The U.S. Government's Affinity for Barbaric Medical Testing

Recent discoveries inspire a glimpse into the sordid past of unethical U.S. medical testing

Lindsey-Shannon Lee
11. Staff Writer

Earlier last month Susan Reverby, a professor of women's studies at Wellesley College uncovered shocking information about an unethical experiment conducted in part by the U.S. in Guatemala in the late 1940s. From 1946 to 1948 the U.S. Public Health Service, the National Institute of Health, the Pan-American Health Sanitary Bureau, and the Guatemalan government co-sponsored a reprehensible scientific study on Guatemalan citizens. During the course of the study, nearly 700 Guatemalan male and female prisoners of the National Mental Health Hospital were purposefully infected with syphilis and gonorrhea without their consent. Some subjects were infected through contact with infected prostitutes, while others were directly inoculated with the diseases. The infected subjects were then encouraged to engage in sexual conduct in order to pass on the diseases. This barbaric study was commissioned in order to determine whether penicillin could prevent syphilis infections, as opposed to only curing them. Though some of the subjects were later treated, experts assert that as many as one-third were not. Leading the experiment was U.S. Public Health Service doctor John Cutler, a man who was involved in the infamous Tuskegee experiments that Ms. Reverby had been researching during her discovery.

The Tuskegee experiments were a quintessential example of the U.S.'s history of intentionally inhumane research on people. From 1932 to 1972, the U.S. Public Health Service infected nearly 400 impoverished African American men living in Tuskegee, Alabama with syphilis. The men were persuaded to participate with the promise of free meals, free medical exams and free burial services. Despite these promises, the men were not afforded treatment for their disease, nor were they informed of their infection causing them to pass the disease on to their wives and unborn children. It might prove comforting to believe that these experiments were born of the malicious intent of a single villainous doctor, however this is not the case. The U.S. has a long and controversial history of intentionally testing, torturing and exploiting its citizens and the citizens of countries it exerts powerful, and often, unseen control over. U.S. history is chock full of gruesome Hitchcock-esque tales documenting the nauseating lack of ethics in U.S. scientific testing. In the 1940's, 400 prisoners in Chicago were told that they were helping the war effort by participating in military medical studies. The prisoners were then infected with malaria but none were told about the disease or the associated risks. Nazi doctors even cited the malaria experiments as one of their defenses during the Nuremburg trials. Such tails of human rights violations continue possibly to the current day.

Somewhat recently, there has been international discussion about the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)'s testing of LSD on uninformted subjects. It is claimed that CIA agent Sidney Gottlieb, the leader of a clandestine CIA operation called MKULTRA, went so far as to torture an entire French village under U.S. government direction. In August of 1951, the entire picturesque French city of Pont-Saint-Esprit went mad, literally. Villagers threw themselves from windows while screaming unsettling gibberish, young boys strangled their mothers, healthy men plunged knives into their chests to “let their hearts free,” in sum, the town went mad. For years it was assumed that the town baker had erred in using contaminated rye flour for his bread. The fungus speculated to have been growing in the bread is chemically similar to LSD. However, in light of the growing chronology of U.S. human experimentation, the theory presented above no longer seems so far fetched.

In the 1960's, during the Willowbrook Hepatitis Experiment, researcher Saul Krugman intentionally infected mentally disabled children with Hepatitis in order to develop the progression of the infection. When the U.S. was not conducting its own questionable medical tests, it was accepting the results of similarly horrendous tests from other countries. Not only did the U.S. Government know about the atrocities of Japanese orchestrated torture chamber “Unit 731,” but it even helped cover up the horrific war crimes committed, including human vivisections, in exchange for the scientific data collected during the torture. After WWII, the Office of Strategic Services orchestrated “Project Paperclip” in which the U.S. actively sought to recruit Nazi scientists for U.S. employment. These nightmares might seem like ghastly tales from previous generations never to be repeated. However, the U.S. is shipping more and more medical research studies overseas. What stories of current day exploitation will our grandchildren uncover?
program established in the Country, there is an advantage for graduates of the program in connecting and networking through the large alumni base. The program’s alumni are both internationally and domestically based, which is a primary result of the expansion of such a wide number of alumni and therefore offer a greater chance of successfully finding employment after law school. This worldwide connection opens the door to a more culturally diverse employment arena if you are so inclined to explore this international avenue.

