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Trying To Forge A New Vision of Justice

by Robin Wilson
Staff Editor

Law students and faculty, and members of the local bench and bar will meet in law schools around the country Monday October 3rd for a simultaneous, via satellite conference promoting law in the public interest. The idea for the conference, entitled "Forging a New Vision of Justice: Law in the Public Interest," came out of a meeting hosted by the national group Alliance for Justice last Spring to honor the 40th anniversary of the landmark decision Brown v. Board of Education. It was purposefully scheduled for the first Monday in October to coincide with the commencement of the U.S. Supreme Court's 1994 term.

Organizers say the purpose of the conference is to take what they believe is a long-overdue look at what is being done in law schools and local communities around the country to further equal justice for all. The regional portion of the program will look at Ohio's unmet legal needs and what is being done and by whom to meet them.

Cleveland-Marshall College of Law is the site for the conference in Ohio with the University of Akron and Case Western law schools' co-sponsoring the program along with C-M. Law schools in 12 cities are hosting similar gatherings. While each region is sponsoring its own conference on what "the public interest" means in their local society, each region will hook up for a national program via satellite on the "status of justice" in America during which national leaders in various public interest organizations will speak to those gathered about forging a new vision of justice.

During the morning regional portion of the program, community leaders will gather at C-M to assess the state of justice in Ohio from three

Wrongful Presumptions From Pickpocket Panic

by Geoffrey Novak
Staff Writer

Have you ever been pickpocketed? The thought of money lost, driver's license gone, and credit cards charged to their limit can ruin a day.

A few Fridays ago, as I was leaving the bookstore, a man approached selling newspapers written by the homeless. I handed him a donation, and we started to talk. He was a pleasant fellow.

As I picked up my bags of books, he wished me luck in school. I said I appreciated that, and walked away. Yet he followed me, and brought to my attention a gold medallion in his hand. He offered me the chance to make a wish or two. And needing a few wishes, I accepted.

He told me to tense my muscles, relax, and concentrate on the gold medallion, allowing its impression to burn onto my forehead and on to the back of my brain. At the same time I had to make a wish. After a few minutes of concentration, he proclaimed that the wish would come true.

Having made my wish, I walked to class humming all the way. I simply could not wait for my wish to come true.

Upon reaching school, I stopped to make a call before class. The number was in my wallet, and reaching for it, I found the wallet was gone. It must be in my other pocket, I thought. That wish did not come true.

Webster defines panic as a sudden terror often causing mass flight. I understood the definition.

First, I flew to my car, hoping I dropped my wallet into the bag of books I put in the trunk. I did not. Then I headed down Euclid looking for the man with the newspapers. The bass

Where to Go For Coffee Or Lunch

by Susan French-Scaggs
Staff Writer

A reliable source tells us that we almost lost the coffee shop in the law school this year. Okay, maybe the fare isn't all that great but it is better than nothing. Apparently food services for the University charged hands that be almost eliminated the coffee shop. If you are new to the area, or just haven't had the time to wander around the area surrounding C-M, then you may not know there are other places to grab a bite in your spare time (ha, ha) and get a cup of coffee, or a good lunch.

Yes...even on a budget.

Coffee Shops:

Brewed Awakenings at 1859 Prospect Avenue

You can get coffee, tea, muffins and sandwiches.

Diners:

Thinkers, at 1505 Euclid Avenue

Pretty much the same thing as Brewed Awakenings.

Local Eateries in the Cleveland-Marshall Area
Will Ohio's Real Estate Disclosure Law End the "Money Pit?"

by Karen L. Edwards

In the movie, "The Money Pit," a young couple purchases a stately old house which soon degenerates into anything but home sweet home-stairs and ceilings collapse, wiring explodes, plumbing fails. The previous owners disclosed nothing about these apparently pre-existing problems. Assuming an Ohio setting, what is the legal remedy? Until residential real estate disclosure legislation took effect last year, buyers were left high and dry unless seller fraud or misrepresentation was proven.

The common law doctrine of "caveat emptor" controlled Ohio residential real estate transfers until recently. The general rule was that the seller must reveal only what is the legal remedy? Until 1994, buyers were left high and dry unless seller fraud or misrepresentation was proven.

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The common law doctrine of "caveat emptor" controlled Ohio residential real estate transfers until recently. The general rule was that the seller must reveal only what is the legal remedy? Until residential real estate disclosure legislation took effect last year, buyers were left high and dry unless seller fraud or misrepresentation was proven.

The new Ohio residential property disclosure law, introduced by State Sen. Eugene Watts, took effect March 19, 1993 and impacts sales occurring on or after July 1, 1993. Codified as Section 5302.30 of the Ohio Revised Code, it extends the seller's duty to disclose a wider scope of structural problems and is hailed as a consumer protection victory by the Ohio Association of Realtors, its key supporter.

Ohio followed a national trend in enacting the bill. At least six other states (California, Maine, New Hampshire, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania) require mandatory disclosure, and about 20 other states are considering it. About half of the states either have pending or pending voluntary programs (e.g., Oregon) or require limited environmental disclosures (e.g., Massachusetts). Ohio's law is a middle-of-the-road version and fails somewhere between the voluntary disclosure states and those states that require disclosure of items going beyond mere structural integrity, as in California.

The new law requires most sellers of residential real property to inform potential buyers of material matters concerning physical condition. The Ohio Department of Commerce prescribes the disclosure form and enforces its use.

Exclusions address situations where the seller's knowledge is likely to be limited, where the purchase is not arms-length, or where the buyer is otherwise protected. Examples include:

* New, previously uninhabited real estate (due to coverage under warranties);
* When the buyer has already occupied the property for a year or more;
* Most government transfers; and
* Count-ordered transfers such as between spouses as part of a divorce/disolution or as part of probate.

Sellers must assert on the form that they have no more knowledge than a buyer could obtain through his or her own inspection. The form does not create new warranties or excuse parties from other common law/statutory obligations. Also, the parties must act in good faith.

Yet even with the new law, the "Money Pit" won't become a thing of the past. "The law has limitations, so we suggest a full, private inspection," concluded Michele Anderson, sales associate with Cleveland's Progressive Urban Real Estate.

Affordable Theatre: The Cleveland Play House

by Marie Rehmear
Reference Librarian

The new stage adaptation of Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize winning novel *To Kill A Mockingbird* will be shown October 18th - November 13th in the Drury Theatre at the Cleveland Play House, the oldest repertory playhouse in the nation.

