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C-M to implement new grading system

By Michelle Todd

Pending approval from Cleveland State University’s Faculty Senate, the grading system at Cleveland-Marshall will soon convert to a more widely recognized format that will afford professors a broader range of grades with which to reward their students.

The change, which will likely not be in effect until the Fall 2008 semester, adds minus grades (A-, B+, etc.) to the possible letter grades a law student can receive and also assigns point values to these new grades (A- = 3.7, B+ = 3.3, B- = 3.0, B = 2.7, etc.).

Although the faculty of the law school has already approved the new system, several other university committees must also vote on the issue before it can actually go into effect. The final vote needed is that of the University Committees.

You Should Know

Upcoming Important Dates:
December 18 - Last day of Exams
January 7 - Spring Semester Begins
April 22 - Last day of Instruction
April 23 - 27 - Reading Week

Important Holidays:
Jan. 21 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 18 - President’s Day
March 9 - 16 - Spring Break

Tuition increased for 2007-08 without student notice

By Kevin Shannon

On June 28, 2007, the Cleveland State Board of Trustees voted to increase the law school’s tuition by 10 percent. This year’s tuition of $16,477.50 for full time-in-state students is a $1,495 increase from last year’s tuition.

While the law school’s tuition increased by 10 percent, graduate school tuition increased by only 6 percent and undergraduate tuition remained at $7,920 per year.

Most C-M students recognize that tuition increases are to be expected. But, students did express surprise with the size of this year’s increase and the lack of notice provided by the school.

Matthew Gambrel, a 3L, did not learn of the tuition increase until he returned to campus this fall. He felt that school administrators “didn’t go out of their way” to let students know about the increase. However, he noted that tuition increases ought to be expected by students, explaining, “that’s the way things go.”

Another 3L, Christian Moore, stated that he would have appreciated some form of notice about the increase. He explained that the information would have been helpful in helping him plan his budget for the school year.

Dean Geoffrey Mearns explained that his involvement in the ultimate decision was limited and he realized that some tuition increase was inevitable. However, he lobbied the administration to provide advance notice.

Don’t bring political stereotypes to the polls

By George Sakellakis

Republicans love guns, hate abortion, and will make us pray while at school. Democrats love taxes, hate guns, and won’t let us worship where anyone else make us pray while at school. Democrats love taxes, hate guns, and won’t let us worship where anyone else make us pray while at school.

Most voters who perceive themselves as Republicans believe that their party is tough on terrorists and will keep their borders safe. Some think they will eventually pay noticeably less taxes if they continue to vote Republican, and others just can’t stand Democrats because they all refuse to admit that they inhaled the chemical byproducts of burning vegetable substances. Others hide behind their party simply to protect themselves from the horrors of “Billary.”

More than a few blind conservatives will vote for Rudy Giuliani because they think they want a president with Republican values, but will later be surprised when he supports abortion, civil unions, and tougher gun laws. Mike Huckabee is gaining popularity as a candidate who seems solidly to the right, but some voters might wonder about his plan to substitute federal income tax with a new consumer-based tax, or they might speculate as to why his proposed answer to the health care crisis is eerily similar to Hillary’s? Do these voters know that some Republican candidates are steadfast supporters of free trade? Isn’t that a democratic issue?

Democrats might believe that their party will
December 2007

2007-08 Tuition increased for students

C-M hopeful that construction will be finished before start of next semester

By Margan Keramati
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Dean Geoffrey Mears and Dean Jean Lifer are meeting with CSU architects to ensure that building construction will not distract students and interfere with exam taking.

Specifically, the exam schedule will be provided to the architects to let construction workers know when noise is permissible, and to make clear that this is a particularly important time of year, said Dean Mears.

"Surprisingly, I’ve heard almost no complaints about the noise, guess students have come to expect it," said Nick Hanna, CSU President.

The main student concern regarding the construction is simply when students can expect the construction to be finished, added Hanna.

The area on the ground floor, known as the “garden terrace” room, should be completed and finished when classes resume in the fall, said Dean Mears.

The completion of the ground floor area is more of a priority than completing the deans’ suite, and new E. 18th Street entrance, added Dean Mears.

The renovated ground floor will include new clinic offices, student organization offices, and classrooms.

