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Cleveland-Marshall College of Law

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BLSA hosts annual banquet

By Chuck Northcutt

On March 30, 2007, the Black Law Student’s Association, BLSA, held its annual scholarship and awards banquet at the City Club of Cleveland. BLSA gave three separate awards for their 2006-2007 essay competition. Recipients were Meredith Danch, Jennifer Carroll, and Donnetta Jones. Jones won a full bar review exam course donated by Supreme Bar Review. Caroll received $500, while Danch was given by 2L remarks prior to the invocation of Cleveland.

BLSA President Anthony Scott welcomes Judge George White at The City Club of Cleveland. Judge White was the keynote speaker at the annual BLSA scholarship and awards banquet held on March 30, 2007.

See BLSA, page 2

Professor Tyler, director of legal writing, retires

By J.R. White

Gavel Contributor

Professor Barbara Tyler will retire at the end of this academic year, bringing an end to an amazing career that has spanned professions and touched many lives. Tyler began her journey to law school by doing something sneaky. With her son Tom enrolled as a first-year student at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, Tyler snuck away and took the LSAT without his knowledge.

Soon, Tyler was sharing classrooms with Thom, who was particularly grateful when his mother provided him with a last minute employment law outline just days before the exam. Just as her son was grateful for her covert decision to enter law school so are C-M students and faculty.

Like many of our students, Tyler did not enter the practice of law through traditional means. Tyler worked as an emergency room nurse and nursing instructor for 22 years in her first career. In school, while most were overwhelmed with class preparation, Tyler balanced homework with eight-hour weekday shifts and twelve-hour shifts on weekends. She graduated magna cum laude.

Tyler entered a two-year judicial clerkship for the Hon. Blanche E. Krupansky in the Ohio Court of Appeals-Eighth District before returning to C-M as a legal writing professor in 1991. In 2000, Tyler became advisor to the Journal of Law and Health. Her medical and legal background made her a perfect fit for the publication, which focuses on points of intersection between the two disciplines.

See TYLER, page 3

Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct

Rule 1.8(j): Sex with clients

A lawyer shall not solicit or engage in sexual activity with a client unless a consensual sexual relationship existed between them when the client-lawer relationship commenced.

Journal hosts speaker Dr. Denno

Anupriya Krishna and Austin McQuan

Gavel Contributors

On April 5, 2007, C-M’s Journal of Law and Health presented the third speaker of its 2006-2007 annual lecture series: Dr. Deborah Denno, the distinguished Arthur A. Givney Professor of Law at Fordham University School of Law. Dr. Denno drew a dynamic audience comprised of a mix of students, area lawyers, and C-M faculty.

In her second visit to C-M, Dr. Denno presented Legal Implications of Research on Genetics and Crime, based on her widely cited article, “Revisiting the Legal Link Between Genetics and Crime,” published in Duke University School of Law’s prestigious Journal of Law and Contemporary Problems.

Dr. Denno received her master’s degree in criminology from the University of Toronto. In addition, she received her doctoral degree in criminology and law degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

Prior to joining the faculty at Fordham University, Dr. Denno served as a member of the U.S. Sentencing Commission’s Drugs-Violence Task Force from 1994 to 1997 and consulted for eight years on the New Jersey Death Penalty Project.

Dr. Denno pointed out that the introduction of genetic research as a defense in court is more common now since the Steven Mobley case, a Georgia murder case.

In 1994, convicted killer Steven Mobley attempted to have his death sentence overturned because of his family’s history of psychological disorders. In an attempt to mitigate his sentence, Mobley argued that his family shared a genetic propensity for criminal misconduct and that genetic testing would reveal this.

The trial and appellate courts rejected this kind of reasoning, and, in 2005, Mr. Mobley was executed. Although the Mobley case was the first to suggest so persistently a link between genetics and criminal misconduct, it was not the last. Dr. Denno has been studying the relationship between biology and

See DENNO, page 3

Alums career shaped by JAG

Judge William O’Neill has a distinguished career including a stint in the JAG Corp. The Gavel interviews Judge O’Neill about his experiences.

See CAREER, page 4
Dean Mearns responds to Gavel Editorial

By Geoffrey Mearns

In the last issue of The Gavel, Kathleen Locke wrote an opinion piece about the recent visit by a team of external evaluators whom I invited to assess our legal writing program. In that piece, Ms. Locke expressed some concerns about the fairness of the evaluation process and the way in which the team conducted its visit.

Prior to publishing her opinions, Ms. Locke expressed some of those concerns to me directly, and we met to talk about them. I appreciate the professional and thoughtful manner in which Ms. Locke assessed the issues and expressed her concerns.

Before responding to some of her specific concerns, I would like to provide some context for this evaluation. I think this context is important.

It is a fact of academic life that we are all subject to formal evaluation processes. Students evaluate their professors. I annually evaluate every professor based, in part, on those student evaluations. In order to obtain tenure, a professor must have her scholarship evaluated by academics from other institutions. Every year, the Provost evaluates my performance. Moreover, every three years, every dean at the University is extensively evaluated. External evaluation is an integral aspect of how our performance is measured, as well as a necessary part of self-improvement.

Yet, one of Ms. Locke’s principal concerns is that it was unfair to evaluate our legal writing program and professors “while all of the other departments are left untouched.”

In fact, as many of you may recall, in March 2006, a team of legal educators visited our law school to conduct a site visit in connection with our ABA re-accreditation process. The ABA site team evaluated the entire curriculum and legal education program. The members of the team visited many classes, they reviewed hundreds of student evaluations of all of our professors, and they spoke with many students, faculty, and some graduates.