Your Cleveland State University Student ID can get you a real entertainment bargain at the Cleveland Play House. Your CSU Student ID (with the current sticker) allows you to purchase a ticket for $5.50 to see "To Kill a Mockingbird" or any production's non-Friday/ non-Saturday night performance, even though you still have to pay the parking fee ($4.50), the ticket price is substantially lower than the regular price. There is a limit of one ticket at this price per ID per show. An individual with a CSU Faculty/Staff ID can receive a $5 discount on a ticket.

When tickets go on sale, they can be purchased in advance of the performance at the Box Office, 8500 Euclid Avenue. Box Office hours vary; you may want to call for hours (795-7000). If you plan to purchase tickets for other CSU students when you purchase yours, you need their IDs (with current stickers), addresses, and phone numbers.

The Cleveland Play House is east of CSU on Euclid Avenue, towards University Circle and the Cleveland Clinic. It is not part of the Playhouse Square complex just west of C-M.

The 1994-95 Season includes the following plays:

**Dancing at Lughnasa** (Bolton)
September 27 - October 23

**To Kill a Mockingbird** (Drury)
October 18 - November 13

**Boy Meets Girl** (Bolton)
November 22 - January 1

**Jungle Rot** (Drury)
January 10 - February 5

**Ma Rainey's Black Bottom** (Bolton)
January 31 - March 5

**The Mystery of Irma Vep** (Drury)
February 28 - March 26

**Ain't Misbehavin'** (Bolton)
March 28 - April 30

**Lettice and Lovage** (Drury)
April 16 - May 14

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**Library Hours**

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**Reading and Examination Period**

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Congratulations to Carolyn Paschke, New Editor of the Cleveland-Marshall Journal of Law & Health
A Note From Deborah Klein:
Director of Legal Writing

To all of you who have completed your first year of law school (that's approximately 700 of you), I strongly urge you to find out about and enter the numerous law student writing competitions that are sponsored by various sections of the American Bar Association, select journals and publications and legal or law related organizations. These competitions offer cash prizes, (some as much as $5,000). An award from one of these competitions may also look good on a resume.

Many of these competitions have few entrants which increases the possibility of winning an award. All you need to do is enter. Since you have to satisfy an upper level writing requirement, why not kill two birds with one [pen]. Your writings are just as good as and often better than any written documents submitted by students from other law schools. In fact, our students win these competitions with reasonable regularity.

You may obtain from me information and details on the writing competitions, I, with the assistance of the faculty, the legal writing department, the student bulletin board and the student organizations, will keep you informed and aware of these competitions. Below is a list of competitions of which I have been made aware as of this date.

1. Commercial Law League of America: Sugarman Memorial Writing Competition
   $1,500.00 award
2. Catholic University: Communications Law Writing Contest
   1st prize $1,000.00
   2nd prize $500.00
3. The Food and Drug Law Institute: W. Thomas Austin Memorial Competition
   1st prize $5,000.00
   2nd prize $2,000.00
   3rd prize $1,000.00
4. The Food and Drug Law Institute: Vincent A. Kleinfeld Memorial Competition
   Three, $5,000.00 awards
5. National Center for Preventive Law: Prize Award Program
   $1,000 award
6. American Intellectual Property Law Association: Robert C. Watson Award $2,000.00

Accomplished Dignitaries Grace Cleveland-Marshall

Abner J. Mikva, former Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia and current White House Counsel, will visit Cleveland-Marshall on November 16 to deliver a speech entitled "The Treadmill of Criminal Justice Reform." Judge Mikva, a 1951 graduate of the University of Chicago, has had career which includes experience in both the Illinois Legislature and the U.S. House of Representatives. He was appointed to the D.C. Circuit in 1979.

Former Iran-Contra Counsel Lawrence Walsh spoke to the Cleveland-Marshall community on September 22. Mr. Walsh, a 1955 graduate of Columbia Law School, spoke to students about "Political Oversight and the Rule of Law".

Fellowship Information

Information on Fellowships in various areas of the law, in addition to information on Fellowships in other disciplines will be posted outside Dean Stewart's office, Rm 123.

Letters to the Editor

Applaud us, amuse us or argue with us. Drop off your Letters to the Editor at the Gavel Offices in Room 23. Letters must contain the writer's name. Letters will be edited for brevity and for clarity.
As the Gavel noted in its last issue, the Plain Dealer article written by Ken Myers, in which he profiled the two Cleveland-Marshall LCOP students, drew considerable amount of fire. I believe the article should have drawn the proverbial heat. Jon Sinclair’s article, Don’t Hang The Messenger, should draw the same fire the Plain Dealer article drew and for many of the same reasons. Two reasons are: 1) Lack of facts and 2) failure to have even a nodding acquaintance with the subject matter in controversy.

The Plain Dealer article was flawed in ways far too numerous to address in this writing. For some, it will suffice to simply state that I found no redeeming qualities in this article. I make this statement as an administrator of the law school, as an alumn of the law school (an LL.M. is not enough to be a meaningful, female), and as a board member of the law school’s alumni association. The Gavel article by Mr. Sinclair, in particular, as it relates to minority and LCOP students.

Here are some facts about this law school and its graduates:
1. Cleveland-Marshall is the largest law school in Ohio and sends more graduates to the Ohio bar exam than any school in the nation.
2. More Cleveland-Marshall students pass the bar at each exam than do students from any other law school.
3. Our overall pass rate on the February 1994 bar exam was 55% (not good by any of our standards). However, even it all the minority students who took the February bar exam had passed, we still would have finished last in the great bar schools percentage race. Our passage rate would have been 68%.
4. Had all non-minority students who took the February 1994 bar exam passed, our passage rate would have been 86%. This percentage would have us tied for first place with the University of Cincinnati.
5. Had all LCOP students passed the February 1994 bar exam, our pass rate would have been 74%; a fifth place tie with the University of Toledo.
6. Had all non-LCOP students passed the February 1994 bar exam, our pass rate would also have been 74%.

I guess we could do a further breakdown by ethnicity, heritage, religion, gender, age, undergraduate institution, height, weight, use of corrective lenses, personality type, marital status, etc….but why?

For all of you who walk these hallways, pay your tuition, and graduate from law school, remember, taking and passing the bar is an individual experience. Those who do better academically may not necessarily be better at the bar. You also know that we have graduates who take the bar and we have graduates who take the bar seriously. We have graduates who feel a need to pass the bar the first time and do what it takes to pass the first time. We also have graduates who are content with simply passing the bar….whenever I can go on, but I won’t.

