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Cleveland-Marshall College of Law

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C-M changes first-year orientation

By Brenda Hruska

Gavel Contributor

Incoming 1Ls had a different first glimpse of the law school experience compared to previous incoming classes since this year’s orientation week did not include a daily dose of legal writing.

This year’s orientation program focused on what was lacking for previous students, said David Barnhizer, orientation organizer and law professor. “They simply did not know what was expected of them in law school and had no clue as to how the game is being played,” Barnhizer said.

To address these issues, Barnhizer, in consultation with other faculty members, sought to create a program that re-engaged non-faculty members, sought to create a program that re-engaged non-faculty members, seeking to create a program that re-engaged non-faculty members. The task of getting the writing faculty members with the program focused on what was lacking for previous students, said David Barnhizer, orientation organizer and law professor. “They simply did not know what was expected of them in law school and had no clue as to how the game is being played,” Barnhizer said.

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Professor Kevin O’Neill speaks during his presentation titled “Lessons from Odysseus on the Nature of Constitutions.” O’Neill’s speech was part of the events for Cleveland State University’s Constitution Day. All publicly-funded educational institutions are required to provide educational programming about the history of the American Constitution on September 17 each year.

See ORIENTATION page 7

PMBR ordered to pay $11.9 million in copyright suit

By Joanna Evans

Gavel Contributor

In a copyright infringement lawsuit filed by the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) against Multistate Legal Studies Inc. (MLSI), a senior U.S. District Court Judge John P. Fullam found that MLSI willfully copied questions and answers from official multistate bar examinations (MBE) for use in its preliminary multi-state bar review course.

Judge Fullam ordered MLSI to pay over $11.9 million and enjoined MLSI defendants Robert Feinberg and Donna Zimmerman, as well as their employers and agents, from copying any questions obtained directly from any of the NCBE’s copyrighted tests or from taking any MBE for any purpose other than to obtain bar admission in the jurisdiction in which the exam is being given.

The NCBE filed suit against MLSI and defendants Feinberg and Zimmerman following a battle that took place during the February 2003 MBE in Anchorage, Alaska. A proctor caught Feinberg leaving the test room with scratch paper containing notes. The proctor confiscated the paper and then filed an irregularity report with the NCBE. Upon receiving the report, the NCBE initiated an investigation of PMBR course material after which they concluded that more than 100 questions had likely been copied.

At trial, Judge Fullam found that the notes on the scratch paper clearly related to topics and answer choices of particular MBE questions and that many of PMBR’s MBE practice questions reproduced official MBE ques-

C-M adjunct professor remembered

By Kathleen Locke

CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Cleveland-Marshall College of Law adjunct professor Christopher Brendan Fagan passed away after a battle with cancer on August 19, 2006, at age 68.

Fagan, a graduate from Georgetown Law School, was a partner at the intellectual property law firm Fay Sharpe Fagan Minnick & McKee where he had worked since 1967. Fagan taught copyright, patent and trademark at C-M since 2000, said Joan Shirokey, secretary to academic deans and adjunct professors.

“His was always smiling and upbeat,” said Shirokey. “I was so fond of him.”

Fagan’s colleague from Fay Sharpe, Timothy Nauman is teaching the course this semester, Shirokey said. Nauman worked with Fagan for 21 years at Fay Sharpe.

“he was very charismatic and a positive person,” said Nauman. “Some people look at being a lawyer as a ‘job’ but to Chris, he was genuinely excited about coming to the office.”

The enthusiasm he had as a lawyer bubbled over into the classroom, Nauman said. “He loved to discuss cases he handled over the years and loved the interaction with the students,” said Nauman. “He was always encouraging students to explore intellectual property as a career.”

“He made it easy to relate to the subject matter,” said Mark Watson, who took Fagan’s class in fall 2005.

Fagan extended an open invitation to students interested in intellectual property to talk with him about classes, the patent bar exam, networking interviewing or what the practice was about, Watson said.

Watson, a full-time engineer who is interested in intellectual property law, took advantage of Fagan’s offer, Watson said.

After the semester was over, Watson accepted the invitation, and he met with Fagan where they discussed several topics including the pros and cons of different intellectual property firms in Cleveland and about the possibility of scheduling an interview with Fay Sharpe, Watson said.

