Some politicians are calling for U.S. troop withdrawal in Iraq. The Gavel columnists debate the effectiveness of current strategies and propose solutions for the war.

Bar passage rate reflects student and faculty efforts

By Joanna Evans

The 2006 Cleveland-Marshall College of Law graduates passed the July Ohio bar exam by 84 percent, and C-M’s over-all pass rate rose from 60 percent in 2005 to 75 percent. C-M’s pass rate places the school in fifth place, along with Ohio State University, which also had an 84 percent pass rate, and amongst Ohio law schools. The rate increase is largely a result of hours of studying by bar takers.

“I talked to people in the library, and they said that this past bar period, they saw more people studying for the bar in the library than any other time in recent history,” said Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Gary Williams. The efforts of C-M staff and faculty are another reason why graduates performed well on the bar exam. During the two months leading to the July 2006 bar, C-M professors gathered questions where they broke down bar questions and gave students the opportunity to ask questions about approaching bar material. These presentations coincided with subjects and materials covered in bar review courses offered by Barbri and Supreme Bar Review.

In addition to the presentations, times and locations were made available for students to practice taking the Multistate Professional Test. ‘MPT, because bar takers and those responsible for putting together bar prep courses tend to ignore it, Williams said. ‘The MPT is so different that it seems to catch a lot of students off guard. Students are used to taking a test where there is a narrative problem telling what the facts are."

See BAR PASSAGE page 2

The most popular work abroad spots

The following is a list of the most popular work abroad locations for lawyers who speak English.

1. The Netherlands
2. Germany
3. Great Britain
4. Austria
5. Hong Kong
6. Australia
7. Spain
8. Ireland
9. Luxembourg

Source: The National Jurist, Vol. 16, No. 3

Cleveland offers art and culture

By Kevin Shannon

On Thursday, Oct. 26, 2006, C-M held its annual awards ceremony for students. There were many awards and monetary gifts given to students who excelled academically in various areas over the past year.

Many students received monetary gifts for achieving the highest grade in a particular subject or for being the best student in a particular area of law.

The ceremony was well run, with many faculty and alumni presenters. However, there was a glaring problem with the awards ceremony. Many, in fact a majority, of students who received these awards did not attend. Dean Lifer, the event’s organizer stated that she was somewhat disappointed with the turnout and thought that this year’s event had

See CEREMONY page 3

Do longer sentences deter?

Prison populations in the United States continue to increase. The Gavel looks at whether longer mandatory minimum sentences are an effective deterrent for potential offenders.

Cleveland students snub awards ceremony

By Kevin Shannon

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See CEREMONY page 3

Iraq: Time for a new strategy?

By Brenda Hruska

Cleveland did not fare well in the national spotlight for its administration of elections in November 2004 and May 2006. The Center for Election Integrity, part of both C-M and Cleveland State University’s urban affairs college, hoped to turn that around this year.

Candice Hoke, a C-M law professor and the Center’s Director, along with the Cuyahoga County Election Review Panel, issued a 200-page report on how the Board of Elections can improve.

“It’s an indefensible chaotic system,” Hoke said. One of the Panel’s main suggestions was to improve poll worker recruitment training. This is where C-M and CSU students stepped in during the November 2006 election.

“The Center has been going non-stop since last April,” Hoke said. A week before the May primary took place, the Board of Elections had a significant shortage of poll workers. Hoke offered the help of CSU students.

“CSU filled every training place and 100 percent showed up,” Hoke said. Students have continued to step in. This fall, 280 students signed up and worked in Cuyahoga County.

“This community stepped up beautifully,” said Hoke. “It was a real exciting reflection of the public commitment of this university. CSU is seen as one of the best allies in filling support jobs.”

Student poll workers, however, are just a part of the effort to improve the administration of elections in Cuyahoga County.

“For several years, the attitude tended to be ‘this will blow over,’ and it did until the next election,” said Hoke. “We are slowly getting away from complacency.”

