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Cleveland-Marshall College of Law

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White eyeing two deanships, stepping down as dean in June

By Ann Vaughn
STAFF WRITER

Associate Dean Frederic White revealed recently that he is awaiting word from Tulane University and the University of Dayton on whether he will be selected as the dean of their law schools. He has applied for both positions.

Regardless of the outcome, White will take a leave of absence from Cleveland-Marshall at the end of this semester. He said he accepted an offer from former C-M Dean Steve Smith to serve as visiting professor at Smith’s new law school, California Western School of Law, for spring 2001.

White said he will return for graduation ceremonies here in May 2001, but will resign his post as associate dean on June 30. If he is not selected as dean at either Tulane or Dayton, White will resume his teaching duties as professor of law at C-M.

White is one of three finalists for the deanship at Dayton’s law school.

2L Pluth hospitalized after suffering stroke

By Dave Steiner
STAFF WRITER

2L Teresa Pluth was hospitalized from Cleveland-Marshall at the location at Cleveland State’s University Center, after suffering a stroke Nov. 16. Those close to Pluth revealed recently that she is awaiting word from Tulane University and the University of Dayton on whether she will be selected as the dean of their law schools. She has applied for both positions.

Regardless of the outcome, Pluth will take a leave of absence from Cleveland-Marshall at the end of this semester. She said she accepted an offer from former C-M Dean Steve Smith to serve as visiting professor at Smith’s new law school, California Western School of Law, for spring 2001.

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Russert returns from Beltway

By Steven H. Steinglass

Dean's Column

January 2001

By By Kevin Butler

Legal training at Cleveland-Marshall underpinned the career of the law school’s most recognizable graduate, an admission that is shared with his audience here at a Nov. 14 breakfast. Russert, the 1976 Cleveland-Marshall alumnus who captivated a nation when he co-anchored Election Day coverage with Tom Brokaw a week earlier, shared details during the speech about the election, moderated by Jeff M. Metz of the Press, and serving as chief of the network’s Washington bureau.

His work on Election Night made him the talk of the nation, as he shunted the high-priced digital graphics used by NBC to examine the country’s electoral ledger — in favor of using a dry-erase board and marker. “I was amazed at the way it connected with people all across the country,” he noted. Take small pride that my little tote board was more accurate than that computer.”

That phenomenon alone may account for the fact that both the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., and the Newseum in Atlanta, Va., have asked Russert for his board, a request he refused because the election is fully settled. “I’m still using it,” he said.

Washington bigwig recalls Election Day, NBC moments

By Kevin Butler

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Study abroad programs let law students bob and see the world

By Christopher Pierre

After seeing nothing but the walls of the law library for my first year, I felt an overwhelming need to get out and see the world. But I still wanted to use my summer responsibly. Studying law abroad for the summer was the perfect solution.

After much deliberation, I decided to join the “Capitals of Europe” study abroad program sponsored by the Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania State University. I was sold on the program because it allowed students the opportunity to travel and experience the culture of various capitals of Europe like the Hague, Brussels, Strasbourg, Vienna and Oxford — all while being taught by various judges, lawyers and scholars from around the world. We studied the framework and proceedings of the European Union and had the opportunity to interact with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

My friend, 3L Jess Gamiere, accompanied me on the trip and was present when Scalia taught our seven-day separation of powers class in Vienna. “Undoubtedly, the most unique aspect of the course was the fact that the author of many of the opinions we studied was standing at the head of the class explaining what he meant,” Gamiere recalled.

Jess said interacting with the associate justice was the most significant moment of his first year. “Justice Scalia was standing right in front of us telling us why the court came to the conclusions it did, or why he disagreed with the ‘incorrect’ opinion of the majority. It was absolutely surreal.” Because our experience studying abroad was profitable and a lot of fun, here are a few insights into considering a summer program like ours.

Why spend the summer studying law abroad?

• Experience the culture and history of any place in the world you’ve ever wanted to visit.
• Learn from and interact with Supreme Court justices and lawyers and scholars from around the globe.
• Build friendships with students from across the country.
• Avoid the pressure of finding summer employment.
• Give yourself a great conversation piece for job interviews.

Where do I find information on study abroad programs?

The career planning office offers pamphlets on various programs, but more extensive listings can be found online on such sites as www.studyabroad.com. The bulletin board just outside L.B. 12 displays information about many programs.

How do I choose a program?

It is very important to consider the classes and the number of credit hours offered, the host country, the time frame and the professors. Many programs feature special guest lecturers.