Even though he wanted me to interview with Fay Sharpe, “he was truly unbiased,” said Watson. “He was focused on my needs and not his.”
Legal community aids city schools

Students participate in 3Rs program with local attorneys, judges

By Ben Wiborg

Gavel Contributor

The 3Rs program, which stands for rights, responsibilities and realities, is a volunteer organization consisting of over 700 lawyers, judges and law students from northeast Ohio. The volunteers visit area 10th grade social studies classes to improve passage rates on the social studies section of Ohio’s graduation test.

The purpose of the counseling is to educate the students on how to improve passage rates on the social studies section of Ohio’s graduation test. The program is also designed to promote a positive attitude toward the law and the justice system and to give the students a better understanding of the Constitution.

The 3Rs program is the initiative of the Cleveland Bar Association. Hugh McKay, the president of the Cleveland Bar Association, is the driving force behind the program’s creation. Mary Groth, the program and community programs director for the Cleveland Bar Association, and Pamela Daid-Kidd-McNab, clinical professor at C-M, were also major participants in the development of the 3Rs program.

The 3Rs program has a daunting task ahead of it. The Cleveland Municipal School District is the largest school district in the state and has been identified by the state’s Department of Education as a low-performing district. Currently, only 44 percent of the 10th grade Cleveland Municipal School District students passed the Social Studies Graduation Test. Passage of the Ohio Graduation Test is required for graduation.

The Cleveland Bar Association in compliance with the Cleveland Municipal School District has created a specially designed curriculum for the 3Rs Program. First semester lesson topics include the First Amendment, Second Amendment, Fourth Amendment, equal protection under the Constitution, due process, and the separation of powers. A total of 19 Cleveland Municipal School District high schools are involved in the program for the 2006-07 school year.

The 3Rs Program volunteers are put into small teams of around five individuals. Each team consists of a combination of volunteer lawyers, judges and law students. The teams will visit area 10th grade social studies classrooms and teach the students about the Constitution and other aspects of the legal system.

The classroom sessions consist of presenting an introductory fact pattern followed by a question and answer session. The volunteers will then give a short lecture on the lesson material, which is followed by a question and answer session guided by the volunteers. The entire classroom session lasts for an hour and 20 minutes.

The teams will visit the 10th grade Cleveland Municipal School District Social Studies classes a total of 10 times during the 2006-07 school year. Each team is assigned to one school and will visit that same classroom throughout the fall semester, and a new school will be assigned to the teams in the spring.

A major aspect of the 3Rs Program is the counseling component. The final 10 to 15 minutes of every classroom session is allocated for counseling and guidance lessons. The purpose of the counseling is to educate the students on how they should prepare to attend college.

Counseling lessons include having the students create a map of their educational goals. The students are informed about the PSAT and on the importance of taking AP or honors classes. The program volunteers encourage the students to participate in extra-curricular activities.

Students are also given information regarding financial aid, scholarships, and grants that the students can obtain in order to pay for college. The financial burdens of secondary education will be a major hurdle for many of the students.

The volunteers will act as positive role models for the students. They will also give the students general advice and help them create resumes.

The volunteers can also be a potential reference that the students can use when applying to either a college or to a job.

PMBR: liable for copying bar questions

Continued from page 1—

ctions “nearly verbatim” or contained “trivial variations” that suggested “an awareness of copying.”

“In many instances, evidence of copying practically leaps from the pages,” Judge Fullam wrote in his opinion.

Alaska is the only jurisdiction that permits test-takers to use scratch paper during the MBE. However, since the NCBE submits the MBE to the register of copyrights in an effort to maintain the secrecy of MBE questions that are often reused, test-takers are not only prohibited from removing the scratch paper from the testing room, but they are also prohibited from discussing and/or reproducing MBE questions.

Gary Williams, assistant dean for student affairs and professor of C-M’s Ohio bar exam strategies and tactics class, said that the public’s best interest is served by teaching the NCBE copyrights in MBE questions and answers.

“The NCBE want to make sure that the people who are licensed to practice law are of good character and are competent by some objective standard,” said Williams. “Their objective standard is the bar exam.”

Michael Davis, co-author of “Intellectual Property” and C-M’s professor of patent, trademark and copyright classes, said that copyright law treats the copying of tests differently from other forms of expression.