I would highly recommend considering enrolling in the Walter H. and Dorothy B. Diamond Graduate Program in International Taxation and Financial Services to explore these areas of law and have the upper hand in securing employment opportunities and creative endeavors. Additional information about the program can be found on the program’s website: http://mastersinlaw.tjsl.edu.

LLM, Continued from pg. 1
Goodbye, 2121 San Diego Avenue

What will you miss the most?

Trisha Bryniczka
3L, Staff Writer

Thomas Jefferson School of Law established in 1969, has sat atop the hill at 2121 San Diego Ave, San Diego. The three buildings that make up our campus including seven classrooms, one moot court room, and a two story library will be forgotten with the beginning of a new year. Thus, as we approach our final weeks of being at our “Old Town” campus and look forward to the future of the “downtown” campus, one might stop and think “what will I miss about the old campus?” Below is a short list of what students have stated that they will miss about 2121 San Diego Ave:

“The hole in the woman’s library bathroom on the second floor;”
“I will miss it when it floods in the men’s bathroom between floors;”
“The random ‘unhealthy looking’ stains on the ceiling;”
“The bad parking jobs;”
“I’ll miss all the nutritional options and reasonable prices at Indigo Cafe;”
“I’ll miss paying for an injection of penicillin courtesy of Indigo Cafe;”
“Playing Frogger on San Diego Ave to get to class;”
“No parking at all;”
“Circling through every parking lot for 30 minutes, and then walking into class late;”
“Illegally parking and hoping that I don’t have a ticket;”
“Parking on a PUBLIC STREET and getting a ticket;”
“Missing 266 Parking spots for 1000 plus students;”
“Weekend Midterms;”
“Faculty taking student parking spot;”
“The reliable internet we have;”
“The temperature controlled rooms;”
“The super sound proof study hall rooms in the library;”

“The random speakers turning on in the classrooms;”
“Stairs to the second library floor door slamming;”
“Old town restaurants;”
“Complaining about things no-one has any control over;”
“Nothing;”
“I am going to miss random people taking photo’s of our cars;”
“Editors Note: This will still happen if you continue to park awfully;”
“Sitting on the classroom floors as a 1L;”
“Getting stuck in the elevator;”
“Waiting hours for the elevator;”
“Climbing 3 flights of stairs 20 times a day for class;”
“Taking the stairs because you beat the elevator by five minutes;”
“Kelly’s, enough said;”
“Parking on Bandini;”
“Having to walk down to the 1st floor from the 2nd floor to get to the 3rd floor;”
“Hearing the I-5 as I study for finals;”
“Taking the stairs because you beat the elevator by five minutes;”
“Nothing;”
“Complaining about things no-one has any control over;”
“Nothing;”

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“Taking the stairs because you beat the elevator by five minutes;”
“Nothing;”

Going around the room that night, if there is one thing that law students do not lack, is creativity. There were group costumes, scary costumes, sexy costumes, clever costumes, as well as costumes that stop you dead in your tracks. We saw everything from sexy Sesame Street characters, to Chilean Miners, to obscure superheroes such as Quail Man, Kick-Ass, Mayhem and Hit Girl.

The fun was not limited to students and friends as some of the faculty and staff also attended. Professor Golden, this year dressed as a crossing guard and it was rumored that Julie Garrett in Student Services came dressed as a giant banana, made his annual cameo.

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Corpusus: SBA
Halloween
Party 2010
Wrap-up
Ryan Ciriaco
2L, SBA Social Chair

Halloween has come and gone, as well as another successful Halloween Party. Held at Sway Lounge in the Keating Hotel in Downtown San Diego for the second year in a row, Thomas Jefferson students enjoyed the exclusive luxury of dancing the night away with their colleagues and friends. Every year, not only does this party allow students to celebrate All Hallow’s Eve, but it also serves as a welcomed reprieve from their most recent midterms.

