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Congress Assaults America



With the expiration of the assault weapons ban, Gavel columnist takes aim, stating the pros are far outweighed by the cons.

OPINION, PAGE 7

Lending a Helping Hand

Current and future benefits can be derived from a mentor-mentee relationship. C-M alum advocates that students can use the experience of legal professionals to their own benefit.

CAREER, PAGE 5



The Ugly Truth

What do David Letterman, Oprah Winfrey, Mick Jagger and Bill Gates have in common, and what common hardships have they all overcome to become successful? The Gavel dives into this sensitive topic.

OPINION, PAGE 6





VOLUME 53, ISSUE 1 SEPTEMBER 2004

GAVEL

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT CLEVELAND-MARSHALL COLLEGE OF LAW

Searching for Steinglass' Successor

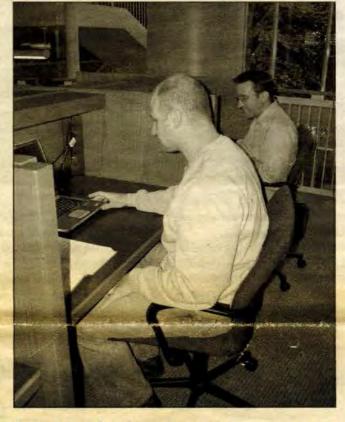
By Eric W. Doeh

Managing/News Editor

On May 5, 2004, Dean Steven Steinglass officially announced his resignation as dean of C-M. Steinglass, who has been dean for the past eight years, said July 1, 2005 will be his last day in office. When asked about his resignation, Steinglass said, "I believe the time has come for the law school to begin the transition to new leadership and for me to begin my transition to a new stage in my career."

As a result of Steinglass' resignation, C-M has begun an aggressive search for a new dean. C-M's Dean Search Committee, formed by the Cleveland State University Faculty Senate, has the responsibility of providing Chin Y. Kuo, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, with the names of the final three candidates for the position by the end of December. Kuo and CSU President Michael Schwartz will

See DEAN SEARCH, page 4



Raising the bar in every category

The admissions office was faced with a larger and more credentialed applicant pool to select from to form the incoming 1L class. The result is an academically strong class with more diversity than the past

several years.

By Alex Hastie

STAFF WRITER

The admissions department attempted to take a more holistic view of the applicants and selected candidates that had various backgrounds.

Turn to page 2 for more.

During the spring semester of

2004, C-M faculty amended the

pass/fail grading option. After

extensive lobbying efforts by the

Student Bar Association (SBA),

the C-M faculty made a substan-

tial, student-friendly change in the

grading policy: any 2L or 3L can

substitute a grade with a "pass"

weeks after grades have posted.

policies at the school. It's also a

"This is one of the most liberal

Former C-M student arrested for bank robbery

By Christopher Friedenberg

Former Cleveland-Marshall student Stephen C. Jackson is in federal custody, charged with violation of Title 18, U.S. Code Section 2113(a): "By force, violence and intimidation, take money belonging to or in the care, custody, control or possession of Charter One Bank, 1299 Columbia Road, Westlake, Ohio."

On Aug. 18, 2004, Jackson was arrested at the Ultimate Car Wash in Lakewood where police allege he was using change machines to launder marked bills into quarters.

According to a Black Law Student Association (BLSA) member speaking under condition of anonymity, Jackson's easy generosity and popularity may have been a factor last spring when he was elected president of BLSA.

Prior to Jackson's recent arrest,

students were concerned Jackson did not meet qualifications required to sit as BLSA's president. "I don't know why he was elected president when he was already having academic problems," said a BLSA member acquainted with Jackson. Questions had been raised whether Jackson's GPA was sufficient to allow him to serve as an officer of a student organization.

Other questions have surfaced about whether he was qualified to have been admitted to C-M.

After Jackson's arrest, it became known that he had been previously convicted and served eight years in prison for murder. According to the *Plain Dealer*, Carroll Jackson, Jackson's father, said that C-M had been the "only law school to accept him."

The administration at C-M refused to say whether they were See JACKSON, page 3

You Should Know

1Ls by the numbers

Some basic information about the 2004 1L's

Information courtesy of Melody Stwart

Number of students:	248	
Full-time Day:	174	(70%)
Part-time Day:	15	- (6%)
Part-time Night:	59	(24%)
Female:	107	(43%)
Male:	141	(57%)
Resident:	202	(81%)
Non-resident:	46	(19%)
Minority:	58	(23%)
	LSAT	UGPA
25th percentile	151	3.02
75th percentile	156	3.60

great example of the SBA exacting positive change on the students here at Marshall," said SBA President Edward Hastie. "This shows that by representing the student body's concerns and working with

the faculty, good things can happen for the students."

The change in policy was due largely to last year's SBA

due largely to last year's SBA President Sasha Markovic, who proposed the idea to the faculty. "I'm just proud of the fact that we were able to get it done and I think it's a fair policy for students in the future," said Markovic.

New pass/fail option offers more choices

The new pass/fail option provides that 2Ls and 3Ls are eligible; two courses can be taken on a passfail basis; only elective courses can be taken pass/fail, required course grades cannot be substituted; only one class per semester can be taken pass/fail. The deadline for using the option is two weeks after final grades are posted.

"I think the new rules are an improvement. I was always too worried that a teacher would look down on someone who was pass/fail. So I never thought to use it," said Katie Davidson, 2L.

A student using the pass/fail option must record a C or better in the elective class to pass. This counts towards graduation requirements, but a "pass" grade will not affect the student's GPA.

While lobbying for a new pass/fail policy, Markovic cited

Case Western Reserve School of Law's (CWRU) pass/fail option as a model. However, the option at CWRU is different from the new enacted policy at C-M.

The greatest difference is that at CWRU, students must notify the school of their desire to take a class pass/fail within the semester. Then, at the end of the semester, the registrar notifies the student of the grade and the student has three options to choose from: keep the grade earned, have the grade reported as passing (if the grade is a C or higher) or elect to receive no credit, with no record of registration.

C-M's pass/fail option is more generous than Case's. "Being able to keep your grade if you do well is the best part of the new policy. You never know how you're going to do in a class, this way you don't have to make a decision that you might regret," said Emily Pankow, 2L.

Dean urges involvement

By Steven H. Steinglass

I welcome you all to the beginning of C-M's 108th school year of educating some of the finest lawyers, judges, business persons, government officials and community leaders in America. We look forward to finding your names among them one day.