“Copyright law protects only the expression of underlying ideas, the particular way things are said, the particular way things are presented,” said Davis. “But it does not protect the underlying basic notions and ideas themselves because we want everybody to be able to engage in free competition about those things.”

The general rule of copyright law contains a series of steps, one of which includes filling a copy of the copyrightable material in the copyright office, said Davis. This office then gives the copy to the Library of Congress for all to see. However, when it comes to copyrighting tests, a copy of test questions and answers need not be given to the copyright office, said Davis.

“There’s a moral and an ethical dilemma here about why the copyright office responding to private industry as opposed to public policy,” Davis said.

“But the statute can’t say so much it is protected as being works of ideas. They can’t change the basics of copyright which is that copyright only protects expression.”

The Court rejected all of MSLI’s defenses against the claim of copyright. It has been reported that MSLI will appeal. Davis believes that the appeal has no merit, especially concerning the NCBE.

“In terms of the relief granted, this might be reversed because they (MSLI) have the right to be in business and they have a right to keep themselves informed of the newest tests,” Davis said.

“To prevent them from being informed means they will go out of business, and business is good or bad, it is clearly not the law that a third party couldn’t do this. So long as they do not lift the copyrighted sections, they have an absolute right to see and take the exams,” Davis continued.

In 2004, PMBR taught more than 40,000 students, which amounted to nearly 60 percent of people taking the MBE. It took in gross revenues of more than $16 million.

As to the success rates of those who have taken the PMBR, of course, the numbers are staggering.

“I have no independent evidence at all but PMBR tells me that from the July 2005 bar exam, those people who took PMBR, 90 percent passed the Ohio bar,” said Williams. “They also said that of those people who did not take PMBR, 53 percent passed.”
By By Techa Foster and Daniel Thiel

some of you, mostly 1Ls and 2Ls, are most likely wondering who was Justin. As I walk past the locker, I enjoy seeing the pages of his biography pages that are posted along the lockers and by the refrigerator. Hopefully this section of the paper that is dedicated to Justin, will help explain to you who he was and why we called him our friend.

More so, this section is dedicated to all of Justin’s friends, professors and deans that enjoyed sharing these past years with him at C-M so that we may again laugh and smile as we think of the Justin Vanderburg the student, friend, and great guy we all knew and loved.

On August 16, 2006, Justin was on his way home from his girlfriend’s house traveling on his motorcycle. As he approached construction merging onto Interstate 480, traffic slowed down. Unfortunately, a car behind Justin was not prepared to stop and struck Justin on his motorcycle. Justin was thrown from the motorcycle and landed on the ground where he passed away at 8:45 a.m., and the world

Looking back, I can say that I was jealous of Justin. Jealous because he managed to do what I, and many others, could not do: see the world, and really enjoy life.

My final assessment of Justin is that he took law school very seriously, but he didn’t take himself too seriously. We could all learn from him.

Many people are better situated to describe Justin as a person, and I’m sure he was a better judge of character than I. I didn’t know him well enough to speak with any authority about him, but I can say with certainty that he would have been a damn good lawyer.

He had been a good friend of those of us who might have worked with him, and worthy adversary for those of us who will have stood across the aisle from him in court.

Cleveland-Marshall has lost a good man and a dedicated student. I’m sorry I didn’t know you better Justin.
Taking courses to prepare for the bar exam

By Karen Mika

LEGAL WRITING PROFESSOR

My schedule is pretty full, and I can’t possibly fit in all of the bar courses. Are there any that might be taking care of too much of a problem? As is usually the case, deciding what to skip is a matter of balancing all factors. Keep in mind that there are several subjects that are tested only on the essays, and only once (such as Wills and Secured Transactions).

Compare that with subjects such as Evidence, Criminal Procedure, and all aspects of Constitutional Law (which are tested on the essay portion and the multiple-choice portion).

However, the amount of questions on any one topic such as contracts should not always be the determinative factor. You must ask yourself what you want to get out of something about, and what you don’t know anything about.

You might also ask yourself what would be a waste of time to concentrate on given the time constraints of law school and extra-curricular activities.

For example, I had a Business Law course in undergraduate school and found (what was then the Agency/Partnership course) to be a complete repetition.

Someone who works in a First Amend- ment firm might not need to take a course in First Amendment Law. Those who work with a Probate attorney might not need a full course in wills.

