



## Op-Ed: Reckless Driving Method or Madness?

In the uncertain world of law school, where every answer seems to be "it depends" and every statement is questioned, we hold fast to one unshakable truth: our professors can't drive for \$#!%. Whether they're crashing boats in Greece, flying model planes into trees, or racing at break-neck speeds towards the Oregon coast, these pillars of the academic community can't seem to master those basic driving skills that we expect of sixteen-year-olds. But that's well known. The causes behind this phenomenon are a little harder to pin down.

Some argue that this is the logical extension of the "absentminded professor" persona. Some see it as a result of the naturally confusing and debilitating environment of law school. After all, these people aren't just here for three or four years; they're in it for the long haul. Some even argue that it's not that professors are naturally bad drivers, it's just that bad drivers seek refuge in academia. This view, however, has been roundly rejected by the two people I asked about it, making it a minority view.

Others, however, think it's something a little more sinister. "It's clear to me," said one second-year student, "that this is a conspiracy to scare students out of parking in the staff lot." The theory is that strategically terrorizing students and the general public is a form of territorial behavior. In the cut-throat academic world, the preferred parking spaces are jealously defended, and those most willing to sacrifice themselves and others have the first pick. Attempting

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## Huffman Forswears Bow Tie for Campaign



*Jilted neckwear tearful, despondent*

PORTLAND - Professor of Law Jim Huffman is abandoning his distinctive neck adornment for his campaign for Senate, as LOTL has learned from looking at his Senate campaign's Facebook page. Long a distinguishing characteristic of his on-campus image, Mr. Huffman's short cravat has been replaced with a traditional long tie for his appearance on the hustings.

Reached for comment by LOTL, candidate Huffman's bow tie was composed and retrospective.

"I feel sorry for Jim," the bow tie said in an interview. "All those long ties can't give him what I could. I gave him a *je ne sais quoi* that he's lost now. I pity him, I really do."

However, an investigation has revealed that the bow tie has not always been as restrained and phlegmatic. An investigation by LOTL revealed strained communications early on in the split.

Telephone records indicate that on March 4th, the day former Dean Huffman announced his candidacy at Halton Equipment while wearing a red long tie, the bow tie called Huffman's cellular telephone four times in three hours. No voice mails were left.

"I didn't know what to think at the time. I couldn't believe it," explained the bow tie. "I mean, here he was going off and doing something important, and I was left at home. I mean, I think you would wear a tie when you're announcing that you're running for office, but he was gone, and I

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## Professor Abandons Socratic Method

*Students Struggle to Learn*

PORTLAND - An Associate Professor at Lewis & Clark Law School decided to abandon the Socratic teaching method, declaring he no longer believes it is the best way to teach the law.

The professor, who has requested anonymity, claims he is trying out new forms of teaching in an effort to reduce confusion. "I decided that the Socratic method might not be the best way to teach the material. I mean, just because we've been teaching the law the same way for years doesn't necessarily make it the best way to do it," the professor said.

The response from students has been overwhelmingly negative. "I don't have to

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## Professor Quotes

"In Connecticut, condoms could be sold to prevent sexually transmitted disease, but not for contraception. Obviously, there were some problems in enforcing this law."  
-Prof. Bill Funk

"What is the meaning of life? Half your grade depends on it."  
-Prof. Doug Beloof

"Of course video games are speech. They are also a less expensive way to wander off into la-la land without using drugs. That is a legitimate state interest."  
-Prof. Doug Newell

"It's amazing how much criminal law comes down to Sesame Street."  
-Prof. John Parry

"Big companies generally like to get their ducks in a row... and then shoot them."  
-Prof. Bill Funk

"...and the Supreme Court said, 'that's a load of bunk.'"  
-Prof. Brian Blum

"Feta cheese has always really creeped me out."  
-Prof. Tomas Gomez-Arostegui

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was still at home. I just wanted an explanation."

The same phone records indicate that the calls continued, reaching a peak of nineteen times in eight hours. Text messages sent during this time are too numerous to be reprinted here. There is no indication that Huffman returned any of these messages by electronic communication, but he did come to speak with the bow tie personally on at least one occasion.

"He did come talk to me," the bow tie explained. "I didn't really get what I needed most from him: an explanation. What did I do? I'm still not even sure if it was something I did."

Email messages obtained by LOTL show that several attempts to contact Professor Huffman failed soon after the candidacy was announced.

An email sent while Huffman was campaigning at Beaverton Foods, makers of fine condiments, reads, "Jim. I've been calling. Why haven't you answered?" "Is your phone broken?" reads another, sent 45 minutes later.

The emails continued throughout that day. The final message contains no subject line, and the message body is simply an ellipsis.