Dean Mears will also address what can be done regarding the cold weather in parts of the building that are exposed to the outside due to the E. 18th Street entrance construction at the meeting with the architects.

By Margan Keramati

Continued from page 1:

keep the increase limited to a more reasonable 6 percent.

Last year, Governor Ted Strickland announced a tuition freeze for Ohio’s public universities. When asked if the freeze on undergraduate tuition impacted the higher than normal tuition increase, Dean Mears suggested that it did not.

According to Dean Mears, the increase was meant to make up for the law school’s high level of expend- ences.

Dean Mears noted that law schools are expensive places to run. C-M has a clinical program, an independent library, and a student services center that all contribute to the high operating budget of the school.

C-M expressed three main concerns he had with the tuition increase. The first was equity to the existing students. He thought it was unfair to charge current students with an increase that is the highest in recent history.

Dean Mears was also concerned with the impact on C-M’s efforts to attract new students. He explained that the tuition is much lower than other Ohio schools, including C-M’s neighbor to the east, Case Western. According to Dean Mears, the increase somewhat diluted the strength of this selling point.

The third concern was the perception of students who would read about the tuition freeze in the news headlines and assume that this applied to both undergraduate and graduate school. Sending notice to the student body of the tuition increase could have perhaps alleviated this third concern.

Acknowledging that no notice was sent, Dean Mears explained that he was focused on lobbying the administration in the hope of limiting the increase to 6 percent.

He was emailing the administration up until the afternoon before the trustees approved the increase.

Dean Mears noted that he had not received too many complaints about the tuition hike. He received one email about it and his one conversation with SBA President Nick Hanna revealed very little concern among the student body.

When asked what the students can expect next year, Dean Mears stated that he anticipated some increase but hopes that it will be modest. He recognizes that students pay a great deal to attend C-M and he really wants to keep a lid on the amount of loans that students take out. He is extremely focused on keeping C-M a law school of opportunity.

However, students at C-M still get a pretty good value for what they spend, said Dean Mears. He noted that C-M has one of the lowest law school tuitions in the state, especially when compared to schools like Ohio State or Case Western.

The difference in tuition between C-M and C-W was highlighted in a front page Plain Dealer article. Noting that C-M graduates had beaten Case in bar passage rates in Ohio, the article stated, "[in the meantime, CSU’s law school] has another selling point to trumpet, along with an in-state tuition of $16,478 a year - compared to Case at $34,700."

C-M hopeful that construction will be finished before start of next semester

The Dean’s Column

Our history of opportunity and justice

Last month, Cleveland celebrated the 40th anniversary of the election of the late Carl B. Stokes as Mayor, the first African-American elected mayor of a major American city. Carl Stokes was a graduate of Cleveland-Marshall.

Two years after his mayoral election, his older brother, Louis Stokes, who also graduated from our law school, became the first African-American elected to the U.S. Congress from Ohio.

For the Stokes brothers, choosing our law school was a natural—a given for persons of color aspiring to careers in law. We were the first law school in Ohio to admit women and one of the first to admit minorities. For most of the 20th century, Cleveland-Marshall was the state’s primary legal educator of women and black attorneys.

Today, the legal profession in Ohio is diverse because of the role our black graduates played in breaking down the barriers that separated the races. Nationally, those same early graduates were laying the groundwork for the civil rights movement of the 1960s and 1970s.

The name of one of our graduates, among whom were Vincent C. Campanella and Teresa Demchak, will be found throughout the CLEVELAND ENCYCLOPEDIA OF HISTORY and scattered on government buildings all over Cleveland. For example, William Clifford (’03) was one of the city’s first black graduates. Lawrence O. Payne (’23), a WWI Purple Heart veteran, was the county’s first black assistant police prosecutor and a long-time Cleveland City Councilman.

Norman Selby Minor (’27) was a legendary trial attorney, long-time assistant county prosecutor and mentor to two generations of young black attorneys, including the Stokes brothers. Jule Murrell Capers (’45) was the first black woman elected to Cleveland City Council and a former Cleveland Municipal Court Judge. George W. White (’55) was the first African-American Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. They were pioneers and path-breakers.