I encourage you to prepare for your



The Dean's Column

coming acquainted with professors, seeking help if you need it and using the "culture" of law school as a classroom for learning the benefits of involvement in your communities and the

future career by work-

ing hard in classes, be-

By using the "culture of law school," I mean that the law school is a microcosm for the world you are entering and, beyond the classroom, there are abundant opportunities for preparing yourself for your future as attorneys. You should be as avid in these preparations as you are in your academic studies—starting with joining the student organizations whose interests are compatible with your own and attending as many of our public lectures as possible.

There are perhaps 40 student organizations: They are organized around cultural identity, such as the Black Law Students' Association, the Hispanic Law Students Association and the Justinian Forum; around mutual political and philosophical concerns, such as the Association for Environmental Law and Sustainability, the Women's Law Students Association, the National Lawyers Guild and the Federalist Society; around career interests such as the Student Public Interest Law Organization, the Criminal Law Society and the ABA-Law Student Division.

There are also the "basic" organizations that most law schools have: the Student Bar Association; the school newspaper, the Gavel; the Moot Court Program; the CSU Law Review; and the Journal of Law and Health. Getting involved is the beginning of your career as an active and engaged lawyer.

Our lectures series and special events are yet another opportunity to envision vourself as an actual attorney-in-training. Each lecture supplements your classroom experiences and exposes you to some of the finest minds in America. Moreover, each event brings about 50 local attorneys and judges to the law school, making these occasions a fine place to network and introduce yourself to the legal community of Cleveland.

The C-M Law Alumni Association offers first year students guidance into the profession through its Alumni Mentoring Program. Many of the relationships forged between attorney-mentor and student-mentee are maintained throughout law school and beyond.

When you take advantage of the fullness of the law school community's resources, your legal education will not only be more expansive but also more enriching and stimulating.

SBA election, part deux

CSU committe orders new executive election after lengthy appeal

By Jason Smith

CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

This semester, the CSU Student Life Committee of the Faculty Senate ordered a new Student Bar Association executive election. This decision was announced after an appeal was filed with CSU regarding election committee and SBA senate actions.

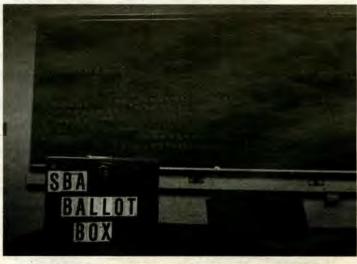
In April 2004, Michele Hyndman and Terry Billups filed complaints against subsequently elected individuals including Edward Hastie, president, John Storey, vice president of programming, Nick DeSantis, vice president of budgeting, and Norm Schroth, treasurer.

The complaints focused on e-mail sent out several days prior to the official designated start of campaigning. Hastie and Schroth sent approximately 80 e-mail, combined, regarding the candidacy of their

election ticket to students before the official start of campaigning.

The election committee heard the Billups and Hyndman complaints and issued sanctions against both Hastie and Schroth. Both candidates were banned from campaigning for a specified period were not followed, the facts were not interpreted correctly and that the sanctions were not appropriate. After hearing the arguments, a quorum of the full senate affirmed the election committee's decision in its entirety."

Sasha Markovic, 2003-2004



of time and also could not be present in any high traffic areas of the school during the ban.

Billups and Hyndman appealed the election committee's findings to a hearing in front of the full senate. During the May 1, 2004 hearing, Billups and Hyndman argued that the proper procedures

SBA President, said, "I will vehemently defend the committee's actions to the very end; one would be misinformed if they think there was any impropriety. Because this was an SBA election, the SBA bylaws contain governing procedure for complaints, the proper procedure was followed and the decision was made in order to ensure fairness to students, the candidates and the election."

After the decision of the full senate, Billups and Hyndman appealed to the CSU Student Life Committee of the Faculty Senate, who subsequently ordered a new SBA executive election for all four executive positions. DeSantis has reportedly appealed and Hastie said that he plans on appealing the committee's decision.

Hastie said he is unsure why the new election will encompass all four positions. "It is ridiculous that Nick [DeSantis] and John [Storey] are up for reelection. Why they are being punished for an honest mistake of another person without their knowledge is beyond me," said Hastie.

Currently, the SBA is planning a new election, which will take place in approximately four weeks. Candidacy for the new election will not be limited to students who ran in the contested election. Furthermore, because students who were eligible to vote in the April election have since graduated, it is expected that 1L's will be allowed to vote in the upcoming election.

1L class "smarter and smaller"

By Mike Brown

STAFF WRITER

Choosing the incoming C-M 1L class presented Assistant Dean of Admissions Melody Stewart with a dilemma: how to shrink the size of the incoming 1L class while choosing from a larger and more credentialed applicant pool. The result was a record-breaking 1L class that raised the bar for C-M admissions in nearly every academic category, while at the same time increasing the law school's diversity.

Reflecting a national trend, the law school received a record-setting 1,912 applications for the incoming 1L class, an increase of over 300 applicants from the previous year. The resulting class rose the median LSA1 scores for C-M's incoming 1L's by nearly a full point to 153. The 75th percentile LSAT score rose by two points to 156, while the 25th percentile LSAT rose by one point to 151. The undergraduate GPA's also rose in all categories. Furthermore, nine percent of the class has already received some form of advanced degree.

art, the increases in incoming student's academic cords were driven by a rededication to the law school's continuing policy of only admitting 250 students per year. Last year's 1L class matriculated a record-setting 278 students, an overadmit-

According to Stew-

tance due largely to continuing uncertainty about which students would be attending. In response, the admissions department was more selective and admitted nearly 50 less students this year. Those admitted were required to announce their intentions earlier in the summer by paying two nonrefundable seat deposits. These early decisions allowed the admissions department to better forecast the number of seats potentially available for those on the 200-plus wait-list.

However, Stewart noted that, overall, "the applicant pool was really a quality pool there were some very difficult deci-

sions made concerning which students to accept. The numbers don't always do justice to an applicant's file." In selecting students, the admissions department tried to take a more nonstic view of applicants' files and selected candidates that had a broad diversity of backgrounds and experiences, said Stewart.

Accordingly, this year's class came from 111 undergraduate institutions in 30 states and seven countries. It included 51 new minority students, an increase of 19 students and nine percent from last year. While the number of male students remained

at 141, the number of female students dropped from 137 to 107.

the same as last year

The percentages of day and night students remained roughly the same (92 / 8 percent), as did the proportion of residents to nonresidents (81 / 19 percent).

