Alum Takes Unique Path

So often students become consumed with finding a “legal” job. C-M alum, Carl Stern, ’66, who used his law degree to embark upon two non-traditional legal jobs, discusses non-traditional law careers.

CAREER, PAGE 4

A Society Starving for Justice

The Terri Schiavo debate has only just begun. The Gavel dives into the controversy that has consumed America and explains how Terri’s death was an injustice in a civilized world.

OPINION, PAGE 6

Status Quo or Privatization?

Social Security continues to be a hot-button topic for many Americans. Gavel columnists discuss whether Pres. Bush is Chicken Little or Merlin the Magician.

OPINION, PAGE 9

THE GAVEL

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THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT CLEVELAND-MARSHALL COLLEGE OF LAW

Side Bar expanded, at least for now

By Chris Friedenberg

A student-led initiative has resulted in extended hours, expanded offerings and improved service at the Side Bar, the law school’s snack bar operated by Aramark. But Cleveland State University and Aramark officials said that some of the improvements would only be temporary if revenues do not sustain the new offerings.

On Oct. 20, the Student Bar Association (SBA) passed a resolution to create a food service task force charged “to investigate and promote the wants and needs of C-M students with respect to the food services provided at the law building.” The resolution also expressed the desire that the snack bar be open from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Scott Kuboff, ’11, the Senator who authored the resolution, See FOOD SERVICE, page 5

C-M’s 90 percent job placement: fact or fiction?

By Ryan Harrell

Whether a law student is nearing the end of the third year or starting orientation, one question is paramount: What are the chances of employment for a recent Cleveland-Marshall College of Law graduate? According to C-M’s Office of Career Planning, 90 percent of the class of 2004 found employment within nine months of graduation.

Numbers can be used to say almost anything, so a little illumination of the terminology and methodology of this survey is needed for a fuller understanding.

All law schools that conduct job placement surveys are required to adhere to standards set forth by the American Bar Association. C-M Director of Career Services, Jane Geneva, explained that because job placement rates have an impact of as much as 12 percent on overall rankings by publications such as US News and World Report, individual law schools have little flexibility in tabulating their own numbers.

In addition, because of the competitiveness among law schools, much of the raw data compiled by the office of career planning is not a matter of public record, said Geneva.

The term “employed” has specific meaning within this survey. While most students understand the term to mean full time employment as an attorney in a firm, agency or other legal organization, the term used in the survey has a broader meaning.

For instance, if a graduate is working in a law clerk position that could otherwise be filled by a student, that person is employed within the context of the survey. Likewise, if the graduate worked See SURVEY, page 5

Teaching ethics, not the MPRE

By Michael Luby

According to the National Conference of Bar Examiners (“NCBE”), responsible for the administration of the Multi-state Professional Responsibility Exam ("MPRE"), “Students who have taken and received a two or three credit law school survey course in professional responsibility should be reasonably well prepared to take the MPRE.”

John Orlando, ’3L, disagrees that taking a professional responsibility course prepares students for the MPRE. Orlando said his legal profession course inadequately prepared him for the MPRE.

Prof. Stephen Lazarus, said he, along with most professors, do not approach the course with the intention to teach the MPRE, but rather to teach professional responsibility.

Lazarus said that many students today have become obsessed with the Bar Exam, and to a lesser extent the MPRE, often indicating that they would much rather just learn the rules, and in essence, the test. Lazarus said he believes he owes a duty to train students to be professionals, including the methodology of approaching a real-life legal problem, not merely to deduce the answer.

Lazarus also uses multiple-choice questions with as many as seven possible answer choices. Lazarus believes this method helps to give students a feel for the MPRE exam and it forces students to logically deduce the answer.

Lazarus said the political climate of the Bar Exam and the MPRE was much easier 20 years ago. Today, a practice-oriented classroom is necessary to prepare students for the real world, said Lazarus. Many professors across the country stress the learning behind the test and not the test itself because that is the essence of law school, said Lazarus.
Part-time program is here full-time

By Steven H. Steinglass

C-M’s part-time program is the oldest in the country, based on the reputation of five generations of distinguished lawyers, judges, businesspersons and public servants throughout the country who owe their success to the hours that remained after a full-day’s work or to the hours they prided from their daily schedules to spend in C-M’s classrooms and library. And its durability rests on its flexibility: the opportunity to study part-time by day or part-time in the evening or to combine the two programs.

Part-time law students are admitted under the same academic standards as full-time students, and we expect of them the same discipline and dedication that we expect of our full-time students.

So it is gratifying that, despite the multiple pressures on their time, most often they excel in their coursework. In fact, though it is surely difficult for students working full time to participate in our clinics, externships, moot court programs, Law Review or the Journal of Law and Health, several do just that.

Moreover, part-time students bring special gifts to the student culture of C-M and to legal education in general. Many are older, many have already earned post-graduate degrees and many already have established themselves in such demanding careers as teaching, medicine and engineering. Many are parents; a few are grandparents. Often they have already learned the value of discipline and hard work. They have mastered the arts of many responsibilities and fulfilling competing obligations, and they have a heightened sense of the futility of learning their new profession that makes them especially diligent and especially good role models.

