student body." So, after four brutal years, we at *Pro Se* say, fare thee well pathetic readers, fare thee well.

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evidence that at least three professors may be teaching here without J.D.s.

When asked to comment, Dean Paul replied that major changes would be made within the next few months: "We are going to work our hardest to solve these issues so that the school can maintain its status as an accredited ABA Law School. First, student groups will only be allowed to host two events on campus per semester. We are launching investigations into both professors and the Co-op. Finally, students will no longer be permitted to have laptops in classes. We know these changes may be shocking and upsetting to many of the students, but we believe these changes will result in better legal education for all of our students."

Pro Se will continue to follow this story and provide the student body with more information as information is made available.

The Back Page

Pro Se set to unveil true meaning behind mysterious UConn sculpture

By Mike Logan

It stands at the heart of our law school, casting its irregular shadow across a landscape of withered grass and shattered stone blocks. Nobody quite knows what it is, or what it intends for our fair campus. Nobody even seems to know what to call it.

For years, theories about UConn Law's most monolithic feature have run rampant. Is it a communist allegory, a shivering stone sickle standing amongst the ruins of the fallen Soviet hammer? Is it a perverse fusion of Art Deco sculpture with Brutalist architecture? Is it an abortive attempt at creating a stone swing set? Is it a means of travel to distant worlds? None can say.

That is, until now.

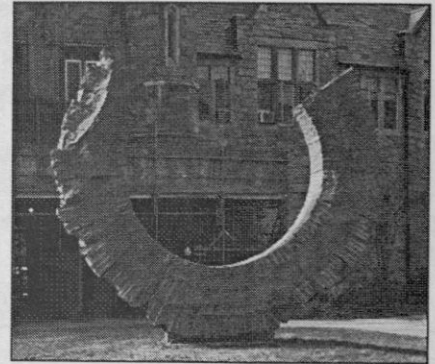
Groundbreaking new archaeological research suggests that the semicircular monolith at the heart of our campus predates the Law School by a considerable margin. The leading theory is that the stone semicircle

and surrounding stone pedestals were used by ancient lawmakers to settle disputes.

The prehistoric attorneys apparently used Stonehenge and similar megaliths for inspiration, but lacked the mathematical aptitude to create something so precise. As a result, Lawhenge (as it was known in an earlier age) did not behave as expected. Ancient records lament the lawmakers' arithmetical blunder: "Woe to us, who are blighted for eternity; we forgot to carry the 1..."

Alas, it was not until the lawmakers used the stones to create the infamous Codex Azurus (the ancestor of the modern Bluebook) that they realized something was horribly wrong. Rather than the astronomically perfect tool of mediation they had hoped for, Lawhenge was a cruel and capricious dictator of formatting, citation, and blood sacrifice.

Ancient scrolls have been discovered in the *Connecticut Law Review* vaults, depicting the enslavement of thousands of apprentice lawmakers to the cold dictates of Lawhenge



Anonymous/UConn

The mysterious sculpture has graced the UConn law campus for years.

and the Codex Azurus. These and other archaeological treasures will be unveiled to the public at the *Pro Se* symposium this April.

"Softball" team outed

By Alexandra Cabot

Nancy Livak was the only student to return from the Softball trip this weekend. All other students have gone missing.

The softball club attended the UVA NGSL Invitational Softball Tournament. Unfortunately, recent reports have shown that while the students may have participated in a few softball games, the main goal of the event was carousing. Randall Blowers was overheard saying, "I don't even know how to hold a bat, much less play softball. I'm just going on the trip for the girls!"

After several students didn't return, Dean Paul was forced to contact the organizers of the competition. They said that they were unaware UConn even had a softball team. After further investigation it was revealed that several students actually thought they were attending a bachelor party, and the rest were on the flag football team. The requested \$2000 from the SBA was supposedly spent on booze and substitutes.

An attending student remarked that his favorite part of the event was the open bar and the morally questionable UVA girls. Dean Paul has made it very clear the softball team will not be returning next spring, but if he had been aware of the planned activities, he would have offered to drive the bus.

If you notice that your classes are a little bit quieter this week and are mourning the loss of your fellow students, the SBA is organizing a search party to send down to UVA next weekend. The budget is \$2000. Signups are in Knight Hall.

Pro Se exclusive with ABA representative

By Ed Green

On the surface the inspection, necessary for the school's reaccreditation, went well. However, an unidentified source approached *Pro Se* with the further warnings that the school's accreditation was in serious peril.

The source, who would only call himself "he who must not be named," is a high-ranking ABA member. He considers himself a "friend" of UConn and has ties to the school. He contacted *Pro Se* and arranged to speak to reporters in downtown Hartford. An old business card from defunct law firm Riddle, Marvalo & Tom found among documents obtained by *Pro Se* was the only hint of the source's true identity.

Reporters met with "he who must not be named" in a parking garage across from the XL Center. "I wanted to pick up some tickets before I met with you," the source revealed, explaining the choice of location while standing about fifteen feet away hidden by shadows.

Between irritated puffs of his cigarette, the source explained how the ABA found egregious shortcomings that jeopardized accreditation. He said some ABA committee members "could not fathom putting it's [the ABA's] seal of approval" on UConn. Then he kicked over a packed manila envelope.

The contents revealed the depth of the doubts about UConn's law program. "The site review has found a cavalier attitude toward legal education and contempt for the ABA's guidelines for creating an environment ideal for learning."

Among the areas troubling the ABA was the lack of equipment the organization felt was key to training lawyers. "The omission of not only an exercycle, but rowing and weight machines that build and tone upper body muscles borders on academic neglect."

Criticism of Hosmer Hall and the library typified physical plant problems, "The edifice housing professor office is labyrinthine, and could cost 11s priceless minutes better spent studying." The library, another document said, "confoundedly has its entrance on the third floor, which should logically be the first. Floors below, the same report asserted, "should be parking levels or maintenance staff lounges."

School administrators denied any trouble, but would not comment on the record. The source added, before departing, that immediate changes could alter the course of events. "If UConn works quickly, there is hope." He took one more drag of his cigarette before vanishing behind a row of parked cars.