Major improvements are still needed in technical training and security, and it is troublesome that the private sector is more fully engaged in understanding the technology behind tabulation equipment than the Board of Elections, Hoke added.

This lack of expertise in the technical side of elections also huts the election-day staff. “Staff are being asked to implement e-voting systems without being given effective training and support … and then they’re the ones accused of incompetence, mismanagement or even fraud,” said Hoke. “It’s a perfectly rational way to get a high quality system, and as an educator, I’m particularly offended.”

Students enrolled in Hoke’s election law course also took part by participating in the elections. From their experience, the students made recommendations for reform, and Hoke is integrating them into the Board of Elections report on the November election.
Bar passage: students improve from ’05

Continued from page 1—

The MPT is not like that. The MPT is what a real lawyer looks at. There are different pieces of evidence to look at, and you are asked to do things that people are not familiar in doing,” Williams said.

Practice MPT’s were read by staff and faculty members who also provided students with feedback and a points sheet that allowed students to judge for themselves where they went wrong and what they were missing in their answers.

Last year, C-M also began to offer the Ohio bar exam strategies and tactics course. About two-thirds of last year’s graduating class took the course. Those who took the course passed at a higher rate than those who did not take the course.

Jared Hartman, a 2006 C-M alumnus, found the Ohio bar exam strategies and tactics course very helpful. “I definitely feel that it helped. It let me know the format of the exam and what each type of question might look like,” said Hartman. “It helped me learn principles, the immediate recalls, and minor details that you don’t necessarily need for the essays.”

The real increase was in those graduates who had less than a 3.6 grade point average, Williams said.

According to Williams, last year, students with GPA’s between 3.0 and 2.75 passed at a rate of 66 percent, people with GPAs between 2.5 and 2.75 passed at a rate of about 40 to 50 percent, and people with less than 2.5 passed at a rate of 20 to 30 percent. This year, 75 percent of students who took the bar strategies course with GPA less than 3.0 passed the bar. Students who did not take the course and who had GPAs less than 3.0 passed the bar at a 55 percent rate.

“Everybody comes to law school for one reason or another but in the end, there is always the bar,” said Williams. “What made the difference here was the amount of effort that the students put into study, and that’s something that I think students need to understand. We’ve had students who have taken these review sessions but if the students don’t put in the time to study, they’re not going to pass.”

With some tips for studying for the bar, Peter Kimer, a 2006 C-M alumnus and attorney at the Law Firm of Kimer and Boldt, advises students not to wait until July to start studying.

“Don’t work for the two months that you’re studying for the bar; stay on top of the suggested work load from whatever bar prep course you take; practice, practice, practice; and, don’t forget to take time out to relax.”
Israel: the man, the myth, the legend

By Paul Deegan

Many of you may not know Israel personally, but odds are you have met him at one point or another in the Student Services Office. He is the polite gentleman behind the counter who takes care of all of our problems. You might also remember his name attached to some emails notifying us about the blow dryers and hair dryers that contained music and movie trivia.

Many wonder where Mr. Payton comes up with his material and want to know more about him. Personally, but odds are you have met him at one point or another in the Student Services Office. Mr. Payton was kind enough to participate in an interview for The Gavel so that we may learn more about him.

Israel Payton was born in 1946 and attended East High. Upon graduation, he was sent a letter of induction into the Army. He decided to be a military student at the Army Security Agency as a Military Intelligence Officer for four years. He saw action in Cambodia and Vietnam. Upon his return, Israel went to college and earned an Associate’s Degree in Philosophy from Cuyahoga Community College. He graduated in 1981 and returned to finish his Bachelor’s Degree in Philosophy from CSU.

After completing his BA, Israel worked at Tri-C as a professor of English composition. And he also became a paramedic in the mid ’80s for seven years and was an orderly for University Hospital. Israel has always been in search of the right place for him to belong so that he may make his contribution to the world. He thinks he has found it at C-M.