Gavel writers garnish recognition at ABA competition

By Eric Doeh

MANAGING/NEWS EDITOR

Jason Smith, 3L, and Joshua Dolesh, 3L, won national awards for Gavel articles written during the 2003-2004 school year, in a competition sponsored by the American Bar Association. As part of its annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, the ABA Law Student Division honored the top law school newspapers in the country.

Both Smith and Dolesh outperformed entrants from more than 100 schools nationwide, including entrants from schools such as Georgetown University Law Center, William and Mary Law School, among others.

Smith's article, "Where the Rubber Meets the Reader," won in the Best Humorous Article category, while Dolesh's article, "Darwin vs. God," won in the Best Editorial category.

"Coming into law school, I probably would have thought someone was crazy if they had told me that I would win an award from the ABA for an article dedicated completely to condoms," said Smith. "While I would probably rather win an award for a slightly more scholarly piece, I still take great pride in this award."

Introducing the new fall line-up

New additions to the C-M faculty answer questions about life inside and outside of law school

By Amanda M. Paar and Benjamin

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Mark Sundahl—Assistant Professor

Q: What one piece of advice would you give to your students?

A: Distinguish yourself from the pack. This need not mean that you get the highest grades in your classes. Publications, internships and experience abroad can set you apart from competitors in the job market.

Q: What classes would you most like to teach, either in the curriculum or one yet to be created?

A: International business transactions and space law.

Q: What do you most enjoy doing when not teaching or practicing law?

A: Exploring my new home—the Buckeye State!

Q: Would you rather be able to fly or stop time?

A: That's easy ... fly!

Q: If you could be another person for one day, who would you be?

A: Sir Richard Branson: playboy billionaire, friend to kings and chairman of the Virgin Group.

Michael Bordon—Assistant Professor

Q: What one piece of advice would you give your students?

A: Do not be afraid to apply yourself fully to the many challenges that law school presents. It takes a lot of courage to give it your all, but the alternative is much worse than the pain involved in trying your hardest.

Q: What did you dislike most about law

A: There is not much I didn't like about law school. I suppose that, at times, law school can be an isolating experience. I would encourage students to talk to faculty and others about developing strategies to avoid isolation. Students should also recognize that isolation, anxiety and insecurity are standard for almost all law students.

Q: What did you like most about law school?

A: I think I liked the first year best of all because I was learning and growing intellectually at such a rapid rate. I had great teachers throughout law school.

Q: What class would you most like to teach, either in the curriculum or one yet to be created?

A: I feel particularly lucky because I get to teach the two courses I have most wanted to teach ever since I took them: contracts and corporations. There is only one other class that I probably will not teach any time soon that I'd really like to teach, and that

Q: What did you dream of becoming when you were a child?

A: An ex-student; I was not particularly engaged in academics when I was very young.

Q: Would you rather be able to fly or stop time?

A: That is a wonderful question. I think there can be only one answer and I'd recommend that you read the poem "To His Coy Mistress" by Christopher Marlowe to get the answer.

Q: What is your favorite legal term to use in conversation?

A: I try my very best not to use any legal terms in conversation. But beyond a doubt, the best thing I've ever heard uttered by a lawyer was when Dean Steinglass said, "I'd like to offer you a faculty position at Cleveland-Marshall."

Ngaire Naffine-Baker & Hostetler Professor

Q: What do you like to do when you are not teaching or practicing law?

A: I like to play the flute and guitar, sing, cycle and walk.

Q: What was your favorite class in law school?

A: Criminology, because it was clearly

about people and their behavior.

Q: What do you know now that you wish you knew as a student?

A: That the more you work, the more something becomes interesting to you.

Q: If you could be another person for one day, who would you be?

A: The Dalai Lama.

Q: What one piece of advice would you give to law students?

A: Enjoy the acquisition of knowledge.

Q: Would you rather have the power to fly or stop time?

A: Fly.

Q: Do you have a guilty pleasure? A: Chocolate.

Q: What is your favorite appeallate district?

A: As an Australian, I will have to refer to my own state, South Australia.

Q: What is your favorite legal term to use in a conversation?

A: Personality

Q: Please describe yourself in three

A: Engaged, interested and hedonistic.

Eric Tucker—Scholar-in Residence

Q: What do you like to do when you are not teaching or practicing law?

A: Kayaking, the local music scene, places like the Beachland Ballroom.

Q: What was your favorite class in law school?

A: Labor and employment law.

Q: What was your least favorite class in, law school?

A: Civil procedure.

Q: If you could be another person for one day, who would you be?

A: Doc Watson.

Q: What one piece of advice would you give to law students?

A: Don't just try to learn the rules, know the social processes and broader factors.

Q: Would you rather have the power to fly or stop time?

A: Fly.

Q: Do you have a guilty pleasure?

A: Enjoying my sabbatical.

Q: If you are at a party and people begin telling lawyer jokes or complaining about lawyers, do you pretend to have a different career, and if so, what do you claim to be? A: Don't look at me, I only train them.

JACKSON: C-M policies questioned after admitting convicted felon

Continued from page 1--

aware of Jackson's prior criminal record. Citing FERPA, the Family Educational Records Privacy Act, Gary Williams, assistant dean for student affairs, said the problem is that the administration is not allowed to reveal what they knew or did not know about Jackson's application, and that severe financial penalties could be levied against the school if they did.

"We don't run criminal background checks on our students," said Associate Dean Linda Ammons. Part 15 (d) of the C-M admissions application asks, however, "Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation or juvenile offense?"

According to Brian Johnston, CSU spokesperson, in considering the admission of applicants who have been convicted of crimes, "the law school looks at all the circumstances concerning the conviction and the applicant's subsequent conduct."

In light of the Jackson affair, has C-M considered making changes to its admission policy? "We are always reviewing how we can do better in the admissions process," said Ammons. When questioned on the issue about the law school's policy on ad-

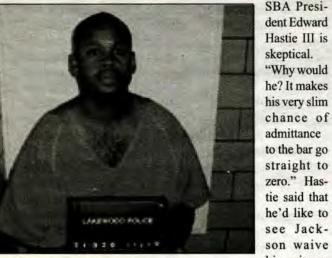
mitting previously convicted felons, Dean Ammons said, "We would not knowingly admit a dangerous felon."

According to Melody J. Stewart, assistant dean of admissions, if a student matriculates and incorrect

information is discovered on the student's application, the associate dean determines whether the Honor Code has been violated. Sanctions that can be imposed include a permanent record of disciplinary action on

the transcript or revocation/cancellation of the admissions decision.