In September 2006, we received the site team’s report, which contained many observations. In its report, the ABA site team recommended that we engage a team of experienced legal writing professionals to evaluate our legal writing program. Although the ABA site team reported some constructive criticism about other aspects of the law school, the report did not recommend an additional external review of any of our other programs.

In short, all of the departments at the law school have recently been evaluated by a team of external evaluators, and those professionals concluded that our law school would benefit from a more thorough assessment of our legal writing program.

After conferring with President Schwartz, we concluded that it was important to you—our students—to accept this recommendation. Our decision was based on our view that any program, even a strong one, can be improved.

It was then my responsibility to assemble the team. I invited our legal writing professors to recommend people whom they believed were leaders in the field of legal writing education.

Our legal writing faculty suggested five or six people. I selected two people from that list: Professor Jon Levine and Professor Sue Liemer. Professor Levine recommended that I select Professor Judy Rosenbaum. I followed Professor Levine’s recommendation.

The substantial input by our legal writing professors in the process of selecting the members of the evaluation team was designed to ensure that the evaluation would be fair to our legal writing professors.

Ms. Locke also expressed some concerns with the way the team conducted its site evaluation. Based on observing and participating in open sessions, Ms. Locke concluded that the members of the team did not have experience in conducting “similar reviews at other schools” and “that they were using their own teaching styles with that of our professors.”

In fact, Professor Levine, who has directed the legal writing programs at the University of Virginia, the University of Arkansas, and Temple University, has conducted formal, on-site evaluations of the legal writing programs at six other law schools. Prior to coming to our law school, Professor Rosenbaum had participated in five legal research and writing evaluations at other law schools. And Professor Liemer, who has developed and directed first-year legal research and writing programs at three different law schools, has served on an ABA site team. In short, their experience is extensive and impressive.

I cannot render an opinion as to how they conducted the one open session with students that Ms. Locke observed, because I was not present.

To the extent they might not have been familiar with all of our programs, however, that is the purpose of the site visit—to get that information.

And I am gratified that our students proudly supported our institution and our faculty.

But I do not think it is prudent to assess the quality of the evaluation based simply on observing or participating in one open session.

The evaluation has consisted of much more. The team reviewed hundreds of student evaluations, including student evaluations and some papers that our legal writing professors critiqued.

The team observed every legal writing professor in the classroom, and they had individual meetings with every legal writing professor. The team also had meetings with large numbers of first-year students, and they met with many of the other professors here at the law school.

Given the extensive nature of the evaluation, I think we should reserve judgment about the quality and fairness of the team’s conduct until after we have received their final report.

Before accepting the ABA site team’s recommendation that we conduct this independent evaluation of our legal writing program, I knew that doing so would cause some anxiety and uncertainty.

It would have been less disruptive for many of us, including me, to ignore that recommendation. But I decided that it was important to engage in this evaluation process to ensure that we were providing our students with the best education we can provide.

That is our responsibility, even if the evaluation process may be unpleasant or unsettling.

Continued from page 1--
C-M appoints new dean of admissions and financial aid

By Tiffany Elmore

C-M recently appointed Christopher Lucak as Assistant Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid. Dean Lucak spoke to The Gavel about the admissions process, his expectations for C-M’s goals and what goals have been served?

Q: What recent changes have been implemented in the admissions process, and what goals have been served?
A: We have seen slight decreases in application volume, but that is more attributable to the board, and the decrease that C-M is experiencing is less than the national average. We have made fewer offers for admission to date, however, we have more students deposited to date, which means more students have accepted our offers. This is helping us to increase the quality of our class, reduce the size of the class, and increase the expectations of the institution.

The new construction project is a physical indication of some modernization that people are excited about. We have incorporated more of our alumni into our recruitment efforts and the admissions process.

We are doing a wonderful job in getting our alumni, our faculty, and our current students more involved.

Q: You mentioned a decrease in applications, is there an economic factor that reflects the expansion of opportunities in law?
A: Certainly the economy has always been a factor in graduate and professional education. We are looking at a pretty savvy group of students who, over the past few years, have been watching the application volume and how it increases. They are recognizing or fearful that there may be an over-abundance of people going into the legal profession, which may limit opportunities for them.

Q: How has the Legal Career Opportunities Program helped to prepare admitted students to transition into law school?
A: The Legal Career Opportunities Program serves a very important purpose and is a very important mission of our law school. We recognize that student accomplishment can be identified or defined in very different ways.

These are not just people who might have lower grades or scores, these people are with lower grades or scores who have reason why those things have happened [or] have [had] some certain life circumstances that prevented them from performing at their optimal level. But, at the same time, there is some evidence of the student’s ability to be successful.

When a student comes to the LOCP, they start in the summer taking one course that provides foundational skills. Hopefully, when they are sitting in their first year [class] with all the other students, they are well prepared, their expectations are there, and they understand and are able to move forward with a degree of confidence.

Q: How do you recruit students outside of the northeast region and the state and get the message out that C-M is just as competitive as other Ohio law schools?
A: We do have really outstanding academic preparedness, but not only in our concentrations, but with our joint degrees as well. We have a nice combination of traditional legal theory in the classroom and experiential learning opportunities.

These are things that students find very attractive. I also think that our location in this sophisticated legal community is increasingly important, and students are recognizing this. They realize that they can have a quality of life and a quality of work life within a community that can support their goals and their interests.

Q: For prospective students – what assets, like undergraduate coursework or professional experience, are helpful in applying to law school?
A: LSAT scores and GPAs realistically are the most important consideration. Law school is such an academic venture that having a four-year curriculum [activities] and work experience and those can round out your experience as a law student. But those things in and of themselves are not going to get you through the rigors of law school.

We still want people who have different experiences, diverse backgrounds, sexual orientation, geographic upbringing, social economic status – all of those things have to come into play here.