Although he would not pass up the opportunity to finish his Master’s Degree on earn a Ph.D. in the future, he will only do so if it fits well into his life. Mr. Payton has worked at C-M for the past seven years and has no plans to change his career at this point. Israel takes care of all the phone calls, faxes, e-mails, etc. in the Student Services Office. He also does examinations and helps students with any problems they may have. Israel’s main goal is to ensure that the law school runs smoothly.

Israel was not always as mild-mannered as he is now. Throughout his college years, Israel was a college student during the summer, worked as an editor at the Cleveland Press, and wrote his column for the actual lead got sick. He was able to be a successful substitute and give a stellar performance.

Israel loves his job. He enjoys helping students with their problems and can sympathize with us when we have issues and breakdowns. He knows stress. His college schedule did not allow him to put sleep and Vietnam took its toll. So, if you have any problems, odds are Israel has been there.

Israel is 60 years old. Mr. Payton is a music and movie connoisseur. He has a passion for science fiction and loves classics such as “Casablanca” and “2001: A Space Odyssey.”

Israel spent his free time writing stories. He hopes to be published in the near future.

Israel is writing two stories, one about a black cowboy, and the second takes the reader on the journey of Lazarus after he died, according to the Bible.

Israel was brought up Catholic and was molded for the priesthood. After going to Vietnam, he lost his faith and followed the Buddhist tradition. He attempted to become a vegetarian to support his beliefs, but couldn’t for the desire of ribs.

Israel attempts to follow the philosophies of Buddhism and Taoism, though he identifies himself as an atheist.

Israel is not married and doesn’t have children. In 2004, he was awarded the Ph.D. in Constitutional Law from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. His college schedule did not allow him to take advantage of all that the Cleveland School of Law has to offer.

Israel is temporary or whether you plan on living in Cleveland for the rest of your life, you would do well to take advantage of all that Cleveland has to offer.

By Ben Wilborg

When people think of Cleveland, they think of an impoverished rust belt city. They think of ice and snow and the seemingly endless rust belt city. They think of the polluted lake and the burning oil. To many, Cleveland is just a city located between New York and Chicago. Cleveland has always been the bridesmaid and never the bride. Cleveland is one of the best locations for arts and culture in the United States.

Cleveland has many world renowned cultural and artistic organizations including the Cleveland Orchestra, the Cleveland Museum of Art, Playhouse Square, and the Cleveland Playhouse.

The Cleveland Museum of Art

The Cleveland Museum of Art is considered one of the United States’ most important and prestigious art museums. The museum is known for its medieval, pre-Columbian and Asian collections. The museum was built in 1913, and its permanent collection includes more than 40,000 pieces. Admission to the museum’s permanent collection is free.

The museum is currently displaying the special exhibition titled “Barcelona & Modernity: Picasso, Gaudi, Men, Dalí.” The exhibit highlights the emergence of Barcelona, Spain, as a world leader in art and culture during the 75-year period from 1868 to 1939. Tickets to the special exhibit can be bought online and cost around $12. The museum is currently undergoing a $258 million renovation. Dates, times, and availability may vary as call 216-421-7340 in advance.

Playhouse Square

Playhouse Square, located on Euclid Avenue between East 14th and East 17th streets, is just a short walk from C-M. Playhouse Square consists of many renovated theaters, including The Ohio, The Palace, The Allen, The State, The Hurlimann and Kennedy’s Cabaret. Playhouse Square offers a wide variety of entertainment. Shows include Broadway plays, comedy events, dance, opera, musicals, and international artists. Disney’s award winning Lion King will be coming to Playhouse Square in the summer of 2007.

Cleveland Playhouse

Cleveland’s famous theater scene includes the Cleveland Playhouse. The Cleveland Playhouse is America’s first professional theater company. The Playhouse was established in 1915. The Playhouse creates and produces a wide range of theatrical events.

The Cleveland Playhouse complex consists of the Bolton Theater, Drury Theater, Brooks Theater, and the Baxter Stage. Current and upcoming events include, “A Christmas Story,” “Of Mice and Men,” and “Lincoln-esque.” Famous artists including Tom Hanks and Ed Asner have been involved with the Cleveland Playhouse.