I will be glad to further discuss this subject with you if I can. As I hope this article does not make it clear, I believe that any writing which serves to create negative connotations about a group, whether or not the connotations are accurate, should be avoided. Fire. This is particularly so if the identifiable characteristics cited are not statistically significant and not in association with the proposition of the writing.

The Readerts Talk Back

Plain Dealer Article Should Draw Fire-And So Should Gavel Article
by Melody J. Stewart
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

Dear Gavel Editors:

The Ken Myers article that profiled our law school engendered controversy for many reasons. Misquoting Professor Bahnizer was an unfortunate error but the article failed on many other levels.

The article was supposedly a profile of our school. Mr. Myers raised questions about gender, ethnicity, and the socioeconomic background of both student bodies. The cover of the magazine suggested this focus. Who were those people anyway?

Despite the apparent focus of Mr. Myers article, he never contacted any of our students or women faculty, or any faculty and staff who are directing programs aimed at recruiting a diverse student body. Had he done this, his profile may have been more accurate.

Contrary to Mr. Myers’ article, the Plain Dealer article drew on the contrary approach. He writes, “It’s accurate to say that our profession is currently plagued by the fact that minorities are largely excluded from the largely party line due to their performance on two obvious exams: the LSAT and the state bar.”

If Mr. Sinclair is defining the problem, I think he’s off the mark. Why has it become so difficult for people to say straight out that discrimination exists both in the legal profession and legal education? Is there anyone who would deny this statement? Once the problem is defined, then we can begin to work toward change.

If Mr. Myers would have contacted me, I would have told him about our efforts to recruit and retain more people of color. I would have told him to talk to Dean Stewart whose presence at recruitment conferences has done more to add diversity to our applicant pool than any other efforts to date. Just look at the facts. This year we received 490 applications from people of color as opposed to five years ago when we had 179 applicants of color. Five years ago we enrolled 33 students of color. This year, enrollment figures show a 48% increase.

I guess I’m tired of people reacting. It’s really simple. We live in a society of the privileged and non-privileged. To change that society non-privileged need more representation. Performance on tests is a red herring. It keeps attention focused on performance and not inequity. As a law school our attention should be on equity.

Peg McNally
Assistant Dean for Admissions

In Response
by Jon Sinclair
Staff Editor

If this was a movie, it would be a re-run. We could call it “Don’t Hang The Messenger: Take Two”. Once again, the person delivering the message receives more attention than the message itself. As I stated in the first paragraph of my article, no particular group - whatever the defining characteristics - is singularly responsible for C-M low bar passage rate. I wished to express in my article that it was unfortunate that people must distance themselves from the infamous Plain Dealer passage as if there was no truth to the fact that minority passage rates of the LSAT and national bar exams are of valid concern, and merit discussion.

In response to Dean Stewart:

Rather than discuss how C-M could or could not address the problem, you seem to deny the problem exists. You express throughout your letter your belief that my article was not factually supported. Rather than accept your offer to engage in an unproductive battle of statistics, I refer you to the sources which supported the article: Dean Stewart’s article, "The Test of Time", Responding to Dean McNally: You express a myriad of thoughts, but you seem to argue primarily that racial discrimination is the real problem and not exam performance. I would not and could not claim to know the extent, magnitude, remedies, or other details of employment or other discrimination in our profession. It is a valid concern that is worthy of discussion by those who know.

However, you fail to address the focus my article examined more than one exam. The 13% point difference which you cite in No. 3 would send Cleveland-Marshall ahead of six Ohio law schools on the February bar exam.

Responding to Jon Sinclair:

You express a myriad of thoughts, but you seem to argue primarily that racial discrimination is the real problem and not exam performance. I would not and could not claim to know the extent, magnitude, remedies, or other details of employment or other discrimination in our profession. It is a valid concern that is worthy of discussion by those who know.

LCOP: A Definite Advantage
by James D. Evans

Although some may not want to hear this, the Legal Career Opportunities Program is alive and well at Cleveland-Marshall LCOP. LCOP is the law school program which began in 1971, and was formed as a way to offer admission to those who may have faced adversities in education and/or employment.

Participation in this program is not on a pass/fail basis. LCOP students are required to take only one course during the summer (prior to the normal Fall admission), which, if completed, results in a lighter course load during the upcoming school year. This is advantageous to any first-year law student, especially those who work full-time, as some of us do. Summer 1994 participants were required to take Criminal Law, which was taught by Professor Frederic White. Professor White used a blend of humor, empathy, and, coupled with his knowledge of the law, introduced and indoctrinated each of the 30 or so students into the world of common law, the Model Penal Code, Mens Rea, and other wonderful legal terminology (yes, I am kidding). Professor White, ala is oh Sandra Kerber, the professor for the legal writing portion of the program, also showed a genuine interest in us, and displayed a desire that each of us succeed in our law school endeavors. They, along with various other staff and students (Kay Benjamin, Dean Melody Stewart, Catherine Buzanski, Karen Hamilton, Debbie Mack, and Greg Grant, to name a few), contributed to this effort, and were able to instil a level of confidence in our abilities that may not have been present had we not been involved in this program. As a proud LCOP student, I look forward to continuing the fine tradition this program has established in providing and encouraging opportunities at Cleveland-Marshall, and the legal community.

Opinion

Orlando Sentinel
Tribune, Nov. 16, 1991, at D1

It would be preferable if your statistical study examined more than one exam. The 13% point difference which you cite in No. 3 would send Cleveland-Marshall ahead of six Ohio law schools on the February bar exam.

Responding to Jon McNally: You express a myriad of thoughts, but you seem to argue primarily that racial discrimination is the real problem and not exam performance. I would not and could not claim to know the extent, magnitude, remedies, or other details of employment or other discrimination in our profession. It is a valid concern that is worthy of discussion by those who know.

However, you fail to address the focus my article examined more than one exam. The 13% point difference which you cite in No. 3 would send Cleveland-Marshall ahead of six Ohio law schools on the February bar exam.