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The fun was not limited to students and friends as some of the faculty and staff also attended. Professor Golden, this year dressed as a giant banana, made his annual cameo. Julie Garrett in Student Services came dressed as a crossing guard and it was rumored that Professor Bisom-Rapp was there too. However, it was later confirmed that it was not Professor Bisom-Rapp, but a male 1L student with an amazing tribute to his Torts Professor.

All in all, this was another successful Halloween Party. Keep on the look out for information on the 2011 Barrister’s Ball.

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Possibilities are Endless

Jeremy M. Evans
3L, SBA President

This summer I had the pleasure of interning for the Primary Public Defender in South Bay, which includes the cities of Chula Vista and National City, among others. Along with my Thomas Jefferson School of Law colleagues Andre Zakari, Erika Mayosquín, Norbert Losvato, and Michael Green, we were taught the basic and advanced techniques in indigent criminal defense. Two Cal Western law students (Katy and Carla), one from Colombia Law (Pete), and Tulane Law (Elizabeth) also joined us for this amazing experience. This list does not include our colleagues who interned for the Alternate Public Defender (Andrew Poland) or the Domestic Violence Unit (Serina Monder and Michael Grady) in South Bay, and those in Downtown and East County (El Cajon (Tom Schaeffer, Melodie Dan, Amanda Litt, and others)).

On a daily basis, we could be seen in misdemeanor and felony arraignment counseling clients in the tank or hallways outside the courtroom, and then representing clients in the courtroom as Certified Legal Interns. We counsel the defendant on the possibility of returning prior to the client), a restitution motion (when property is taken by peace officers in the course of arrest the property must be moved for return to the client), a restitution motion (explained in detail above, but hard to win). The first two motions were filed successfully and I set to argue them before the court. I showed up ready for a fight, walked into court, looked with attorneys and judges.

Interns also drafted and argued motions before the court. These motions included 995 motions (motion to dismiss a case for lack of evidence), 1538.5 motions (motion to suppress evidence for some legal reasoning), or non-motion hearings like Preliminary Examinations (like a trial, but without a jury). Interns also participated in Readiness Conferences with the client, Deputy Public Defender, and Deputy District Attorneys. During my time, I had the opportunity to write or edit twenty or so motions.

The most memorable of these was the first and the last three. The first motion I wrote was for a Severance of Counts (the District Attorney brings counts/charges in a case and the defense attorney attempts to have separate trials for the counts because of significant factual and legal differences). This was my first motion and I wanted to make a great impression. After I turned in the motion, the attorney I was working for walked for my desk and said “We need to talk!” I proceeded to the attorney's office and sat down, per the attorney's request of course. The attorney looked at me, paused, and said “GREAT WORK! VERY IMPRESSIVE! And I am a hard grader!” I smiled a big smile, said thank you, and ran outside screaming (I did everything except the last part). The last three motions were all motions I was asked to write and argue! The three motions were a motion to return property (when property is taken by peace officers in the course of arrest the property must be moved for return to the client), a restitution motion (where a non-direct victim of a crime attempts to recover monetarily, defense counsel files this motion to oppose), and a 1538.5 motion}

...Continued

December 2010 The Jeffersonian
The issue of the increase in the number of persons on “welfare” (among other economy-related situations) has become a battle cry for those who disagree with the current Presidential Administration. The repetitive grumblings of the discontent masses seem to focus on the absolute statements of those who want their shot at the big time in politics, pundits who seek advertising revenues, and fear-mongers. The public, believing that the simplicity of the argument is all there is, vote based on the absolutes of statistics and their poor inferences.

