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Students lure Citizen Ralph

By Tricia Hurst
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Consumers equal voters. At least that’s what Ralph Nader is counting on this Nov. 7. Nader, the legendary consumer advocate and presidential candidate for the Green Party, was at Cleveland State Oct. 26 to bring his message of reform to students. It’s no small feat to get a presidential candidate to speak on a campus. Those who saw Nader have two Cleveland-Marshall students to thank for bringing him here: Asian-Pacific Islanders Law Student Association president Ann Vaughn, a 3L, and Student Public Interest Law Organization president Jennifer Lukas Jackson, also a 2L. Vaughn began working to bring Nader to CSU in July when she discovered he had an afternoon gap in his schedule after a speech as part of the Town Hall series in Cleveland. After getting the required permission to bring him here, she began running into trouble with Nader’s national organization. Dean Steven Steinglass suggested she contact SPLO for help. It turned out that Lukas Jackson is a friend of the national director for Nader’s campaign. Even though Lukas Jackson was NADER, page 4

Local NAACP chief, Jewish leader join forces

Blacks, Jews must work together to combat future racism, say Forbes and Melamed in talk at C-M

By Michelle Tibbetts
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Blacks and Jews — two historically oppressed and frictionous groups — should unite for the same cause, according to two local leaders who met in a forum here on Oct. 24. Former Cleveland councilman and local NAACP president George Forbes joined Alan Melamed, a local business leader and Jewish advocate, to discuss the relationship between blacks and Jews as part of a joint presentation of Cleveland State’s Black Studies Program and the Cleveland Hillel Foundation. Both Forbes and Melamed began their speeches by recounting two examples of overt racism from their childhoods.

Melamed explained that as a boy he recited the rhyme, “Eenie meenie minie moe, catch a nigger by the toe” — not knowing what “nigger” meant. And Forbes recalled a nonsensical rhyme that ended with, “If your daddy chews tobacco, he’s dirty.” Forbes said anti-Semitic blacks cannot resolve being anti-Jewish today.

“If you are anti-Jewish, how do you defend yourself against anti-black sentiment?” he asked. “Those who have suffered from discrimination or had to fight their way to this point can’t turn [their] backs on where [they] have been.”

The common experience of living through prejudice can bring Jews and blacks together, according to Melamed. The two groups share the history of slavery, the effort to achieve freedom and the need to continue their struggle.

“There is a natural affinity between blacks and Jews,” Melamed said. “If anybody should be joined together, they should.”

Forbes added, “If we are going to rise, we’ve all got to rise together.”

Forbes was asked what role C-M students can play in politics as he left the moot court room following the hour-long discussion.

“Law students and young attorneys can have the most profound impact on the political process. In many ways, they are the process,” he responded.
Be prepared to chase the buck

For many law clerks, making ends meet means asking for more pay

By Dave Stainer

Student law clerks face tough financial decisions when they apply for clerking positions. Often, they choose to respond right away to avoid losing the opening.

What is a fair rate of pay for a student law clerk? Just try to get to the Office of Career Planning Director Jayne Graven, who makes payments out of North-East Ohio pay anywhere from $6 to $30 an hour, averaging roughly $15 an hour. She noted that smaller firms have recently experienced difficulty finding law clerks at an hourly rate of $8, given that students now find they can earn the same wage at McDonald's.

Graven said law firms generally bill clients for the work of a law clerk at five times the rate of the work the clerk earns. But she was quick to point out that, much like lawyers, hourly rates, many hours of a law clerk's time cannot be billed to the client.

"The billing is the only income to cover all office expenses, library updates and salaries," she explained. "While the rates may seem high, they are usually designed to meet expenses."

But one anonymous 2L said her firm tends to bill clients for much of her working hours. She said her firm charges clients approximately seven times her hourly rate, which she admitted is "on the low end of the scale."

Seven tips for being mistaken as a normal person

By Melissa Stickney

The law school walls are regularly papered with announcements. We keep track of most of these events by stuffing our mailbox and filling our remaining time with small talk or random activities. Your professors discuss these events in their weekly columns. You have a turn to read about your school in the weekly column of your choice. We all love to read about the weekly column of our favorite school, whether it's The Law School or The Law School.

The law school is doing a great job in this regard. When the editors gave me a column to touch on this issue, I found it an impressive array of opinions. The law school is doing a great job in this regard.

I look forward to reading about the law school in the future. Many of these events provide an opportunity to hear from our professors and students. You can hear from them in forums, for instance — give us no reason.

Law Notes is a column of the law school. It is a newsletter that goes out to students, faculty, and staff. It is the only newsletter that goes out to students, faculty, and staff. You can read the newsletter in this column.