By the end of WWII, African-American political capital was on the rise. Citizens of color had served their country loyally, and Cleveland-Marshall’s black graduates of that era began forging powerful alliances and civic organiza-

In the wake of the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education, people joined forces to protest the failure of the Cleveland Public School District to institute genuine school integration. Ultimately, the NAACP took the matter to court in two pivotal cases: Cragett v. Cleveland Board of Education and Reed v. Rhodes.

The plaintiff’s claims in Craggett failed. But in 1976, the court in Reed ruled that the school board had willfully promoted and maintained segregated schools. Though the case became the battleground for additional challenges and continued to be fought until 1998, the initial victory in Reed was a stern reprimand and a warning to all future school boards and politicians that they should avoid any attempt to violate the spirit and law of Brown.

Our black graduates were prominent in both cases. Representing the plaintiff in Craggett was a stellar team of Cleveland-Marshall lawyers, including Louis Stokes, Rushsell Adrine, and Raymond Basie. Joining NAACP General Counsel Nathaniel Jones in the initial Reed was James L. Hardiman, said to be lead counsel in all subsequent filings in Reed.

Throughout the 20-year fight for the schoolchildren of Cleveland, Mr. Hardiman drew heavily on the legal skills of our black team, among whom were Vincent C. Campanella and Teresa Demchak.

Today, the descendants of William Clifford and Louise Johnson Pridgen have a strong local and national presence as lawyers, judges, legislators and as entrepreneurs and business persons. Our law school opened the doors to African Americans. Carl and Louis Stokes opened the floodgates. And the world has never been the same.
From Japan to Cleveland, 1L hopeful for new career

By Emily Honsa

Staff writer

From law clerking in Ohio to teach- ing English in Japan, and back again to Ohio for law school, Dave Sporar is dealing with the pressures of finals like the next stop in his journey. The 26-year-old from Bainbridge, OH (now living in Lakewood) looks forward to being a constructive force in society with his legal education.

“You can practice law in a manner that is socially conscious, or in a manner that is especially lucrative. You can even do both.” That range of possibilities is what attracted Sporar to law school, in addition to the personal rewards the practice of law yields. The challenging nature of practice and the ability to help people with problems were two other guiding principles in his decision.

Prior to deciding on law school, Sporar toyed with the idea of teaching. To that end, he accepted a position as an instructor in Japan. Teaching in Japan was an amazing experience for Sporar. He was contracted for two years as a corporate English instructor, spending his final year teaching English in junior high school. He was drawn to education for many of the same reasons that he was drawn to law: the opportunity to do meaningful work that changes lives. Though he did not speak Japanese when he arrived, he now speaks the language.

That career was not for him. Although he found it very difficult to leave the stu- dents whom he viewed as little siblings, the instability of a one-year contract concerned him. There was no real job security, professional growth potential, benefits, and there was limited develop- ment of transferable skills. Sporar did not see it as a viable career path.

Sporar has positive things to say about all his courses—though he remains tentative about exams. He is especially impressed by the quality of C-M faculty.

Sporar lauds his contracts professor as being well structured, easy to follow, and able to challenge students while ensuring that no one is lost. He finds property intuitive and fun, and although civil procedure subject matter can be inherently dry, it is presented in an engaging and interesting way. He finds torts interesting and dy- namic, and he reflects that it invites him to use a different philosophical approach to studying how society regulates people’s conduct. “I’m interested in everything,” Sporar laughs.

His academic history reflects that. Hailing from the undergraduate institu- tion Hiram College, a small liberal arts college located in Hiram, Ohio, about 45 minutes east of Cleveland, Sporar was one of approximately 800 undergradu- ates instilled with the globally focused coursework of his small school. There, he majored in history, with a minor in political science.

The largest struggles Sporar has expe- rience have been related to the nature of the law school social scene. After dealing with the pain of leaving his long-term Japanese girlfriend upon returning to the states for law school, Sporar was like so many other 1Ls—eagerly anticipating a new social environment surrounded by people who were as intellectually curious and adventurous as he. Unfortunately, he reflects, that was not exactly the case. “You don’t get to hang out with people as much.”

Sporar found that students already had established social networks with little to no room for new friends—and more importantly, little to no time. His new peers include those with families or long-term relationships, along with those who are married to school. Although he certainly does not begrudge the commit- ment to education, he recognizes that time constraints prevent students from getting together and bonding like they were able to do in residential undergrad, where students had a shared experience and were at the same maturity level. He knows many other students share his frustration and jokes that they all need to seek each other out. After finals.