Once it became clear that the bow tie was not to have a place in the campaign, the quality of communication took a turn for the worse.

"I did some things I'm not proud of, sure," recalled the bow tie. "I thought that if I could just get him to listen, maybe we could work things out."

Later emails lack brevity and cohesion, suggesting mounting dissatisfaction at the lack of reply. An email sent late in the evening in early April reads, "remember u used 2 take m e 2 work evr day? WHy dont U recall mee? Call me. im wating." There was no subject line.

However, the missives took a decidedly upward turn in mid-April. An email with the subject line "learning" [sic] reads, "I have learned some stuff about me... about life... some days are good and some are bad (overall life is beautiful...) I am more confident in myself... less afraid of failing."

The bow tie now appears optimistic and Pollyannaish. "I've moved on," it said while looking out a rain-spotted window, but it refused to give more details.

The question remains why former Supreme Court appellant Huffman dispensed with his distinguishing esophageal embellishment, and the candidate has declined to

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comment for this article. However, where the bow tie once signified a dapper, sophisticated self-possession, apropos for a Republican candidate, in recent years the left has commandeered the contrarian intellectualism suggested by the departure from conventional, as exemplified by Representative Earl Blumenauer, future former Justice John Paul Stevens, and deceased Senators Paul M. Simon and Patrick Moynihan.

If the Erskine Wood Professor should be successful in his quest for a Senate seat, would the bow tie consider joining Senator Huffman's staff?

"Oh, no," said the bow tie, wistfully gazing out the window. "But, you know, Washington D.C. really is very pretty in the spring."

## Haiku

Law school is real hard  
And you want me to write more?  
It's not gonna fly  
(Mike Whiteley)

Sideways rains you streak  
the panes of Boley in spring  
Dicta to my sun  
(Teunis Wyers)

Writing haiku for  
Letter of the Law is much  
more fun than papers  
(Anonymous)

Dear Sir or Madam:  
A law student, I ask you:  
Give me a damn job.  
(Anonymous)

## A Poem

out of time,  
empty mind,  
so much out there on the line,  
can't speed up,  
can't slow down,  
never thought you'd like this town,  
rain falls hard,  
wind blows cold,  
is civil procedure getting old?  
that question's leading,  
just keep reading,  
I think I missed my TA meeting...  
(Aaron Stark)

do work on my own to figure out what the hell is going on," Lai Cheng, a first year law student said. "I feel like I'm being lazy. I thought I came to law school to be scared and overworked. Now that everything is explained to me, I feel like it's just thousands of dollars in loans down the drain."

"My friends at other law schools are making fun of me because of it," Tara Frome, a second year law student said. "They think less of Lewis & Clark because of it. I think it's a real detriment to our reputation."

Other professors are skeptical about the approach as well. A committee has been formed to address the situation, and there have been rumors that the professor may be fired.

"He's acting like he is not hiding any balls, but the guise of no hidden balls is the ultimate hidden ball," Eva Huali, a third year law student warned. "Just because he's not using the Socratic Method doesn't mean he's covering everything."

When asked if the professor had any other plans that might surprise the school in the future, he responded, "I'm thinking about writing a paper, with a focus on keeping the citations to a minimum."  
(Michael Hsu)

"Solicitation is a great little crime. It's so easy to commit!"  
-Prof. John Parry

"Let's do drugs first, because they're quicker." (Referencing which materials to discuss.)  
-Prof. Juliet Stumpf

"This isn't Torts, or what a reasonable person would do. This isn't Con Law with its balancing test. Sissy stuff. There's a damn right answer in the book."  
-Prof. Jack Bogdanski

"The combination of sewage and clams is a really felicitous one."  
-Prof. John Parry

"I'd like to get through your exams without having to drink heavily."  
-Prof. Doug Beloor

## The Perpetrators

Emerald Beanland.....	Reality Challenged
Amanda Caffall.....	Latin Lover
Stuart Cassell.....	Only in it for the Beer
Ashley MacKenzie.....	Umpire Calling Balls and Strikes
Jason Walker.....	Sports Editor

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# Latin for Lawyers

*Si hoc legere scis nimium eruditionis habes.* (If you can read this, you have too much education.)

## Useful Phrases for L&C's Environmental Law Program:

*Praescriptum meum domesticum per vim in fibras redactum est a sodalitate quae terrore pro Terra utitur.* (My homework was forcibly recycled by eco-terrorists.)

*Suo tractu operto suburbia extenso, canis latrans domicilium meum ingressus praescriptum domesticum mihi devoravit.* (A coyote whose habitat was destroyed by urban sprawl ate my homework.)

*Orbe terarum nimium calefacto combustionem hydroganthracum, pensum meum domesticum sua sponte flammam concepit.* (Due to global warming, my homework spontaneously combusted.)