Cleveland has a great deal to offer to those who wish to see artistic and cultural entertainment. Cleveland has great music, theater, and art.

Whether your stay in Cleveland is temporary or whether you plan on living in Cleveland for the rest of your life, you would do well to take advantage of all that Cleveland has to offer.

Cleveland arts can offer law students relief from stress
**Preparation key to success on students’ exams**

By Karen Mika

*LEGAL WRITING PROFESSOR*

*Any words of wisdom for doing well on finals?*

The only way to do well on something is to rehearse for it. Consequently, aside from studying material, the best way to prepare for finals is to do mock exams under exam conditions.

Some say, “You should sleep well when you are a Cleveland attorney because you know the people you help every day are meat-and-potatoes people, in a meat-and-potatoes town.”

Legal Writing

Despite what some students think, law professors are rarely impressed by a piece of writing that is simply a “mass” of information related to a particular topic. Perhaps everyone knows this on some level, but there are a few things with respect to taking exams that must be repeated:

1. **Answer the question(s)**! Students have a tendency to dive right into the law without addressing the specific question posed. Students also have a tendency to decide to answer other questions besides those that are posed. Think of the answer as the topic sentence of a paragraph. Most paragraphs require a topic sentence in order to be coherent, and the same is true for exam answers.

2. **Separate out rules from analysis**, and place the rule first. Once again, if you can’t look at an exam, chances are the answer is organized poorly.

3. **Don’t underestimate the value of writing legibly**, using headings, avoiding arrows and scratch outs, and re-framing from paragraphs that continue on for pages. If you turn in your exam answer thinking, “I’m glad I don’t have to sort through that,” chances are that the professor will not find you work to be commendable.

4. **Remember good principles of presentation**. Don’t underestimate the value of writing legally; using headings, avoiding arrows and scratch outs, and re-framing from paragraphs that continue on for pages. If you turn in your exam answer thinking, “I’m glad I don’t have to sort through that,” chances are that the professor will not find you work to be commendable.

Too often students say, “Well, it may not have been pretty, but it was all in there.” The reality is that “pretty” is very significant.

By Kevin M. Butler

*C-M ALUMNUS*

*A Polish immigrant, aged around 45, was posturing at the defendants’ table in the old criminal courts building on East 21st near Payne. Behind him is a young boy, all of 11 years old, who despite having been dressed in his Sunday best, sits on his hands in the back of the courtroom. To his client’s right at the defense table is John Butler, a noted attorney who has publicly said he prefers to represent “gentlemen criminals” — polite, dapper men who graciously give you of your possessions while you sleep and yet nod hello the following morning outside church.

By those standards, Butler’s client this day is no gentleman. He stands accused of killing his wife’s paramour after a struggle in broad daylight; murder is the only charge.

Just moments from now, a jury will enter the courtroom through a series of stairs and doors and deliver their verdict.

Being a Cleveland attorney certainly presents challenges to the graduating law student. We are home to two law schools, three if you include Akron, and yet our population shrinks, our residents are demonstrably poorer than in many other large cities, and our manufacturing base has declined so much so that attorneys seem to eat other attorneys to develop an established business clientele. (No wonder we are one of the fattest cities in America.)

The prospects for a long, steady career in the law may only give you Cleveland’s fortunes change and the city struggles to realign itself for competition in a new economic era.

But hardly all is lost for the 3L student. In Cleveland and surrounding areas, there are many places that offer interesting careers for attorneys.

Perhaps everyone knows this on some level, but there are a few things with respect to taking exams that must be repeated:

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**Preparation key to success on students’ exams**

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The War in Iraq Debated

What should the United States do about the current situation in Iraq?

By Bradley Hull

CONSERVATIVE GAVEL COLUMNIST

The U.S. military must accelerate the training of Iraqi security forces and make no immediate changes to current troop levels. “Win” is the appropriate exit strategy, not “stay the course” or “the public is nauseated, so here is when we leave, ready or not.”