In recent years, our part-time students have had greater problems passing the bar. The difficulties they must overcome are not in ability or in common misperceptions. The difficulties are lifestyle challenges: the challenges of what in essence becomes the burden of holding down two demanding jobs at once: the studying job and the wage-earning job or the studying job and the child-raising job. Recognizing this, last year the faculty approved a bar passage course and assigned Assistant Dean Gary Williams to develop the materials and teach the course. The ABA now allows C-M to offer academic credit for the course. In 1998, faculty, students, staff and alumni drafted an ambitious strategic plan and the Board of Trustees approved an academically strong law school and an enlarged national presence. Maintaining the part-time program was an essential component of its first plan. We have now begun the process of envisioning the next five years; we remain committed to the part-time program, to the flexibility of its educational offerings to the outstanding students it attracts and educates. As always, we expect the best.

Faculty honors students’ best interests

By Jamie Cole Kerlee

Over the past couple of years, the Academic Standards Committee (“ASC”), chaired by Prof. Stephen Werber, has been actively working to modify C-M’s academic regulations. The ASC is comprised of four faculty members and two students. With the strong push for changes and the successful results of the ASC’s efforts, it appears as if a vast majority of the C-M student body is unaware of the changes and how those changes affect them and their law school.

Werber explained that there has been a breakdown in communication between all of the parties involved in this expensive modification process.

The committee is not responsible for reporting the amended changes to the students. Such reporting is the role of the administration. The administration makes no available hard copies of student handbooks as well as posts the amended regulations on the C-M website.

To some degree, students have a responsibility to make themselves aware of their governing regulations, said Werber.

Whether or not someone should put out a direct email regarding the relevant changes, it is clear that the majority of students do not know about the changes that have been implemented. As a result, a significant and significant change that directly impacts students is found under Regulation 3.5: Examination Scheduling. More than two years ago, students were, at times, scheduled to take an exam in the evening, followed by an exam exam and potentially an exam the following day.

The strain created on these students due to such an exam schedule has been alleviated by the recent amendment to the policy following an amendment put in last year.

Last year, an amendment to the policy allowed a student to reschedule an exam if the student was scheduled to take three or more exams in a two-day period. The recent amendment takes last year’s change one step further.

After researching various law school exam policies, Nadine Eraz, chairperson of the ABA’s Exam Task Force, proposed that students should be able to reschedule exams if two exams are scheduled within a 24-hour period.

After looking at the SBA proposal, Werber proposed that students should not be expected to take two exams on the same day, with a slight variation on the SBA’s recommendation.

On their face, the two proposals seem similar, but their implications are very different.

Specifically, under the SBA proposal, a student who had a night exam followed by an exam the next morning would be able to reschedule an exam because the two exams fall within a 24-hour window. Under Werber’s proposal to the faculty, a student with the last exam scheduled would not be able to reschedule because the exams do not fall on the day calendar day.

Werber’s proposal was adopted at the April 7 faculty meeting, going into effect immediately and including this spring 2005 semester.

Other changes that have been made without attracting the attention of the student body include the following regulations:

Incompleat grades: An extension can now be granted upon a showing of “good cause,” as opposed to the previous “higher standard.”

Credit for courses taken at other schools: Students can now take 30 credit hours outside C-M, instead of the previous 27.

Grade dispute procedures: Amendments added the requirement of meeting with the faculty member as the first step. C-M expressively provides for students to be granted permission upon proper request to review grade sheets submitted before and after students were identified (confidentiality is maintained because all student names are deleted before a student may view the grade sheet).

Graduation honors: Honors are awarded based solely on grades earned at C-M, as opposed to the previous inclusion of transfer credits.

In the end, GOP reinforces culture of life

By Kathleen Locke

The recent media spectacle known as the Terri Schiavo case has brought attention to the growing problem of the “culture of life.” This was the same phrase President Bush and Vice President Cheney used before the Schiavo case.

The Schiavo case, even if the legislature had no business involving itself in it, presented an opportunity for the Republicans to push their moral agenda, and no one could pass on a chance to back the Democrats into a corner. The Democrats were so scared to pick a side that most of them didn’t even show up.

Almost every public opinion poll, scientific or not, showed that the American public did not think that Congress had a right to intervene in the Schiavo case. However, there is something to be said for appealing your constituents, and even if Republicans are being criticized now, next year is an election year, and these issues will be fresh in the minds of voters.

The Republicans might not have won the Schiavo case, but they succeeded in reinforcing their position on “the culture of life,” which might prove to make them the biggest winners yet.
Drug convictions extinguish federal aid

By Eric Doeh
MANAGING/NEWS LETTERER

Recently, C-M’s Criminal Law Society hosted what was supposed to have been a proctored debate to discuss the decriminalization of marijuana and a little known provision in the Higher Education Act (HEA) aimed at denying federal aid to anyone convicted of a drug offense. Decriminalization involves the removal of criminal penalties for possession of marijuana for personal use. A second offense bans the student from federal aid for one year.