Did Jackson falsify his admissions application?



see Jackson waive his privacy rights of his admissions records to clarify

the issue. Jeff Kelleher, Jackson's defense at-

torney, stated that he expects that he "will advise [Jackson] against releasing the information ... and I'm not so sure any vindication awaits him." Kelleher said that he was "rather wary of stoking the fire of publicity" at this point.

According to filings at the federal court, Joseph Schmitz of the U.S. Attorney's Office filed a motion to extend time for returning an indictment until Oct. 15. As this motion was filed a week after the case was bound to a grand jury, there is some speculation that additional charges will be filed when the indictment is returned.

According to sources, Jackson's closest friends still visit him. One student has reportedly gone to the prosecutor's office to return money received from Jackson in connection with a student organization

'By no stretch of the imagination is Mr. Jackson representative of this student body," said Ammons. "There are 800-plus students at C-M, hard-working, law-abiding good people trying to better their lives. It's unfortunate that Mr. Jackson chose the path that he did; it affects the college; but we have to move on."

Do what fits you best

Students must find customized study methods

By Karin Mika

LEGAL WRITING PROFESSOR

Q: People keep telling me I should be out-lining all throughout

Legal Writing the semester, but I hardly know what's going on to be able to outline it. Is it best to put things

together as you go along or at the end of the semester when you have a chance to concentrate outside of the day-to-day preparation of class?

A: Different people have different learning styles and are able to "master" information in varying increments. One of the misapprehensions about law school (and maybe about learning in general) is that an outline is this thing with definitive rules, and once you write it down on paper it's permanent and unchangeable—even if it's later discovered to be incorrect.

An outline is no more than a processing of information that enables each individual to put some organization to what he/she has learned. It is a tool to organize an individual's thoughts rather than this creation (looking something like Gilbert's) that has every conceivable correct answer to a test question. To that end, the answer to your question is that it's best to do both - every once in a while, take a step back and organize what you think you've learned (even if it doesn't seem to be a whole lot), and then when the semester is over, try to organize the larger picture of the full semester's material.

Additionally, there's nothing wrong with organizing your material in conjunction with a commercial publication (such as a Hornbook or Gilbert's outline) just so long as you use the materials only to clear up what you might be confused about rather than to eliminate the work involved in creating your own outline.

I might note that I have seen a riety of outlines that students have used in preparing for exams. I, personally, had only a sketchy (one page) outline of each course that jogged my memory about a case or lecture. I also had friends who learned by writing and re-writing text from lectures, supplements and other materials winding up with outlines well over 200 pages per class. I also had friends who tested successfully using no written outlines whatsoever. However, keep in mind that these latter people did not actually skip outlining; they merely processed and parceled the knowledge as it came in and constructed their outlines mentally.

It all comes down to the same thing – organizing information in a way that is best for you the individual to access in an exam setting.

Leading by experience

Alumnus urges first-year students to take advantage of the Mentor Program

Let me begin this column with a brilliant and original observation: law school can be stressful, maddening and even frightening. What to do? You can benefit from having a mentor, even if you are not stressed, mad or frightened.

Most dictionaries define a mentor as an advisor, counselor or teacher, and a good mentor is all of these things and more: he or she is also a friend. The March 1995 issue of the ABA Journal contained an excellent article on mentoring which stated that there are three components to being a good mentor.

First, the mentor is a teacher, the "information professional." Second, the mentor is a "connector," a person who helps

make the necessary connections for the student along his or her career path. Finally, the mentor is a friend, someone who manages the heart and spirit of the mentor-student relationship.

All law students can benefit from having a mentor. If you are finding law school difficult, a mentor can advise you on how to avoid the mine fields ahead and on how to live up to your potential. But even if you are breezing through, a mentor can help: he or she is your link to life after law school.

The job market is horrendous, even for students on the Law Review. All law students

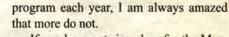
can use a boost in finding a job: an additional letter of reference, a phone call to a potential employer singing your praises, an extra tip on how to interview with a demanding and difficult lawyer, information about an employer that may make you decide not to apply for the job

in the first place. Your mentor can provide all of the above, and then some.

Moreover, a good mentor-student relationship continues after you graduate and land that job. Too many employers just give you a bunch of files and expect you to succeed with little or no supervision.

Your mentor can give you information and general advice to help you cope: how to deal with certain judges, what local court rules to adhere to religiously, how to deal with particular adversaries, feedback on how you are performing. Your mentor can assist you just by being there: he or she is a

By Vincent Lombardo '81



If you have not signed up for the Mentor Program, I urge you to do so. But bear in mind, the mentor-student relationship does not just thrive on its own. Like all other relationships, it requires work. Over the years, many students have told me that they signed up for the Mentor Program and never spoke to their mentors.

However, just as many attorneys have told me the same thing about their students. The mentor-student relationship exists for the benefit of the student - for your benefit. Therefore, the onus is on you both to sign up for the program and to maintain the

relationship.

The Mentor Program is C-M's most underutilized resource. I hope that you will take advantage of this program. You will be glad you did.

Vincent Lombardo '81 is the Vice-President of the C-M Alumni Association.

This column originally appeared in The Gavel in 1997 and is reprinted with the permission of the author.

Your mentor is a constant reminder that you can make it. Your mentor survived, why can't you?

constant reminder that you can make it. Your mentor survived, why can't you?

The C-M Law Alumni Association has sponsored the Mentor Program since 1991, and even though some 150 students sign up for the

DEAN SEARCH: Committee reveals desired criteria

Continued from page 1-make the final selection as to who will serve as C-M's new dean.

Prof. Phyllis Crocker, co-chair of the search committee, said, "The committee is looking for someone who will be a leader and will take us to greater places." Crocker said the committee is not necessarily looking for a candidate who is a legal academic. The successful candidate may come from the academic, public, private or non-profit sectors, said Crocker.

Nick DeSantis, the student representative on the search committee, said that the "right candidate should be someone who can adequately address and respond to the needs of students." DeSantis said a successful candidate would be someone who can identify students' concerns, promote

C-M nationally and raise C-M's ranking.

DeSantis's primary role on the search committee is to serve as a facilitator. He will be responsible for introducing the final three candidates in November, when students will have an opportunity to ask questions to the candidates.

According to Crocker, the committee is also looking for a candidate with effective fundraising skills and one who will increase scholarships, especially since state funding and budget cuts have had a substantial impact on C-M's budget.

According to Crocker, the preferred candidate would be someone who will be committed to promoting excellence in teaching, supportive of faculty research and someone who will sustain and increase diversity among students.