Lacking training in military strategy and access to confidential national security wartime information, I defer to General John Abizaid, Commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East, on appropriate strategy. General Abizaid, the top U.S. Iraq commander, testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee on Nov. 15. At the outset, he noted that he “remains optimistic that we can stabilize Iraq.”

General Abizaid testified that the U.S. military should substantially accelerate the pace of Iraqi security forces training. Abizaid endorsed the substantial expansion of teams of American Army trainers to work with Iraqi units. Due to his estimate that sectarian violence from militiamen and “insurgents” (translation: “terrorists”) could swamp Baghdad within four to six months, General Abizaid emphasized that part of his strategy currently attaches to the increased training of Iraqi security forces. This endorsement bears no resemblance to the “stay the course” rhetoric on both sides of the aisle attempted to foist on him.

The General testified that “the prudent course ahead is keep the troop levels about where they are at the moment and sending more American troops would discourage and disintensify Iraqis from taking the lead in their own security. The General also rejected calls for a timeline-based reduction of soldiers. This is largely because an announced, scheduled redeployment of U.S. troops would allow terrorists to wait them out, and then enjoy open season on Iraqi civilians.

General Abizaid noted that the current force of approximately 140,000 troops has made progress in securing Iraq. He testified that, as to sectarian violence, “[i]t is certainly not as bad as it appeared back in August.” Abizaid predicted that the Iraqis may assume their own security in 12 months if training is increased, primarily because roughly 80 percent of the sectarian violence is contained within a 35-mile radius of Baghdad.

General Abizaid testified that “when [he] comes to Washington, [he] feels despair…[but when] he is in Iraq with [his] commanders, [and] when [he] talks to [his] soldiers and Iraqi leadership, they do not despair.” Abizaid added “those among us who fight bet on the Iraqis, and as long as they are confident, I am confident.”

Unsuccessful U.S. exit from the Vietnam War provides lessons for exit from the Iraq War. Internationally-renowned military expert R.J. Rummel noted that victorious Communists in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos (all of which were aided by the Communist Army support, an unsecured Iraq could reduce Southeast Asian Communism’s reign of terror to a mere historical footnote.

Once American troops were redeployed, Communist North Vietnamese did not continue the fight on U.S. soil. The same cannot be said for many of the terrorists fighting today in Iraq.

Napoleon Bonaparte once said “victory belongs to the most persevering.” When North Vietnamese Communists outlasted the American public’s resolve, they renamed Saigon “Ho Chi Minh City.” Can those who espose U.S. troop withdrawal without regard to Iraq security fathom the renaming of Baghdad as “Abu Musab al-Zarqawi City”?

By Joseph Dunston

LIBERAL GAVEL COLUMNIST

We all know the story. Over three and a half years, almost 3,000 American soldiers were killed by tens of thousands of Iraqis civilians dead, no weapons of mass destruction found, billions of dollars spent monthly, and no peace or hope for stability on the horizon. The human tragedy in Iraq is unparalleled even by the substantial loss of foreign support caused by the U.S. invasion: crucial support that the U.S. could ill-afford to lose in this precarious age of global terror.

Just last month U.S. Central Command released a chart that depicted Iraq as a country teetering on the edge of chaos. Yet still this Administration prefers to “stay the course,” as if near anarchy were a status quo condition worth maintaining.

The midterm elections proved a referendum on this Administration’s failed policies — with Iraq taking center stage. In the next Congress the fresh Democratic leadership will reiterate oversight and accountability in Washington and will curtail this Administration’s rampant abuse of its executive power. America has spoken and change is in the air: beginning with the midterms, gaining speed at Rumsfeld’s overdue ouster, and soon ushering in a new strategy in Iraq.

The long awaited Baker Commission report will outline the regional support necessary from Syria and Iran to stabilize Iraq from the outside. Just last week Syria and Iraq ended decades of political estrangement. Many hope that their recent reengagement will lead to a tighter Syrian border, which will in turn curtail the influx of Sunni foreign militants into Iraq. As I write this column, Iraqi President Jalal Talabani prepares to embark on a trip to Tehran, to discuss Iran’s role in the rebuilding of Iraq.