In the legal classroom talking about the rule of law, the rule is going to mean something different to each of the people in that classroom, and that’s what we are trying to achieve here.

Q: What types of financial aid are available to students who would otherwise be discouraged to apply because of financial constraints?
A: First and foremost, tuition at this law school is the lowest in the state of Ohio so that is a plus for students. We do have scholarships, which range from $2,000 to a full in-state tuition scholarship, available for students that we incorporate through the admissions process.

We are working as we redeploy our Web site to make sure that students are aware of various search engines or entities that have scholarship money available.

Students who are looking for the best financial aid and are selecting their law school simply because that is the law school who gave the most scholarship money may not be making the most educational choice for themselves. It is important that students are living now like students.

If you live like a lawyer now, you probably are going to live like a student when you are a lawyer.

The Journal of Law and Health

Professor Tyler speaks at the annual The Journal of Law and Health banquet held on April 13.

Jill Pfeifer/Franklin College

CM Republican addresses financial planning for new lawyers

By Chuck Northcutt


The speakers indicated that lawyers are often the target of financial advisors, so it is important to find the right one. Ryder and Brooks discussed smart tips on tax reduction strategies and early retirement planning that can give new attorneys a head start on managing their money.

One attendee, Mary Malone felt the program was helpful. “The two speakers didn’t just give me tips for different investment options and how to balance-out the choices for long and short-term goals,” said Malone. “Their best advice was to start planning early.”

The financial seminar was part of a series of speaking events hosted by the C-M College of Law Republicans this past academic year.

Denno speaks on genetics, law

Continued from page 1—

and criminal behavior since the early 1990s. Recent publications have examined the conclusions surrounding the Dobbs story. They realized that they can have cited genetic disorders in appealing their clients’ convictions.

Dr. Denno writes on a wide range of topics, including the death penalty, criminal law defenses, and interdisciplinary approaches to crime.


The Journal of Law and Health sponsors speaker events throughout the academic year. This event was the third this academic year.

In the fall, the Journal presented the Medicare Prescription Drug Forum, and this past February, the Journal hosted Dr. Joseph Lex, who presented The FDA: A Watchdog That Doesn’t Bite and Has No Incentive to Bark.

The series will continue next year under the leadership of Heather Hebelein and Christin Contini, the Journal of Law and Health’s editors-in-chief.
conditions and compare the answer with any
tion is to do exam questions under exam
tions as the basis of group discussions in
There is no such thing as cramming in order
certain tasks.
and then immediately begin preparing for
thing to do is to conclude the first exam
sample answers that might be available.
think about the law.
important that your last preparation be for
reading week so that each course
equal amount of time during the semester

Some people work well from a sparse outline. Some people work well from constantly rewriting material. Others work well with tapes that give an overview of a particular subject.

In any event, Reading Week should not be the time to start constructing an outline, for the sake of writing an outline.

Assuming that you have a decent grasp of the course during the semester, the object would be to parcel out the time in reading week so that each course has some review.

It is important that you schedule this time rather strictly and that all courses have some form of review.

Part of the scheduling has to do with your exam schedule, what exam is first, and how many days you might have between exams.

Although it is important that all courses be covered during reading week, it is equally important that your last preparation be for your first final exam. The best way to prepare for exams is not simply to go through outlines and notes and think about the law.

The best way to prepare is to actually do sample exams, either on file, or those in commercial books.

Ideally, if time allows, the best preparation is to do exam questions under exam conditions and compare the answer with any sample answers that might be available.

Another alternative is to use exam ques-
tions from the basis of group discussions in
session. The group mind generally
fleshes out gaps in knowledge that some people may have.

What is also important is cleaning the
slater after an exam is taken.

Although there is a propensity to want to rehearse the questions on an exam, the best thing to do is to conclude the first exam and then immediately begin preparing for the second one, and to do that after each exam.

Try to keep time productive, and try to be methodical. Set aside certain time periods to do certain tasks.

Also take care to get adequate rest. There is no such thing as cramming in order
to do well on a law school exam.

Good Luck!

By Emily Honsa
STAFF WRITER

In 1978, William O’Neill strides into the Yours Truly
restaurant in Chagrin Falls, and it is
clearly not to be translated into a
crime story. He knows most of
the servers by name, and as
they come over to the
table to greet him, it is
obvious that he is a
favorable table.

The C-M alum has had
his share of personal tragedy—
his wife passed away years ago
in a car accident, and his son,
recently home from Iraq,
became a paraplegic due to a motorc
racing accident.

His casual demeanor and
small-town familiarity belies his experiences. First, he was
a National Guardman command-
ing a cavalry unit. In the
bazzards of 1978, the
Army activated his unit to
cover the northeastern
Ohio, and O’Neill was
part of the project as a thearn. The heavy snowfall had
forced the Army to use tanks
to open the roads, and a team of
tow trucks was stationed at
dead ends.
**O’Neill, Ghandi finalist for Nicest Person to Ever Live Award**

By Susette Kelo

Staff Writer

New York—The United Nations, in a closed session, has announced the finalists for the commemorative award to be given to the nicest person to ever live.

The semi-finalist field was competitive and heated, though O’Neill and Ghandi ultimately beat out Mother Theresa and Jesus.

“Mother Theresa was close, but Jesus severely lacked support from the Asian constituency,” commented Abdullah al-Masri, chairman of the elections committee.

O’Neill commented on his ascendency into the finals.

“I am really sorry for everyone who didn’t make it to this level. You all gave excellent answers during the quarter and semi-final rounds, and for that you should be applauded,” said O’Neill. “I sincerely apologize that the nature of the competition requires admission to pg-13 movie

**C-M dissolves affiliation with CSU**

By William Marbury

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Dean Geoffrey Mearns announced the law school’s plan to break its affiliation with Cleveland State University and join St. Ignatius High School at a press conference on Tuesday.