HEA’s drug provision denied financial aid to nearly 160,000 applicants.

Marijuana is presently decriminalized in 11 states: California, Colorado, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Oregon and Ohio. In these states, cultivation and distribution remain criminal offenses.

“Legalizing marijuana would benefit society by eliminating the black market and allowing for tax revenues. Also, it would open the door for medical uses, which the federal government, despite study after study, refuses to recognize,” said Gilbert.

According toingo to a 2003 survey conducted by the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, between 95 to 100 million Americans admit to having tried marijuana.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation

Marijuana arrests since 1993.

By Jasen Smith
co-editor-in-chief

On March 29, Jerry Springer, political commentator, notorious talk show host, radio personality, Northwestern University School of Law graduate and possible candidate for governor of Ohio, spoke at C-M.

The event, made possible through the efforts of the Democratic Law Organization (DLO) and Student Public Interest Law Organization (SPILO), drew an audience consisting not only of C-M’s Criminal Law Society but also a number of CSU undergraduates as well as active Democrats from the Cleveland area.

“More than 95% of all drug convictions in years past,” said Rhode Island State Representative Joseph Almeida, “The HEA anti-drug provision wrongfully denies equal opportunity for education to young people who have made mistakes in the past. We should let people have the means of improving their lives instead of holding their mistakes against them by denying financial aid.”

Springer declared new political agenda for Democrats

Catherine Buzanski, C-M’s financial aid director, said that a student’s eligibility for financial aid cannot be denied when the conviction was and if the student went through a rehabilitation program.

Under the HEA provision, a person convicted of a drug offense at any time is denied financial aid for one year. The second offense bans the student from federal aid for two years and a third conviction results in an indefinite suspension of financial aid.

In fact, a worksheet is even provided in the Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to explain the timing of the conviction and rehabilitation program.

More than 200 organizations and 115 university and college student governments nationwide have called on Congress to repeal the HEA’s drug provision.

Representative Barney Frank (D-Mass.), with the support of over 50 members of Congress, have proposed the Removing Impediments to Students’ Education Act (RISE), that would repeal the HEA’s drug law.

Some state legislators are also strong opponents of the drug provision. The Delaware General Assembly, along with that of Arizona and Rhode Island, have passed resolutions calling on the U.S. Congress to repeal the law.

Even Rep. Mark Souder (R-Ind.), the author of the HEA’s drug law, noted that it has had unintended consequences. “This provision was clearly meant to apply only to students convicted of drug crimes while receiving financial aid, not to applicants who might have had drug convictions in years past,” said Souder.

According to Rhode Island State Representative Joseph Almeida, “The HEA anti-drug provision wrongfully denies equal opportunity for education to young people who have made mistakes in the past. We should let people have the means of improving their lives instead of holding their mistakes against them by denying financial aid.”

Because Springer did not have prepared notes, he was able to expand and modify topics that seemed to resonate with the crowd of over 200. Springer said, “The Republican Party has been hijacked by people [who] will not compromise.”

According to Springer, the Christian right has been used and played. Springer said, “Bringing religion into politics demeans religion and destroys politics.”

Springer referred to the Terri Schiavo legal and political debate as an “obscene, pandering circus” to highlight hypocritical actions of any other contemporary governor, as well as Texas legislation signed by Bush that allows hospitals to make life-support decisions in certain circumstances and Tom Delay’s own decision to take his father off life support, Springer dismissed actions of Republican leadership as grandstanding and opportunistic.

Springer even quoted from the Academic Bill of Rights when addressing the need for public and private universities to adopt the Bill of Rights. “In the 1950s, the only people who will still be here are those who were alive in the 1950s,” said Springer.

Ed S. Stone, professor emeritus, has taught that teaching subject in Ohio public

From the audience, a man asked how the Democratic Party can redeem itself in the wake of its reduction to a minority party. Springer responded by saying that the party needs to be more vocal and that Democrats must take the opportunity to show that they do have a voice with the general interests of a majority of Americans.

When asked about his ideas for Ohio educational reforms, Springer referred to the Terri Schiavo legal and political debate as an “obscene, pandering circus” to highlight hypocritical actions of any other contemporary governor, as well as Texas legislation signed by Bush that allows hospitals to make life-support decisions in certain circumstances and Tom Delay’s own decision to take his father off life support, Springer dismissed actions of Republican leadership as grandstanding and opportunistic.

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Turning to Ohio politics, Springer noted that a significant number of Ohio’s brightest university students do not stay in the state after graduation. In Springer’s view, this is due to a public perception that Ohio does not embrace progress or tolerance.

Springer saw the culminating point of the perception with the passage of Ohio’s anti-gay-marriage constitutional amendment, but also noted legislation such as the pending Academic Bill of Rights that, he thinks, is a negative message to those in the academic community.

“If Ohio wants to go back to the 1950s, the only people who will still be here are those who were alive in the 1950s,” said Springer.