While Syria and Iran are invaluable assets to border closure, the real question is whether the United States should move toward redeployment out of Iraq in the short term. Unequivocally the answer must be “yes.”

The war is lost in conventional terms of victory and defeat. Iraqis teeter on the edge of civil war, evidenced by the imposition of forced curfews to lower the frightening daily death toll from sectarian violence in major cities. Many argue that the U.S. presence in Iraq is a primary cause and source of violence, and studies have concluded that the occupation itself breeds potential terrorists.

Many more American soldiers must die before we shed our hubris, acknowledge our loss, and finally practice our favorite “support our troops” tagline by bringing them home safely to their families?

Former senator John Edwards rightly advocates for a three-element approach to withdrawal from Iraq. “A plan for success needs to focus on three interlocking objectives: reducing the American presence, building Iraq’s capacity and getting other countries to meet their responsibilities to help.”

To get out of Iraq we need to (1) shift from an occupational military force to a training-supplementary force (2) pull our war-profiteering Halliburton contractors (3) open and facilitate regional dialogue in order to cut the influx of foreign fighters and create a multi-national coalition for change.

Withdrawal critics argue that pulling U.S. forces will throw Iraq into a hopeless state of anarchy. For example, Richard Clarke answered these critics best when he opined “[d]elaying a possible spike in chaos . . . does not outweigh the benefits of withdrawing sooner. Staying there beyond 2007 would come with high costs in American lives, and in Iraqi lives taken by U.S. forces. It would not be worth the further damage to America’s diminished standing in the world that accompanies our occupation, nor the price we pay by generating more terrorists motivated by our presence in Iraq.”

Liberal rebuttal...

Winning is no longer an option. Even Henry Kissinger, special advisor to President Bush, recently admitted that a clear military victory in Iraq is off the table.

“[T]he public is nauseated” because losing thousands of its soldiers turns its collective stomach. I think of no better reason to leave Iraq in the short term than to save the lives of countless U.S. soldiers and Iraqi civilians.

General Abizaid is a leader of the highest caliber. He is also hamstrung by duty, as he is in Iraq with [his] commanders, and when [he] talks to [his] soldiers and Iraqi leadership, they do not despair.

Winning is no longer an option. Even Henry Kissinger, special advisor to President Bush, recently admitted that a clear military victory in Iraq is off the table.

How many more American soldiers must die before we shed our hubris, acknowledge our loss, and finally practice our favorite “support our troops” tagline by bringing them home safely to their families?

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Conservative rebuttal...

Facts matter, part three.

We do not all know the story. Few have served in the Iraq War and fewer have access to confidential military information. In CNN’s Election Day exit poll, “corruption” was the issue voters cared most about. Iraq ranked #4.

You espose redepoloment first, Iraq instability second. You forget that the 9/11 terror attack attack killed more Americans than the Iraq War has after almost four years, and leaving Iraq “in chaos” greatly facilitates terrorist operation. You omit the fact that the killing in Southeast Asia doubled after we left Vietnam unsuccessfully. My respected adversary, Richard Clarke answered these critics best when he opined “[d]elaying a possible spike in chaos . . . does not outweigh the benefits of withdrawing sooner. Staying there beyond 2007 would come with high costs in American lives, and in Iraqi lives taken by U.S. forces. It would not be worth the further damage to America’s diminished standing in the world that accompanies our occupation, nor the price we pay by generating more terrorists motivated by our presence in Iraq.”
SBA tackles exam policy, scheduling

By Scott Kuboff

SBA President

Dear Fellow Students:

On behalf of fellow SBA Officers – Meredith Danch, Chan Carlson, Nick Hanna, and Jaime Umerley – I would like to thank you for making this semester a success.

You’ve attended student organizations’ events, participated in fundraisers, and spoke with your Senators to ensure your needs were being met.

To this end, student organizations continue to thrive, and your Student Bar Association was able to pass three major pieces of legislation.