The proposed change would make C-M the first law school in the United States to claim an affiliation with a high school.

Mearns acknowledged the gravity of the decision, but remained steadfast in his conviction that it was in the school’s best interest.

“There will definitely be some significant changes ahead, but I believe that Cleveland-Marshall will reap great rewards from this move, including a much prettier campus, and a superior athletic program,” Mearns said.

When asked why C-M would break off from CSU after a symbiotic 38-year union, Mearns explained that “it was simply time for a change.”

C-M wanted to secure its merger with St. Ignatius before the Case Western School of Law finalized its plan to merge with University School, the prestigious private preparatory school in Hunting Valley.

While officials from both schools are still ironing out the details, both sides agree that C-M and St. Ignatius are a natural fit: “Sure, they’re going to have to stop admitting women, but the remaining students stand to benefit immeasurably from the networking opportunities that Ignatius will provide,” said St. Ignatius President, the Reverend Timothy P. Kesicki, noting that most of the top lawyers and judges in Cleveland are St. Ignatius Alumni.

The C-M community met the announcement with mixed reactions. See IGNATIUS, page 2

**OCP secures Subway for fall interview program**

By John W. Terry

Staff Writer

The Office of Career Planning announced that Subway, located on E. 18th and Euclid Avenue, will be added to Simplicity for the Fall Interview Program in an effort to give students in the bottom 25 percent an opportunity to participate in the FIP.

The summer associate position with Subway is not legal, but entails the assembly of submarine sandwiches with a variety of fresh meats and vegetables.

Associates or “sandwich artists” may be required to pour bowls of soup for patrons. But, this is unlikely because of the unpopularity of soup during the summer months.

Highlights of this program include the possibility for students to meet Jared and John Lovitz, beloved Subway celebrity sponsors.

Subway is not looking for a particular G.P.A., and does not care whether applicants are members of Law Review or Journal. “This is a perfect opportunity for our poor performing students,” said OCP. “Let’s be honest, students in the bottom of the class have no chance of getting legal jobs for the summer, and Subway at least pays minimum wage,” added OCP.

Subway has many opportunities and experiences that summer clerks at Jones Day, Squire Sanders, or any of the other big firms just can’t get.

Subway associates have relatively no stress, except at lunchtime between 12:00 p.m and 2:00 p.m, and will be able to wear comfortable cotton polos and light weight khakis as opposed to stuffy suits.

The restaurant chain’s vicinity to the law school was one of the reasons C-M approached Subway about offering students positions. “We’ve heard complaints that OCP isn’t responsive to lower-ranked students, so when I was at Subway getting lunch one day, I thought I could kill two birds with one stone: see if Subway would be willing to hire some of our students, and get myself a delicious sandwich,” said one OCP representative wishing to remain anonymous.

“The bulk of our time has to be devoted to getting people in the top 10 percent jobs, so we really didn’t have much time to go anywhere but across the street for the rest of our students,” added the anonymous source.
By douree mapp

Gavel staff declares war on student Bar Association

Under increased personal attacks and possibly with jealousy as a partial motive, the three Co-Editors of The Gavel convened last Thursday in a secret meeting to discuss the final solution to the SBA problem.

"Those guys are bastards," commented Margaret Keramat, the war-wake editor often considered the impetus behind the push for action. "They think they run this school, when in reality that the press always wins — you hear that — we get the last word, and we always win."

Kate Locke, the senior editor on the staff and generally considered the voice of reason, stated, "I am so sick of hearing about task forces."

Upon a unanimous vote by the editors, the war resolution was presented to the general body of the Gavel Staff Writers. Some debate ensued. "Um, what are they talking about?" commented columnist John Rose, a big 3L with a big attitude.

"I think they’re on drugs," responded investigative reporter Kevin Shannon.

After general debate, the resolution declaring war on the SBA was passed by an eight-to-four margin. Paul Deegan and Emily Honis, members of both organizations, respectfully abstained.

After the resolution was presented to the SBA, battle lines were drawn in the cafeteria. Gavel staff editors and editors on one side, and SBA senators and exec board on the other.

"They can take our office, they can take our discretionary funding, but they’ll never take our FREEDOM, ” chanted Gavel Editor Shawn Romer while pacing up and down the meelee line on his horse Smokey. Romer adored his favorite cowboy hat and delectable blue face paint for the occasion.

Gavel staff charged the line, but first met near disaster when SBA President Scott Kuboff greeted the charging Romer with a kick to the balls.

Kuboff adored his favorite steel toe boots for the occasion.

However, the Gavel staff rebounded, as Emily “bat out of hell” Honis sucker punched SBA treasurer and President-elect Nick Hanza.

Hansa had initially lined-up as an SBA Senator, though this was all Tom Foolery because he was no longer in West Virginia, ripped off his shirt, exposing not only multiple white-trash tattoos, but also massive amounts of body hair. Veteran Senator Mandy Sharran reacted by throwing-up a little in her mouth.

Paul Deegan, on the other hand, could not commit. He was seen to be side engagements in a self-fightening scenario similar to the one Edward Norton engaged in during the hit movie Fight Club.

After the melee cleared, few were standing. No one seemed to have won. The writers and senators, broken, beaten, and torn, returned to their respective offices.

Gavel contributor Chuck Northcutt, while smoking a Black and Mild, had the following to say about the event: “Ehhh — I just want to put my two cents in here… Uh, speaking as a man here. Ya, know, I mean, come on over here. Sometimes you gotta bada bing, and sometimes you get bada bada bing. Ohhhhhhh.”