The truth is more complicated than the statistics tell. From 2008 to 2009 (statistical data for 2010 is not yet available) the poverty rate rose from 10.3 percent to 11.1 percent of the working poor have a present issue, but is an increase by 7.8 percent of the previous poverty group. According to the Census Bureau, there are about 5 million Americans living below the poverty line. This is an increase from 2008, but is also the third year of increase which afflicts all demographics within the nation. The stark rise of unemployment contributes to this increase in those under the poverty line with the influx 1.29 million people unemployed in 2009. The numbers are still only a fraction of what they were compared to the country’s economy is on a downturn.

The numbers in many ways are misgiving. They remind us that the number jobs saved through government stimulus plans. There is no data on how many families will benefit from the unemployment extensions. There is a claim that the bailout of General Motors saved 1 million American jobs, but at what cost is speculation. The extensions for unemployment benefits allow men and women to continue to provide for their families, and hopefully will be extended again in November for those who have experienced unemployment based on the traditional six months allotted. Of course, unemployment benefits would be unnecessary if the jobs were there to pick up, but it hasn’t with the third consecutive month of jobs loss this year.

The issue is a lack of faith in the economy, not the actions of the government whose policies for the past two years has been to stabilize and rectify a failing economy. The tax cut itself is a minuscule Welfare includes Social Security benefits, Unemployment benefits, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. Welfare is the consequence of The Great Depression. President Roosevelt and his Administration saw families going without shelter and food and reacted to their need for relief, recovery, and reform. It was a part of a larger package of programs (most of which have been repealed) which were designed to ensure that when the market failed, the individual would not — a general safeguard against what most have seen as the greed of few destroying the lives of many. Somewhere in the transition from the invention of American welfare and now, a stigma attached which were designed to ensure that when the market collapsed, large businesses were subject to less scrutiny and regulation. In this time period, certain corporations took advantage to make more money in the short term, but destroyed the economy in the long run. The Obama Administration inherited the failings of the past, and worked tirelessly to encourage economic recovery. It’s not a one-man (or Administration) job. Recovery takes the effort of the entire legislature. It takes the will of the people to find and create the jobs it needs. It’s an uphill battle.

There is encouragement to invest in government-backed bonds, which are an attempt to give faith to the system. The Federal Reserves lending rate has been near zero since 2008. The economy has not recovered. The question is why there is no faith in the system. Some blame the President. Some claim that his “socialist” policies, which make the government spend too much on unnecessary programs, are the root cause of all of this trouble along with corporate welfare (bailouts). The truth is that the initial proposal of universal healthcare would have reduced costs of operation to the employer and encouraged new hires. It was gutted in Congress. As to corporate bailouts, they did save some jobs. In addition to jobs saved, there were terms for those bailout, including requirements for companies to restructure and provide a better business model. President Roosevelt’s New Deal of relief, recovery, and reform helped to bring America out of its darkest economic days. It appears that the Obama Administration is following suit. The difference may be in the types of jobs the nation has shifted to that may prevent the same recovery. The shift from manufacturing to service makes many jobs expendable in a downturn and these jobs may become obsolete because employers are generally seeing the same performance if not better with less overhead.

The point is there is no simple solution. A strong economy is an indication of an increase in those under the poverty level which is an indication of an increase in unemployment which indicates a weak economy. It does not say if this is more or less than what would be if different plans were put into action. It doesn’t measure the effectiveness of the programs put into place. All it says is that there is a problem, providing neither the source nor a solution. To place blame on the figure head of a state for something that is not truly within his control is inappropriate. Rather than attacking one another, let’s roll up our sleeves and figure it out together — something President Obama has been asking us to do all along.

Peter Souza Official White House Photo

President Barack Obama holds a meeting on the economy with his advisors in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, Nov. 15, 2010.