And not to minimize the value of a sub- ject such as Corporations, but I could have taken the class every semester for three years and not understood stock structure. There, I was willing to take my chances with what I could understand, because this was “most likely” to be tested on the exam.

Remember, the bar review courses provide an overview of all subjects on the bar exam. Although you might not be able to encapsulate the entirety of law school, it does provide the opportunity to have a view of material from courses that a student just couldn’t fit into the schedule.

The object is to choose intelligently what material should be studied in depth and what can be left for the bar review. In the end, you must also consider care- ful scheduling. Although a course such as Evidence might be understood in the first semester of one’s second year, the material might be better absorbed in the third year, after the student has had more background in understanding its practical application.

Additionally, although Commercial Law is not necessarily a prerequisite for Sec- cured Transactions, I found it a useful and beneficial prerequisite. I would think that trying to take them at the same time would diminish the understanding of both.

So, my advice is to have a well-considered plan that takes the entire picture into consideration.

Plans don’t always work out as in- tended, but it is better than entering your last semester with five bar courses to take and an upper level writing project to complete!
The Cleveland's poverty problem debated

Issue: What are the causes and solutions to the city's poverty?

By Bradley Hull

CONSERVATIVE GAVEL COLUMNIST

Repair of the broken structure of Cleveland families is necessary to reduce the city’s 2005 nationwide leading 34.4 percent poverty rate. This result will require both changes in lifestyle and welfare reform. The substantial causes of poverty are failure to graduate from high school, having children before marriage, and having children before age 20, according to former President Clinton adviser William Galston.

Using an earlier study based on Census Bureau data, Galston found that only 8 percent of families who avoided these were impoverished, compared to 79 percent of those who did not avoid all three. In 2003, 80 percent of Cleveland’s children were born to unmarried women. This rate ranked the third highest of all major U.S. cities and nearly three times the nationwide average of 29.3 percent. The percent of births to Cleveland women between ages 15 and 19 were more than three times the national average and ranked seventh among all major U.S. cities. The Census Bureau’s most recent American Community Survey determined both estimates.

Based on Princeton University professor Sara McLanahan’s finding that “children from one-parent families are about twice as likely to drop out of school as children from two-parent families,” it is unsurprising that the Cleveland Public Schools’ 2006 graduation rate ranked 20 percent below the national average and in the bottom half of major U.S. city school districts. The Cleveland Public Schools and Editorial Projects in Education rate ranked 20 percent below the national average and in the bottom half of major U.S. city school districts. The Cleveland Public Schools and Editorial Projects in Education Research Center supplied this data. Thus, Galston’s factors accurately predicted Cleveland’s high poverty.

The breakdown of the traditional family structure often begins a cycle of poverty for both parent and child. 2005 Census data shows that mid-western, single-parent female-headed households were over seven times more likely to live in poverty than married couple families. Mid-western single-parent male-headed households were three and a half times more likely. Further, McLanahan’s research found that girls raised in single-parent homes were 164 percent more likely to have a child out of marriage.

Internationally renowned sociologist and former Harvard University professor James Q. Wilson described the primary remedy for the breakdown of the traditional family in a 2002 City Journal article. He said, “the right and best way for a culture to restore itself is...to be reborn, not from the top down by governmental policies, but from the bottom up by personal decisions.” However, both federal and state governments will help alleviate poverty by adding work requirements to public assistance programs Medicaid, public housing and food stamps. Moreover, state compliance with federal measures to discourage out-of-wedlock births will reduce poverty.

This was the testimony of Robert Rector, senior research fellow for the Heritage Foundation, before Congress’ Ways and Means Committee on July 19, 2006. His conclusion was based on the success of the reform of federal welfare in 1996, which aimed to encourage work and discourage the breakdown of traditional families.

Rector noted that 1.6 million fewer children are impoverished than in 1995, the poverty rate for children of single mothers has fallen from 50.3 percent in 1995 to 41.9 percent in 2004, as millions of fraudulent welfare recipients have been forced to work.

Without changes in both lifestyle and eligibility for government assistance, Cleveland’s poverty rate will continue to increase, he warned. As a result, Cleveland will remain one of the nation’s poorest cities in any year the data has been tracked. For instance, Cleveland’s poverty rate is nearly three times the nationwide average of 29.3 percent. Cleveland’s poverty rate outranks them all.

