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Museletter: September 1991

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William Taylor Muse Law Library

MUSELETTER

University of Richmond

T.C. Williams School of Law

Volume 9, No. 1

September, 1991

Welcome Back !

Well, here it is, another school year begun. The staff of the Law Library would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of the new students and welcome back all of our returning students. We would also like to take the opportunity to tell you about some of the big changes that have taken place and to give you a preview of what's to come in the library.

One major change is what has happened to our computers. As most of you have found out by now, we have temporarily relocated our computer lab to the third floor. This is a prelude to a new and very exciting improvement in computer capability for the Law School. Read the article on the AT&T grant in this issue for all of the details. And yes, once again, the Library staff has had fun moving the books around. See "What's Where" to learn current locations of old favorites.

The biggest change, of course, is the physical change in the building. There is now compact shelving in the basement. Stairwells have been taken out of service. There will be limited access to the journals on the second floor as the windows on the left side of the room are removed. Please bear with us during the construction. If you find you can't get to materials you need, go immediately to the circulation desk. Someone on the Library staff will try to retrieve the materials for you. Remember, this isn't going to last forever, it only seems like it. See WELCOME . . . p.2

New Library Hours

Sunday:	10:00 a.m.	to	Midnight
Monday thru Thursday:	7:30 a.m.	to	Midnight
Friday:	7:30 a.m.	to	9:00 p.m.
Saturday:	9:00 a.m.	to	9:00 p.m.

WELCOME from . . . p.1

To help you deal with all of the confusion around you, here is a very tentative time line for the Library part of the building project. The new addition should be finished with construction around the first of October. During the entire month of October, the addition will be painted,

carpeted and shelving will be installed. The Library will move into its new space around the first of November. After that, the renovation work on the existing Library space will begin. It will take approximately eight to twelve weeks for this renovation to be completed. If all goes well, work should be completed by the first part of March.

AT&T Computer Gift: A Hugh Leap

"Where's the computer lab?" This question has been on the lips of many returning law students. Those of you eager to gaze again at the green screen of a PC-6300 will find an abbreviated version of the lab on the third floor of the Library, just off the elevator. The PC's were relocated there during our summer asbestos/construction "exile" from the first floor. They won't be coming back. Instead, make way for a lab filled with brand new AT&T 6386SX PC's, just part of a generous grant from AT&T. The grant includes 75 PC's, a 486 Star Server, connector hubs, software, and peripherals. Its value is estimated to be over a quarter million dollars.

The bigger news is that the AT&T grant will enable UR to assemble one of the nation's first law school-wide microcomputer networks. In its full form (projected for 1995) this network will link every law student, in his or her carrel, to software, online databases, and to each other (through electronic mail). Though small, the initial installation is expected this year to include many of the full network's features: individual user i.d.'s, private file storage on the AT&T Star

Server's massive (one gigabyte) hard-drive, E-Mail, and classroom conferencing. Access for every computer to LEXIS, WESTLAW, and other services will become a possibility, once a telecommunications link is established.

As far as the lab itself is concerned, you will notice some tremendous improvements when the room is reopened. The new machines' 386 processors will make computing considerably faster. The VGA monitors will provide a more colorful computing experience. It appears that all PC's will have only 3.5 inch disk drives. If so, we will work out some means of disk copying for 5.25 inch users. Presently, we are investigating the purchase of a much-needed new laser printer that will be quicker and heavier-duty than the present model.

So when is it going to be ready? Regrettably, PC networks of this scope don't materialize overnight. The grant was approved quite recently and the equipment has only begun to arrive. We have many details of system architecture, wiring, and software selection to work out. Although the

See AT&T . . . p.3

What's Where?

by Joyce Manna Janto, Deputy Director of the Law Library

Over the past summer, the staff of the Law Library has engaged in one of our most favorite activities, moving books! The following is a quick summary of what is on each floor of the Library.

Basement: In the compact shelving, we have all of the state materials. Students should be glad to see we have retrieved the official state reporters from storage and placed them with the state codes, digest and encyclopedias. The state material is in alphabetical order except for Virginia. The Virginia material begins to the right of the pillar that separates the blocks of shelving. Virginia fans should be glad to welcome back to the Law Library the Virginia Supreme Court Records and Briefs, some of which have been in storage for almost 3 years. Very heavily used Virginia materials (i.e. the Code, Michie's, etc.) are on the last row of shelves in the Basement.

First floor: The Congressional Record, the Federal Register and the Code of Federal Regulations is on the first block of shelving to your right as you enter the Law Library. The federal codes, U.S. Law Week, the reporters and digests are still on the first

floor.