Welfare Rates Mean More Than Blame

Allyson Evans
2L Staff Writer

President Obama and Unemployment

Chase Buzzell
3L Editor

Obama inherited an economic mess. Surely, certain policies that were employed during the previous Administration can be attributed to the economic woes the Obama Administration faces today. However, saying that such a mess can be blamed on one group is a dangerous proposition. To haphazardly look back in time creates a potentially perpetual trend in which one can look into every other prior President in an attempt to trace the origin of the problem. For example, the economic troubles faced by President Obama, in part, can arguably be traced to the housing market crash that occurred during the Bush era, however, it was under the Clinton era where lending regulations were significantly loosened to allow virtually every citizen the pursuit of the American dream of owning a home. Thus, although prior Administrations’ dealings are an important aspect when viewing the current situation, the policies of the current Administration are nonetheless most pertinent in exploring the potential remedy of the current situation.

When President Obama began his term in office the unemployment rate stood at 7.27%. The most recent labor statistics show an unemployment rate of 9.6%. This significant increase is in stark contrast to President Obama’s promise that the unemployment rate would not rise above 8%, which came on the heels of the $800 billion stimulus package. Perhaps, the breach of President Obama’s promise is due to underestimating the severity of the economic recession, or perhaps it is because of the adjacent policies employed by the Obama Administration and the Democratic Congress.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, federal spending under the Obama Administration has increased 16% (in 2009), the stimulus package containing “green jobs” funding caused 7% of the jobs to go to foreign firms, the number of families on welfare payrolls has significantly increased, and a family of four, earning a handsome annual household income of $80,000, would still qualify for medicaid subsidies.

Arguably the significant increase in federal spending which one can look into every other prior President in an attempt to trace the origin of the problem; the size of the stimulus package is necessary and the increase of families on welfare is a by-product of the recession. Moreover, there are positive trends that are seen in the economy despite the stagnated unemployment rate, such as nine straight months of private-sector job growth. Despite the mitigating factors as to why President Obama’s policies are not working, the unemployment rate has increased significantly since President Obama has taken office and has remained stuck above 9.5% for fourteen straight months, the worst streak since the 1930s — despite the bailout of General Motors where alone there was a net loss of jobs. If those who have given up looking for work or forced to take part-time jobs were to be considered in the unemployment rate would rest above 17%.

According to the U.S. Labor Department 1.1 million Americans have stopped looking for work. Can this be attributed to the despondency that an American faces after being told, “thank you very much, but no thank you, we’re not hiring right now?” Perhaps. Or can some attribution be made to the fact that the unemployment benefits have been extended yet again, providing little incentive for the unemployed to launch an imminent search.

The bottom line is that if efforts to stimulate the economy rested solely on pumping in trillions of dollars, we should have seen a growing economy by now. Indeed, compared to previous recoveries, we should be in the middle of an economic boom. President Obama has continually contended this is worst economic recession since the Great Depression, now there is truth to such a statement. Neither during the 1970s recession or the 1980s recession did the unemployment remain this high for this long. Of course, the overall national inflation rates were around 14%, when President Obama took office with approximately a 7% unemployment rate, inflation rates were zero percent.

During the Clinton era, Clinton took big deficits and turned them into a budget surplus, without the federal spending seen now. President Obama on the other hand took moderate deficits compared to the enormous amounts of federal spending. For example, specific to welfare spending, President Obama will increase annual federal welfare spending by one fourth, $22 billion to $697 billion. After adjusting for inflation, this increase is two and a half times greater than any previous increase in federal welfare spending in U.S. history. Although it is difficult, if not impossible, to justify the war in Iraq and its accompanying price tag, for comparison sake, the Administration will spend more on welfare in a single year than President Bush spent on the war in Iraq during his entire presidency.

All in all the federal deficit is growing, the GDP rate is increasing at a unnoticeable snail’s pace, the stock market has yet to stabilize and seemingly turns upward or downward on the slightest slice of news, and the unemployment rate still remains high. President Obama has made promises and prognosticated job growth; however, his policies and conduct have cut against America’s optimism (evidence by the continuous increase in unemployment rates), held by both potential employers and employees.

Census Fun Facts

The first census after the American Revolution was taken in 1790, under the supervision of Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson.

The first nine censuses were managed by the U.S. Surveyor General, not by the Executive Branch.

A census is available for public inspection after 72 years. The 1940 Census will be available for viewing in April 2010.
Congratulations new Alternative Dispute Resolution Society members!