Former SBA senator and Mr. Law School Brian Hardman responded, “What the hell did that mean?”

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3L student dresses for success

By Thomas Gibbons

The2007class of 3Ls chose fellow student Fred Papalardo as “Most Likely To Look Like A Lawyer.”

In the final tally, it was no contest, as Papalardo gathered 100 percent of the total votes.

He accepted the award at the Barrels’ Ball, wearing a Calvin Klein Three-Buttoned Non-Vented Tan Micro Suede Sport Coat.

Papalardo thanked his classmates for the award, but cut his acceptance speech short, adding that he had “a [big]-load of work to do for [the] trial team.”

The C-M community has long recognized Papalardo’s superior fashion sense, and most students and faculty alike agree if they ever needed a lawyer, they would want one that looks like Papalardo.

In addition to his well-tailored suits, Papalardo maintains a conservative, yet fashionable, hair-cut, and his eyeglasses further suggest a respectable level of intellectual achievement without emitting an air of pretentiousness.

The ability to “look the part” is an essential element of lawyerly confidence, and Gary R. Williams, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, suggests that Papalardo’s unique ability could be a major driving force behind a promising career: “Normally, I try to encourage [Cleveland-Marshall’s] students to prepare diligently for the bar exam, but with Fred, I don’t think it really matters. No judge or jury would ever question his place in a courtroom."

In a recent telephone interview during his seven minute lunch break at Reminger & Reminger, Papalardo discussed his plans for the future.

“I’ve got my eyes on a Brooks Brothers Linen Twin Stripe Sport Shirt for the firm picnic,” Papalardo said.

In addition to the formal recognition of his classmates and future colleagues, SBA President Scott Kuboff presented Papalardo with a $50 gift certificate to the Men’s Wearhouse, which Papalardo promptly gave back to Kuboff, adding that he “wouldn’t be caught dead shopping there.”

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O’Neill: apologizes for niceness

Continued from page 1—

that there only be two finalists.

In fact, I apologize that the term “finalist” denotes that there can be more than one finalist.

O’Neill then apologized for any lack of clarity in his preceding apology.

Tan Micro Suede Sport Coat.

Klein Three-Buttoned Non-Vented

But, let’s be honest. If O’Neill were in Ghandi’s position, the whole thing with the British would have ended much quicker.

Myspace will allow us to reach past our traditional audience of lawyers, but if we do, we would probably publish on Facebook.com, which we believe to be a little more sophisticated than Myspace."

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Ignatius: C-M hopes merger will increase ranking

Continued from page 10—

When told that the new arrangement would restrict admissions to Roman Catholic men, 3L Kathleen Locke said, “God! That sucks. I’m glad I’m graduating this year.”

Tim Paluf, a three-year joint degree (MBA)/candidate was more than happy with the new arrangement: “That’s great! I’m gonna have to ease back on my course load so I can squeeze out another few years here. How are they looking at quarterback for next fall?”

St. Ignatius Head Football Coach Chuck Kyle expressed some doubt that the merger would affect the composition of the school’s athletic squads.

“We’ll have to check with [the Ohio State High School Athletic Association], but I’m pretty sure we won’t have any part-time twenty-somethings playing for us,” Kyle said.

Kyle also indicated serious doubt that “any of those geeks would have a snowball’s chance in hell of making the team any way.”

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STAFF WRITER

By Salim Ahmed Handan

The editorial board of C-M’s Journal of Law and Health announced on Tuesday that it will begin publishing the quarterly journal exclusively on Myspace.com, the popular social networking Web site.

In a press release citing the growing costs of publishing a printed journal, co-editors-in-chief Anupriya Krishna and Austin McGuin suggested that the new format will have the added effect of increasing readership. “Law and health are important topics that effect the lives of every man, woman and children alive, and we believe that publishing on Myspace.com will allow us to reach past our traditional audience of lawyers and legal scholars, and help to educate and inform the general population, including promiscuous teenagers and sexual predators.”

In a growing trend, many scholarly journals are turning to online publication as a means of cost-control. “Modern legal research is conducted almost exclusively through online database services, such as Westlaw and Lexis[Next], so online publication makes good fiscal sense for many such journals,” said legal writing professor Karen Mika.

Senior editor Jack Mills anticipates many advantages to the new format. “We’ll be able to post pictures from the annual social at Dive Bar! Plus, we can use the money we save towards an open bar — it’s a win-win [situation],” said Mills.

When asked whether the Cleveland Law State Review, C-M’s other publication, would consider a similar change, Chan Carlson, executive editor, responded, “We’re not looking to make any changes just yet, but if we do, we would probably publish on Facebook.com, which we believe to be a little bit more sophisticated than Myspace.”

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THE GRAVEL

March 2007

April 2007

The Journal of Law and Health to begin publishing exclusively on myspace.com
By Jane Roe

C-diversity

I think the zombies add greatly to the classroom environment," one C-M professor said. "They fumble with words sometimes, and they can't write complete sentences, but they're an asset to this law school. In fact, most of the time, I can't even tell which students are zombies and which are human. It's been a seamless transition." Human students have also embraced their zombie peers. "I know two zombies, and they’re both good guys," one human student commented. "They’re smart and funny and the smell isn’t nearly as bad as everyone assumes." "I'm actually dating a zombie," another human student said. "A lot of people told me that it would be hard to be someone of the undead persuasion, but I don't think it's so bad, either. The girl is just like anyone else. She has feelings and thoughts and dreams. We have to sew her right arm together sometimes, but that just brings us closer." "Really," the same student joked, "the biggest problem in our relationship has been that she's in a different 1L section." She has a presence unlike any other student on most court. When she argues her brief, people pay attention. She started chowing down on a judge during a practice session but, to me, that means she's highly motivated," a most court advisor said.