As many of you are aware, SBA passed Resolution 1022006-A, which calls for a 24-hour Exam Policy. This policy addresses students who have a night exam scheduled for 6:00 p.m. and then one the following morning at 9:00 a.m., as well as students who have two exams scheduled on consecutive days.

Additionally, many part-time evening students informed us that they were precluded from enrolling in evening sections of Required Core Courses because those sections were closed before they could register. In turn, those students had to petition the administration in order to be enrolled in those required courses. In response, senator Crystal Blevins drafted Resolution 1192006-A, which calls for a 24-hour registration process for part-time evening students. I would like to thank senator Blevins for her dedication in serving the students in this manner.

Looking forward to next semester, your SBA plans to address student concerns regarding eligibility for the Dean’s List. Under current academic policy, students receiving an “incomplete” grade are ineligible to be recognized.

While this policy is reasonable in most circumstances, it presents an issue for students who are enrolled in certain courses that require work to be done in the following semester. In this situation, the student would receive an “incomplete” until the work is complete (generally, at the end of the following semester.)

Under such circumstances, those students would be ineligible to be on Dean’s List for the first semester, regardless of their grade or academic performance.

To address this concern, the Academic Credit Task Force has been created. I would like to thank senators John Rose and Jeff Stupp for co-chairs this task force.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone good luck on your final exams and a happy and safe holiday season.

To the graduating students, congratulations on your achievement and good luck on the Bar, it has been a privilege to serve you.

Mike Foley, Bob Ney, Bob Taft. Every- one knows these names. But, how many people can just as easily name some of the positives associated with the Republican Party? Not many.

This past November, voters, especially Ohioans, have continued their disapproval of the Republican handling of Congress. This is not the first time that a party has lost its majority in Congress, and it certainly will not be the last.

History, because it has proven to be cy- clic, helps us predict the future. If we have learned anything about politics and its history, it is that the Democrats will, eventually fail. No party has been able to sustain a permanent majority in Congress – there is always turnaround (in a question of when it will occur.)

History has also taught us another time- less lesson – this will fall have everything to do with scandal and other mishappenings, and nothing to do with a lack of progress.

People know Foley, Ney, and Taft because they are associated with scandal and other generally political “bad” things. Those scandals were highly broadcasted in the media (but we cannot just blame them.)

Who among us can say they have not discussed in our general conversations, these scandal-laden politicians much more than we have talked about anything “good” that Congress does.

Ever talk about all the potential terrorist plots that have been thwarted, or the new federal loan available to graduate students? If you did, did you specifically mention that this is a “good” that our government has provided? I am a sinner as well, and I also often glaze over these facts in favor of discussing the juicer stuff, like coingate.

In writing this editorial, I pursued several major media outlets in search of examples of the “good” that our government has done. I found some in the back of the “Metro” sec- tion, but even these articles could only be classified as “questionably” positive.

Whether we like it or not, the media is the most service- oriented “branch” of our government. They give us what we want – and we want to talk about the “bad” much more than we care about the “good” that our government does.

A meal at a fast food restaurant will give us twice our daily allowance of saturat- ed fats. However, if people did not eat that stuff, it would not be sold. The market will always adjust to your tastes, and whether we wish to admit it or not, our tastes can be salacious.

When the people went to vote, they went to punish the Republican Party. Likely, the voters were not voting this way because they were upset that the Republican Party had failed to achieve progress. Instead, their votes were likely direct reactions to the publicized scandal.

Simply put, people vote on what they know, and they know about scandal much more than they know about anything good that our government accomplishes.

So, if I have any advice for the Demo- cratic majority in Congress, it is to do as little as possible – both good and bad. They will not be penalized for doing little “good,” but they will be for doing even the slightest “bad.”

This plan will help the Democrats post-pone, as long as possible, eff ection of the one immutable truth in politics – power is never permanent.

Mike Foley, Bob Ney, Bob Taft.

Every- one knows these names. But, how many people can just as easily name some of the positives associated with the Republican Party? Not many.

I would like to thank SBA Treasurer Nick Hanna for his hard work on this piece of legislation.