Prof. Stephen Lazarus, a member of the faculty senate, said the search committee is looking both within and outside of the C-M community. In its quest to attract applicants, C-M has advertised many of its strengths, including its alumni involvement. "To be successful, a law school must enlist the support of its alumni and its legal community, and this law school is blessed with loyal and active alumni with a supportive community," said Steinglass.

The search committee has also advertised C-M's new initiative: "smaller and stronger." Approved by CSU Board of Trustees, this new initiative is part of C-M's Bar Exam Plan that will result in the law school becoming smaller and academically stronger, while retaining its commitment to part-time legal education, opportunity and diversity.

DeSantis said that he hopes this commitment for a smaller and stronger student body is one the new dean will continue. Steinglass said that C-M's smaller and stronger initiative would improve C-M's reputation and national ranking. Steinglass said that he has gained an incredible education on how C-M has had an impact on students and the Cleveland community as a whole.

When asked as to any advice for his successor, Steinglass said, "Don't take the job until you are willing to work hard and relate to people." Steinglass said his successor must have good people skills and be able to relate to faculty and staff.

Steinglass said that he is proud of C-M's diversity, but he believes that C-M can do better. Steinglass also said he hopes C-M continues its involvement with the community through its pro bono and community service programs.

As for life after C-M, Steinglass plans to revise his two volume treatise on Section 1983 Litigation in State Courts, resume teaching, play an active role in legal services through the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation and spend more quality time with his family.

American Bar Association - Law Student Division (ABA/LSD)

The ABA is a voluntary membership association of attorneys. C-M students are eligible for membership in the Law Student Division of the ABA. The ABA/LSD memberships offer many benefits such as the Student Lawyer magazine, low cost health insurance, discount car rental from Hertz and free or low cost publications that will help you in law school and in planning your legal career.

Perhaps the most valuable benefit offered by the ABA/LSD is an opportunity to participate in one or more of the specialized ABA sections. An LSD member may sit as a voting counsel member of a section, a position that may take a practicing attorney years to achieve.

Asian Pacific Islander Law Student Association (APILSA)

APILSA is dedicated to the promotion of understanding between Asian American law students and the local, national and international law communities. We welcome members from all backgrounds and nationalities who are interested in the various cultures of the Asian continent and Pacific Islands. Our organization is planning a great event-filled year for our members that includes networking and pro-bono opportunities. Also, in keeping with the spirit of sharing, we will offer events open to the entire C-M community, such as last year's smash hit Taste of the World and presentations by guest speakers from the local legal community.

Black Law Student Association

BLSA is a national organization with chapters at law schools across the country. The C-M chapter of BLSA sponsors and co-sponsors various educational and social events throughout the year. Each semester we sponsor an "End of Semester Course Review" and we also sponsor various networking and career building opportunities throughout the year.

Our biggest social event is the BLSA Scholarship Banquet, which is held every year in April. Although BLSA's primary purpose is to provide assistance in preparation and retention of African American law students, BLSA membership is open to all students.

Business Law Association

The purpose of the Business Law Association is to promote the interests of students interested in all aspects of business law, including, but not limited to, corporate law, securities, corporate transactions, business and commercial litigation, taxation and intellectual property.

Membership is open to any students, faculty and staff at C-M. There is no membership fee. Active membership is simply determined by participation.

Cleveland State Law Review

journal with a proud tradition. Four times each year, the Law Review publishes articles of both local and national significance. Students may be invited to join the Law Review as an Associate member at the end of their first year by either class ranking in the top ten percent or by successfully competing in a writing contest during the summer following their first year. Students in the evening division may choose to wait until the summer following their second year to enter the writing competition.

During the first year of Law Review participation, associate members take part in the editorial work of the Law Review and produce a comprehensive Note on a topic of their choice. A select number of Notes are published in the Law Review the following year. Successful completion of the Note may also satisfy the upper level writing requirement.

Criminal Law Society

The Criminal Law Society consists of students and recent graduates who are interested in both the prosecutorial and defense aspects of the criminal justice system. The Criminal Law Society is a fairly new organization and has sponsored guest speakers as well as the ride-along program with the Cleveland Police Department.

Delta Theta Phi

The Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity is an international professional law fraternity with over 100,000 members. Delta Theta Phi bridges the gap between law school and the successful practice of law. Through networking at fraternity functions, mutual benefits are derived for both students and alumni. Many attorneys that utilize law clerks look to the Fraternity first when hiring. In general, the Fraternity provides a framework for its student members to substantially further their range of personal contacts and professional opportunities.

Electronic Frontier Foundation

The C-M EFF encourages awareness of both current, forthcoming and proposed communications and information technology and the impact such technology has upon civil liberties, political organization, political identity and process, social interaction and community, economics, state sovereignty and national security.

No technical skills are necessary. We are open to all who have an interest.

Entertainment & Sports Law Association (ESLA)

Our mission shall be to help promote the concept of entertainment and sports law for a student's desire of a concentration and better understanding of these areas of study.

Our goal is to promote these ideals through guest speaker lectures, fundraising events, community service, volunteer opportunities and the institution of sports and entertainment internships and networking opportunities.

Association for Environmental Law and Sustainability

The Association for Environmental Law and Sustainatility at C-M is a center of information and education for students, faculty, alumni and the community. We are dedicated to being fully informed of the issues related to being a school in an urban environment and the challenges of not only co-existing with nature, but improving the world we live in.

As an organization, we tailor our activities, speakers and conferences around students who are interested in environmental studies and science, issues in the law, plaintiff, compliance and defense, public policy and real estate - including zoning, land use, smart growth and new urbanism.

Our membership is open to all CSU students, faculty and staff.

Federalist Society

If you have an interest in the "limits of The Cleveland State Law Review is a government" and would like to study and discuss the intellectual and political roots of republicanism (small-r) and the civil society, consider joining the Federalist Society.

> Meet and network with law students, professors and attorneys and contribute to C-M's "life of the mind."

> We are a group of conservatives, libertarians and classical liberals interested in the current state of the legal order. The Federalist Society is founded on the principles that the state exists to preserve freedom, that the separation of governmental powers is central to our Constitution, and that it is emphatically the province and duty of the judiciary to say what the law is, not what the law should be.