Even though Springer’s speech ran overtime, he was able to address questions and concerns from the audience, a man asked how the Democratic Party can redeem itself in the wake of its reduction to a minority party. Springer responded by saying that the party needs to be more vocal and that Democrats must take the opportunity to show that they do have a voice with the general interests of a majority of Americans.

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Three careers – all deeply involved in the law, but not lawyering.
Sure, it is more fun to preach than to practice. But it too is a life in the law. I hope I have done something useful along the way.

By Carl Stern ’66

New York Gov. Mario Cuomo. Journalism and law draw upon the same aptitude. A lawyer striving to identify the issue in a case is doing the same thing as a journalist looking for the lead. Both occupations require skill in handling abstractions and reducing them to words. Contrary to common perceptions, most lawyers and judges write very well, indeed.

When Bill Clinton was elected President, his transition team asked me to recommend steps to make the Justice Department and other federal agencies more open to the press. That resulted in career number two. I spent almost four years as Janet Reno’s cast reporter to cover the legal beat. I did it for 26 years. Today, legal reporters and commentators are old hat in the news media. I was the first cast reporter to cover the legal beat. I did it for 26 years. Today, legal reporters and commentators are old hat in the news media. I was the first cast reporter to cover the legal beat.

The gavel
Q: What interested you about becoming dean?  
A: One of the tactics is bringing in a new perspective by enhancing the educational experience at the law school.

Q: How do you view what your relationship with the students will be?  
A: I am hopeful that, by the second year, I will be teaching a class. I’ll look for opportunities to interact with the students whether it is through existing student organizations or through speaker programs.

Q: Can you elaborate on other responsibilities that you will have as dean?  
A: One responsibility is working with the various constituencies and identifying ways we can collectively enhance the educational experience at the law school.

Q: What do you feel that you will bring to the position?  
A: I think I can bring a slightly different perspective by enhancing academic experiences with things like clinical programs, mentorship programs and practical training programs to ensure that the education of the students will provide the real skills that are necessary to be successful lawyers.

Q: How do you view what your relationship with the students will be?  
A: I am hopeful that, by the second year, I will be teaching a class. I’ll look for opportunities to interact with the students whether it is through existing student organizations or through speaker programs.

Q: Is there anything that you see as a strength or weakness at the law school?  
A: One of the real challenges that we face is the bar passage rate. One of the strengths of the law school is that it has been historically a law school of opportunity. Some people have suggested that the law school needs to improve the bar passage rate in order to be competitive with other law schools' graduation rates. I think there is an opportunity to improve the bar passage rate.

Q: What are your thoughts about the current grading curve?  
A: The idea of using the full range of grades is to make sure students are getting honest feedback as to how they are doing.

Q: How do you view what your relationship with the students will be?  
A: I am hopeful that, by the second year, I will be teaching a class. I’ll look for opportunities to interact with the students whether it is through existing student organizations or through speaker programs.

Q: What are your thoughts about the current grading curve?  
A: The idea of using the full range of grades is to make sure students are getting honest feedback as to how they are doing. If a student isn’t getting honest grades, then it’s not fair to the other students who are trying to do well in law school, then it would be unfair if I don’t want to see them fail the bar. That is one reflection necessary of the quality of the students that are in those programs, but a reflection of a competing demand that are on the part-time students. That is one area where the tension lies.

Q: What is the bar passage rate plan?  
A: One of the tactics is shrinking the class size. Another tactic is providing more scholarship funding to attract students who, for economic reasons, go to other law schools, so enhancing the quality of the student body. Also, providing funding for students, many of whom have to work to support themselves while they are in law school, or who need to work during graduation and taking the bar.

Q: What is your advice to students?  
A: One practical piece of advice is that being a law student and then being a lawyer is a full-time occupation and requires a commitment not only to learning but truly embracing the core responsibility of what lawyers do, which is providing a service to your client.

Q: What are your thoughts about the current grading curve?  
A: The idea of using the full range of grades is to make sure students are getting honest feedback as to how they are doing. If a student isn’t getting honest grades or getting the message that they aren’t doing well in law school, then it would be unfair if I don’t want to see them fail the bar. That is one reflection necessary of the quality of the students that are in those programs, but a reflection of a competing demand that are on the part-time students. That is one area where the tension lies.

FOOD SERVICE: SBA task force serves-up unique options

Continued from page 1--

Recently, I sat down with Geoffrey Mearns to discuss some of his goals and plans as the new dean.

Q: What is your biggest challenge?  
A: The opportunity blended one for opportunity. There is a tension there.

Q: What are your biggest challenges?  
A: One of the real challenges we face is the bar passage rate. One of the strengths of the law school is that it has been historically a law school of opportunity. Some people have suggested that the law school needs to improve the bar passage rate in order to be competitive with other law schools' graduation rates. I think there is an opportunity to improve the bar passage rate.

Q: What is your advice to students?  
A: One practical piece of advice is that being a law student and then being a lawyer is a full-time occupation and requires a commitment not only to learning but truly embracing the core responsibility of what lawyers do, which is providing a service to your client.