The Gavel would be happy to devote space to the discussion of discrimination in the legal profession. (See Ohio Commission on Racial Fairness Bill E.D.O. 5) But please realize that the subject may be one-sided, as people know the consequences of joining public discussions of politically dangerous subjects. I do. Yet I can say I’m glad I didn’t heed the advice of one C-M professor who, upon landing of the subject of my article before it was written told me I should “Let sleeping dogs lie.” Yes, I suppose this is one way of solving problems.
Oh, First Years, Lighten Up...But Not Too Much!

by Donna Andrew
Staff Writer

Sitting at my work station in a legal department somewhere in Cleveland, it occurred to me, I don’t daydream anymore. I definitely need to lighten up. It was at that moment I realized all my cracker jack maturity was wearing thin and I wanted to trade it all in for Norm’s seat at the end of the bar. It’s ironic that my contemplative mood coincides with my one year anniversary of Law School. So in memory of my first year and in anticipation of the year to come; in honor of those who just graduated (Ta-Ta); those who just got here three years of abuse, why not make it as enjoyable as possible. It’s too thin and with Jake maybe)...

...I worry, I’ve wised up. Now I just want to guest star on Melrose Place for a season, a much loftier ambition with greater rewards (Like a little trip to Catalina with Jake maybe).

Since this is going no where fast, why don’t I impart some wisdom in a “from one fool to another” fashion. Don’t bother getting comfortable, it won’t be worth it.

1. FRIENDS: This was probably my favorite part of my first year. Being a 1L is like being on a boat with hungry sharks circling. The mystery and hype of law school tends to predispose you to wonder who to trust. You find yourself clinging to a couple people you met through orientation, Hey, get social! Meet people! It took a hell of a lot of courage to commit to three years of abuse, why not make it as enjoyable as possible. I know some of you who have families, or are non-traditional students (whatever that is) may feel a little uncomfortable. Lighten up! The more non-traditional you are the more you have to offer. Introduce yourself and then relax. Sometimes I think people in law school think they have to become the “law student type”. Folks, there is no such thing. Who you are is how you got here, don’t start playing a role, lighten up!

2. PROFESSORS: Don’t let them scare you! Yes I know some of them seem to be on a mission of ego-destruction, O.K., maybe they are. The fact is however, look around, there are a lot of second years around and we aren’t too warped (Yeah, whatever). I will be the first to tell you, the professor experience can definitely leave an impression. During the first month of classes last year I actually caused one class to get dismissed for not being prepared. Now many of my colleagues may beg to differ on whether it was the cause, but the fact remains that I was the last person called on before the guillotine fell. Call it character building, call it a rite of passage, or call it a cab and head to Jimmy’s, it’s all the same. We all have fun experiences with professors. Don’t let it get to you, and hey professors, lighten up! (Oh how bold we become)

3. GRADES: HYPE? HYPE! #Y*%&$HYPE?! Who the hell knows. Grades are a touchy subject. Some people refuse to talk about them, some people will poke and prod at you to find out. Its all part of the game. Don’t get caught up in it, they are the necessary evil. Many professors will say they wish they could just teach and not have to give them out, some professors might just love it. What it comes down to is everyone is different. No matter what you get you’re the one who has to look in the mirror. You want to be here, right? God knows you’re going into debt or working your ass off to be here, right? Then the best advice I can give is do your personal best and limit excursions to Becky’s a twice a week. (Once a week if you have Goshen.)

4. EXAMS: First of all, don’t freak. The best advice I can give you right now is start your outlines early (and for chris’s sake do your own damn outline, I speak from experience). The best prefab outline is not 1/10th as effective as a poor one you did yourself as long as the theory is correct.) Also, unless it is proven effective for you, do not suggest large study groups. Find an intimate group of people who are task oriented. My first large study group may have solved the world energy crisis, but we didn’t get much law done.

DO NOT PROCRASTINATE TE ... (Yeah, whatever Donna) And finally, find out what your professor expects. Look at old exams and talk to 2 and 3Ls. Half the battle is giving professors what they want.

5. STRESS: Get a hobby. Find something that can take you away from all this for a couple hours a week. I suggest something physical, even if it is just a walk. Sitting in the library or at your desk or kitchen table at home tends to pool the blood in that large centrally located area of your body, and I’m not talking about your brain. Sometimes, when you feel like you just want to scream, if you get away for a little while you’ll find it a lot more bearable. Remember, though, it can be easy to just blow things off when it comes down to crunch time. To much stress relief can be as stressful as none. Try to find a happy balance that keeps you on top of the material, but also keeps you away from a headline which reads “Postal Workers and Law Students: What Makes them Snap?”

In Conclusion, let me say you are probably going to go through some pretty serious changes over the next three years. Hopefully, if you’re here for the right reasons (whatever those are) you can both pursue your lofty career goals and have a good time. The key here is not to get caught up in the games. About midterm time last year a friend and I decided that the first year of law school can be compared to hazing for a big club. If you want to join, you have to survive. The professors haze you, your peers will haze you, your family and friends outside of school may even get in on it. Remember, your friends around you are all in the same boat. Talk to each other. Once you get a good group of people you trust they’ll save your life and you’ll save theirs. Understand, you have a great deal to learn this year. As a lawyer you will hold peoples’ live in your hand one day. Most of all, however, lighten up.

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Breakfast

**Johnnie’s Deli & Restaurant**

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Lunch

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Student Discounts on Haircuts & Products

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Appointment Appreciated (216) 861-6044
Ohio Supreme Court Installs Commission to Study Racial Bias

by Jon Sinclair
Staff Editor

Public hearings on the topic of racial bias in Ohio's courts, law firms and other legal institutions began September 17, 1994 with a four hour hearing at the Martin Luther King Center in Columbus. The Ohio Commission on Racial Fairness has been asked to spend the next two years investigating the existence and extent of racial bias in Ohio's legal system.

Cleveland Municipal Court Judge Ronald Adrine, chairman of the commission, told the Plain Dealer that the investigation will focus on three goals: "I want to establish a baseline of discrimination where it's found, to develop a solid methodology for addressing discrimination, and to dispel any notion that race plays a role where it does not. We're going to validate some people's perceptions and debunk others," Adrine told the Plain Dealer. The public is invited to attend the hearings and communicate their own experiences regarding the subject. Public hearings will be held in Cleveland on November 18 & 19 in the Cleveland City Council chambers, 601 Lakeside Avenue, from 3 to 7 p.m.

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[Continued from page 1]
The Smell of Fear
by Geoffrey Novak
Staff Writer

I remember my first day of Kindergarten. With my mother standing behind me, I pushed on the heavy oak door, barely producing enough space to squeeze through. Inside, my first recollection of school was a smell. I never found an origin for that smell. It was a smell I did not like.