On the local level, the city of Cleveland must strive to maintain an efficient school system administration and must work closely with the state in order to both lower class size and attract young, smart, devoted teachers. The city must attract businesses in the healthcare and technology industries by giving them financial incentives for headquartered within Cleveland’s borders.

A resurgence in the downtown business community will keep recent graduates from relocating in search of lucrative employment opportunities. Also, residential development downtown will further attract young professionals, who will in turn make a positive impact on the City’s economy.

At issue currently is the controversial Flats Revitalization project. If the courts allow the port authority to exercise eminent domain over the subject property, Cleveland could realize substantial long term economic benefits. Large scale initiatives like the flats project are essential to Cleveland’s future because they combine downtown commercial and residential development in order to foster a sense of “city living” to which people will respond positively, by choosing to live and work in Cleveland.

Liberal rebuttal...

Did the breakdown of the traditional family structure in Cleveland cause the city’s poverty problem? While the two are no doubt inextricably linked, it is more likely that they contributed to one another.

Poverty surely causes familial discord, and single parent households unquestionably accelerate poverty, but correlation does not imply causation on either end. As such, while re-establishing strong family units will help to alleviate poverty, it is by no means a ‘silver bullet.’

You argue cogently in favor of state and federally-funded relief programs that mandate work requirements. On this point we agree. However, as telling as what you do say is what you fail to address.

By not taking on the issues of wages and economic development you fail to prescribe a practical remedy to Cleveland’s urgent fiscal crisis. Where will the parents in your two parent households work? How long will demand data provide low life quality due to mounting debts and insufficient wages? How will untreated illnesses due to insufficient healthcare coverage impact your families?

Poverty in Cleveland is a systemic problem to which there is no singular solution. It is incumbent upon the government as much as the people to return Cleveland to greatness.

By Joseph Dunson

LIBERAL GAVEL COLUMNIST

The city of Cleveland is destitute and needs sweeping change. Cleveland’s poverty problem grows out of more than a half century of staggering industrial loss, “white flight,” an ineffective education system, and poor city planning.

The once proud industrial center now suffers from a litany of social problems, including a lack of high paying manufacturing jobs, a low high school graduation rate, an insufficient average household income, and an increasing number of uninsured residents. It is no surprise that these problems weigh most heavily on Cleveland’s children. Though the picture I paint seems bleak, there is hope for Cleveland’s future. Sensible reform in the areas of education, economic development, and individual empowerment on the federal, state, and local levels will alleviate Cleveland’s woes by creating an atmosphere ripe for change and rejuvenation.

On the federal level, Congress must first pass a mandated living wage law commensurate with the economic strains on our nation’s working poor. Not everyone in this country can live richly, but no one who works full-time should live destitute.

The federal government must increase community development grants available to enrich neighborhoods in cities like Cleveland. These block grants fit the needs of individual communities, and may be used for various social and economic programs.

Further, Cleveland businesses must realize an increase in federal grants for healthcare innovation. As a leader in medical treatment and technological advancement, Cleveland will attract cutting edge businesses supporting a highly paid workforce, resulting in citywide economic growth. Finally, Congress must take away the lucrative incentives given to big business to outsource high paying manufacturing jobs from cities like Cleveland. It is high time that this government recognize that it owes a duty to its citizens- not to rich multinational corporations.

On the state level, the Ohio legislature must pass a constitutional public school system funding plan that provides each Ohio child with a college preparatory curriculum. The legislature must recognize that meaningful financial support for all of Ohio’s public schools is the only way to ensure a bright future for the next generation of Ohioans. Charter schools and voucher programs only detract from quality public education by fragmenting communities and taking much needed tax dollars out of our schools.

The legislature must work closely with the new governor and Ohio’s employers and health insurance providers so that all of Cleveland’s workers and children will receive affordable healthcare. A healthy public works harder, and healthy children learn better. Further, the Ohio legislature must enact a living wage law in its own right. Without a substantial rise in Cleveland’s average household income the poverty problem simply cannot be solved. Wages must be the starting point.

On the local level, the city of Cleveland must strive to maintain an efficient school system administration and must work closely with the state in order to both lower class size and attract young, smart, devoted teachers. The city must attract businesses in the healthcare and technology industries by giving them financial incentives for headquartered within Cleveland’s borders.

A resurgence in the downtown business community will keep recent graduates from relocating in search of lucrative employment opportunities. Also, residential development downtown will further attract young professionals, who will in turn make a positive impact on the City’s economy.