Over 50 individuals tried out for the ADRS Competition Team and we are pleased to announce the following students who made the team:


Dear Scott,

There are some people in my section I’d like to ask out on a date, but I’m afraid getting into a relationship with a classmate might be a bad idea.

Dear Hate the Game,

I’m not going to lie, a bad date or a break-up with a classmate might make things difficult for you later in the year. Having to sit next to someone for the rest of the semester who just dumped you could make it hard to concentrate in class and may even make things awkward for people sitting around you. But consider the upsides:

Networking: Don’t think of it as “dating classmates;” think of it as networking. Every person you’re attracted to in class (and even those who you don’t find particularly attractive) is a potential networking opportunity. The simple fact is that doors often open because of who you know—no matter how hard you may have worked during law school. Also consider that people are often reluctant to share their notes or outlines but after a few drinks at a bar—or in order to impress a suitor—you may get your hands on that outline that will get you the 4.0. If you aren’t a jerk out on a date and treat people respectfully, no one is going to hold a grudge simply because you went out on a few dates during law school and weren’t compatible.

2 words: Mental Edge: Let’s face it, when you are in a relationship with someone for any extended period of time you learn things about the other person. Some of these things are not flattering. Now imagine that you show up to court and opposing counsel is guy/girl you dated for three months during the first semester of your 2L year. You know that opposing counsel lived in his mother’s basement until he was 27 and ran his credit card to the limit buying World of Warcraft characters—Mental Edge. You know that opposing counsel spent most of her student aid money on shoes and spent more time tanning than studying civil procedure—Mental Edge. You know that opposing counsel when through what they kept calling a “hippie” phase that included wearing only patchwork corduroy, eschewing deodorant for patchouli, eating no meat, and following around some band called String Cheese—Mental Edge. You know that opposing counsel received not one, but two tickets in college for public intoxication and indecent exposure—Mental Edge. You get the idea. Mental Edge is everything.

You’re Welcome,
Scott

Dear Scott,

I’m seriously confused by door etiquette. Can you please explain the finer points?

Dear Intelligent Question-asker,

I’m glad someone decided to ask me this question as I see many people struggle with door holding etiquette every day at TJSL. Here are a few well-settled bright-line rules to keep in mind as you decide whether to hold, or not to hold.

The 7 Foot Rule: If someone is more than 7 feet away from the door do not hold it open for him unless they are carrying something heavy. Holding the door for someone further than this creates the awkward situation where the holdee essentially feels rushed and has to increase his pace just to make you feel like you’ve done a good deed. If you make someone go up a flight of stairs more quickly or force a person to hustle up to/through the door, you have violated a rule of door holding etiquette.

The 5 People Rule: It’s nice to hold the door open for a classmate or two, but once 5 people have gone through the held door your responsibility is over. If you are the 5th person through the held door it now becomes your responsibility to become the holder. This is accomplished by saying “thank you” and taking the door from original holder. Feel free to add a “please go ahead” gesture with your arm if it is not encumbered. Also, don’t let holder get away with trying to let more than 5 people through; these holders are self-righteous and should not reap any credit for their martyrdom.

You’re Welcome,
Scott
The Holidays in San Diego

Some festive things to do before school starts in the spring

Rachel Lebron
1L Staff Writer

If you plan on spending your holidays here in San Diego or need a break during finals, check out some of the things you can do during the holiday season.

Explore Balboa Park: On December 3, from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., and December 4, from 12:00 noon to 10:00 p.m., San Diego will be having its 33rd annual December Nights. Many of the museums in Balboa Park offer free admission, food from different countries is available in the House of Hospitality Cottages, music and dance performances take place throughout the Park, and beautiful light displays surround the entire area. Make sure to plan ahead, as this event that attracts hundreds of thousands of attendees in two short days.