At Orientation, sitting, looking at the nervous faces around me, listening to the various speakers assure us that law school is not a torture chamber, I thought back to those first days of Kindergarten. I remembered the smell vividly. It was something I thought about a half dozen times in twenty years; but the smell seemed to have never left my nostrils.

Orientation was over, and Legal Writing began the next day. It had a syllabus I could barely understand, let alone the professor. Then there was the assignment board, with homework for classes I had yet attended. Eavesdropping on some students by the board, they seemed to talk like professors. How could I compete? And finally I had the thought of the debt which I incur after three years of schooling. The smell of the building nearly dropped me to my knees.

My first years of grammar school were not easy. I remember a struggle, the feeling of being inferior to my classmates, and sounding unintelligible and dumb. It was a hardship to board the school bus every morning. The school seemed to boom against a gray backdrop of snow clouds as the bus approached. I never wanted to climb on.

But as the school years went by, I did better. The books became easier to understand. I had friends everywhere. School was now an adventure rather than a hardship. With effort, I became good at it.

That smell, looking back, which I associated with my first days of school was fear. I felt like a little spot waiting to be devoured by an enormous world. And I kept trying to get away.

Attempting to be metaphorical, the smell was a road through a tunnel (Freudian?). As I started driving, I hit more potholes than flatspots. But continuing through, the road became smoother and smoother until I hit new asphalt, near the end of the tunnel at E.18th and Euclid.

Now I start again. The smell is imaginary, but not the fear. I start towards an uncertain future with doubts and worries, with an inferiority complex.

I hope the road gets fixed as good as the last one. And hopefully that smell doesn't come back in three more years.

Copyright 

Paperback Books Needed

Beverly Pyle of the Legal Writing Department is a volunteer literacy tutor for Project: Learn in their corrections program at Cuyahoga County Jail. This summer, because of staff shortages at the jail and an unfortunate miscommunication, a large donation of paperback books headed for the jail ended up in a dumpster. Currently, there are virtually no books available for inmates.

If you have any light summer reading paperbacks with which you are willing to part, it would be greatly appreciated if you would donate them to the program. Young adult books are needed as well as the reading level of many of the inmates is low. The Sherriff's Department will not permit hardback books as they pose a perceived threat as a weapon or as a potential container for contraband.

Persons interested in donating books may place them in Beverly Pyle's faculty mail box or you may call her at 867-2538 to arrange a book pickup. Thank you in advance for your support!
Law School In Russia
by Steve Blount
Staff Writer

Their names are Alexander, Dimitri, Julia, and Konstantin. Alexander is from Volgograd, and the others are from St. Petersburg. They are foreign exchange students near completion of their 5-year degree program, and have been selected to spend a year studying law at Cleveland-Marshall. I happen to be fortunate enough to be sharing the privilege of having a room with one of them.

My friend’s name is Konstantine Osipov. He came here because he wanted to learn enough English law to find a job in a law firm in Russia dealing with commercial law common to both Russia and the United States. So, he is taking contracts, international commerce, business associations, international business transactions, and an introduction to law for Russian students.

He speaks extremely good English, and when he needs help with a word, it is almost always the writer’s fault (like when you use abbreviations such as w/a, or words like a-1). If you think what he is doing is easy, try going to Russia and learning law in their language! I thought it might be interesting to find out what it is like going to law school in Russia, so I asked him.

Question: Is it hard to get into law school in Russia? Answer: It is hard to get in, especially now, a lot of people want to get in.

Question: Because there are more opportunities for lawyers? Answer: Probably, but also because they get big money, and everybody wants to be wealthy.

Question: How much does it cost to go to law school in Russia? Answer: Several years ago, it was free, but 1st year or second year students this year pay. Now, about 1/2 - 1/3 pay. Full time tuition is roughly 500 dollars per semester.

Question: Can you go to law school out of high school? Answer: Yes. Every male over 18 has to go into the military, but if you go to a university, you don’t have to, so now males try to get into the Universities because there are not opportunities in the military now.

Question: Do you have to take an LSAT to get into law school in Russia? Answer: We take 4 exams - Russian written language, an oral exam on Russian language and literature, an oral exam on Russian History, and a language exam.

Question: How are you graded? Answer: Grades are from 1-5. Nobody gets a 1, and a 5 is an A+. Each class has an oral exam, and to graduate, you have to write a diploma (thesis) and pass 2 oral exams.

Question: Is work experience important? Answer: Yes.

Question: Is there a “Harvard” law school in Russia? Answer: The most popular law schools in Russia are Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Sverdlovsk Universities.

Question: Are there lawyer jokes in Russia? Answer: No.

Question: Do people get jobs with resumes in Russia? Answer: Mostly not. Students get jobs with firms because of parents or friends who get them for them. It is hard to get a good job without good relations. Students go to the courts or the prosecutor or a firm and say “I am a fourth year student, and I am seeking a job, and they will test your problem solving skills. Grades don’t play a big role now, because if you just know theory, you can just memorize everything for the oral, and be bad at practical things.

Question: Is there a society for Russian Lawyers, like the ABA? Answer: We have consultations - Lawyers who work together and share profits and taxes together.

Question: Like law firms? Answer: Probably, but law firms means self-employed. They often work limited partnerships. They very rarely have stock in a law company. It’s difficult to solicit stocks and organize it.

Question: Is there a nation-wide, non-profit organization in Russia like the ABA? Answer: There are organizations of lawyers, but they don’t work throughout the whole of Russia. For example, there are in St. Petersburg Realtor lawyers who work together on their problems.

German Student Has Conflicting Feelings After C-M Visit
by Robin Wilson
Staff Editor

When 23 year old Gregor Scheja from Hanover, Germany stepped off the plane in Cleveland Hopkins August 9th, he said he had no idea of what to expect from his visit to Cleveland-Marshall. Scheja, who graduated from law school at the University of Hanover in Germany last year, is the first European student to visit C-M under a new program sponsored by the European Law School Association. It was his first visit to the States.

Scheja spent four weeks at the school, spending most of his time with the Street Law program. While he was here, Scheja visited Tuscarawas Valley Junior/Senior High School for a media training seminar with the program and Benedactine High School where he helped educate the students by giving a lecture about the German Union. There is nothing similar to Street Law anywhere in Europe and Scheja said he believes it is a great idea. Street Law is a program at C-M in which law students participate for credit in teaching high school students a lay person’s understanding of the law. Scheja also visited the criminal courts which he said was “an unbelievable experience.” Scheja said he found many differences between the U.S. and Germany in the classroom and in the court-

room. He said he found it concerning how strong-handedly students were treated in the schools here. Scheja said he believes education and not punishment is the way to curb crime in the U.S. Scheja said he believes the U.S. is making a mistake by practicing capital punishment because “you don’t stop criminals by the death penalty.”