The zombie students have even created their own organization, the Zombie Law Society. The ZLS has focused on several charitable activities, including a canned goods drive and a visit to a children's hospital. Raising awareness of the rights of a person, a zone or living else. The time is now! According to the organization's primary concerns.

C-M's policy to diversify the student body with a blind eye toward consciousness has been a complete success. Zombies walk the halls of C-M with pride.

They have shown themselves to be as able to practice law as any human. Indeed, zombies have become the future of C-M, and what a bright future it is!
Anti-war activists engage in counter-recruitment

By Dan Kelley

STAFF WRITER

As always, there must be balance in everything you do, so we intend to help students maintain a balanced lifestyle outside of school by providing community volunteer opportunities and social activities that are enticing to all C-M students.

This goal requires giving students the atmosphere necessary to help them to be successful, including comparable exam rescheduling policies. To this end, we plan to work to make the 24-hour exam rescheduling policy permanent.

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Q. What is the single biggest problem at C-M, and how do you, or the ticket as a whole, plan to address it?

A. I think it is a clear goal of both the SBA and the administration to make C-M competitive with other schools with respect to its total graduate, academic standing, and recognition within the community by local employers and businesses.

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President Bush’s Legacy Debated

**CONSERVATIVE GAVEL COLUMNIST**

By Bradley Hull

President George W. Bush will be known as “the great divider” who polarized the American people and alienated our allies in the international community. Many will consider him to be one of the worst presidents in our nation’s history. The damage caused in his eight years will take generations to repair.

In 2000, President Bush touted his “compassionate conservatism.” It is difficult to identify any group, save the corporate elite, upon which Mr. Bush has since showered genuine “compassion.” The burdens of his mistaken war are carried on the backs of young men and women from poor and middle class families, while its spoils go to the war-profiteering Halliburton Corp. His fast-tracked trade agreements continue to suck high-paying manufacturing jobs from our middle class so that corporate executives and rich shareholders can realize greater returns on their investments. Mr. Bush has avoided the climate change issue that meets to plague his favorite energy industry donors. He will fail America’s future generations by leaving them with a huge trade deficit, a staggering bill for the war, and no plan to reduce dangerous emission levels.

President Bush responded strongly to the tragic attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, by baring the terror-supporting Taliban in Afghanistan. Since then his administration has squandered the confidence of the American people, and our allies abroad, through a series of contemptible mistakes. These include:

1. Going into Iraq on faulty intelligence and without adequate forces
2. Pathetically attempting to privatize social security
3. Torturing foreigners held without cause at Abu Ghraib.
4. Unfairly detaining foreigners without cause or legal recourse at GTMO.
5. Sphyning on U.S. citizens without warrants in the FISA scandal.
6. Outing a CIA operative after her diplomat husband debunked the myth that Iraq sought weaponry in Africa and letting Libby take the fall.
7. Leaving tens of thousands to fend for themselves in Hurricane Katrina’s aftermath.
8. Firing eight U.S. attorneys under the pretext of cause for political gain.
9. Allowing deplorable health conditions to persist for our wounded troops at Walter Reed.
10. Rejecting diplomacy in Iran and Syria to stabilize Iraq.

We all know the damage caused by these mistakes. We know that we’ve lost the international community’s support, and that this President is the most fiscally irresponsible in our nation’s history. We all surely know that we’ve lost thousands of young American soldiers in the failed war in Iraq.

What we don’t know is how future administrations will harness the dangerous precedents set by President Bush to justify executive power grabs and extra-constitutional actions. Will some President in the future argue that he can ignore established federal law because the Bush administration skated clear Congressional mandates in the FISA scandal? Will the next President cite one of President Bush’s signing statements advocating a “unitary executive” to supplant Constitutional principles? In *Marbury v. Madison*, Justice Marshall famously wrote “[i]t is emphatically the province and duty of the judicial department to say what the law is.” Writer Jennifer Van Bergen investigated the signing statement that President Bush issued upon the passage of the McCain anti-torture bill and concluded that “Bush asserts not only his authority to internally supervise the ‘unitary executive branch,’ but also his power as Commander-in-Chief, as the basis for his interpretation of the law — which observers have noted allows Bush to create a loophole to permit the use of torture when he wants.”

Such a vision of the executive doesn’t seem to square with Justice Marshall’s seminal decision. Would you like to thank Brad, the Gavel staff, and all who’ve read our columns this year. It’s been my distinct pleasure to write them. Good luck on finals and the bar exam.

**LIBERAL GAVEL COLUMNIST**

By Joseph Dunson

President Bush’s Iraq and Katrina mismanagement are disheartening. However, by comparison, President Bush’s Iraq and Katrina mismanagement are disheartening. However, by comparison, President Bush’s handling of the Iraq War, and the sluggish federal response to Hurricane Katrina, will tarnish his legacy. However, the extent either will damage Bush’s image is questionable. The political discourse over Bush’s Waterloo may even outmatch the zeal with which his early war victories were celebrated. Americans and the international community’s support, and that this President is the most fiscally irresponsible in our nation’s history. We all surely know that we’ve lost thousands of young American soldiers in the failed war in Iraq.

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**THE GAVEL/CONSERVATIVE**

**THE GAVEL/LIBERAL**

**By Bradley Hull**

**By Joseph Dunson**

**APRIL 2007**

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President Bush’s administration is widely regarded as one of the most objectionable in American history. Many will point to the huge trade deficits, the faulty war in Iraq, and the sluggish federal response to Hurricane Katrina as devastating mistakes. However, historians will remember Bush’s long-standing commitment to eternal vigilance. However, historians will remember Bush’s handling of the Iraqi quagmire, a huge trade deficit and war debt, and shattered relationships with our allies abroad.