Second floor: The journals are still here, still in alphabetical order by title. Yes, we know they are all squished together. We had to do that to accommodate some summer-time relocations. We will be fixing them up this semester.

Third floor: Same old stuff, American legal treatises to the left as you get off the elevator; tax, British and Canadian to the right. The biggest change to the 3d floor is the temporary re-location of our computer lab to the hallway. See the article on big doings computer wise in the Library for a fuller explanation of the why's and what's of this change.

We warn you, though, that these summertime moves were only preliminary to the main event. The most current time line has the Law Library moving into our new space sometime at the end of October, beginning of November. We will then be making major shifts of the collection. The only good news is that after this, we promise not to move things for at least 2, maybe 3 years.

AT&T from . . . p.2

PC's themselves will run on the MS-DOS operating system, the server's system will be UNIX. As system administrator, Computer Services/Reference Librarian

Paul Birch will be going through some intensive UNIX training. All of this makes it hard to set a date, but we're shooting for October. Until then, please have patience with the temporary "lab."



Miscellaneous Stuff

by Paul Birch

Computer Services / Reference Librarian

Safe Computing -- PC Owners: Ignore This Column ONLY at the Peril of Your Data!!

Much as I would like to consider every installment of "Miscellaneous Stuff" important, this is one that is essential to those of you who own PC's with 5.25 inch drives and/or hard drives. At some point last year, our lab computers became infected with the "Stoned Virus." Assume that your hard drive and floppies have it. I will tell you what it is and how to kill it.

Like all viruses, "Stoned" is a piece of invisible programming intended, at best, as a practical joke, but with destructive side effects. This one is alleged by some sources to have originated in New Zealand, but has also been referred to (perhaps by New Zealanders?) as the "Swedish Stoned Virus." It seems to be today's #1 virus worldwide. Reportedly, it has infected the Defense Department PC's in the Gulf, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, and one of Richmond's larger law firms. The earmark of an infected disk is a message across your screen (at intervals pre-set by its inventor) reading "YOUR PC IS NOW STONED! Legalise marijuana."

Sound familiar? Probably, if you've had a 5.25 inch disk in one of our lab computers. The side-effect is an attack on your hard-drive that will make everything

on the disk inaccessible and can only be cured by a low-level reformat of the hard disk. (Bye-bye data!) This may explain two hard drive crashes in the lab last spring. As far as I can tell, it has no such effect on floppies. It is extremely virulent: something as innocuous as a DOS "DIR" command or a WordPerfect "F5" will cause its spread to and from hard drives and floppies. One bright spot: by all accounts and my own experience, "Stoned" does not infect 3.5 inch disks.

A number of companies manufacture software designed to scan disks for viruses and remove them. Best known are the products of McAfee Associates. The main elements of their approach are two programs. "VirusScan" checks disks for any of over 200 viruses, suspends computer operation, and warns the user to take action, but does not remove the virus. The user must run the other program, "CleanUp," to do the removal. Due to "Stoned," UR is a cite licensee for the McAfee products. "CleanUp" is the program we have set up to roadblock your access to WordPerfect in the lab. Since the McAfee software is also available as shareware, I can dispense it to you if you

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bring me a disk. Included is a licensing form which you can submit to the company with a fee, if you decide to use the software on a long-term basis. The fee also gives you access to subsequent versions, which come out as frequently as new viruses are

detected -- several times a year.

"Stoned" has proven to be a tough virus to shake, but with a little care you can prevent its recurrence after removing it from your hard drive and floppies.

Here is what to do:

1. Acquire the McAfee (or comparable) software and use it per instruction to the letter. To avoid putting a virus on the virus-protection program, write-protect the virus-removal disk using the sticky foil tab that comes with your floppy. If you install it on a hard drive, write-protect its subdirectory, using the CHMODE or ATTRIB command, depending on your version of DOS. (Stop in and ask me if you need help with this or any aspect of virus removal/prevention.)
2. Although "stoned" seems to be the only virus we are presently dealing with, others will likely show up sooner or later. Use ViruScan (or comparable software) to check for all viruses and you will be adequately prepared. If you have a fast (386) machine with enough free memory you can set it up memory-resident which is the best protection. Otherwise, get in the habit of running it every time you use a disk that has most recently been in another computer (including one in our lab!).
3. In the lab, please do not cheat on the WordPerfect roadblock! If your disk had a virus, reboot the PC with the reset button and start over or you will reinfect your disk and the hard drive as well. If the virus shows up a second time, report it at the Circulation desk immediately. It means the hard drive is infected -- because someone else cheated!

News

Flash --

As a result of popular demand, the computer "lab" sign-up/reservation book is returning. The book will be kept at the Circulation Desk.