



The Cougar Cry

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President's Message



Dr. Jim Randolph, President

Lawyers, Snakes & Other Creatures That Crawl

Recently I heard a story about a university that was testing the use of lawyers instead of rats in laboratory experiments. After a year, they concluded that lawyers make better subjects in the labs because of the following reasons:

1. There are more lawyers than rats.
2. The lab assistants don't get attached to lawyers like they do rats.
3. And, there are some things that rats won't do.

This story is another in a long series of lawyer-bashing jokes that are making the rounds today. Like, "When can you tell that a lawyer is lying?" The answer of course is: "When his lips are moving." Or, "What is brown and black and looks good attached to the neck of a lawyer?" Give up? "A doberman pinscher!"

Lawyer jokes have always been popular, however, the effort by the Bush Administration to suggest that lawyers and the American Bar Association (ABA) should work toward curbing frivolous law suits has created a defensive posture within the law profession and has spurred the current proliferation of jokes.

Vice President Dan Quayle, himself a lawyer, was not greeted with open arms at a recent ABA meeting where he presented the administration's position on the state of the profession. I'm sure, however, that the Vice President is undoubtedly happy that the national sentiment has shifted from Dan Quayle jokes to lawyer jokes.

Q. What have you got when you have a lawyer buried up to his neck in concrete? A. Not enough concrete!

Although lawyer jokes are often done in a good-natured way (after all, we all have friends and/or relatives who are lawyers — and they're nice people), it is true that increasingly we pay more for such things as auto insurance and health care because providers pass along to us, the consumers, the cost of actual and potential lawsuits, many of which we are told are frivolous.

It is also a fact that in the United States the number of lawyers and lawsuits have increased to a staggering amount. The U.S. has only five percent of the world's population, but nearly 70 percent of all the lawyers in the world live in the U.S. The ABA estimates that there are over 800,000 licensed lawyers in the U.S. Vice President Quayle highlighted this point by stating that there are 18 million new lawsuits filed annually. After all, all these lawyers have to have something to do.

Q. What's the definition of the ultimate waste of space? A. A bus load of lawyers going over a cliff with two empty seats.

From personal experience, I can tell you that lawyers have changed in their attitude and demeanor over the past years. Twenty years ago, when I got a letter from a lawyer representing a dismissed employee or a student who couldn't get into the nursing program, it was typically cordial, asking if it would be possible to meet and discuss the problem.

Today, a typical letter from an attorney starts off claiming that I had, without a doubt, violated his client's civil,

"What Is Thanksgiving?"

Thankful It's November

The month of November has one significant holiday: Thanksgiving. This year give thanks for a holiday with many pluses and a lack of the minuses that plague other festive times of the year. Note these as you reach for that drumstick:

- For once you can stuff yourself as much as any turkey ever was stuffed and win approval instead of being made to feel guilty.
- No one complains that it takes all day to cook dinner.
- The weather is no longer hot and muggy. It's crisp without being so cold you have to wrap and unwrap before going in and out.
- No nerds to kiss in the New Year of curfew demands from authority figures.
- Enough national and local football for the most die-hard of fans.
- No eggs to dye or hide or go seek.
- Thanksgiving starts a long four-day weekend.
- No earaches from firecracker noise and no crowds to fight.
- Once the turkey's stuffed and in, a leisurely pace sets in.
- No leaves to rake, lawns to mow.
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- No earaches from firecracker noise and no crowds to fight.
- Once the turkey's stuffed and in, a leisurely pace sets in.
- No leaves to rake, lawns to mow.
- There's always enough food left for yummy leftovers the next few days.
- No costumes to wear or trick-or-treaters to follow around or tricksters to clean up after.
- Everyone expects to be happy Thanksgiving Day. And they are.
- No outdoor lights to string up, presents to buy and wrap, cards to mail out.
- Giving thanks day is not controversial.

So what is Thanksgiving? November's simple holiday with a simple history, a simple but meaningful message and all the food you can eat. What more could you want? Be thankful!

Thanksgiving Easier Now

In times long past, Americans labored long and hard for the Thanksgiving harvest. They nursed the corn from the ground, baked their own bread, picked the berries, and hunted and shot that bird.

Little wonder there were prayers of Thanksgiving before the meal.

Today, however, one need only stop at the supermarket and select the choicest of the best food in the world.

A simple "thank you" and another harvest for Thanksgiving is complete.