Sporar’s outlook on law school is equally frank. He originally had ambi- tions of attending an Ivy-league school and being part of the so-called elite. He was also considering attending a school with a strong international law focus, such as American University in Washington, D.C. However, he soon came to grips with the “outrageous expense” of these schools. “With the exception of Harvard and Yale, where a job is practically guar- anteed to you regardless of your class rank; any other expensive school is some- what of a gamble.” He also expresses serious doubts that he would have been admitted there anyway.

Ultimately, the economic and geo- graphic advantages of C-M won Sporar over. Cleveland was the region where he grew up, and had an established social network. He knew that it would be easy to get ideas about potential careers and much easier to get meaningful job op- portunities. Sporar reflects that it may also be more efficient to start local and build off of what he already has. Additionally, C-M is staggeringly inexpensive when compared to many private schools, with an increasingly strong reputation.

Sporar has high hopes for the coming year. “I’d ideally love to be at the top of his class, but will be content with a level of success that enables him to remain in law school. His advice to the incoming students of next year was quick off the tongue: “There are different and distinct skill sets you need to develop to be suc- cessful. You need to be able to master many cases, state the clear black-letter law, and articulately analyze it all. Memorization alone is not sufficient. There is a huge difference in understanding material and effectively expressing that comprehen- sion. You need to be able to prove to the professor you know it, and you do that by writing.”

New grading system: “minuses” added

By Emily Honsa

Staff writer

Faculty Senate of CSU. Dean Phyllis Crocker expects this approval to come sooner than later.

“We anticipate that the Facul- tity Senate will approve this rather quickly...[the approval] may actually come before the end of the Spring 2008 semes- ter,” Dean Crocker said.

But, even if the new system is approved before the end of the spring semester, law school ad- ministration will not implement the change at this time.

“We don’t feel that it would be fair to the students if we im- posed a new grading policy in the middle of a semester,” Dean Crocker said. Instead, the school will wait until either the summer or fall semesters of 2008 to make the change.

The change in the grading system was motivated primar- ily by a change to the Academic Standards Committee of the law school by Dean Mearns.

Dean Mearns initially asked the committee, which is com- posed of law school faculty members and two law students, to conduct research regarding the grading policies at other law schools in the region to decide whether adopting this new policy would be beneficial to C-M stu- dents.

Based on their findings, the committee recommended the change to Dean Mearns and the faculty of the law school then quickly approved the new policy.

When asked what effect such a change would have on C-M stu- dents, Dean Crocker said she feels the new policy will only benefit students and faculty members.

"Many law professors here at C-M have wanted more flexibility in the types of grades they can re- ward their students with, because sometimes a student will be right on the border between two letter grades,” Crocker said.

"Students will benefit from the new system as well, because if they happen to be on that bor- derline between grades, the minus grade may give them a higher point value than they would have been able to receive under the old grading system," she added.

Library Hours During Exam Period and Winter Break

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Joy to the world! Great Lakes’ Christmas Ale is here

By Shane Romen

CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Kellan Strom

STAFF WRITER

Matt Samsa

Gavin Collum

spiced with Ginger, Honey, and Cinnamon, Great Lakes Christmas Ale has infiltrated the Cleveland community. Armed with a pen, a pad of paper, and a few Christmas Ales, The Gavel hit the town in efforts to review and describe the popularity of Great Lakes’ prominent brew.

According to “Bartender Jody” at McCarthy’s Ale House in Lakewood, Christmas Ale is very popular and has a pronounced impact on the clientele. The Great Lakes website indicates that Christmas Ale has an alcohol content of approximately 7.5 percent (down from last year’s percentage, which averaged around 8 percent). “Bartender Jody” believes that the high alcohol content contributes both to the beer’s popularity and the effect it has on her customers. Jody went on to describe various incidents that she attributes directly to customer consumption of Christmas Ale. One of which landed an undressed customer in Lakewood jail and another handcuffed to his hospital bed.

According to Bartender Jody, customers should take caution in drinking the ale because of its high alcohol content, and she encourages all to enjoy the drink responsibly. For extra spice and a new twist, she also recommends that aficionados enjoy the beverage with cinnamon on top.