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In an effort to improve fairness and replace what was a more arbitrary funding process, the Student Bar Association has revamped the way it distributes money to student organizations. Under previous years’ funding procedures, organizations were required to submit projected expenses for the full year, which SBA would consider prior to allocating the funds. Thus, each year, quality organizations have been given a signature “nowadays.”

To receive money for second semester, organizations must again submit grant proposal forms by Dec. 1 and attend a funding meeting on Dec. 3. 2Ls represent C-M in international competition — Cleveland-Marshall 2Ls Mai Rieger and Pete Holdsworth argued this year at the annual International Environmental Moot Court Competition at Stetson University in St. Petersburg, Fla. They battled 20 teams from the United States and overseas.

Notes in Brief

Brian Hodous
Miami University, Hodous was a senator and vice president in the school government. Hodous currently campaign for the legislature in his neighborhood of Old Brooklyn. Last year, he campaigned for the Ohio House of Representatives in the 19th District. His bid ended in March, when he lost the Democratic primary to Mary Rose Oakar.

Brian Hodous
The 26-year-old John Carroll University graduate decided to enter the race in December 1999. Short, a Republican, faces Democratic incumbent James Rokakis. If elected, Short’s term will begin Sept. 1, 2001.

Brian Hodous
While balancing politics and law school, Hodous found classes to be much easier but admitted that politics was more important to him. “There was not as much pressure in law school. I kept up with the reading, did my briefs and put a lot of time into my exams, but law is so structured,” said Hodous. “The structure is what makes law school easier. Politics is much more self-discipline.”

Brian Hodous
While attending Cleveland-Marshall influenced Short’s desire to enter politics. “Law school has given me a thorough understanding of the laws and legislature,” he said.

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Baca returns for first-ever Hate Crimes Symposium

By Ed Pekarek

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Deans discuss 1L grading, technology at forum

By Dave Steiner

SPLIO's forum showcases local, national activists for equal rights

NADER: Dark horse brought to campus by C-M students

Continued from page 1 —

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When asked how these technology improvements will affect the student learning environment, Stinger said that the new technology would probably continue to rise. He noted that funding for state schools has become increasingly difficult to obtain. Stinger said a variety of other questions and concerns, including security issues about faulty outdoor campus lights near the main entrance and the safety of students crossing East 18th Street without a crosswalk to the business school. He said he would look into the report of the non-functioning lights. As for the need of a crosswalk to the business school, Stinger noted that he has voiced his concern with the school's administration several times, but the city of Cleveland ultimately has the final say.

About 30 students and faculty members attended the second of two forums offered during the week of Oct. 9 in the moot court room.

Top: Baca speaks at the University Center last Thursday. Continued from page 1 —

Baca returns for first-ever Hate Crimes Symposium

Deans discuss 1L grading, technology at forum

Above: 2L Peter Trahan, right, listens to one of two white supremacists discuss their nationwide legal and media conspiracy during a break from the Oct. 20 Hate Crimes Symposium. Right: Student Public Interest Law Office Director Rachel Stewart.

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West ad
Choosing suburban over suits

By Karin Mika

Not the answer.

Legal Writing

Choosing suburban over suits

I Y OU READ THE BRIEF BID BE- low, you probably don’t ask yourself, “What can I learn from a suburban mom with four little girls?” After graduation from Cleveland Marshall College of Law, I continued to trade in any thoughts of a sleek Lexan for shiny notepads, Q-Tips, yards of heads and pieces of french fries through- out. I have become the vir- tual reality of “There was an old woman who lived in a shoe.”

Instead of work- ing in a high-profile legal office, I find myself working on a front porch, with no more than a notebook and other hedge-trimming tools. I’m not a lawyer. My type that would rather spend free time help- ing the less fortunate. There’s a reason why I chose a career path a bit different than most of you, but to me it’s quite gratifying. Volunteer and non-profit work has made a positive impact on my life, and I’d suggest you find something you enjoy and volunteer in your area of interest. You may even be more fulfilled by volunteering than by the work you’ve actually accomplished.

So this is your last school, ex- tracurricular activities and family responsibil- ities, you’ll have to find new activi- ties which can fill your time. Volunteer to have your time more than you will be satisfied with even greater responsibilities. Rounding, volunteering is a great way to gain legal experience, develop professional con- nections, meet new friends and feel good about the work you are doing.

As a law student on the road to obtaining one of the more sought after professional de- grees, you are blessed. I used to think this a corny statement until I got a bit older. A dear friend of mine once said, “It’s what makes life worth living.”