By Way Of Hawaii



Glenys Fisher -By way of Hawaii, I came to North Carolina

On June 23, 1990, I left my home in Auckland, New Zealand, as part of a five man, one woman crew, to deliver a 55-foot racing yacht to Hawaii for the Kenwood Cup Yachting Series. The 6-week ocean crossing represented the first leg of my quest to recapture the romantic life I had experienced working on a yacht in the Greek Islands ten years earlier.

This is the story of how I came from the waters of the South Pacific to live in the mountains for North Carolina.

My name is Glenys Fisher. I entered Wilkes Community College this fall in order to take courses toward the Associate degree in Nursing. I am happy that my odyssey led me here. It is beautiful, the people are friendly and polite, and I can begin to bring my long-time ambition to be a professional nurse to fruition.

In New Zealand I lived beside the sea. Auckland, affectionately known to its inhabitants as "the city of sails," is the largest and most northern city in New Zealand. It is built on an isthmus, a bridge of land only one mile wide at its narrowest point. The city, sprawling below dormant volcanoes is edged by two harbours, the Waitemata (meaning "sparkling waters") and the Manukau. Sailing the Hauraki Gulf, sprinkled with sparsely inhabited islands, is the avid pursuit of sports-people and pleasure seekers alike.

New Zealand is a paradise for those who love the outdoors. In Moari (the language and name of the indigenous people who came from Hawaii some 1,000 years before New Zealand was colonized by the English) it is called Aotearoa, which means "land of the long white cloud." Aotearoa is devastatingly beautiful from the peaks of the Southern Alps to the deep fjords; over tumbling waterfalls inside primeval rain forests, out to white and black sand surf beaches that line the west and east coasts respectively.

New Zealand is beautiful, however the Caribbean called.

After enjoying the hospitality of my newfound American friends in Hawaii, San Francisco, Lake Tahoe and Newport, Rhode Island, I secured a job on a 65-foot Morgan sailboat which we chartered out of Connecticut, then delivered to Florida. I felt very international sailing through New York City and cruising the eastern coast of the USA. Upon reaching Fort Lauderdale I sought out the captain of an Ocean 80 yacht that is based in Antigua. Hired as the cook, I flew out with the skipper to Antigua the next day, stopping over for two days in Puerto Rico.

After working on the Ocean 80 for a month or two, I decided to stay in the US Virgin Islands and work on yachts chartering out of St. Thomas. In the Virgin Islands I met my husband with whom I now live in a log cabin nestled in the woods of Deep Gap.

My memories of the halcyon days in Greece were never relived. Having grown older, the ingredients in my recipe for happiness have changed. I have found fulfillment, not from sailing and traveling, but by enjoying stability in my home life and growth through studying at Wilkes Community College.

— Glenys Fisher

President's Message continued

legal, moral and inalienable rights, and that I was going to pay dearly for my blatant mistake — lawyers like to use the word blatant. He usually throws in that he will take this all the way to the Supreme Court and that he has won 5,000 cases just like this for a total of \$15 billion (of which, I assumed, his clients received a total of \$15.95).

As the number of lawyers has increased, correspondingly, the number of people who have been harassed, bothered, and bewildered by one or more lawyers has increased. Certainly this must be why people like a good lawyer joke.

Q. How can you tell if a car hit a possum or a lawyer? A. There are skid marks on the road where the possum is hit.

I suppose that I shouldn't make fun of lawyers. Some of our students here at WCC may be considering careers in law. I don't want to discourage them but wish them the best of luck. And who's to say, maybe the next round of jokes will be about college presidents.

Q. How many college presidents does it take to turn off a light? A. Who knows, there have been no documented cases showing that a college president is smart enough to find a light switch!

The American Way

Make America Work For You

The reality of "Making America Work For You," means meeting vision and opportunity with practical action — the spirit of participation and public service ... Australia, the lucky country "down under," where I come from and America, the lucky country "up over," are both lands of great opportunity ... I have learned from my time in your country that America works hard, America participates, and that America does not shirk its responsibility in a world that looks to it as a beacon of freedom and leadership ... It is up to the individual to make America — or for that matter any country — work for themselves and their neighbor by working for their country, and in a free, open democracy like America anyone has the opportunity to participate through public service.

— Ian Woodward
Exchange Student from Australia

Why Are We At WILKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE?



TECHNOLOGY



COMMUNITY



COMMITMENT



ACADEMICS

Good Reasons For You To Be There Too!