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President-elect looks forward to new year

By Nick Hanna
SBAs President-elect 2007

On behalf of Rae Lynn Wargo, Anthony Scott, Lydia Arko, and myself I would like to sincerely thank the entire C-M student body for sharing your support and allowing us the honor of serving as your 2007-2008 SBA executive officers. We would also like to thank Scott Kahoff, Meredith Danuch, Chan Carlson, and Jaime Umerley for their hard work and dedication to the SBA. These outgoing officers leave us each with great shoes to fill. However, I am confident that the members of the “Students First” ticket will not disappoint the student body.

As an administration, we hope to prolong the traditions currently set in place by the SBA, while at the same time expanding the role that the SBA plays in the lives of the student body. Specifically, we plan to create more social and volunteer events that will not only help to engage a broader spectrum of students, but also help C-M gain more recognition in the community.

Along with fulfilling each aspect of our platform, we hope to hear continuous input from the student body as to what each of you would like to see the SBA do. As elected officers, it is our responsibility to seek out the needs and concerns of students, which we plan to do.

While we are excited to take over as an administration, the current SBA has a few events remaining this school year. In our last meeting of the school year, senator Crystal Blevins was awarded the “Gerald R. Walton Senator of the Year Award.” As a three-year senator, Crystal has been an active participant in the SBA and has been dedicated to serving the student body. In addition, the SBA will continue its tradition of giving student scholarships by making a large donation to the Wolstein Scholarship fund.

Finally, on May 10th, the SBA will be hosting its end of the year social at Panini’s in the Gateway area. We hope to see you there. In the meantime, good luck to everyone on your finals. And to the graduating class, congratulations and good luck on the bar exam.

The law school middle child

Personal reflections from a student somewhere between traditional and non-traditional junior

The law school middle child

By Shawn Romer
Co-Editor-in-Chief

I didn’t go to law school right out of undergrad, but I didn’t do something else for all that long either.

I’m the law school middle child - someone who’s done more than professional studying, but not significantly more.

Law school can be divided into two spheres – the academic and the social. We’re all familiar with the former (that’s why we’re here, right?), but many of us get plenty of the latter as well.

Come on, everyone of us has made the law school equals high school analogy.

I think the “law school middle child” really is best suited for the academic part of school, better so than our younger and older college contemporaries. However, it’s this “high school” part where we find ourselves struggling.

In the classroom, I think we’re at the advantage. We’re only a few years out of school, so we remember how to take notes quickly and what the dreaded “finals” feel like.

Unlike the students coming straight from undergrad, however, we can bring professional and more personal experiences to our work and study.

Maturity is the key aspect here (not that traditional students lack it, but we just have more, technically speaking, by virtue of having been around longer).

Though the non-traditional student may cream in maturity, they lack the relatively immediate familiarity with school, and (no offense guys), they generally don’t have the stamina of a person in their late 20’s.

Most importantly, they usually have kids and a family to attend to, whereas we’re still generally free of these obligations. I like being the “law school middle child” in the classroom.

Law school is also social, like it or not. Especially for those of us from out of town, our classmates compose a large chunk of our social companionship. It actually makes sense – these are the people you sweat and bleed with during the day. You’ve been (or are going through) the right of passage known as first year.

My dad always said “once a marine, always a marine – it’s the brotherhood that bonds.” I see law school similarly – a bonding brotherhood established by mutual ascension through a grueling, but beneficial, experience.

You do the same thing as these people, day in and day out. You have tons in common with them. That’s why you hang out with them outside of school.

Also, you’ve likely annoyed your other friends by failing to return calls and/or emails with any immediacy, or by talking about promissory estoppel to anyone if their ass reneges on something.

However, in my opinion, it’s in this sphere where the middle child syndrome takes most ill-effect.

The non-traditional students may hang out a bit after class, but except in the realm of circumstances, you’ll be hard-pressed to find them pounding lemon drops on West Sixth.

Granted, not, and maybe even a minority, of traditional students partake in this activity. But, I can say from personal observation that a significant number do, in far more numerosity than any other group.

So, where do the middle children go? We don’t have families and other responsibilities to attend to. We could just study more (not happening). We could hang out with our slightly younger colleagues, but working 9-5 for a few years has something to do with it. We now experience day-long hangovers and get by on 11 p.m.

Generally, many of us middle children gravitate towards one end or the other, either acting younger or older than we truly are.

So, why don’t we do what other people in their late 20’s do: Happy hours, joining young professionals clubs, visiting trendy bars, etc.

But, oh wait – we can’t go to happy hour because we still have to study until at least 7 or 8. We’re students, so we get kind of weird looks at the professional clubs.

And unless we want to burden Uncle Sam or Keybank for some more dough, we better stick to two dollar Labats at Becks’ instead of the twenty dollar marten in Ohio City.

So, I’ve divided our school into this tri-partite rubric. There’s the non-traditional students who treat law school like a job, and the traditional who are adding three years to college.

Then, there’s this mushy middle of students. I was the oldest of two children, and I liked that much better than being the middle child.

Of course, I’m speaking in generalities here. There are plenty of students who either don’t fit in or defy this rubric. However, for the middle child, you’ll find a substantial number slide into one of these three pegs.

Apologies to those I’ve stereotyped, but the word “stereotypical,” despite its connotation associated with prejudice, can have uses (we use stereotypes in politics all the time – women vote democrat, rural areas are conservative).

As we all know, a key part of the word is “typical,” which is where some value can come from its use. But the problem for us, unfortunately, is that there doesn’t seem to be a stereotypical “law school middle child,” at least is where we sometimes become lost.