You are in the process of obtaining one of the more highly acclaimed degrees and professional licenses. You have been given the intellect, skills and drive to be admitted to law school and eventually practice law. While only a select few students will have the opportunity to start at a six-figure salary, most of you will live quite comfortably. Now and for the next several years, I hope you will remember that an outline (that has every conceivable thought rather than this creation of your own) has the value of a legal writing at C-M.

By Maureen Connors

This past term, the Ohio Su- preme Court has taken on sev- eral tax funding and tort reform cases. The Supre- me Court in 1988, Resnick received her J.D. from the Uni- versity of Oregon. While in Oregon she was admit- ted to the Ohio bar in 1965. Af- ter 10 years in Oregon, Resnick returned to the 6th District Court where she served until her election to the 6th District Ohio Court of Appeals in 1982. Resnick has served as captain and is now associate justice on the Ohio Court of Appeals. She has been a panel member of the Ohio Judicial Council and is also a member of the Ohio State Bar Association.

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As a mother of four young chil- dren, I thoroughly enjoy getting out with her four girls, one of whom is adopted from China.

By Byrnie Connors

This year, a television series about a mom with four little girls is on the air. I’m not sure who approved it. The series is called “The Nanny” and stars Fran Drescher. She plays a woman who is hired to look after a family of four. The show has been a hit for CBS and has been renewed for a second season.

Personalities begin to emerge in Ohio court race

By Maureen DeVito

You are not lucky, my private says, but blessed. Use your talents, time and energy to help others.

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PMBR ad
Fear of a black planet

In the wake of O.J. and Amadou, future lawyers must recognize the problem before solving it

By Michele McKee

"Many Americans will share their homes with a creature not of this species yet refuse to inhabit the same space as a human being of another skin color." — Anonymous

I agree with Bill Clinton. Race is the country’s most pressing problem. It’s amazing to me how many ways race or racism affects us. I see it everywhere.

What about you, where do you see it?

I’d like to give a few examples in which I see racism. I remember when in the 1980s President Reagan initiated the "War on Drugs." Some people saw his attempt to wage a war on drugs as a government official’s shot at ending one of the country’s social evils.

I see racism. Think about it. At the time, drugs had been in the black community for decades. It was when white kids in Shaker Heights started using them that Reagan declared a "War on Drugs." I mean, after all, this is the same person who reputedly financed the Iran Contra scandal by authorizing or allowing the sale of cocaine to black people in South Central Los Angeles.

I also remember when O.J. Simpson was on trial. Many white people were sure he was guilty, and many black people were sure he was innocent. I must have encountered 50 different white people who felt it necessary to tell me that they knew O.J. was guilty. I wonder why those people felt compelled to tell me that — did they think that when O.J. allegedly killed those people, black people were acting in concert?

Black people had been telling the rest of America that we needed to fix the justice system for decades. They wouldn’t listen. I find it interesting that after a black man is killed, it’s the black man’s fault. It’s that much of white America believed him, then white people came to the conclusion that we needed to fix the justice system.

Lastly, what about Amadou Diallo? What subliminal message is sent when a black man reaches for his wallet in the presence of undercover law enforcement officers and is repeatedly shot and killed while unarmed? Does this tell future police officers that they may kill young black males with impunity? What does this tell young black males about the sanctity of black life? You figure it out.

The student body of Cleveland-Marshall will contribute to the future administration of justice in this country in their roles as attorneys and judges. Future perceptions of the justice system will be based on our actions. We must proceed with caution. We have been entrusted with a great responsibility. The stability of our society in part depends upon us.

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Lastly, what about Amadou Diallo? What subliminal message is sent when a black man reaches for his wallet in the presence of undercover law enforcement officers and is repeatedly shot and killed while unarmed? Does this tell future police officers that they may kill young black males with impunity? What does this tell young black males about the sanctity of black life? You figure it out.

The student body of Cleveland-Marshall will contribute to the future administration of justice in this country in their roles as attorneys and judges. Future perceptions of the justice system will be based on our actions. We must proceed with caution. We have been entrusted with a great responsibility. The stability of our society in part depends upon us.

I also remember when O.J. Simpson was on trial. Many white people were sure he was guilty, and many black people were sure he was innocent. I must have encountered 50 different white people who felt it necessary to tell me that they knew O.J. was guilty. I wonder why those people felt compelled to tell me that — did they think that when O.J. allegedly killed those people, black people were acting in concert?

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Appreciate your vote while you have it

Mail Pal

We don’t have a perfect voting system, but we should be grateful no less.