*Praescriptis severis de aedificiorum usu decretis a decurionibus municipalibus, mihi non licet operari domi.* (Strict zoning codes enacted by the town board make it illegal for me to work at home.)

## Useful Everyday Phrases:

*Velocius quam asparagi coquantur.* (More rapidly than asparagus will be cooked.)

*Te occidere possunt sed te edere non possunt nefas est.* (They can kill you, but the legalities of eating you are quite a bit dicier.)

*Mea navis aëricumbens anguillis abundat.* (My hovercraft is full of eels.)

## The Lawyer as Hero:

*Flectere si nequeo superos, Achaeronta movebo!* (If I cannot move heaven, I will raise hell!)

## Good Advice Generally

*Vir prudens non contra ventum mingit.* (A wise man does not urinate up against the wind.)

*Draco dormiens nunquam titillandus.* (A sleeping dragon is never to be tickled.)

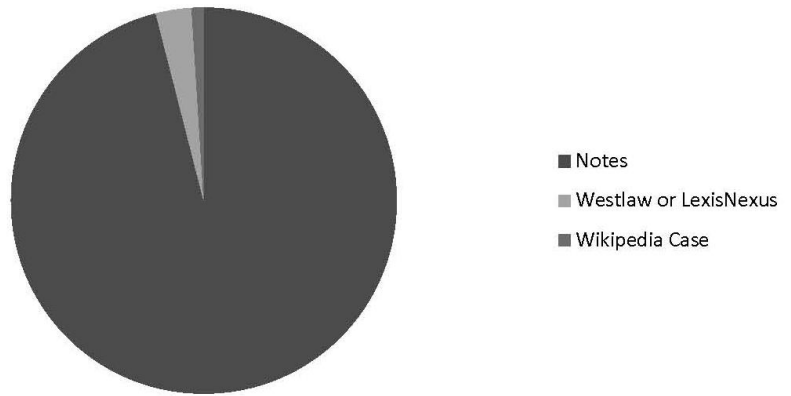
*In vino veritas.* (In wine there is truth.)

*Sequere pecuniam.* (Follow the money.)

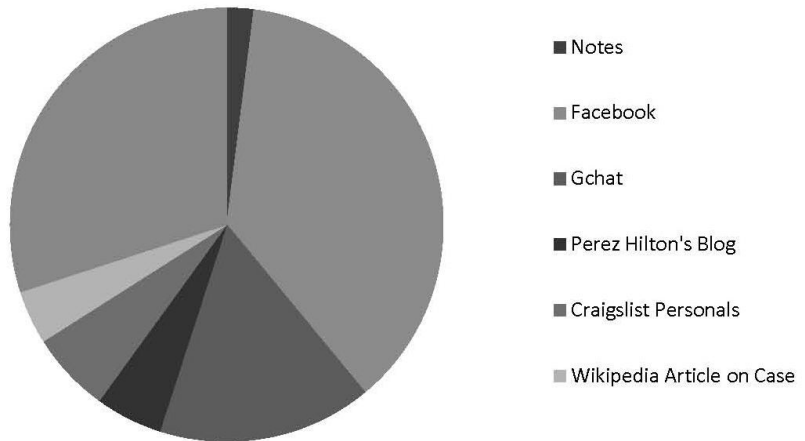
*Perfer et obdura; dolor hic tibi proderit olim.* (Be patient and tough; some day this pain will be useful to you.)

*Aut viam inveniam aut faciam.* (I'll either find a way or make one.)

## What Students Say They Use Laptops for in Class



## What Students Use Laptops For In Class



## Sample Cover Letters

*In light of difficult economic times, competition for the dwindling number of legal jobs increases. The introductory cover letter, long the bane of the job seeker's existence, becomes even more important. We at The LOTL, in conjunction with Career Services, present these cover letters, all of which elicited a swift response, and catapulted the writer to immediate preeminence among the recipients.*

To Whom It May Concern:

From the moment I first saw your posting on the law school career services website, I knew. I knew that there was no other law firm for me. I hope that, in the fullness of time, you come to feel the same way.

Your elegant logo, with the names of partners tenderly embracing an inoffensive yet enticing motif, fills me with a deep and abiding longing. I tried to fight it, telling myself that it was nothing more than a passing fancy, soon to fade. But my mind can no longer ignore what my heart has always known: I am yours, completely and unreservedly.

I yearn to feel the firmness of your computers' keys yield to the soft pressure of my questing fingertips. My dreams are filled with the research memos and pleadings I hope to draft for you; my thoughts are all of how best to please you. More than coffee, more than highlighters, more even than my laptop, I need you.

I write to you in supplication, in prayer: do not deny me.