Assistant Dean for Community Programs About the Law Elisabeth Travis Dreyfuss who is the Director of the Street Law program selected Scheja’s out of eight resumes submitted from students in Germany. She met him at the airport when he arrived and said he was a “non-daemically enthusiastic good sport.” Dreyfuss says only not can European students benefit from this program but students in the States can also participate in similar programs in Europe. “Americans need to become more international in their point of view.” Dreyfuss said.

The International Law Society at C-M has information about any possible opportunities for study in Europe. The International Law Society at C-M helped to get the E.L.S.A. program in which Scheja participated rolling last year when his former president, Andrea Muto, asked school administrators to help sponsor a student.

Make a Statement ...
Write for the Gavel

The Gavel is always seeking interested students, staff, faculty and administrators to contribute to this publication. If you are interested, stop by the office, LB 23, or call 687-4530. Opinion pieces, news articles and cartoons are welcome. Please contact an editor regarding your topic to avoid duplication of efforts.

Contributors become staff members after publishing two articles in the Gavel. Staff members are eligible to participate in editor elections at the end of the school year. Three editors are elected, each receiving a full stipend from the University.

The opinions expressed herein are those of the author and not the Gavel. The Gavel is not responsible for article content, including factual matters.

Baseball Strikes Out
by Les E. Rockmael
Staff Editor

On Wednesday, September 14, 1994, for the first time in 90 Years, it was announced that no World Series would be played this year. The announcement from Acting Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig (Owner of the Milwaukee Brewers), came during the latest baseball strike. During the almost month long strike, the owners and the players only managed to have three formal negotiating sessions.

The owners and players participated in a high stakes game of chicken, and the result might be permanent damage to future of the game. The owners insisted that they needed a salary cap in order to stabilize labor expenses and to ensure that the small market teams be able to survive while the players who have gotten richer and richer as time goes on insisted that the owners pool their revenues. A last minute players’ proposal to tax teams that have larger payrolls was rejected out of hand by the owners.

What is most sad is that baseball used to represent all that was good about this country and was an integral part of the the fabric of our society. Somewhere along the way the love for the game has been sacrificed by the pursuit of the almighty dollar. It would seem that as goes baseball, so goes our society. Both the game and this country have lost an innocence that can never be replaced.

8
The Law School Borrowing Blues

by Steve Blount
Staff Writer

Did you just accidentally write a brief on the back of your loan check? Are you three months overdue on the rent, and aren’t sure how long it will be until you can make your next payment? Is it a week before finals, and you still can’t afford to buy your books? Then maybe you should go see Karen Popovich at C-M’s financial aid office. She’ll tell you how your friends at the bank can help you put your troubles behind (well, for the moment anyhow).

And in case you were wondering whether you are the only one with mounting education debt, Popovich says...no!

Question: What is the average amount borrowed, and how many people borrow?
Answer: 1993-94 graduates had incurred an average loan liability of $28,000 in federal student loans. Currently, for the 1994-95 academic year, C-M has 730 students with financial aid, approximately 70% of the student body.

Question: Do part-time students borrow less? Answer: Generally, part-time students borrow less per year because they pay less for fewer credit hours. However, because the part-time program is typically a four year program, part-time students have an additional year of loans. Part-time students generally have employment positions which help to supplement the cost of their education, causing their overall borrowing limit to be lower than full time students.

Question: How much do students borrow?
Answer: Due to the diverse interest rates that federal student loans have, students should check with their lenders for specific payment information. In the past two years, the government has changed the Federal Loan Program so that all new loans have variable interest rates, with either a 9 or 8.25% cap. As an estimate, students can determine what their total repayment amount (based on a 10 year repayment and 8% interest rate) would be by multiplying the total principal by a factor of 1.45. Estimated monthly payments can be determined by taking the total repayment amount and dividing it by 120 (12 mos. x 10 years). $30,000 principal x 1.45 = 43,500.

(Principal and interest to be repaid) $43,500/120 (12 months x 10 years) = $362.50 monthly payment.

Question: Do different students feel differently about borrowing?
Answer: Students have different concerns when it comes to the Financial Aid Office. Some students believe that Financial Aid only consists of free “funny” money. In reality, graduate aid is primarily based on federal and private loans, with a limited pool of institutional grants/scholarships. Since Cleveland-Marshall is a state-supported institution, all students benefit from the “financial aid” of the state subsidy which affects the amount of our tuition. Generally, the first year class this year has been very informed about the financial aid process and conservative in their borrowing.

Question: Are most students responsible about their borrowing?
Answer: C-M students, as a whole, are responsible in their repayment of the loan obligations which they have acquired. It is important to remember that the government has allowed you to invest in yourself, so benefit others by fulfilling your obligation to repay.

Question: Do you have any overall suggestions?
Answer: Yes. Stop in the Financial Aid Office for a resource book entitled “The Law Student’s Guide to Scholarships and Grants”. For students who borrowed the Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, try to make the monthly interest payments while you are in school. If you decide to capitalize the interest, each interest payment will be added to the principal balance of your loan, increasing the total amount of your debt. Contact our office or your lender for further information about capitalization. If you come across financial difficulty, see us right away - do not wait ways.

Stress, a part of life. Everyone has some form of stress in their life. What is important is how one manages the stress. Stress, if managed well, can be positive. It can be the force that motivates one to put forth their best effort. However, if someone is facing a challenge that is perceived negatively, then stress, or distress as Paul Snowball, a counselor for the Cleveland State University Counseling Center, calls it, can be a paralyzing force that impairs performance.

When someone is experiencing distress, notes Snowball, they tend to see problems as unique to themselves. They don’t see other people in the same situation and perceive everyone else as doing better than themselves. Relating this to law school, many first-year students, new to this type of stress, may perceive that they are the only one experiencing problems adjusting, that they are not “good enough”, and that everyone else is coping much better. Snowball says it is helpful for students to know that others are experiencing the same anxieties and fears that they are.

Stress management is an ongoing process. Paul Snowball has offered these suggestions to help get you started.