See Christmas lights: San Diego has plenty of neighborhoods with extravagant Christmas light displays. Belardo Lights in Tierrasanta, 5806 Belardo Drive (92124), has a display that lights up every year from the efforts of a father and his autistic children. Chula Vista offers Christmas Circle, on Whitney Street and Mankato Street (91910), and even a neighborhood light competition. Clairmont's Lane Drive and Jamar Drive (92117) are a connected circular street with the majority of its houses heavily decorated. 2150 Sunset Boulevard (92103) in Mission Hills has 50,000 lights synced to a soundtrack recorded by radio personalities Jeff and Jee Santer's Starlight Circle (90711), off Tomel Court, has a food drive for the San Diego Food Bank to go along with its display.

Go ice skating: Horton Plaza's outdoor ice skating rink will be open from November 18, 2010 through January 9, 2011. This year's proceeds will benefit the Feckham Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Rady Children's Hospital, San Diego. Viejas Outlet Center in Alpine opens their outdoor ice skating rink for the holiday season. After ice skating, go to the stores surrounding the rink to get some great holiday deals. See the spectacular Hotel del Coronado and ice-skate outdoors while looking at the Pacific Ocean from November 24, 2010 through January 2, 2011. Part of the proceeds will go to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Say goodbye to Christmas: On December 11, 2010, spend some time in our soon-to-be-empty neighborhood. Many of its houses heavily decorated. Old Town's Fiestas Navidad is a festive 1800's seasonal celebration that includes performances, caroling, music, dancing, candlelight tours, and a beautiful Nativity scene. There are holiday treats and activities for all ages.

Go shopping: What better time to spend that hard earned student loan money than on Black Friday (the day after Thanksgiving) and the day after Christmas? There are tons of deals all over San Diego on these shopping holidays. The weekend before the holidays is a great time to pick up the newspaper to find the best sales. If you plan on shopping at one of the malls, get there early! The parking lots fill up before the sun comes out. If you aren't the type to wake up at 4 a.m. but are willing to stay up after midnight, go to one of the outlets; sales start at 12:01 a.m.

Economical Gift Ideas for Students

Amanda Pollard
1L Writer

What’s the best gift you could give a student in law school? No, this is not the beginning of another lawyer joke; it is actually a real question. Students are generally on a tight budget and law school is no different. We all know if you do manage to work as a student, the pay is not much and goes directly towards daily necessities. That usually means our Christmas presents are practical things we can't otherwise afford; a new toaster, a blender, new shoes. But even as a student, it is still important to show the people that we call when we need to talk about a midterm, or the people we would like to keep in touch with, but somehow don’t talk to as often as we would like, that they are very important in our lives. Below are a few ideas for those of us who don’t want to be quick to give flashy or too expensive gifts.

Books:
A framed picture is a great classic for any cash strapped gift giver, but how about some more creative ideas? Think technology for online photo albums! You can now log on to websites like Shutterfly and Photobucket, or go through Target's online photo center and quickly create an album. The albums come in soft or hard covers and are designed 100% by you. Through personal experience, I’ve learned the albums from Shutterfly are of higher quality. You don’t want to drain your wallet. A hard cover album with roughly 25 pages, double sided runs around $35. They also ship directly to you.

Mugs with personal photographs are also a creative option and can be ordered from most online photo sharing websites. Costo is a great place to check, as is Kodak's website which will usually offer free shipping with an online coupon.

Baked Goods:
Offer free pizza and the entire law school comes running. Cash strapped students love free food. Who doesn't? For local law students, home-cooked goods are a wonderful gift idea. The Food Network has an entire database of great holiday recipes that travel well and are huge crowd pleasers.

Another delicious and inexpensive idea is pre-made cookie jars. You'll need a few mason jars, any dry ingredients for your favorite cookie recipe, and some cute squares of fabric. It’s easy-just mix and layer the ingredients in the jar (example: mix flour and sugar together in the jar, then add brown sugar, M&M's or chocolate chips and some nuts). Put the circular lid on, followed by your fabric square, and finally the round hollow lid. Attach card stock with directions on how to mix the dry ingredients with any additional ones needed and include baking times with a cute ribbon. This idea also works great with soup mixes that use dry ingredients combined with both.