—With Jess Gamiere reporting

BUDGET: C-M cuts back support staff, periodicals

Continued from page 1 —

trying to monitor more closely the use of student assistants — whether it be research assistants or students employed in the library, he said. “We also want to make sure that the travel dollars are spent wisely, we are being much more careful.”

There are no firm projections yet as to the extent of the cuts that might take place next year, although cuts could range widely. “An 8 percent cut would be disastrous,” said Steinglass. “Cuts at the lower end would not be filling positions — faculty or support positions. When you get to the 8 percent level it is not possible to make cuts at that level without eliminating people — that means faculty positions.”

CSU President Claire Van Ummersen said while the administration determines the cuts, each academic unit will determine its own priorities with help from in- terim dean James McLaughlin. McLaughlin has “unfrozen” the assistant director of academic technol- ogy position at C-M. The frozen position was thawed only after a direct appeal by C-M leaders. Steinglass said no course cuts have been discussed.

The Ohio Inspector General examined last year’s budget and found no criminal wrongdoing. However, CSU’s independent au- ditor, Price Waterhouse Cooper, has yet to certify the annual state- ment. Van Ummersen attributed the auditor’s refusal of certification to the depleted reserve fund, which was approximately $18 million two years ago. “The current re- serve is approximately $8.8 million, but will be around $6.6 at the end of fiscal year 2001,” she said. “Our auditors require $7 to $10 million in reserve as prudent.”

The law library budget has taken much of the brunt, including the freezing of the open acquisi- tion librarian position. Steinglass said the library has been under the same budget for at least five years. The library staff also lost a few positions to the freeze.

“The library staff unionized in direct response to CSU placing budget constraints squarely on the staff’s back,” said librarian Laura Ray, past president of CSU’s professional staff organization. “Claire Van Ummersen is notorious for cutting library budgets. She only approved the new law library after the ABA threatened to revoke C-M’s accreditation and [former M dean] Steve Smith had re- quested a show cause hearing.”

Faculty e-mails and a memo obtained by the Gavel confirm the number of acquisition cuts.

An October memo from law library Director Michael Singer called for nearly $70,000 in se- rial cancellations. Volumes to be cut in all areas such as torts as well as specialties.

—Reporter: Frank Scialdone

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The GPAVL's Annual Guide to Student Organizations

American Bar Association
The ABA is a voluntary membership association of attorneys and one of the most active lobbying groups in the country. Cleveland-Marshall students are eligible for membership in the ABA's Law Student Division (ALPSA). ALPSA offers many benefits, such as law student magazine, low-cost health insurance, free or inexpensive publications that will help you in law school and afterward. Contact the Student Bar Association for information.

Contact: Genevieve Brown, genevieve.brown@law.csuohio.edu

Asian-Pacific Islanders Law Students Association
As a group, Asian and Pacific Islanders represent the growing segment of the U.S. population. This group has only recently entered into the legal community and offers many significant numbers. The Asian-Pacific Islander Law Students Association was formed to address the concerns of Asian students as well as to provide support to its members. APILSA welcomes and encourages all students, not only those of Asian descent, to participate in activities related to educating individuals about the many issues affecting Asian Americans.

Contact: Ann Vaugn, ann.vaugn@law.csuohio.edu, (216) 687-1106 ext. 2509

Black Law Students Association
The Black Law Students Association is a national organization with chapters around the country. The C-M chapter of BLSA sponsors and cosponsors various educational and social events throughout the year. Its biggest event is the BLSA Scholarship Banquet, which is held each year in April. Although BLSA’s primary purpose is to provide assistance in preparation and retention of African-American law students, BLSA membership is open to all students.

Contact: Marquita Johnson

Christian Legal Society
The Christian Legal Society is a group for students interested in discussing the interaction of law with Christianity and integrating it into their own philosophy. Students are encouraged to attend meetings and will find the Christian Legal Society relates to Christian beliefs.

Contact: Christopher Pierre

Cleveland State Law Review
Law reviews are the scholarly journals of the legal profession. At least four times each year, the Cleveland State Law Review publishes books of articles, commentaries, and significant studies. Students are invited to join the law review as associate editors at the end of their first year of law studies by ranking in the top 10 percent of their class. Associate editors are chosen in a writing competition for their following year. During the first year of law studies, associate members assist the editorial board in publishing the law review and produce a comprehensive review note on apop of their choice.