1L reflects on tough academic year

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

The anonymous 1L column has now finished its adventure. To the various random readers of this column, I hope I have made you chuckle, at least in the briefest moment, taken away from this irkytower of ours.

I can definitely say that law school has changed me, or at least how I approach things.

This semester I have put out, for me, a massive approach.

Trying to rebuild yourself into something else entirely is not in the least bit pleasant. I decided that I should try and get a few Bs, maybe even a C. I know I’ll have to be an A student.

It simply takes too much work. My hat is off to those who are willing to, though I still think you are crazy, but since you do not need to do much of the least bit pleasant. I decided that I should try and get a few Bs, maybe even a C. I know I’ll have to be an A student.

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I was told that writing this column would be difficult, perhaps even a chonce. Well it has not been so up until this point.

I could tell you about who slept with who, who is together and who isn’t, but that’s pretty common knowledge, and probably not fit for print anyways - mostly because your personal lives are just that.

I wish each one of you the best of luck in pursuing your personal goals regarding relationships or whatever else they maybe.

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Howard Stern shouldn't be idolized or used to sway public opinion to heart. People like Don Imus and Michael Richards have been shown to give off a string of racial slurs years ago when Michael Richards jumped the shark and fired off a string of racial slurs against a high-profile basketball team “nappy-head hoos.” I can’t get away from it. It’s been the headline story on CNN more than once. Every commentator is weighing in on what constitutes a “racially charged remark.” But you know what? I don’t care about Don Imus. Giving people the chance to call the Rutgers women’s basketball team “nappy-head-ed.” I don’t even care if it’s a racist. And you know how I’m saying you don’t give a shit? Because I realize that Don Imus is not a paragon of truth, knowledge, or even decency. I had no respect for Don Imus in the first place, so he had nothing to lose from discussing racial slurs.

For one reason or another, it’s become mandatory for anyone that listens to radio shock jocks and takes their sensationalist views to heart. People like Don Imus and Howard Stern shouldn’t be idolized or used as moral compasses. Their sensationalist views shouldn’t be anyone’s gospel. If these are the individuals that shape American opinion, then we have a serious cultural crisis.

Of course, this isn’t the first time American media has focused on a “celebrity” racist tirade. We recall very well just a few months ago when Michael Richards jumped the shark and fired off a string of racial slurs against a great basketball team. As a society, we should be striving to make race non-issue. We need to strip racist remarks of their power. Media oversaturation of racist comments made by Don Imus or Michael Richards does exactly the opposite.

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The media was crazed with interview- ing Richards and making him apologize. The men who were the target of Richards’ vulgaries were plastered on news broadcasts as wide-reaching as Good Morning America. Pun- dits everywhere wanted to take a side. No one could escape the debate over race relations.

By focusing on these people, however, and by giving the racist remarks extensive media coverage, we give those remarks power. When the media shitty these stories into the forefront of society, it opens a debate as to whether the use of certain disparaging words or phrases is right or wrong.

This debate, in turn, validates the ex- istence of a side that believes racist com- ments are fine. Individuals who think that it’s not a big deal to use racial insults are galvanized to disseminate these views on a national stage.

It’s as if the media is implying that there are two sides, each with well-founded opinions that are competing for Americans’ minds. The media is, subtly, telling racists that their views are worthy of discussion and debate. Therein lies the flaw. Racism is not worthy of debate and even-handed discussion. It is wrong in all its forms and should be universally condemned.

It has absolutely no credible basis. In- stead, racism is nothing more than a direct manifestation of unfocused hatred and belief structure. Yet, this is what happens when the media focuses on celebrities’ rac- ist remarks.

The coverage given to the victims of celebrity racism is also problematic. Mem- bers of the Rutgers women’s basketball team, which played in the women’s NCAA Championship Game, have told reporters that they are deeply hurt by Don Imus’s remarks and that he has “stolen their mo- ment of glory from them.”

I understand why Imus’s insults were hurtful. But to say that he stole their mo- ment of glory seems too much.

If anything, C-M celebrity, like Don Imus can take away the pride of playing in the NCAA Championship Game, then the idea that racial slurs hold power is firmly bolstered. Broadcasting pained reactions to racist comments legitimizes those comments an increasingly powerful weapon.

Ideally, the media should refuse to report on any aspect of celebrities’ racist rants. As a society, we should be striving to make race non-issue. We need to strip racist remarks of their power. Media oversaturation of racist comments made by Don Imus or Michael Richards does exactly the opposite.

The redesign of the Web site would bring, the JLH could rise to the Faculty Hiring Committee

Although the JLH already receives submissions from profes- sionals outside of the C-M communi- ty, having full-time health law professor on the faculty would provide a source of submissions within the law school, as that professor would either be in a position to write ar- ticles for the JLH itself or convince his health law col- leagues to do so. Thus, the JLH stands to benefit immensely from access to and input from a full-time professor in the field of health law.

Because students are interested, the potential and opportunity for the JLH is unlimited, and because Cleveland is a major medical center, C-M, the JLH, and the students stand to benefit from hiring a full-time professor in the field of health care law.

Case Western Reserve University’s Law School offers a con- centration in health law. A few of the course options include Biotechnology Law, and Health Care, with the course options including Health Care Ethics and the ability to succeed in Cleveland’s health care market. Because students are interest- ed, the potential and opportunity for the JLH is unlimited, and because Cleveland is a major medical center, C-M, the JLH, and the students stand to benefit from hiring a full-time professor in the field of health care law.

Providing interested C-M stu- dents with these equivalent oppor- tunities could only enhance their ability to succeed in Cleveland’s health care market.

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