Pre-packaged food from local vendors or markets can be a wonderful idea. First decide on a particular niche- baked good, Mexican food, Italian, staple dishes, etc. Then search cookbooks or the Internet for your favorite dishes. For general tastes, Better Homes and Garden has a great comprehensive cookbook. Once you have the ingredients, go to the every kitchen. Remember to write a heartfelt message in the cover to add a personal touch.

Bibles:
A lot of college students receive inspirational books like Dr. Seuss “Oh! The Places You’ll Go!” or the like. These books are great inspirational tools. Find a book that’s inspired you or one you’ve just really enjoyed, and give it to someone you love with a message inside.

Classic books are another great way to go. Find a great classic that matches the age of the recipient and personalize it on the inside cover. Journals or daily planners are perfect gift for loved ones as well. A nice journal won’t cost more than $10. You can inscribe a message on the inside and the recipient can use it as a place to keep their private thoughts, or a place to jot down few things each day. Even think about getting a journal for yourself so that you can exchange journals with a friend which helps with keeping in touch no matter how busy you get.

For a gift recipient who is religious, a bible or other similar text could be a very thoughtful gift. It is a common misconception that people who go to church have bibles, but more often than not the family bible is lost in the shuffle of moves and boxes. Many websites offer leather-bound bibles with the person's name engraved on the front. Accompanying this with an inspirational bookmark is a thoughtful but frugal way to acknowledge someone’s interests with a gift.

A letter may seem like a really trivial or cheesy thing to give someone but from personal experience it can be one of the most treasured gifts you ever receive. If you’re giving it as a gift to someone important, consider writing it by hand on high quality paper. You could talk about the difference they’ve made in your life. For people who have supported you through the long road to law school (and probably beyond) reading about how much they meant to you can be a very moving experience and will top any expensive gift you could buy. Be prepared for some tears.

Easy-to-make, inexpensive gifts can mean the world to loved ones and don’t have to break your wallet. Stop thinking so big and consider giving a gift from the heart. Instead of shelling out the big bucks consider putting in some thought and coming up with a personalized gift for your loved ones. The extra effort is worth it and you don’t have to worry about whether batteries are included.
Weird Legal News
An update on some of the crazy legal related issues around the world
Brandi Haefs
3L Senior Writer

The U.S. Patent and Trademark office recently denied trademark protection to the Chippendale’s coined “cuffs and collar” costume.1

Caesar’s Palace agreed to pay a $250,000 fine for allowing a baccarat player to dance on a card table while a game was in progress.2

A Utah teen was found not guilty of disorderly conduct after he was arrested for rapping his order in a McDonald’s drive through.3

The “Naked Cowboy” (Robert Burck) has sent a cease and desist letter to the “Naked Cowgirl” (Sandy Kayne) over patent infringement.4

Police were called to a Victoria apartment to deal with a fight between two brothers, ages 17 and 22, over who got the bigger piece of meat at dinner time. Apparently, the 17 year old who made the meal was upset enough to take a hockey stick and start smashing through drywall and a computer monitor.5

Police recently charged a 30 year old Ontario man with public drunkenness and drug possession after he allegedly tried to pay for his Little Caesars pizza with pot.6

A Long Island man has been charged with attempted sexual misconduct and burglary after he allegedly broke into one of his tenants’ apartments and sexually assaulted their 23 pound two year old dog that he used to own.7

The Seattle Times reports that a Bellevue woman is being charged with second-degree assault after police allege she stabbed another woman during an anger management class.8

A Palm Beach man has been awarded $650,000 after he sued a local nightclub where he was injured in 2008 by a stripper’s shoe poking him in the eye during a lap dance. Apparently the heel punctured his eye socket and broke several bones around his eye and nose.9

An Israeli man is facing charges of speeding and reckless endangerment after being caught driving 260 kph (160 mph) via a Facebook video posted. The video does not specifically show when the incident occurred, or identify the car the man was driving; but charges are still being sought.10