The Gavel

The Gavel is the award-winning student publication of the College of Law. Its purpose is to inform, entertain and comment on the law school, the legal community and

Student Organizations Guide

Get your nose out of those books and add some balance to your legal education by becoming a member of a student organization.



related topics of interest. Students become staff members after having two articles or equivalent contributions printed in the publications. Staff members participate in editorial elections at the end of the year. If interested in contributing to the Gavel, please e-mail the editors at gavel@law. csuohio.edu.

Hispanic Law Student Association

The Hispanic Law Student Association is dedicated to the advancement of Hispanics within the legal profession. The organization provides a support network for all Hispanic law students. It seeks to establish and maintain mutual cooperation with the larger Hispanic legal community.

Jewish Law Students Association

The Jewish Law Students Association provides social, cultural and religious information for Jewish law students. The association strives to establish forums for law students to discuss current Jewish legal issues. In addition, the association is involved in forming and maintaining partnerships with Jewish organizations and legal professionals in the community.

Journal of Law and Health

The Journal of Law and Health is an interdisciplinary publication that explores health law and policy. It is staffed and edited by students who have demonstrated their potential for scholarly writing either through academic achievement or performance in a summer writing competition.

Associates write a scholarly note focusing upon an area or issue at the intersection of health and law. Upon completing the note, associates are promoted to editors who oversee publication and assist associates in completing their note. The Journal was first published in 1985, and has attracted nationally known authors in the field of law and health.

Justinian Forum

The Justinian Forum is a C-M affiliated student organization that promotes Italian-American heritage. We pride ourselves on legal education, as well as promoting the history and current status of Italian-Americans around the City of Cleveland.

We plan to bring many great Italian-American legal scholars from the Cleveland community to the school to speak on various topics. We also plan to bring many exciting fundraisers to the law school community to further the school and the students' knowledge of Italian American heritage.

LesBiGay Law Students Associa-

The purpose of LesBiGay is to encourage the development of professional expertise of lawyers addressing lesbian, bi-sexual and gay legal issues; to provide legal-educational alternatives to heterosexist, homophobic or mysognistic educational experiences; to foster and facilitate a socially supportive legal-educational environment for lesbian, bi-sexual or gay law students, faculty and staff; and to advance the cause of civil rights for all lesbians, bi-sexual and gay men through efforts to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation. Membership is open to all students.

Moot Court

The Moot Court program consists of the Moot Court Board of Governors and associate members. This student organization is devoted to enhancing and developing skills associated with appellate advocacy.

Two or three member teams travel to various competitions around the country to compete against other moot court teams. Each team receives a hypothetical record, writes an appellate brief and attends a competition where team members argue orally against other law schools' teams.

Each member participates in one competition per academic year. Students in Moot Court can earn up to eight credit hours while developing critical practical skills such as legal writing, research and oral advocacy.

Moot Court builds confidence and friendships that last throughout law school and beyond.

Moot Court Night, scheduled for Wed. Nov. 3, is one of the final practice rounds for two of our teams in preparation for the National Region VI competition, and it gives students a chance to experience appellate advocacy.

Students have opportunities to join Moot Court in the spring semesters of their first and second years.

Ohio State Bar Association (OSBA)

Membership in the OSBA provides many benefits to the student member. Members receive the OSBA weekly publication of recent Ohio court decisions, the Ohio Student Lawyer Journal and the student newsletter.

Members also have the opportunity to attend local conferences on various current issues within the legal field. The OSBA provides members with valuable connections and opportunities that will help them throughout law school and their legal

Student Bar Association (SBA)

The SBA is the student governing body of the college. Four officers are elected each spring and each class of students has its own senators. 1L elections for both day and evening students will be held soon after classes start.

The SBA's primary responsibilities are to be the voice of the student body, oversee student organizations and maintain programs and opportunities.

Student Public Interest Law Organization (SPILO)

SPILO is an organization of students, faculty and staff that recognizes the inequities that exist in our legal system and is dedicated to developing a more just society. SPILO serves as a resource center for students seeking employment or volunteer opportunities that focus on public service.

The group sponsors summer interns in public interest law, local volunteer activities, guest speakers, fundraisers, workshops and social functions.

Women's Law Students Association (WLSA)

The Women's Law Students Association provides a forum for discussion and debate to promote an awareness of women's and societal issues.

WLSA participates in fundraising and community service activities for recognized women-issue organizations in the Greater Cleveland area. WLSA sponsors the annual Mock Trial and Silent Auction (a fundraiser which generates thousands of dollars for student scholarships each year), which are both held in the fall.

WLSA is a member of the National Association of Women Law Students and is open to all students.

SBA president demands answers

By Edward Hastie

SBA PRESIDENT

Much has happened at C-M since the beginning of the academic year. As most of you know, a former student, Stephen Jackson, was arrested for his alleged connection with at least four bank robberies. Like most students, I was shocked that a fellow law student would be accused of committing such a heinous crime. My shock quickly turned into anger after I learned that Jackson had been previously convicted for murder and spent eight years in prison.

Both Steinglass and Melody Stewart, assistant dean for admissions, have stated that C-M has no policy restricting a violent felon from enrolling. Due to privacy laws, C-M cannot comment on whether or not Jackson notified the admissions department of his prior conviction.

There should be serious repercussions if the admissions department knew of Jackson's record and admitted him regardless. Jackson's admission into C-M despite his criminal background and his subsequent alleged involvement in at least four bank robberies has brought serious embarrassment on C-M students and alumni.

It is appalling that a convicted violent felon would receive a spot in the incoming class over other qualified applicants. It is not as if we are short of applicants who want to attend C-M. According to Steinglass, this crop of 1L's was chosen from a record size pool of applicants. Why admit a convicted murderer? The administration needs to answer that question.

Moving on, the SBA Senate recently approved a new constitution at the suggestion of CSU's Department of Student Life. After extensive revisions, I am pleased to announce the new constitution was ratified by the senate and approved by the department of student life. If you would like a copy, please stop by the SBA office or email me directly.

As many of you know, the SBA held its annual book sale prior to first semester. The response of the student body has encouraged us to plan another book sale for spring semester. Details will be forthcoming. I encourage students to stop by the SBA office during posted office hours to peruse the remaining books/study guides. You may find something that will assist you with studying.

It is not fatal to be attractive

From day one, children are told that "beauty is on the inside" and that "you can become whoever you want to be," but is this really true? Is success dependent in some way on a person's looks?

Start small: the grocery store - an attractive woman who is trying to lift a case of bottled water will likely be offered help even if she does not seem to be struggling. Some of you are probably saying, "Chivalry isn't dead; this is why the offer to help is extended to the attractive woman." But seriously, how many guys would be running to help Janet Reno lift anything?