Contact: Ann Vaugn, ann.vaugn@law.csuohio.edu, (216) 687-9378

COERSAGE
COERSAGE (formerly the Columbus chapter) changed its name last year to be more inclusive of all students, both gay and straight, who support equal rights for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) community. The group believes that our current members are gay or lesbian. It is our goal to increase awareness of GLBT civil rights issues in both written and outside the GLBT community. Members are also host an event like voter registration, a bake sale or a seminar or social, we display our support for the GLBT community in the form of new, state and city statutes. We were represented at Cleveland’s pride parade and we sponsored speakers who promote GLBT issues. It is also our goal to provide networking opportunities within the GLBT legal community. We are currently looking into different ways GLBT to become more affiliated with Ohio Human Rights Bar Association and other GLBT communities.

Contact: Michelle McKay, mmceolec@woolston.com

Criminal Law Society
The Criminal Law Society consists of students and recent graduates interested in both prosecutorial and defense aspects of the criminal justice system. The C-M chapter of CLS is not limited to those with a defense-oriented point of view; rather, the group is designed to accommodate all students with an interest in criminal law. CLS was formerly the Criminal Law Defense Lawyers.

Contact: Matt Rieger, criminallaw@woolston.com

Delta Theta Phi
As an international professional law fraternity, Delta Theta Phi provides students the opportunity to network with alumni through social functions, participate in charitable events and relationships with fellow law students.

Contact: Ross A. Miller, ross.amiller@law.csuohio.edu, (216) 523-7247

Environmental Law Association
The goal of the Environmental Law Association is to promote awareness within the legal community of threats to the quality of life for the people of Northeast Ohio and the world. We will strive to achieve that goal through social functions, fund raising activities, and other activities.

Contact: Dan Morley, dmorley@reminger.com

Federalist Society
The Federalist Society is a conservative and libertarian group founded on the following principles: that the state exists to preserve freedom, that the separation of powers is the most important principle central to our Constitution, and that it is the province and duty of the judiciary to say what the law is, not what it should be. The Federalist Society seeks to promote these ideas by inviting speakers from across the country to come to C-M. Students who find themselves at philosophical odds with the faculty and administration will find the Federalist Society to be beneficial. In addition, for only $5 students will receive a quarterly newsletter and a subscription to the Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy, which is one of the three most widely circulated law reviews in the country.

Contact: Maureen Connors, maureen.connors@reminger.com, (216) 447-8823

Hispanic Law Students Association
The Hispanic Law Students Association promotes an awareness of the concerns and opinions of the Hispanics in educational communities. One of the group's projects involves a mentoring program for young Hispanic and Latino people.

Contact: Zubia Zahula

International Law Students Association
The International Law Students Association is the American Bar Association’s bar association. The chapter at Cleveland-Marshall is one of the three bar associations which represent attorneys who have attended law school outside the United States. The chapter at Cleveland-Marshall works to elevate and maintain the standard of integrity and honor that promotes legal, cultural and social activities.

Contact: Angela Rucio, angela.rucio@law.csuohio.edu

Liberarians
The purpose of the Librarians association is to learn and educate in areas of individual liberty and individual responsibility, as envisioned by Ben Franklin, Daniel Webster, Oliver Wendell Holmes, other founding fathers, the Federalist Papers and the U.S. Constitution.

Contact: Kris Leevey, kleevey@grovities.com, (440) 858-5247

Moot Court
The Moot Court Board of Governors is a program designed to develop and refine brief writing and oral advocacy skills. Students participate in intercollegiate competitions, preparing oral arguments, drafting quality of written briefs and oral arguments.

Contact: Daniel Markey, daniel.markey@reminger.com

The GAVEL'S Annual Guide to Student Organizations
Stop for a moment while you’re here in law school. Look around. Scores of students are packing their résumés by selling bakery or editing scripts or scheduling speakers. When you’re ready to join them, bookworm, use your handy guide below.

Any student may become a member on the moot court board by completing advanced brief writing and successfully competing in the top 10 divisional intramural competition. To compete in the competition, second-year students must enroll in the moot court board in the fall semester. Between 12 and 18 individuals are invited to join the board. The balance of board members (0-6) are selected through a first-year intramural competition which is coordinated with the law writing program. Qualified first-year students compete, and as third- or fourth-year students are elected to participate in the fall.
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Two proven stress-busters for final exams

By Karin Miks

Getting ready to deal with the stress of preparation for midterm and final exams? A. Stress is one of a law student’s worst enemies because it actually decreases your ability to learn. If you can see that it has the potential to bring down the quality of your work, and then actually lower your ability to learn, you can begin to get the very point of C - M. B. Legal Writing. That isn’t such a good idea, but it pretty much goes either in preparing for an exam or taking an exam. The object is not to fall prey to stress in the first place, which is tough advice to give when you are dealing with the day-to-day stress of law school over their past academic level of concern about grades.