1) Recognize that you cannot control everything. Learn what you can and cannot control.
2) If something is not within your control, then learn to go with the flow. It is within your control, think about whether or not you really want to control it. If you do, then develop a plan.
3) Prioritize your issues. Don’t spend $10.00 worth of energy on a 10 cent problem.
4) Discipline yourself to do what you have to do, and then reward yourself with something you want to do.
5) Make time for fun.
6) Take deep, cleansing, breaths to relax yourself in stressful situations.
7) Tense and relax different muscle groups.
8) Exercise, even a short walk can be relaxing.
9) Maintain a healthy diet.

If you would like to read about stress reduction, Snowball suggests the following books: Relaxation Response, by H. Benson, Stress Without Distress, by H. Selye, and The Mind Body Effect, also by H. Benson.

Stress management is an on-going process. Paul Snowball has offered these suggestions to help get you started.

University Program Helps Conquer Law School Stress

by Cheryl Lane
Staff Writer

Stress management is an ongoing process. Paul Snowball has offered these suggestions to help get you started.

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What is a computer sales­man doing at Cleveland-Marshall? He's teaching computer law. But, this is not just teaching; Bieman is also a salesman. Adjunct Professor Rich­ard Bieman has many other presti­gious accomplishments. Bieman has a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Rose Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana; a B.S. in Accounting from University State, New York; an M.B.A. in Marketing from Canisius College, in Buffalo, New York; a J.D., which he earned at Cleveland-Marshall taking night classes; and an L.L.M., also from Cleveland-Marshall's evening pro­gram. When asked about his exten­sive education, Bieman said he hated school as a child. When he was young, he wanted to attend an ad­vanced school in New York where stu­dents could graduate at the age of 15. The whole idea was to get out of school earlier. However, Bieman's father wanted him to have a traditional 12-year primary education. Bieman's father had earned four degrees, and knew the value of education.

Before attending law school, Bieman worked as a sales repre­sentative for Honeywell in Buffalo, New York where he sold computer prod­ucts for process control. Before and during law school he worked at Bailey Controls in Cleveland where he de­veloped operating interfaces for com­puters. While at Bailey, Bieman was also involved with sales, marketing and negotiating contracts. Bieman often had to deal with attorneys to negotiate contracts, and he decided to take a contracts course in law school so he would be better equipped for negotiating. Bieman ended up loving the course and law school, and decided to get a law degree. Bieman then worked for Visual Intelligence where he also dealt with man/machine interfaces and he now owns Midwest

Computer Affiliates and sells Unix development tools. He has a total of 20 years experience in the computer industry where he has designed, mar­keted and sold computers.

Bieman believes that part of selling a product is educating the cus­tomer - the key to selling. He decided to become a teacher be­cause he enjoys school, and he be­lieves that computer law needs to be taught. Computers are an important area of law that is just emerging and students need to know what is hap­pening in this area. The course Bieman teaches at C-M is a general overview on computer law, which will cover: the unique properties of com­puters and software; some patent law; some criminal law; some contract law; and international aspects. He would like to see more in-depth courses of­fered in law schools. He believes that within the next decade or so, attor­neys will be going to court with a laptop computer, and we must keep up with the times.

In connection with the inev­i­table computerization of law, Bieman also believes that future lawyers will need to know more computer law and technology if they want to remain competitive. He also foresees alter­native dispute resolution as a good way to handle computer cases, due to the amount of technical knowledge that is necessary to understand the complexities of computer litigation. Because of that, Bieman says stu­dents will greatly benefit from the ne­gotiation, reasoning and trial advo­cacy classes offered at Cleveland­Marshall. For students who will be in the business setting but not planning to practice law, Bieman says that a law degree will help them understand legal/tax aspects of doing business, contract negotiations and licensing agreements.

Before I came to Cleveland­Marshall, I had worked for many years as a paralegal. The attorneys that I worked with started out in a very large firm and later left to start a smaller practice. I was able to witness first hand the different staff needs of the large corporate type law firm and the smaller, specialized firm.

The large firms look for con­ventional law students who entered law school immediately after under­graduate school. A high GPA is a must and participation in Moot Court, Law Review, etc., is expected. These firms will expect you to dress profes­sionally and easily assimilate to the corporate culture. Remember, every large law firm has a specific, identifi­able corporate culture that you MUST learn/master/live. Large firms will pay larger salaries and expect anywhere from 60 to 80 hours of work per week. Some will even expect more billable hours than actually exist in one week. This type of job is for someone who is a real tiger. A mover and shaker who wants to be a partner some day. Everyone works in a very specialized area, usually on a "team" basis. Most new law clerks or new attorneys are in a type of "pool" situation where partners dictate and oversee projects. Most of the work consists of research and writing with very little court expo­sure. The key in a large firm is as­similation, hard work for recogn ition, and a lot of energy to hold on. Once you reach the level of partner, you will be more involved with getting and romancing clients. The younger and newer attorneys will be doing the bulk

of the work.

I prefer the quaintness and more personal experience of working in a smaller firm. Employees get to do a little bit of everything. As a rule, new attorneys are given a small case load, and get to go to court much ear­lier in their careers than their large firm counterparts. I believe that because the attorney or law clerk is exposed to all areas of the practice, they learn faster and are developed into well­rounded employees. Smaller firms do not look so much at a student's GPA, but focus more on personality, de­pendability and creativity. The big question is whether the employee can think on their feet, be self-motivated and not afraid to jump in when nec­essary. In a smaller firm, the dress code is not as rigid. If there are no clients scheduled for a particular day, it is very common to see attorneys, law clerks and staff dressed in a more casual manner. As a general rule, the smaller firms do not require the rigid hours as the large firms do. Unfortu­nately, salaries are smaller and ben­efits may also be smaller. However, one must consider salary on an hourly basis for a fair comparison. The larger firm may be paying their employees less than the smaller firms on an hourly basis.

Which firm would you be happy in? It is really hard to tell with­out experiencing both. I have to ad­mit that both have their advantages and disadvantages. I would recom­mend that a law student get involved with as many different types and sizes of firms prior to graduation so that a decision can be made before commit­ting to full-time work.