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Just spit it out: confusion in legal language

By Kurt Favver

Gavel Countdown

Laws are supposedly created, refined, and interpreted for the benefit of society at large. From the most mentally-disabled individual to the most educated genius, laws are meant for the benefit of society at large. How can the average person understand a law that is complex and filled with arcane terminology? In order to interpret a law, the person must have the knowledge and skills to understand the language used. This is a common problem in the United States, where the average reading level of the American public is far below the level required to understand complex legal language.

Recent statistics show that the average reading level of the American public is significantly below the level required to understand complex legal language. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the average reading level of the American public is 7.5th grade, which is well below the 12th grade level required to understand complex legal language. This is a major concern, as the average person is not able to fully understand the laws that govern their lives. In order to address this issue, it is important to simplify legal language and make it more accessible to the average person.

We must take action to improve the clarity and accessibility of legal language. This can be achieved by using simpler language and avoiding legal jargon. By making legal language more accessible, we can ensure that everyone has access to the laws that govern their lives.

In conclusion, the problem of confusion in legal language is a major concern. It is important to simplify legal language and make it more accessible to the average person. By doing so, we can ensure that everyone has access to the laws that govern their lives.

Effectiveness of mandatory sentencing

By Chris Tibaldi

Star Witness

In the 1950s president Eisenhower warned America about the “military industrial complex” that was developing because of fear of the Cold War. Today, criminologists warn us of the exorbitant costs of the “prison industrial complex.” In California, between 1984 and 1994 the state built eight maximum-security prisons, and added 15 natural communities to taxpayers for the system of criminal justice for the same period grew from $45.6 billion to $102 billion, according to David C. Anderson, author of “The Mystery of the Crime Rate.”

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, the prison population in 2004 reached 1.5 million, a record number. The cost to taxpayers of the system of criminal justice is many billions of dollars. These costs are often avoided by the general public. It is not clear why there is an increase in the prison population? According to J.M. Darby, author of “The Prediction of Recidivism,” the reduction of Crime Rates by increasing the Severity of Prison Sentences “the length of the average prison sentence in America has tripled since the year 1980.”

In 1980, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld California’s law in a 5-4 decision, giving great deference to state law makers. In Lockyer v. Andrade, the court held that the California law did not constitute a “cruel and unusual” punishment prohibited under the Eighth Amendment.

It is necessary to make our prisons more effective in order to reduce the prison population. The problem of the prison population is a pressing issue that needs to be addressed.

Change in South America

By Drew Behnke

Star Witness

A spectre is haunting Latin America—the specter of democratic socialism. After a series of authoritarian governments, democratically elected, decidedly left-leaning gov- ernments now comprise a part of the hemisphere that is being promoted by authoritarianism, and often implicated, dictatorships.

These are not, however, your grandfather’s communists. The col- lapse of the Soviet Union all but ended Marx’s dream of the imperial communist bloc. Instead, we now see grassroot, populist democracies, inspired by decades of destitution and corruption, calling for socially-minded governments. It need not be said that this is not the democracy the United States envisions when touting the flag of its foreign policy.

For the most part, leaders of these countries have pledged to continue tra- ditional relations with the United States with respect to trade, narcotrafficking and immigration. In some cases, cooperation is actually increasing. The Dominican Republic, for example, has begun to engage in drug control efforts that are complementary to those of the United States. In January 2006, Chile elected self-described socialist Michelle Bachelet as Latin America’s first elected woman head of state, and United States relations with Chile remain strong.

Over the last 20 years, the United States has seen a number of changes in the Americas that have been beneficial to the United States. The United States has seen a decrease in drug trafficking and an increase in the rule of law. The United States has also seen an increase in the number of democratic governments in the region. This is a positive development, as it shows that the United States is able to work with other nations to achieve common goals.

In conclusion, the future of Latin America is uncertain. However, the United States has a strong history of working with other nations to achieve common goals. This is a positive development, as it shows that the United States is able to work with other nations to achieve common goals.
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