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By Nick De Santis

I am pleased to announce that the C-M law faculty, on April 7, approved SBA’s proposed change to the exam rescheduling policy. Last year the SBA proposed a policy to allow students to reschedule an exam if he or she had two within a 24-hour period. Seeking to expand on this policy, so that C-M could compete with other area law schools, the SBA created an exam policy task force, headed by Nadine Ezzie, 2L. Ezzie researched regional law schools and their policies and drafted a proposal for a policy allowing a student to reschedule an exam if he or she had two within a 24-hour period.

Although the faculty ultimately adopted a policy that would allow students to reschedule an exam if they had two within the same calendar day, this is without question a very positive step forward. The law school faculty should be commended for truly keeping students’ best interest in mind.

I would personally like to thank Ezzie and the task force for their hard work. Hopefully, next year’s SBA will continue to demonstrate the strong student advocacy exhibited by Ezzie and the task force.

In other news, the SBA, working with Vicki Plata, was able to secure for at least one more year, one of the internships in the law school. I would like to thank Mike Laszlo, Plata and the many students, faculty and staff, for expressing their concerns and working for a mutually beneficial solution.

On April 18, the student government association (the undergraduate govern- ing body) will hold its general election. There are two issues on the ballot that di- rectly effect law students. The first issue is whether the university should continue the U-Pass program at a cost of $25 per student (this is a ten dollar increase from last year).

The second issue is whether the U-Pass should apply to all full-time and part-time students (graduate and undergraduate). Law students will be able to vote on this issue on April 18, 19 and 20 in the business school or the UC. Brendan Healy will be sending further information as the voting date nears.

I would also like to thank the service week committee and the students, faculty and staff of CSU for making this year’s blood, food and clothing drives successful.

The members of the service week committee were Marisol Cordero-Goodman, Meredith Marcinko, Jamie Unerley and Brendan Healy. We were able to get enough blood donors to save or sustain at least 87 area patients, and were able to collect a considerable amount of food for the Cleveland Food Bank.

The SBA will be holding its officer elections on April 26 and 27. The elec- tion committee will be forwarding more information, including a form in the SBA constitution and other necessary forms, to the students next week. I encour- age all interested students to run.

The truth is, Terri Schiavo was not coma- tose or brain dead. She was not terminally ill or dying. Her heart beat on its own and her lungs worked without assistance. She attempted to speak and recognized family members when her husband permitted her to visit them. Put simply, Schiavo was not dying, she was disabled. Schiavo suffered from brain damage. Her injury left her so that she could not feed herself without assistance. The insertion of a feeding tube should never have become an issue.

The truth is, the four statements by which Michael alleged that Terri expressed her wishes to die if incapacitated were either causal remarks made by his brother or his sister-in-law while watch- ing television or were off-hand remarks made in a group setting, where people are more likely to agree with the general consensus of the group without giving it much thought.

It is doubtful that these chance comments were made with any degree of thoughtfulness or consideration. Moreover, most young people never picture themselves in such a situation until much much later in life.

Many young people today might also say that they would prefer death to life in a wheelchair without the use of their limbs. How many people in wheelchairs would choose to starve to death? The point is, when you are a young adult, you are more likely to make off-the-cuff re- marks regarding events that you either never anticipate happening to you or at the very least, never expect to occur for years to come.

Florida law requires that a person does not have a written document detailing the evidence that the person wants to be put to death if incapacitated making the clear and con- vincing. Unfortunately, Terri’s husband was able to convince Judge George Greer, the trial judge of the Pinel- las- Pasco County Circuit Court who originally heard the Schiavo case, that Terri’s wishes was to die based on those casual remarks and even more unfortunately, the other courts followed suit.

According to the trial court record, Judge Greer never made a deeper inquiry into any of Terri’s alleged statements; he simply took them at face value. Doesn’t it make you uncomfortable that that person’s life is hanging in the balance, the judge didn’t bother to make a record of his analysis of Schiavo’s true intentions when making these statements? The truth of the matter is that the courts did not think that Schiavo had a “quality of life” worth living for. Our society has strayed so far away from the notion that we are endowed certain inalienable rights, such as life. The law supports a culture of death whereby courts are the judges of whether another human being should live or die. What happens to the disabled, the elderly and to all those who cannot help themselves. They are left at the mercy of others and in a society whose own judiciary finds it acceptable to order an inhumane death by starvation and dehydration, a term better used. Hopefully, those who suffer persecution for justice’s sake will find comfort in God, the Creator, whose name is on the Declaration of Independence so proudly pro- claimed many years ago.

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Don’t lose sight of your principles

By Josh Doleish
GAVEL COLUMNIST

I overheard a person the other day at my favorite Chinese food establishment. He was an older guy, maybe 60 or 70. It looked like he was in the throws of his post-60, geni- atric, pants up to the chest, downhill tumble that is the “golden” years. He had a wizened look about him and deep furrows had begun to envelope his eyes and forehead.