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Conservative rebuttal...

Facts matter. Your unsupported opinions largely misidentify the causes of Cleveland’s poverty.

First, you completely ignore both personal responsibility and the breakdown of the family. Thus, you have overlooked the most substantial cause of Cleveland’s poverty.

Second, you primarily blame wages. However, after adjusting income for cost-of-living, Clevelanders have a substantially higher average net disposable income than do residents of all major cities on both the East and West coasts (found on salary.com), yet Cleveland’s poverty rate outranks them all.

Third, you blame the local economy. Yet in 2004 Cleveland’s job growth outpaced that of 11 of the 40 largest U.S. cities (found in Forbes magazine), but Cleveland still has a substantially higher poverty rate than all 40. Fourth, you blame industrial job loss. However, Pittsburgh’s 2005 poverty rate was nearly 10 percent lower than Cleveland’s, and the Steel City has yet to rank among the nation’s poorest cities in any year the data has been tracked.

Fifth, you blame Ohio’s school funding. This is contradicted by the 2005 graduation rates for both the Cincinnati and Columbus public schools, which respectively outpaced Cleveland’s by 26 percent and 19 percent, and also by Ohio’s 2003 ninth-highest graduation rate of all U.S. states.
Dissent is core of American tradition
By Kurt Fawver

"In America, if you don't like something, you change it. Running away is not an answer nor is forced complacency." - O'Reilly Factor

The beauty of the Constitution, many scholars have said, is in its living, breathing nature. It has the ability to change with the times and the sentiments of the people, to make provisions for future interests that may be entirely at odds with past or present doctrines.

The Constitution, the foundation of American government and law, is not completely bound to tradition. It can be amended. It can change. It must change or else fall victim to antiquation and irrelevance.

If the very core of American law is based on malleability, political dissent is exactly what it encourages.

The entire reason we enter law school is to change the law where we see flaws and to uphold the parts we believe have merit.

Law is constantly evolving. Even if one had the determination to challenge convention, our legal laws would be exactly the same as they were in colonial times. Legal growth would come to a grinding halt.

It is only by inciting change, by occasionally turning the status quo on its head, that we progress.

As future lawyers, it is our duty to question current standards with the knowledge that one day, very soon, we will have the power to create, overturn, and alter law.

We cannot fall into the trap of unwavering faith in our institutions. We must question Supreme Court decisions, scrutinize Congressional legislation, and bring our executive officers to answer for their actions.

We cannot simply drift by on the assumption that, because current law says something is right or wrong, it must necessarily be so.

By upholding the free exchange of ideas and considering all sides of any contested issue, we create a more equitable legal system.

Organized groups of all back- grounds and beliefs should be permitted to voice their complaints and concerns, and we, in our future positions of power, should listen.

By understanding the underlying causes of dissent, we can more clearly determine what the citizenry needs and what we can best do to assure its protection.

Political and legal dissent can be nothing but a simple matter of malcontents buying at the moon, certainly. But dissent can also lead to a more just nation.

It is for this reason that dissenters, whether immigrants or otherwise, should never be forced to "like it or leave it."

1L impressed by alcohol at orientation

It’s also important to find the local bars that don’t have creepy old men in them and some half-way decent night clubs.

Come on, this is Cleveland - not exactly a Mecca of hoties. I wasn’t holding my breath for some L.A.-esque experience, although Synergy sure does try… and fail. This is Cleveland guys, get real.

I was not entirely disappointed with the famed West 6th street, but the fact that they charge money to get into these dives is slightly disturbing.

Then again, there isn’t much else to do here except study, and nobody wants to do that except for those aforementioned 1Ls who have a giant "L" - for... ah... love - on their forehead.

Okay, maybe you should crack a case book now and again just to get that feeling in your brain usually referred to as thinking, but you must be careful to stretch with some light reading.

I recommend Sports Illustrated. Don’t worry, I’ll have plenty more to keep you amused.

Try to get some sleep: you’ll need to remember what that is when you’re counting down the days until that summer job and the thought about spending quality time with your pillow let alone your significant other.
By John Rose
Gavel Columnist

One right-wing blog I have been visiting was recounting tales of horror, generally lumped under the category that all liberals were either Godless or, worse, actively anti-Christian, a theme they stole from the noted intellectual Ann Coulter.