Can you believe that some very lucrative law firms in the Cleve­land area are not paying their poor law clerks on time? I can't imagine what the problem is. Most law firms have enough of a cash flow to afford a law student's meager salary. The firm's balance sheet would not be sig­nificantly improved by hoarding this meager amount of salary. So what is the problem? I think that most law firms truly believe that you should consider yourself soooo lucky to have a job (even at $6.00 - $10.00 per hour) that you should not even

Big Bad Law Firms v. Poor Overworked, Underpaid Law Students

by Susan French-Scaggs

Staff Writer

question whether you will actually get paid. What a bunch of bunk.

My personal experience with such a law firm (I will not name the many names) was very frustrating. You see, I already have a very good job with a very good firm, but I de­cided I should not put all of my pro­verbial eggs in one basket. There­fore, I decided to do some work on the side for this "other firm." I was given my first research assignment on a Tuesday -- a couple of weeks be­fore final exams last year. I was told that this research had to be completed

as soon as possible. I was able to complete the task and have it into the hands of the "other firm" by Friday of the same week. I worked very hard and even went beyond the stipulated hours for which I was to be paid. One partner and I agreed to my hourly rate and the amount of hours that I was to spend on the research. I was told that my work was great and that one of the "partners" would be in touch about paying me for my time and assigning my next project. Would you believe

I took me two months to get paid for that first assignment, and that was

after two or three phone calls and a letter asking for the proper billing pro­cedure. Well, needless to say, I no longer work for that "other firm" and they probably wonder why I have not kept in touch. I guess I'll wait for them to call me a couple of times and ask me the proper procedure for direct­ing my work flow?
Disillusioned Dave's "Horror Scope" #1

by David Bentkowski

As I lay in bed one night, I felt something grab me. (And no, it wasn't my own hand.) It was this little girl tapping on my door. She said she was the person to predict the future for my fellow youth in my own unique way. So, with the disclaimer that I am not going to be a writer, here are the days ahead as I see them. Best if you read from start to finish.

September

SEPTEMBER 27

"Hey, kids. I've been told you can't drop bricks off a pier onto the water. I'm going to the dentist, too, are you? You and your mate are just a few pens, beware of the boogie-man. He's usually athletic and wait on a three-foot, Luke, it's a good month to start recycling. By the way, Christ was the smartest sign in the middle. Thank God my parents were, he's a women teases is on the dresser."

Dave, at your gynecologist tomorrow. It. You and your mate are just a few. She, of course, replied with the ultimate slogans to me - "Where's the Beef?" and "I'm Fallen, and Can't Get Up." Now, I find you just can't beat saying, "Thank You - and your check is on the dresser." Gemini, sometimes words of wisdom are the words that never are spoken.

October

OCTOBER 21

"One of the biggest things that upsets me is when a woman teases me. Now, don't get me wrong, I am a perfect gentleman and never EX-PECT romance to be a game. What gets me mad is when someone says, "I'm going to the gynecologist tomorrow... and you know I never like to do it before that." Confused, and yes, still aroused, I asked, "Well, you're not really into you, are you?" (Relax, ladies, relax, it's just a joke.) By the way, I think I would be a great gynecologist. I would have such a good bedside manner, I could say things, "I'm damned to meet you.

"Dave, at your cervix. "Bottoms up." Aquarius, this might be a good month for a check-up.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): Here's a lesson in Parenting 101. I can remember going to the amusement park as a kid and buying my big old soda to take on the "spin" rides. So, he finished his soda, and so annoyed that he let me go on "The Witches Wheel", the ultimate spin machine. He was, however, nice enough to let me eat a couple of greasy hamburgers and fries, first. They have since renamed the ride, "The Witches Vomit". Yes, he may have vomited that round, but I recently got him back...

I took the batteries out of the remote control. Pisces, remember that re-riage is sweet.

Aries (March 21 - April 19): I want to church the other day (other than the St. Pillow and Mattress I usually go to) and was appalled at how "hip" my church had become. The choir's version of "Holy, Holy" sounded familiar to Billy Idol's, "Mono, Mono". The nuns would sing, "Here she comes now, singing holy, holy," and all the parishioners would jump up and say, "Hey, okay bread, get wine." Like I told my priest, "I'll start going to church more when they start playing some more New Order." Ar-ies, reflect on your religion this month.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20): Did you ever go to McDonalds and order a vanilla shake? Did the nerd serving you have really bad acne? Did you ever think... white shake... acne... oozing... YUUULLL!! Oh, but let's not get started. We should never talk about it, would we? Taurus, watch what you eat this month.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): Similar to a previous month, you just can't eat in bed. It's not that I don't know what I am doing (so I say), it's just that I never knew what to say. In the past, I thought maybe I should try some catchy slogans I had picked up on TV, etc. Hey, how did I know my mate would be offended by my saying, "Ka-Ching, Badda-Bing", "Whoomp, There it is", and "And the training Dudes. She, of course, replied with the ultimate slogans to me - "Where's the Beef?" and "It's Fallen, and Can't Get Up." Now, I find you just can't beat saying, "Thank You - and your check is on the dresser." Gemini, sometimes words of wisdom are the words that never are spoken.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22): What will they be thinking of next? Did you see the Reebok Pump tennis shoe? You can actually pump up the shoe for a tighter fit. I can't wait for the Reebok Pump. Condorm. Think about it. You and your mate are just a few pump-aws away from eternal bliss. Wow, a condorm that actually fits, "Happy, happy, joy, joy." In the past, if a condorm didn't think, I would have to cut the end off. Cancers, on a serious note, please, always practice safe sex. And, since practice makes perfect, I'll be happy to help in any good going, female's training."

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22): I used to have this policy that I would only go out with any girl that had the guts to ask me out. Now, I'm not Tom Cruise (actually, I look more like Dean Cain), it's just that I always figured I would hate to be dogged if I asked a girl out, so I thought I would "treat others as I would like to be treated by". Boy, was that stupid. One time, my "friend" set me up with someone so he could go out with her roommate. I was just fine with it. The girl was - how do we say it nicely - pleasantly plump. No. Wait a minute, I can not tell a lie - she was fat. She was so fat, that when she wore a GUESS T-shirt, people would yell out, "I don't know, 250 - 275?" When I took her to McDonalds they had to change the sign. She was so fat, when she sat on a dollar, she made four quarters. Guys never picks her name unless I look for a minute.) The point is, doing things out of sympathy will only make things worse. Leo, I encourage you to exercise some self-control. The author of this column wants to stress that he has nothing against people with varying weight conditions. However, in his defense, he does want to reiterate that in this past column case his data was really, really, really, FAT and that you would only believe it if you saw her.)

That's it for now, kiddies, we'll be seeing...
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