There are several techniques to deal with stress when it occurs. The first is somewhat self - explanatory, and that is to recognize the insufficiency of your existence. In hundreds of years, exactly who will care whether you missed a case citation on your research exercise or got a C for some wren in criminal law? How much will anyone care in 10 years? How much will you care about this moment in 10 years, or even a week from now? While I do not advocate asking yourself, “So what,” I do advocate trying to live with a perspective that this very moment might not be that significant and then move on.

A second way to deal with stress is by slowing down time. Stop viewing life in terms of what happens down the road, but what can be done at the end of the day, hour or minute. The more stress - producing you can see that this single task is leading to the end of the day, the better.

As a personal example, last summer my father was hospitalized at the Cleveland Clinic. I tried to go through the process of admission, dealing with the doctors and keeping him happy. While he was in a more passive role with respect to his mother’s operation, coming to the law school, grading, meeting students, teaching class, doing my thing at the clinic, picking up the kids, filling in my mother, head - heading home, and planning to do the same thing the next day. And the cats managed to get in and happen.

Rather than getting myself wrapped up in what had to be done by the end of the day, I focused only on that task. When the task itself was made easier by my father’s hospitalization at the Cleveland Clinic, I tried to go through the process of admission, dealing with the doctors and keeping him happy. While he was in a more passive role with respect to his mother’s operation, coming to the law school, grading, meeting students, teaching class, doing my thing at the clinic, picking up the kids, filling in my mother, head - heading home, and planning to do the same thing the next day. And the cats managed to get in and happen.

I happened to mention that doing the tasks, I started focusing on components of the process of admission, with a focus on the “what” of the task itself. I started focusing on the things that needed to be done in the long run, which was so disheartening that you will probably give up before trying. If you focus only on the moment, in the end you’ll be surprised at what actually gets accomplished.

Miks is the assistant director of legal writing at C - M.

Alumni Advice

Mika is the assistant director of legal writing at C - M.

In USER'S RAPIDLY CHANGING OCMOLY people seem to change careers more often than they change long - distance carriers. Labor statistics show that the practice of a new and better tomorrow, effect - ict, in this case, is sometimes a diffi - cult proposition. But the old adage that “persistence pays off” is ad - vised that it is just as sound today for the career change as it was in the era when people used to get a gold watch for working their whole life for one em - ployer.

The practice of law has attracted a lot of recent career changers because of its flexibility, and because of the respect it enjoys among most members of the general public. I had no prior exposure to the legal system and I recall the feelings of fear and frustration in 1982 when I was attempting to bridge the gap between my career as a professional foot - ball player and my future career as a law student. I had been accepted to C - M for the 1982 fall semester, and I would actually become a law student that year unless I was either released by the Browns or suffered a career ending injury. Fortunately, I wasn’t released. I played in all 10 games and scored 6 touchdowns. The players’ demands for “55 percent of the pie,” and the players’ contract called for $1.5 million. The relativly reasonable salary.

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Problems like those in Florida wouldn’t happen if there were national standards for the ballot

By Maureen Connors

How the media mucked up the election

By Paul Petrus

By Dan Pope

G E O R G E W. B U S H
won the Florida election on Nov. 7. He won the automatic recount. His opponent, Al Gore, became the governor of a state he was not elected to. But his victory in Florida was a pyrrhic one.

Ross Matlack

The First Amendment: 45 words that have been defined by lawyers. They are there to protect our freedom. They are there to protect our rights. They are there to protect our democracy.

Maureen Connors

Adjunct profs

The Gavel

January 2000

Adjuncts

Adjuncts prove

demonstrate the importance of being earnest

By Daniel Pope

The Gavel

December 2000

Adjuncts lack nothing like this guy.

By Dan Pope

The Gavel

May 2000

Adjuncts look nothing like this guy.

By Dan Pope

The Gavel

December 2000

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Adjunct profs demonstrate the importance of being earnest

By Daniel Pope

THE GAVEL

Start Writer

You see them in the halls with clipboards in hand. They have worked a full day; yet they are standing on the register. They go out to buy their books, review their notes and collect their thoughts. When class begins, they look in at 20 or more students of various ages. Each must be an expert looking back at them. I don’t envy the adjunct professors but I appreciate them.