The man began to converse with another gentleman. I think he said he was 57. Among the late afternoon din of the restaurant was a work crowd, the old man asked if the younger man was still in the business. The old man proceeded to speak of why he retired. His words were spoken with a quiet despair and were all but blotted out in the lunchtime conversations. “The busi- ness wasn’t the same as it used to be.” He added, “There are too many lawyers, and none of ’em give you any respect. They lie and they cheat, and it’s all for the sake of winning and money.”

With a specter of class looming ever so close, I drew a tip on the table and headed out of class. As I was leaving, all I could think about was the look of that old man. It appeared to me that he had just truly come to the realization that his “business” was not something born of the ivory tower, but rather, something born of a seedy back-alley bar. At that instant, my mind jumped to a story I had heard of an attorney throwing a tennis ball against the wall during a deposition and then lying about it when the other side moved for sanctions. I re- membered when I heard this story, I laughed and thought to myself, “Well, no wonder lawyers get such a bum rap.”

While I was crossing the street, I made a connection between that anecdote and the words of the old man. I realized that if I was laughing at such assinine lawyered behavior, then the state of the practice of law must be headed in the wrong direction. I thought, “The adversarial system is running rampant over decency and common courtesy.” I would like to think that the “good old days” of

one else’s dignity is not winning at all? I have seen lawyers laugh at homeless people and spit on them. I have seen governments under pressure from corporations, one lead a life where some dignity remains. I have seen an economics juggernaut ravage our country making it no less harsh than a land with no rule at all. I want to believe that there is a common good somewhere and that it is found in the respect for human dignity, but all indications point to the opposite.

Without a doubt, these indications are symp- tomatic of a disease that is spreading through the legal community and robbing it of any compassion for hu- man dignity. Apparently, this disease led to one of the despairs in the man’s voice at the restaurant.

The man was looking at his life and his profes- sion and he did not like what he saw. I could see his frustration in finally realizing his profession was doing nothing to quash the spread of the disease that had perme- ated his business.

When I finally sat down in class and opened my book, I took from my pocket the fortune cookie I got at the Chinese restaurant and cracked it open. The fortune cookie had a little piece of wisdom at it. Read, “Your principles mean more to you than any money or success.” “How true,” I thought, “how true.” I crossed out the word prin- ciples and wrote in “human dignity” and stuck the fortune back in my pocket as a little reminder.

What do you mean, you don’t get it?

The following is the fifth in a six-part series following a first year C-M student from orientation to spring exams.

Whatever mythical aura law school may have held has definite- ly been stripped away. After two rounds of midterms, last semester’s finals and however many first year classes, any idealistic notions I had about law school have been entirely dashed. The daily monotony has set in, punctuated every so often by periods of frantic studying. Although this is somewhat of a downer since there was something exciting about just being in law school at first, it’s kind of nice be- ing able to somewhat predict what each day is going to bring.

This being said, I am eternally grateful to many of my profes- sors for moving towards a more traditional lecturing method this semester. While I tended to loath lecturing during undergrad, com- pared to the Socratic method, lectur- ing seems concise and carefree.

Perhaps it’s a law school tradition to scare the pants off of all the incoming 1Ls by stressing the Socratic method the first semester. Whatever it may be, I certainly could have done without the anxiety and stress it brings.

I also have to say that a pleasant surprise has been how interesting some of our assignments have been this semester. Maybe he’s just the nature of the material or simple changes in the class, but it seems like this semester has been more hands-on. This change, coupled with the relatively intriguing hypotheticals we’ve been given, has made a number of potentially assinine projects enjoyably bearable.

A professor mentioned in class the other day that we (“I,” thinking to myself) should be getting to the point where we’re “starting to get it” (i.e. we should be able to “dig deeper” and advocate in our exam questions, going beyond mere application of the rules of law). Considering I’m entering the last month of my second semester, he’s probably right, but I’m still struggling with just remembering the basics.

Looking to the end of this se- mester and beyond, I hope that the whole “deeper evaluation” thing will eventually become less of a problem for me, either because I find some trick to remembering things or because there’s simply less to know, but it’s somewhat disconcerting for the moment. My primary consolation right now is that it seems like a lot of actual practice is knowing the ma- terial that you’ve engaged in while researching your case.

But I’m sure that I’m overthinking this as- pect of things. Regardless, the oncoming spring has decimated my motivation to study or go to class. Going outside and enjoying the rela- tively nice weather just seems overly enticing when compared with sitting in the library read- ing cases that we may or may not go over or an hour and fifteen minutes of sitting in a stifling classroom trying to grasp rules which only seem to become more obscure with dis- cussion. But I suppose this is just another cost of being in law school.

Your principles mean more to you than any money or success

legal prac- tice have not left us. I would like to think that the old man’s comments in the restaurant were nothing but geriatric dia- tribute, but I am growing concerned.

As a legal community, will we ever realize that we can take the war metaphors too far and that winning at the cost of our’s or some-
OBVIOUSLY, THE MBE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE ESSAYS...