Forever yours,

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# Limericks

## *"Pierson v. Post"*

Pierson, a fox he was huntin',  
But Post shot first, affrontin',  
The court gave the beast,  
To Post to feast,  
Home went Pierson a gruntin'.  
(Chenyu Wang)

## *"Meinhard v. Salmon"*

A twenty-year lease was dependent,  
On funding obtained by defendant,  
But his case was a goner,  
With "punctilio of... honor,"  
The phrase was e'er transcendent.  
(Chenyu Wang)

Con law gets me all excited  
To see the gravest wrongs righted,  
But a case from last year  
Brought me to tears  
That case is *Citizen's United*.  
(Erica Rothman)

Crim pro's about keepers of peace  
And my interest has only increased,  
But despite some protections  
Against searches and inspections  
I still do not trust the police.  
(Erica Rothman)

There once was a case called *Pennoyer*  
One must know it to become a lawyer  
But a professor named Bob,  
Makes it his job  
To use it as the Great Destroyer.  
(Erica Rothman)

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## Lawyer Jokes

### *Because you don't hear enough of these from your friends*

A doctor and a lawyer were conversing at a dinner party. Presently, another guest approached the doctor and asked his opinion about a rash on his arm. The doctor recommended a topical ointment. After the third guest left, the doctor asked the lawyer, "Do you think I should bill that guy?" The lawyer replied, "Yes, I think you should."

The next day, the doctor received a bill from the lawyer.

A housewife, an accountant, and a lawyer were asked, "How much is 2+2?"

The housewife replies: "Four!"

The accountant says, "I think it's either 3 or 4. Let me run those figures through my spreadsheet one more time."

The lawyer pulls the drapes, dims the lights and asks in a hushed voice, "How much do you want it to be?"

*Cover Letters, continued from page 3*

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to let you know that there is no depth to which I will not stoop for you if you give me a job with your firm. I will abase myself, sell out my friends, and perjure myself on the witness stand if you will just pay me to do it.

Although I no longer have any grandmothers to sell into slavery on behalf of whatever whim of yours I might satisfy, I do have several remaining relatives that would fetch solid prices on the black market. I know; I did a little research on Craigslist before writing this letter. Grandmothers may be more traditional sacrifices to greed, but I want you to rest assured that I am willing to sell any number of relatives if there's a paycheck in it for me.

But when I speak of the depths I will stoop for you, I want you to understand that it does not stop at betrayal of other people: I'm willing to betray myself, my values, hallowed institutions, and inanimate objects for you. I have devised ways to make fence-posts cry and teddy bears commit suicide in shame. I'm still working on a method to make lampshades throw away their lives to alcoholism, but I'm confident that I'm close to success on that one. And I am willing to put all my considerable skills of treachery, cruelty, and depravity to work for you. All you have to do is pay me.

Thank you for your consideration of my application. Let me know if there is any way I can bribe you into interviewing me.

Sincerely,

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am a second year law student at Lewis & Clark, and I am very interested in clerking for your firm over the summer. I think that I would be an excellent candidate for this position because, let's face it, a trained monkey could do this.

Now, I know what you're thinking: "Say, that's a great idea. Why don't we just use a trained monkey?" In anticipation of that very inquiry, I have set forth below a nearly comprehensive comparison between myself and the hypothetical trained monkey. I think you will find that I have an edge over even the most exceptional trained monkey.

\*The ASPCA and various animal rights groups would take notice and insist on monitoring workplace conditions and the workload of a monkey. These same groups could not care less about what happens to a law student. Advantage: me.

\*The monkey could be paid in bananas. But it isn't like you'd be paying me enough for this to make a difference. At most, we'd break even. Advantage: probably me.

\*Monkeys literally fling feces. I only do so metaphorically. Advantage: ask your janitor.

\*Monkeys are cute and cuddly, whereas I look like the wrong end of a rhinoceros. At first, you'd think the monkey had the advantage, but do you really want to take out all your aggression on something that adorable? I mean really, look at that li'l guy's face. Advantage: me.

\*Trained monkeys have, theoretically, been known to waste valuable billable hours by banging out works of Shakespeare on typewriters. I use word processing programs. Advantage: me.

After reviewing the foregoing, I know that you'll be able give me a job with confidence that I'll be a better investment than the other bipedal primates that apply. I look forward to interviewing with you.

Sincerely,



*Reckless Driving, continued from page 1*  
to avoid collision is seen as a sign of weakness. By building reputations as reckless, devil-may-care, or downright crazy drivers, professors seek to reduce competition by scaring away those who can't afford extensive car repairs or medical treatment.

Further studies will need to support or debunk this hypothesis. For now, all we know is that no one is safe in the faculty and staff parking lot.