They reason like adjuncts is that they have many of the same problems students do. They have to pay for parking and search for a spot in the parking garage at 6 p.m. They get a paycheck instead of an office. Most of the information they receive about the law school and the university is secondhand or by memo. They have deadlines and commitments outside of school, which rule their mood in class. By the end of the semester they are as happy as I am to be finished with the class.

I value the diversity of experience adjuncts bring to class. They were in court today. They took a deposition yesterday. They wrote a motion after class the day before yesterday. They are current. They know what fliers in the courtroom and what will get you in trouble with a personality or two.

Most adjuncts were evening students, which makes understanding their personal experience even more challenging. An adjunct can remember how to study or how to be a writer, but he or she can’t remember the legal issues.

But apart from the gut-wrenching roller coaster ride that has been the past three weeks, we get to leave the class with a sense of optimism. As long as we keep this in mind, we can learn from our mistakes.

The real issue we need to address is fixing the broken election process. Around the nation, reports of irregularities have surfaced, ranging from the Democratic Party’s attempts to disenfranchise thousands of soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines. The Clinton legacy at work, perhaps? A country where no one will question such activities, and no one will express a sense of outrage?

Beyond these fringe examples, however, is the legitimacy of the ballot. The punch cards rely on antiquated technology — the techie sector stopped programming with punch cards more than two decades ago. Changing technologies is necessary for two reasons: First, with these cards it is necessary to “punch out” the card using the style. Even the strongest members of the population cannot be certain that the card completely separated from the card. A national standard needs to be set governing ballots and voting machines, and that standard must also address the process of recounted votes. There should never again be a debate over dimpled, marked or pregnant chads. We have better technology available and, frankly, better things on which to focus our collective energy.

Next, the networks covering elections need to be enjoined from reporting results prematurely. The horrid coverage Election Night may no longer be lost in the shuffle of lawsuits between candidates and parties. All of the major networks reported the results incorrectly at least once and in some cases twice. It is essential to remember that CNN called Florida for Al Gore with a mere 12 percent of the precincts reporting and several days before the absentee ballots were even going to be counted. Oregon and New Mexico were also called prematurely. Other states were not called until later in the evening, despite there being no question as to the outcome, including Georgia, Florida, Ohio, Arizona and Colorado. The national media gravely interfered with the conduct of this election, and steps must be taken to ensure that this does not happen again.

Finally, as future lawyers, we have an obligation to respect the legal system. But as human beings, we also have a duty to maintain our own dignity and honor. Winning the presidency by whitewashing the courts and jury disqualifies the candidate, the courts and the nation. No one, including the candidate, has anything to gain from this approach.

It wasn’t perfect, but it was fairly...
Hate symbol censorship did not anger me

Mail Pal

I was baffled that members of the academic community would take lightly the principle of academic freedom. I was discouraged that students of the law did not consider the option of saying no to power. I was hopeful that making the controversy public would strengthen our professorial commitment to academic freedom, due process of the law, public discussion and empowerment of the subdued. I was all that, but not angry.

taysab Mahmud

Michael Cheselka

The Woot in Review

George Orwell in “1984,” it seems the popular struggle to resist Big Brother is more accurate than ever. Party is the government’s secret monitoring a blessing in disguise?

All the publicity over eliminating privacy rights has led some Americans to fear the worst, others to welcome the new security measures.

The immediacy of our current news, information dissemination delivery systems tends to help us circumvent discussions of issues with far-reaching social consequences. Contrary to the haunting scenarios painted by George Orwell in “1984,” it seems the popular struggle to resist Big Brother is more accurately reflected in the accounts of people tiptoeing over themselves to sell their souls as they grab for a piece of Andy Warhol’s 15 seconds of fame (numbers adjusted for inflation).

We have been told that we live in the Information Age. At the dawn of this new era, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. dreamt of a world where people are judged by the content of their character. The racial discrimination he gave his life to overcome may only be completed by eliminating genetic and price discrimination.

Europe has been moving steadily toward the creation of a single market free from controls on what kind of personal information can be collected, and how it can be used. Meanwhile, we are being conditioned to accept our position as ships on Global Positioning Satellite maps (because sometimes even Batman gets lost). For example, an Ohio-based insurance company will be able to provide its customers with automobile premiums that accurately reflect the use of their cars. Information on how we drive can only be acquired through the knowledge of where we drive, when we drive and with whom we drive. But for every person who is curious about that baseline at the thought of computer surveillance, there seems to be another who has just posted a Web site that will allow total strangers to observe them while they shower and use the toilet.

