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Res Gestae

STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LAW SCHOOL

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Since 1950

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Law School Shocked by Federal Fraud Scam

By RG Staff Reporters

The Law School administration was shocked to learn late last week that law enforcement authorities have apprehended a con artist who has been posing as a first-year law student.

Upon receiving notice from federal agents of the suspect's alleged fraudulent activities, an investigation immediately commenced in the Registrar's Office. It soon became clear that the "student" had been posing as a 1L and on for a period of at least seven years.

While the criminal investigation proceeds, the FBI has asked that the Law School refrain from releasing any of the various names used by the man in question. However, several students and faculty members were easily able to identify the man from a photo. Those interviewed uniformly referred to him as "that guy."

The vast majority of sources interviewed for this article wished to remain anonymous, due to the nature of the concurrent local and federal investigations. One student noted that she had "always thought of him as one of those weird, quiet gunners." She recalled seeing him in the front row of many of her 1L classes, and added that he "always framed his in-class comments as 'points of clarification.'"

Responses among faculty members were mixed. One professor who appears to have taught the suspect in three different sections of Property was only mildly surprised to learn that the suspect was both a fraud and had been a repeat customer. "After a few decades of this horse [expletive], the eager beavers in the front rows all start to form a blur. I can barely discern their verbal diarrhea as English anymore."

Another professor expressed more consternation when recalling the suspect's presence in his Contracts class. "He was one of those students who seems to do everything but tackle me at the end of class. I dreaded the close of each lecture as I knew that guy would inevitably corner me with a barrage of inane comments."

The suspect proffered a meritorious performance at least once. When asked about his performance on the most recent Constitutional Law exam he took (in a series of four), the professor noted that "at first I was quite taken aback to find that someone had simply quoted 'The Jabberwocky' in response to one of my issue spotters, but I realized upon further reflection that it was the most insightful and nuanced analysis of Justice Kennedy's jurisprudence ever penned

to paper. I have since begun exploring ways to use this method in a law review article."

Students and alums uniformly characterize the suspect as an omnipresent but unremarkable part of their 1L classes. "I always saw that guy at Rick's, but he never seemed to be with anyone in particular," noted one alumna. Another recent alum added with exasperation that the suspect "would get to class review sessions before anyone else and would pepper the professor with ridiculous questions." Others commented on the suspect's persistent presence in the library. "It seemed like that guy was always sitting in the same corner table of sub-3," recalled a current 3L, "I always wondered whether he left to eat or sleep."

The federal prosecutor assigned to the case confirmed that Michigan Law School is not the only target of the suspect's fraud scheme. He has also allegedly posed as a tax preparer for H&R Block and as a standardized patient for the University of Michigan Medical School. "He seems to have a taste for the boring and somewhat

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