“Some States Do Not Grade The Essays For Students With Very High MBE Scores!”
(Who Are Presumably Assured Of Passing.)

“Some States Do Not Grade The Essays For Students With Low MBE Scores!”
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The only real crisis that Social Security faces is the threat from Chicken Little and his cohorts. However, unlike the fabled owl, Bush can’t even convince his flock that there even is a problem. While it’s open-mic night for solutions, the only unanimity is in the area of personal. To the consensus, the only thing it will have to do to solve the problem is to let personal accounts do a complete solution. President Bush himself admitted that “personal accounts do not solve the issue.”

Never has it been so apparent that the President has no idea how to solve the problem he has made. He was eager to appease the public with tax cuts during his war, devaluing our currency and status in the world community. Now he wants to raise taxes to solve another problem that never existed.

Social Security is too important to be co-opted by partisan politics, corporate shills or statistical manipulation. The President claims the system will be bust. As grammatically dubious as this claim is, the economic basis is equally shaky. Currently, the so-called surplus is funding the system to pay a surplus. The government uses the surplus to cut the President’s budget deficit. Removing more money from the system will do anything but preserve solvency.

Conservatives tout the creation of Social Security, many convinced that “social” was just code for socialism. Yet, it emerged as a vital program, ensuring healthy, solvent futures for people who could not support themselves during retirement, despite a lifetime of hard, honest work. Taking away that certainty and trading it for a share in the market ignores the realities of uncertainty and instability.

Social Security is a testament to politicians who were committed to protecting people during one of America’s most troubling times. Now Bush and the conservatives have their chance to destroy it. The same formula worked to convince the public we should kill people in a search for WMD: build up a crisis, fix the alleged problem and look like heroes. The problem is there is no crisis.

Even if the surplus is gone by 2018 as the President’s numerologists predict, the government will repay the loans it has been making and the system will be able to keep paying for at least 75 years. What then is being solved?

The problem that the Right has faced since the 1930s that someone else was committed enough to protect workers to create a compassionate, beneficial program for them. Now is their opportunity to dismantle a safety net that has protected people for 70 years. Bush can parade the fallacy that personal accounts implicate individual liberties. The problem is the same volatile system.

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I think a number of things must be done.

First, and most importantly, OASI and HI taxes should be included on everyone’s annual income tax return. Still have withholding, but gross up both taxes owed and taxes paid on the 1040. These damn taxes are too easily ignored because so many Americans simply focus on net paid and never review total withheld. I know fixing these problems will be expensive, but it’s not like waiting 20 years will make it any easier.

I also understand future growth and productivity gains will ensure some solvency, perhaps even beyond 2041, but I’d rather be safe than sorry. Relying on immigration to solve our problems doesn’t sound like good economic policy.

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Ryan Thomas said that North Olmsted is in Thomas is running for mayor what many do not know is that Thomas Ryan, 2L, walking management software appli experience and incorporating additional databases (get a card if you don't already have one so you are a "registered borrower" with access to them) and for a more extensive U.S. Government Documents Depository collection, but did you know that the John W. White Collection of Folklore, Orientalia and Chess has the world's largest and most comprehensive chess library? But, if baseball is more your interest, the Baseball Collection in the Social Sciences Department in the Stokes Annex includes books, periodicals, photographs, 40 years of daily box scores, numerous historic scrapbooks and many other materials from the extensive private collections of two dedicated collectors, Charles W. Means, a pioneer in the area of baseball statistics, and Eugene C. Murdock. If you're headed to the CSU Law program in St. Petersburg, Russia this summer, check out some of the dictionaries and language instruction materials from the foreign literature dept. or travel titles from the excellent collection in the history dept. The Public Library of Cleveland City Hall, at E. 6th and Lakeside, a short #247 Loop Bus ride from right outside, is one of the oldest (est. 1912) municipal reference libraries in the country. It has an excellent, extensive collection of local government resources, including current journals and the Urban Documents microfiche collection. It's the Law Library for the City of Cleveland's Law Department, but being a branch of Cleveland Public Library, it is open to the public. Thinking ahead to summer, many area attorneys and law firms are members of the Cleveland Law Library Association, a membership library on the 4th floor of the Cuyahoga County Courthouse at Ontario and Lakeside. ParkWorks, Inc. has been developing a series of walks around the city. Another collaborative project in which they are involved, the Plaza at Huron at E. 9th Street, will provide an attractive space bridging the Gateway and Theater Districts. Check www. parkworks.org to find out about the many ways this nonprofit is making our Cleveland environment more beautiful. Gateway means baseball, and this is April, so get studying to be able to take a break for a game or two at Jacobs Field. Still haven't started on your New Year's resolution about your physical health? For a low cost route CSU has open recreation times at the pool, Woodluff Gym, weight room and track. Go to the CSU website, click on Athletics, click on Open Recreation for information. Think “Things” Still to Be Done This Spring The City Club of Cleveland, 850 Eucalia Ave. (216) 632-0082, offers student memberships for $50. Coming at noon on Fri. 4/15: Donald L. Korb, Chief Counsel, Internal Revenue Service; on Wed. 4/20: Donald L. Korb, Chief Counsel, Internal Revenue Service; on Wed. 4/20: Steve Brogan, Managing Partner of Alas, News Editor and Senior Writer, the Wall Street Journal, on “Corporate Reputation Management and Mismanage- ment.” The Great Cleveland International Lawyers Group, www.ccilg.org, meets at the City Club. Membership is $50, but law students can attend the luncheons at the reduced price of six dollars. The luncheon on May 19 includes Cesar Ochoa-Reyes, Enrique, Gonzalez, Aquirre y. Ochoa, Juarez, Mexico “Legal Aspects of Doing Business in Mexico – Where is Fox Taking Mexico?”