The catch line to this blog went something like this: “there’s nothing that liberals won’t lie about, no depths to which they won’t sink to battle “the moral majority.”

The Reverend Donald Wildmon, founder of the American Family Association, has organized and urged his followers to boycott the advertisers of a number of network television programs that he claimed were anti-Christian.

He famously referred to one of these programs, The West Wing, as “liberal pornography,” no doubt because of the subversive ideas it perpetrated on an unsuspecting American audience.

I’m starting to think that maybe those folks on the right are on to something. Now, we know that the Bible hates homosexuals and taxes and loves the rich and the military.

We know this because great conservative Christians like Rod Parsley and Pat Robertson tell us so. Yet when I was reading my Bible, I found “ideas” so liberal that it came close to smacking of socialism.

These ideas, like those evil television programs that Reverend Wildmon saved us from, could only be described as “liberal pornography.”

Check out this so-called “Bible” verse, Matthew 19:21: “If you want to be perfected, go sell your possessions and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven.”

Another piece of “liberal filth,” purportedly in Luke 18:25, which says that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter heaven.

There are still other verses, which I was shocked and ashamed to discover that carry this blasphemy theme even further. And I can’t even bring myself to mention the rubbish about loving your enemies and not judging people.

I can’t help but think that this is a plot, conceived by Godless Liberals (this enemy that deserves capital letters) to actually add verses — really socialist, subversive stuff — into our Bibles.

So much for the scenery, now, operating in dark secret printing presses, cranking this stuff out, then giving them to their minions to put in hotel rooms and other holy places.

So Christian conservatives have a huge task if they’re going to live up to the Godly ways of Reverends Robertson and Parsley, to name just two: they’re going to have to go into every bookstore, hotel room, church, hospital and tavern, and blot out these offending phrases.

It won’t be easy. You can’t just use a sharpie marker or even a balloon pen to cross out these lines with most Bible paper being so thin and all (that’s another Godless Liberal plot — they use these pages as rolling papers). They’re going to need crayons.

So here’s what I think needs to happen:

1. Some, some one, sometime, needs to set up a foundation to find holy missionaries and give them crayons with which to scribble out these false and offensive passages in these Bibles to restore the texts to the clean, conservative documents they originally were.

Not only will it help the crayon industry, but it will give these folks something to do.

 orientation: 1Ls attend more than just legal writing classes

Continued from page 1—

A national recognized program. Arguments will be presented by the teams preparing for the National Region VI Competition.

For more information, please contact Greg Jolivette at Gregory.Jolivette@law.csuohio.edu.

Political message through art protected by Asylum Project

By Drew Behnke
Gavel Contributor

The art of politics explores the art and artists who find their muses within the realm of politics. For some, this may be a “shout out” to their candidate of choice in the next election or perhaps an unpopular recount of history. For others, it is the telling of a story that reflects their own aspirations for the real world around them.

Some messages are little more than pandering to the perceived tastes of their respective audiences. There are also those who only hope that someone is listening and hope that what they have to say will somehow effect change.

In this country, by and large, there is both a legal and social tolerance for such messages. Undoubtedly, it is taken very much for granted. There are, however, so many of us who have never been infected with the disease of liberty.

In 2003, a group of writers recognized this plight and formed the Cities of Asylum Project. Under its umbrella, various cities throughout North America and elsewhere sponsor writers persecuted in their own lands and give them intellectual sanctuary to continue their work.

Pittsburgh took up the call and joined the network of sponsoring cities in 2004. Its Mexican war street community is a noticeably eclectic neighborhood comprising artisans, professionals, students, and a socially conscious community where she or he will be able to discuss and express freely the motivations behind the choices and decisions made to become a writer.

In re-education camps and prisons for a better part of his young adulthood.

Xiang is now writing and speaking publicly under the auspices of the Cities of Asylum Project. He displays his work on his home in Pittsburgh in the tradition of ancient Chinese poets. The Pittsburgh Cities of Asylum Project recently celebrated the dedication of its second city of asylum home.

Come this November, another artist will be named and join Xiang and his adopted community there such as to be able to discuss and express freely the motivations behind the choices and decisions made to become a writer. Hopefully, like Xiang, that person’s messages will find refuge where they may flourish and, perhaps, find their way back to their native audience.
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