SPLIO pays its respects

A formal thank you to those at Cleveland-Marshall and Cleveland State who helped make the Hate Crimes Symposium a success. The symposium would not have been possible without the guidance of the C-M administration, including deans Steven Stenglass, Jack Gattenburg and Frederic White. The tireless support of Louise Mooney, Sandra Natana, Louise Dempsey and CSU’s Sandra Emerick was invaluable. Thanks especially to the following organizations and their leaders: the Asian-Pacific Islander Law Student Association, Coalition for Equal Rights, Criminal Law Society, CSU Project Lambda and Student Public Interest Law Organization, whose enthusiasm and financial support made the event uniquely student driven. The participation and financial support of the Student Bar Association was critical.

Response to Dean White

I would just like to thank Associate Dean Frederic White for his respective rectify each and every time he used it in his recent letter to the editor (October 2000).

Jennifer Lukas Jackson

Lukas Jackson is president of SPLIO

Agree?

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Silence, conservatives: All Beltway bigwigs look alike

Warning to all students who frequented the Law Center: The Republican-led Congress has determined that Washington knows how best to fight drunk driving.

Petra Paul

Paul is a part-time 3L.

Why do Republicans always shout for smaller government if their Congress spent more than any other in U.S. history?

The rule the latter senator supports puts the legislative, Dewine is not the real federal government or he was never as federal as he claims to be. Voters will remember.

So perhaps Clinton lied about his .08 and .10 drinkers drive home;

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But don’t they know how to fight drunk driving best? Don’t they know what works in rural Ohio might not work in Chicago?

When we have thwarted the attempted murder of children in third-world sweatshops, we are no more ethnic cleansings taking place than we are. Genocide for people who don’t believe in God. We need to get over this.

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My First-year Peer Mentor
Cleveland-Marshall
College of Law

Dear 1L,

At this time of the year, you are probably wondering if you are doing OK academically. If you believe any of these statements to be true, you may need some advice:

1. You look at the clock and find yourself looking to leave before your professor.
2. You read constitutional law opinions and wistfully remember the days when your cases were undergarments.
3. So long, Socratic method!
4. A higher percentage of the class is now doing well in the morning.
5. You're desperately hoping the rumor that all professors are cases will prove true.
6. You finally learned a majority of your classmates' first names.
7. You've broken the habit of using twice as much McDonald's as passing the bar means going home early.
8. You can begin to imagine life in the classroom without your cases briefed.
9. You're thinking of raising funds to erect a Baer Billion dollar statue of Emanuel.
10. Your priorities shift to the point where losing your cases is an undergarment.
11. You find yourself using the word ‘reasonable’ to describe everything.
12. You can’t begin to imagine life in the classroom without your cases briefed.
13. Your friend begins to tell you a story about something that happened to him and you find yourself issue-spotting.
14. Of all the things you've lost, it's sleep you miss the most.

Let me know if I can help.

Sincerely,

[Name]

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Note: “Focus On,” which profiles some of Cleveland-Marshall’s more interesting people, begins this month. It will be a regular feature of the Gavel. As an undergraduate geology student at Cleveland State, 1L Mark Gould took two four-month research trips to Belize. He participated in the Maya Mountains Archaeological Project, a project started at CMU and funded by National Geographic. He is five students, as well as 20 Mayan guides and scholars from around the world studied the collapse of the Mayan civilization in Belize by examining its archaeological sites.

Why did you decide to go to law school? I saw that as a geologist, I wasn’t going to be able to prevent contamination and pollution from happening. Law would be a way to prevent it as a consultant, to help prevent companies from polluting and remaining in compliance with laws and statutes.

How did the trips to Belize change you? Living in the rainforest, I was hiking everyday with our guides, living without a bathroom, on rice and beans, no phone, no TV, no distractions. I struggled with that at first. But the Mayan Indians, who didn’t have all that, were the happiest people. The trip forced me to reevaluate my values and what they are based on. And it got me over a fear of snakes and bugs.

How will your experience with the MMAP help you in law school and later as an attorney? It was a two-night hike into the bush with 30-pound back packs. I had to overcome mental and physical challenges similar to law school. I’ve done that and survived; that gives me the confidence that I can do this.

Where do you see yourself five years from now? Practicing environmental law for a small to midsize firm, and traveling extensively.

Do you view law school differently than before you started? People are more friendly and less competitive than I had imagined. I wasn’t going to be able to prevent contamination and pollution from happening. Law would be a way to prevent it as a consultant, to help prevent companies from polluting and remaining in compliance with laws and statutes.

By Lea Schemrich

A First-year Primer

Cleveland-Marshall
College of Law

October 4, 2000

My First-year Peer Mentor

Cleveland-Marshall
College of Law

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