Consider this: the mall—a handsome gentleman is browsing through a rack of ties when a female customer remarks how nice the tie will look on him. Would the woman have given the same piece of unsolicited fashion advice had Zell Miller been the man holding the same tie?

It happens all the time. Attractive people know that their good looks can oftentimes be used to talk themselves out of speeding tickets, get into a sold out concert, advance further ahead in a line, use an expired coupon, take advantage of that sale that ended

rom day one, children are told that get an "A" in a class or even to get a job.

> Good looks will get a person far in today's society. More often than not, corporate offices, health facilities, law firms and banks saturate the "front lines" with attractive receptionists, secretaries, greeters and desk attendants. Why not take it a step further? What if the second person a customer or client meets, i.e. the doctor, the

The Gavel

Editorial
Opinion

attractive?
This is not to

lawyer, the busi-

ness person, is also

This is not t say that people

who society does not label as "attractive" are not successful. Some of the most influential, popular and wealthy people in these United States are people whom the masses may deem unattractive. Examples include Oprah Winfrey, Donald Trump, Bill Gates, Jay Leno, David Letterman, Martha Stewart, Mick Jagger and Jack Nicholson, just to name a few

The reality is, the more attractive a person, the more of an edge he or she has on the competition. Being a person of decent character and having charisma, personality and integrity all matter a great deal. The problem is, a person is judged first on how he or she looks, then the "inner" characteristics fall into place, if there is enough time left.

Let's face it, today's society

is one in which the masses expect everything to be instantaneous. This encompasses the process by which people are judged. The belief is that the quickest and easiest way to "know" a person is to simply assess him or her based on

with someone who is not good-looking.

Many might deem this as "shallow," but how many times have you seen a gorgeous girl with an unattractive guy and asked yourself, "What is she doing with him?" Instantly, the next presumption is, "Oh, he must have money." What about the possibility of him being a genuinely decent and affable person?

The point is this, while many people hate to acknowledge it as true, good looks will give a person an edge on the competition in many aspects of life.

This does not mean that a person has to be the next

supermodel or Adonis.

However, if you do
not deem yourself a supermodel or Adonis,
whether by society's
standard or your
own (like a contestant
on "The Swan"), take
steps to make yourself
more marketable.

Splurge on a new suit, get a new hairstyle, take a few extra minutes in the morning to put on makeup or shave, but most importantly, believe that you are attractive and have confidence in that, because as we all know, attitude is everything.



R-E-S-P-E-C-T

First, they said that chivalry was dead. Is being decent and respectful dead too? Maybe the reality is that rudeness is overcoming politeness as the norm of society.

Recently, Vice President Dick Cheney said "Fuck yourself" on the Senate floor and directed it personally to Sen. Patrick Leahy. When Cheney was interviewed about his remark, he said, "I felt better after I said it."

Similarly, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Sen. Orrin Hatch referred to a proposal of a fellow senator as a "dumb-ass" idea.

Years ago it would have been unheard of for such remarks to have been uttered in such a professional setting by such esteemed leaders.

Things have changed.

It seems almost common-place today for rudeness and disrespect to be tolerated, and C-M is no exception.

Room 237 seems to be constantly occupied during school hours. Classes are scheduled only five minutes apart, which undoubtedly gives both professors and students little time to settle-in before the next class begins.

During the second week of the semester, room 237 was filled with students who all witnessed an incident that could only be described as disrespectful, unprofessional and disappointing.

Due to the short break between classes, students in the next class were waiting outside for several minutes before the previous class ended.

The lecturing professor had three to four

minutes left in his class when another professor, a colleague of his, barged into the classroom, did not say "excuse me," but rudely and loudly asked if the professor was "done."

wants to

be

It was apparent that the lecturing professor was surprised by this inconsiderate display. However, he kindly addressed his colleague as "Professor" and reminded him that he had several minutes left until his class ended. The interrupting professor remained standing at the door, as if he was expecting the lecturing professor to conclude at that very moment.

This unfortunate incident reflects very poorly on C-M as a whole. It is especially disappointing because the lecturing professor is a visiting professor.

What type of welcome is it when a senior professor finds it acceptable to rudely enter a fellow professor's classroom, before his class is over, in the middle of his lecture, in front of his entire class and, quite frankly, order him out of the classroom?

Being a third-year student at C-M, such acts of disrespect are not the norm. Nevertheless, this visiting professor undoubtedly was and is still forming his opinions about C-M and such an incident carries a lot of weight.

C-M students and faculty ought to insist that this type of behavior is unacceptable no matter what title one holds.

THE GAVEL

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Say hello to my little friend

Machine guns and silencers and bayonets, oh my!

By Josh Dolesh

GAVEL COLUMNIST

fected

could

It is official; assault weapons are back. Has America lost its collective mind? Now, the same people who have bomb shelters left over from the Y2K "scare" also have assault weapons. The same people who were fueled by the fleeting dream that some day, somewhere, they will be commended as visionaries because they stockpiled weapons before the "war," now have assault weapons.

But I misstate slightly. The failure by Congress to reinstate the assault weapons ban does not mean that every gun nut in America has carte blanche to have fully automatic weapons. While the statute did ban several types of weapons, it mostly af-

the types of accessories that be placed on assault weap-Primarily, the statute limited clip size to ten rounds of ammunition, but in addition, it prevented things like pistol grips and muzzle suppressors. Now, people are allowed 30 round clips and accessories that make assault weapons concealable. Who does this law Soon, the

day will come when we will see a picture of a man on television, assault weapon in hand, claiming that he is saving the from anarchy and sin. He will claim that he does what he does in the name of God. Only this man will not have a turban or a long beard, he will be dressed in a suit and he will be white.

He will be an American.

I can see it now, President Bush with an assault weapon in hand and he in the NRA's (National Rifle Association) pocket, welcoming in his new term as president. Hell, the President may even let loose a

few rounds into the air to show everybody he is the boss. It seemed to work for former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

Soon we will see shop owners with conspicuously placed assault weapons next to their registers. We will see twelve-yearolds learning to shoot uzis and grandmas with tech-9 assault pistols in their purses.