And, if you had been planning to visit the Cleveland Museum of Art, do it now before more of the galleries are closed for the museum’s major renovation and expansion project. Check www.clevelandart.org for details. The Armor Court will be open through the Memorial Day Weekend.

The special exhibition, “Masterworks from The Phillips Collection,” featuring masterpieces by Renoir, Braque, Cezanne, Corot, Daumier, Degas, Gauguin and others will be at the Museum through May 29. Admission is $10 weekdays and $12 weekends for adults, $9 for seniors and college students; $7 for students 6 to 18, and the audio tour is included. Reservations in advance are recommended.
Letters to the Editor

Part-timers strike back

Dear Editors,

While I understand that you were trying to promote how C-M can attain its goals of more national recognition and improved rankings by the bar exam, there were a couple of particular points on which I disagree with you.

Firstly, Mr. Wolstein makes the formula to the night school “problem,” as you would have it labeled, you would have to consider the $6 million donation from Mr. Wolstein as a loss, as he was a night school attendee as were many of the school’s most notable graduates.

Should you stop and consider why that is? It is possible that night stu-
dents really want the law degree, not the way a kid out of school with no job and nowhere to turn, who is now growing up, “wants” a law degree. A kid who wants to continue hiding from the real world that is filled with responsibility no dollar draughts on Mon., Tue., Wed. and Thu. nights.

Now who do you think in this equa-
tion is the kid who can get the better job in the “real” legal world, the student with an intelligent, inspiring people that I have ever “real” legal world, the student with an “wants” a law degree. A kid out of school with no job who wants to continue hiding from the real world that is filled with responsibility no dollar draughts on Mon., Tue., Wed. and Thu. nights.

Secondly, you state that you doubt that I fully understand the importance of the part-time program because I lack “any real world experience to speak of.” Once again, your observations are flawed. Why do you assume that I have no real world experience simply because I am at school full-time? Actually, I worked full-time for two years prior to putting my career and financial welfare on hold and commencing law school. I think that it is naive to assume that all full-time students have real world experience.

F inally, in your last letter, you say that part-time students “have money to burn” and are attending law school to hide from the real world. Maybe you are the only one, but I didn’t have $60,000 stowed away to pay for my education. Rather, substantial students loans are financing my endeavor. If hiding from the real world is only my reason for being in law school, I am paying a pretty high price.

Jason Smith, Co-Editor-in-Chief

Student protests psychic’s visit to Wolstein Center

Dear Editors,

I was shocked and amazed when I opened last week’s Free Times and saw that famous “psychic” Sylvia Browne is going to make an appearance at the Wolstein Center on May 3. Has CSU really become so desperate for revenue that it would stoop this low to put on a show with a so-called psychic?

Sylvia Browne professes to have the abilities to see the future, diagnose people without physical examination and be a conduit for communication with the dead. She sells books and appears periodically on the “Montel Williams Show” and “Larry King Live” along with making live appearances.

Brown’s psychic ability is nothing more than wild guesses. Towards the end of 2003, Opal Jo Jennings underwent medical diagnoses without any medical education, Sylvia was convicted in 1992 for selling securi-
ties in a gold-mining venture under false pretenses, and Brazil abduction in Japan, having been sold into white slavery. She is a make-better-looking Japanese city that did not exist to add some sort of credibility to her wild guesses. Towards the end of 2003, Opal Jo’s brother was found, the confessed killer and abductor since convicted and serving his sentence.

So a criminal, pathologically lying con artist is coming to the Wolstein Center. Now, I’m sure the higher-ups of CSU will tell me, “CSU does not endorse nor have any opinion of any show that is put on at the Wolstein Center lest we be dragged into court on any number of frivolous lawsuits.” You almost have your Jurrasic Park here, the pseudo killer and abductor since convicted and serving his sentence.

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I ask the deans, professors and stu-
dents, not only of C-M, but also of all CSU to let the administration hear our voices. I will not sit idly by and let the administration make decisions regarding the student’s right to build the future on any more decisions without consultation and doing the right thing.

The Wolstein Center is part of CSU’s identity. If CSU is supposed to be seen by the community as an institute of higher learning, that image is tarnished and CSU’s credibility is shot when skeptics like this can be carried out without any proof.

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