Patrons at McCarthy’s echoed the sentiment that Christmas Ale is just plain good. “It makes me feel warm, it makes me feel happy, I want to do it again,” clamed Julie Dukowsky, Lakewood resident and bar-frequent.

The C-M community also enjoys Christmas Ale. According to 3-L. Cassie Louis, “[Christmas Ale] makes me feel happy, it makes me feel very happy.”

Gavel columnist and self-proclaimed beer connoisseur and expert Chuck Norcatt stated that “[a] great Cleveland native, I am very fond of Christmas Ale. I like having a local taste for the holiday season and another way that we can connect with the season and our community... It’s a quality beer for a quality time of year.”

Not all enjoy Christmas Ale’s taste, however. Producer Nick of Q-104’s morning show indicated that he would rather drink Natty Light than drink another Christmas Ale.

Some should take caution when imbibing the holiday brew. According to Moot Court Chair and 3-L. Katie McFadden, some friends know have broken out into hives after drinking Christmas Ale. Though the condition has not been medically documented and can’t be directly attributed to Christmas Ale, Katie believed that an allergic reaction to some of the spices used could be the cause of this condition.

Also, drinking too much of the 7.5 percent alcohol drink can cause problems the morning after. “The hangover is a bit of a taste,” according to J.C. Reichel Smith.

The Great Lakes Website describes Christmas Ale as “[a] robust style of beer made with spices to celebrate the holiday season.” The full-bodied ale is brewed from American two-row wheat, roasted barley, and English crystal hops, along with the honey, cinnamon, and ginger spices that are ostensibly evident in the taste.

The website also indicates that the Ale has won many awards, including Gold medals in the 2005-2007 World Beer Championships. When describing the Ale’s food compliments, the website also notes that “[h]is festive brew is a perfect addition to big holiday feasts and goes particularly well with the fruit cakes and breads of the season.”

In the latest Mass Market Retailers and Information Resources, Inc., newsletter, reported in the Plain Dealer, Christmas Ale ranked 26th in the entire U.S. in dollar sales for the four-week period ending November 4th. This rank is especially notable when considering the fact that most the beers that beat Christmas Ale are year-round beers sold on-tap almost everywhere in the country, including Budweiser.

Christmas Ale has been wildly popular this year, and according to the Plain Dealer, we’re running out.

Cleveland’s Michael Symon is the new “Iron Chef”

By Margan Keramati

CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Cleveland “foodies” are rejoicing—the city has its very own Iron Chef chef Michael Symon. The best part is that the city of Cleveland.” said Symon to CINMoney.

Symon, originally from Cleveland, attended St. Edward High School in Lakewood, Ohio, according to Symon’s Foodnetwork.com biography. He attended the Culinary Institute of America and graduated in 1999.

According to WKYC.com, Symon has also received a Mayoral Proclamation from Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson, and a Proclamation from Councilman Joe Cimperman.

Symon was named a national “rising star” for 1997 by Restaurant Hospitality magazine, Best Restaurant and Chef in Northeast Ohio by Ohio Northern Live magazine, and one of the Ten Best New Chefs in America by Food & Wine magazine in 1998.

This time of year, C-M students may not have the time or money to taste Iron Chef Symon’s delicacies.

During exam time, most students venture down to the cafeteria’s cold and uninspiring layer to find “nourishment” from the school’s vending machine. Chef Symon, however, has provided C-M students an easy, gourmet recipe that any law student can prepare, even during exam time.

Iron appetite!

For Cleveland.”

Ingredients:
(6-ounce) boneless skinless chicken breasts
2 tablespoons Hungarian paprika
1 tablespoon kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 tablespoons of thyme
8 pounds of cooked rigatoni
1 ounce goat cheese

Macaroni and Cheese

Recipe courtesy of Michael Symon

Ingredients:
56G

Recipe courtesy of Michael Symon

Ingredients:
56G

Recipe courtesy of Michael Symon

Ingredients:
56G
Attention 1Ls: Take advantage of your legal writing teaching assistant

By Adam Davis

First-Year Legal Writing TA

As the first semester of the school year comes to an end, many 1L’s will be stressed with the anxiety of final exams. One of the best ways to prepare for exams is by meeting with a legal writing tutor. Not only has the tutor recently been through the 1L-exam experience, but they can also provide excellent insight and tips as to how first years students can survive – and succeed – on their finals.