But could I be wrong? Could

lifting the ban be a good thing? Maybe if everyone has access to assault weapons, people will be less likely to commit crimes for fear that the potential victim will have a MAC-10 in his pants. And think of the money we will save the criminal justice system. There will be no more trials because someone had an AK-47 with a thirty round clip. And think of all the money that will be saved by tort defendants who use assault weapons. There will be no more whiney plaintiffs claiming that they need 24-hour care because they are paralyzed. When you use an assault weapon with a 30 round clip it gets the job done, and all law students know that it is better to kill a plaintiff than

Could lifting the ban bring us out of our economic slump? There will be so many new jobs that will be created by the lifting of the ban. Surely, gun manufacturers will have to hire more people to make these assault weapons and accessories, and the increased revenue from these gun sales will make for

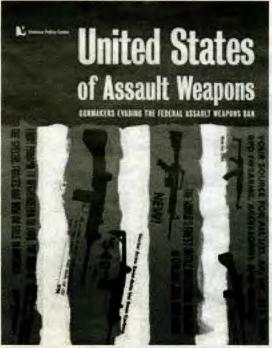
> a stronger tax base. Finally, all this extra revenue will go back into the community to teach people gun safety, and to build schools and to promote law enforcement. And then in the very end, pigs will fly, monkeys will crawl out of my butt and George W. will marry Pat Robertson and elope to South Beach.

Seriously,

there is no upside to lifting the ban on assault weapons. Criminals already have access to illegal assault weapons, and up until recently, the police could arrest them for merely possessing such a weapon. As a consequence of the ban being lifted, the police have lost a valuable law enforcement tool. Economically, the increased supply of assault weapons and accessories will lower the price of these weapons and make them available to a larger sector of the public, thus increasing the likelihood that these weapons will fall into the hands of criminals or even

Wake up America! We are a nation of laws, not of guns. How many people must die before we remember that?

whatnot.



I don't know much, but I do know some things

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

Considering I'm a four-weekold 1L, it would probably be arrogant to say that I 1L"know" anything about law school. So, here year life are some things that I "think" about law school.

I think orientation didn't need to be a week long, we didn't need to have legal writing for three hours each day and that the ethics session needed to deal more with ethics and less with politics.

I think parking at CSU is totally inadequate unless you get to school either really early or too late for class. And traffic coming into and going out of Cleveland stinks too (literally).

I think the law school needs to install nap rooms. With as little sleep as we're all getting, it would be heaven to go somewhere and take a quick power nap between classes or before spending the rest

of the evening in the library.

I think the law library is one of the nicest libraries I've ever been in. And I think I love the homeless guys in the library; it's nice to see someone who isn't a law student around here, if just to remind me that there is life outside of law school.

I think I already hate the Ohio Room. And I hate when it seems like everyone is doing the same project at the same time - most of the time the people in my section get along pretty well, but I've almost seen fights over volumes of Ohio Jurisprudence or the Ohio Revised Code.

I know I already hate the Bluebook. I also hate legal encyclopedias, legal dictionaries, digests, indices, reporters and anything else provided in "hard copy." On the other hand, I love Lexis and WestLaw, if for no other reason than they aren't the aforementioned instruments of torture.

I think the government should prosecute West Publishing as a monopoly.

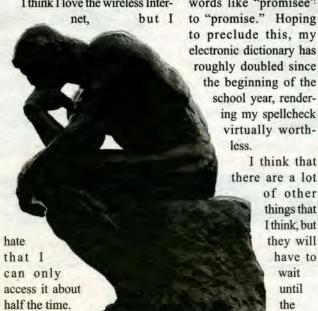
I think that the Socratic method can make even the nicest teachers

I think the 2L's and 3L's look spiffy in their suits, and it's nice to be able to pick them out so easily, but I'm glad I don't have to wear a suit to class.

> I think I love the wireless Internet,

I think that

"legalese" should



be certified as another language so we could put it down as a "secondary language" for the Foreign Service exam and

I think I hate when my computer corrects words like "promisee" to "promise." Hoping to preclude this, my electronic dictionary has roughly doubled since the beginning of the

> virtually worth-I think that there are a lot of other things that I think, but

> > have to wait until the next issue.

Open Mike

3L sounds off on recent events

By Michael Luby

STAFF WRITER

And so it begins . . . the countdown. With less than nine months to go, it feels as though the two years I have spent here have become almost transparent. It became readily identifiable that at some point during our law school careers, the safety net that is C-M would officially disappear. For a time, the paramount issue in our lives was figuring out who would be at Becky's on Thursday night. Without the blanket of another year in waiting, however, it begins, and I would like to welcome back some and welcome the rest.

It appears the latest presidential scandal is taking place right here at home with C-M's SBA election. Without



the necessary facts to truly form an opinion, it does seem odd that with only two viable tickets eligible for the throne anyway, wouldn't a simple rerun validate the pro-

cess all over again. This said, doesn't the loss of last year's graduates only create more poison for the process? Maybe its not obvious, but I would venture to guess that what became a "situation" last year is ultimately going to only hurt the student body. Al Gore would be proud.

Speaking of presidential races, would it not behoove me to make mention of some of the fascinating numbers certain media outlets have been heralding recently. Specifically, with Gallup headed by a major GOP donor and a "behind the scenes" partnership with CNN and USA Today, the numbers supporting the Bush camp should seem hardly surprising. You would think that its polls consisted of a balanced number of dems to reps. The reality, however, is that Gallup, and several other polls, have greatly oversampled Republican voters at numbers between five to ten percent. If level orange doesn't work, well try

For nearly two months over the course of this summer, I came across various articles spelling out the wonders of the NASA Genesis sun-capsule thingy. After rampant discussion about the Hollywood type rescue it would receive upon its return to Earth, it got nothing short of a California Governor's welcome straight out of the likes of T2. With all the hoopla that surrounded the project, it causes me to wonder the real necessity of NASA's recent projects. Isn't this just another example of rampant abuse of taxpayer money? Regardless of whether our little sunchips survived, it seems as though some redirection in the science world would be greatly appreciated.

Finally, the Chicago Sun has reported that police sgt. Tom Donegan has proposed a new plan to fine, rather than jail, small-time marijuana law offenders. He believes that, in 2003 alone, the plan could have supplemented over five million dollars of income for the city. Imagine the possibility of a nationwide program. It seems odd that Canada has done something similar for years, and last time I checked, they hadn't burned down the country yet. Wasn't progression the idea-filled engine that once fueled the entire Industrial Revolution? Perhaps, we could fund NASA with our spare cash.





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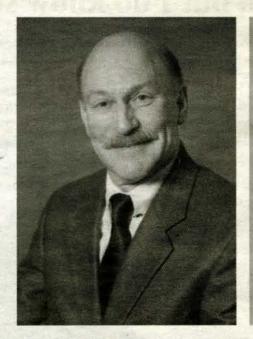
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