The Cleveland-Marshall interview program may someday be replaced by the Cleveland-Marshall DNA-sample employment fair. Most Americans appear to be oblivious to the genetic testing now under way in colleges and corporate laboratories, yet they pay attention to the genetic mutations that comprise the average panel of guests on “Jerry Springer.” Survey respondents indicate that people just posted a Web site that will allow total strangers to observe them while they shower and use the toilet.

The government is not a nuclear weapon, no matter how crazy it seems.

Would rather have the Internet police it than see the government become involved. This is tantamount to allowing the inmates to run the asylum. The single most devastating campaign tactic, born during the last quarter-century, is the relentless portrayal of the government as our mortal enemy. The lack of popular consensus amid the absence of a political forum at all but guarantees the nefarious nature of the coming privacy foreseeable.

Many of us will gradu- ate and find employment on either side of the privacy question. We will apply our talents in tandem with those who expose the virtue, of among other things, a transparent society, full-disclo- sure finance laws, accuracy in medical service provider costs, cost-effective marketing strategies, advanced methods of disease detection and prevention, privacy rights as property rights and accu- mulate employment background checks.

No matter which side of this fundamental-rights question we may argue, one thing is sure to remain certain. It will still be an ongoing struggle to have your personal time thwarts and another candidate wins on technicalities and confusion. That is not democracy.

Hand counting has been used in this country since its founding.

Checks and balances with both sides represented and allowed to object to controversial ballots should be required. Democratic fishing expeditions for Gore votes and ballot bending and breaking cannot be tolerated. Of course, the Bush and Gore camps are challenging the federal courts (What about states’ rights?) and intimidation by Rep- ublicans in Miami (What about law and order?) did not allow what can reasonably be described as more-accurate-than- machinelike hand counting. What about trusting people to happen?

Regardless of who won Florida, Gore will win the popular vote by a plurality nationally. And regardless of who wins the Florida electoral votes, he will have to use every ounce of his Texas charm to resist the 100-odd prospective recounting, 6 feet under controversy.

Try and unite and do not divide this one.

Petrus is a part-time 3L.

Becky’s thanks send

The entire staff at Becky’s Bar would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Student Bar Association for their continued support of our annual full.

The students at Cleveland-Marshall are one of our mainstay groups here at Becky’s. Their patronage allows us to offer diversity to our regular clientele. We are proud to be one of the student’s favorite places in downtown Cleveland to meet, enjoy a cold beverage and eat food comfortably in a neighborhood atmosphere.

Harry Robinson,

The writers are Becky’s managers.

Agreed?

Do you take issue with an opinion in this edition? Do you have a special perspective that would help shed light on the controversy? E-mail GAVEL@WESTLAW.COM. The authors’ mails are to be clearly identified. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and conciseness.

The only election George the II has won so far is the one in the media. There are two presidential elections this year, one in the media and the other in reality. Bush won the former, Gore should win the latter, but because of illegal and confusing ballots, the Florida supreme court’s rushed certification and, recently, Rep- ublican-organized intimidation and dis- directed media coverage (for ex- ample, Bush’s view anchor cousin from FOX who first claimed that Bush had won Florida), when ballots had not been counted, Earth to the right wing. A count is a count when it begins and ends and when counted within the confines of the law. In the former supposed “count,” Bush had de- clared the winner by many media outlets before the count was even arrived on their Nov. 14 due date. Thus, no two “counts” ever happened. Regular only tallies and partial counts were made. The third and fourth “counts” are equally dubious.

Nevertheless, with almost 20,000 confusing and double-punched ballots discounted in Palm Beach, Bush is in part the certified winner of Florida’s electoral votes because the people tried to vote for Gore (even Buchanan said, “These are probably not my votes.”). But, could not, like in so many ba- nana republics where votes do not have their intentions honored or their votes counted. All ballots in disputed counties should be individ- ually assessed for their intent with enough time to do so before the law in some cases has been bro- ken and there are damages. Money will not make the votes whole; a full count that reflects the intent of the people will. The alternative of not attempting to interpret intent is that the will of the people is thwarted and another candidate wins on technicalities and confusion.

That is not democracy.

Michael Cheselka

The Woot in Review

George Orwell in “1984,” it seems the popular struggle to resist Big Brother is more accurate than ever. Party
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