Here are some tips on how to utilize your first-year legal writing tutor:

1. Stop By During the Semester. Legal writing tutors usually have posted times when they are available to meet with students. Use them throughout the semester to help answer questions from class or even to figure out what classes you want to take in the future. Tutors can help you answer lots of law school questions, not just legal writing.

2. Come With Specific Questions. As law students, we all know the value of time. Therefore, when you come to see one of the tutors, come prepared to discuss a particular issue or question you have. Don’t show up – rough draft in hand – and ask the tutor if they can “look it over.” Tutors aren’t there to edit rough drafts or be human spellcheckers. They are there to help you develop an argument, organize a complex research issue, or work with you on citations.

Here are some last minute exam-taking tips:

1. Be Organized. There’s a reason why so many professors ask their students to outline their answer before they begin writing the exam. Not only will outlining help you with issue-spotting, but it makes it easier for your professor to follow your analysis and see that you know what you’re talking about. Keep this in mind too: professors have a lot of exams to grade. The easier your answer is to read and the more logically your answer is developed, the better you will do. Use topic sentences. Separate ideas with new paragraphs. Don’t say in thirty words what you can say in twenty.

2. Be Responsive. Many students, especially 1L’s, utilize the shotgun approach to exam taking. In other words, they fire out every detail about the subject that they can remember, relevancy be damned. Do not repeat – do not become one of these students. If you want to do well, make sure you answer the specific question that is asked. If, for example, the first question on your torts final asks you about assumption of the risk, do not go off discussing joint and several liability. Your professor won’t give you points if it isn’t relevant and you’ll just end up wasting time. Also, if a question asks you to discuss potential claims for the plaintiff, don’t write about time. Also, if a question asks you to discuss assumption of the risk, don’t answer the question. Instead, focus on the specific issue that is being asked about.

3. Be Prepared. There’s no way around it. If you want to do well, you’ll need to put in the time of learning the material. It is equally important to emphasize in your studying the same areas your professor emphasized in class. For example, if your contracts professor spent one class discussing the recovery of lost profits after a breach, make sure you're prepared for questions on this topic. Don’t ask if a question asks you about assumption of the risk, don’t answer the question. Instead, focus on the specific issue that is being asked about.

College campus safety in wake of recent school violence around U.S.

By Christine Tibaldi

Staff Writer

Recently, a 14 year-old in Cleveland brought guns to SuccessTech Academy and hurt four others before committing suicide. In April 2007, Virginia Tech experienced the worst campus shooting in US history when Cho Seung-Hui killed 32 students and faculty by day’s end. After these attacks, many wonder about the role of college campuses and schools really are.

Some say that if a disturbed individual is committed to hurting others in a “Columbine” type of attack, there is not much that can be done to stop him. Although this is surely true to a degree, what is being done here to prevent one of those horrible types of attacks? We must also ask, “do we have proper security to prevent petty thefts and other crimes that are committed every day?”

Dean Mearns was eager to discuss campus security, especially here at the law school. He seemed genuinely committed to improving safety and has obviously done a great deal of thinking on this topic.

For example, some may remember the door that led to the corner of Euclid and 18th Street that was suddenly locked about half way through the 2005-2006 school year. Dean Mearns felt that this area was a real safety hazard because of the hidden walkway outside and also because it gave access to anyone who wished to enter the law school. “One of the goals of the new construction is to create a high traffic entrance to discourage any criminal activity,” Mearns said.

Mearns also implemented a one year security audit. He decided that the law school should augment the University’s programs with 10-15 security cameras that are now functioning in the law school.

But, have these cameras or other security measures at the University really made our campus safer? Crime Prevention Officer Beverly Pettrey of the CSU Police Department assures students that there are always ongoing programs to improve campus safety. When asked if these new cameras at the law school have decreased what she calls “opportunity crimes,” she said, “I do not know of a decrease, but these cameras always help us find and charge the perpetrators. These people are charged fully with the crime, just like if it happened outside of campus.”

The campus web site safety page indicates that “CSU Police … [are] highly visible” on campus. [Italics added.] Unfortunately, the C-M students don’t seem to agree. According to an informal poll of 2L’s and 3L’s, 84 percent feel that there is a “low presence” of police, and 16 percent said there is a “medium presence.” That leaves 0 percent that see a “high presence” of police. Most students said that they have only seen an officer patrolling at night. There is also concern about parking lots and lesser issues, such as lack of salt on icy spots that are high traffic during the winter. Even more disturbing, the same poll revealed that the exact same percentage, 16%, said they were a crime victim, here on campus. Thankfully, none of these students was a victim of a personal or violent crime.

The school is addressing some of these problems. According to both Dean Mearns and Officer Pettrey, the University is hiring 12-15 unarmed security officers to add to patrols. But this process has just started. According to Officer Pettrey, only one or two are now ready to begin patrolling. The goal is to have all of them trained and ready to go by next year. Both Dean Mearns and Officer Pettrey suggest having 687-2008 in your phone for escort service or other campus police services. Dean Mearns adds, “it is [all of our] responsibility to alert the proper authorities if we see a problem.”

Support the 2008 Graduation Challenge

What will your degree be worth in ten years?
Invest in C-M, invest in you, give now.

The Graduation Challenge is a fundraising drive organized by the Class of 2008. The purpose behind it is to increase the number of students who donate to Cleveland-Marshall. The Wolstein Fund will match donations made by students to the law school. Investing in C-M is investing in how much your degree will be worth in the future. Please attend the Graduation Challenge “Kick-Off” event, which will be held in the Faculty Conference Room on the following dates:

Wednesday, January 16, 2008 from 4:30-5:00 PM
Thursday, January 17, 2008 from 5:00-6:00 PM
(directly preceding the SBA Welcome Back Social)

At the event, the Graduation Challenge Committee will explain the fundraising drive and how you can contribute. For more information, you can contact any of the following committee members:

Nick Hanna
Susan Hughes
Katie McFadden
Shawn Romer
Adam Saurwein
Jud Stelter
Legal Writing

What’s the real difference between an “A” exam and a “C” exam? Although most students who don’t receive an “A” on an exam will look at an “A” exam and not see a difference between that exam and one’s own, there tend to be major differences. Unlike math problems, or objective history quizzes, there are no set of “right” answers that ensure a high grade. More often than not, you will be able rattle off all of the legal elements for all classes by exam time, but that makes little difference in terms of grade. That’s the minimum of what is expected. The maximum of what is expected involves the following:

1. Accuracy. Being right does count. It is right in terms of whether the action will be successful or not, just right in terms of whether the analysis supports the position that, for example, there was a contract or not.

2. Organization. Questions should be answered in the order that they are asked and the answer should follow a logical format with the elements or defenses introduced in the order that they are introduced.

3. Legal Structure. The rule(s) must precede the analysis. Legal elements must be defined before the writer is able to conclude that the elements exist within a given fact scenario.

4. Specific Analysis. The object of our legal system is to determine whether a given fact situation falls within a certain legal definition. When applying the facts to a rule, the facts must be examined specifically, not generally, in relation to the rule. General analysis results in “concursory” logic and looks something like this:

“A- contract consists of an offer, acceptance, and consideration. Here, there was an offer, acceptance, and consideration. Thus there was a binding contract.”

5. Depth of analysis. It is not always sufficient to stop, for example, that there is a negligence or duty issue in an exam, but perhaps that there were certain special duties that might have been owed based on the relationship between the parties. All exams have components that everyone will see, but some components that only a few students will pick up on.

6. Presentation. Good writing skills and good grammar count. An exam should not force the person to forget the answer in the essay or translate the material to see if the answer is in the essay. There should also not disturb the professor by having frequent misspellings or grammar errors. The exam should also have frequent paragraph breaks (appropriate to topic) so that the professor is able to absorb a man- ageable amount of material. Just as few students enjoy two hour lectures without pause; few professors enjoy a two hour examination without a pause.

I’ve been asked to write an article about life as a recent C-M graduate that gives you, the current student, an accurate portrait of the first year or so after graduation. First, I’ll do a favor for those readers who will read a paragraph of this article while studying for the next legal exam. The bottom line is that your JD and even your bar passage entitle you to nothing. It’s a different world out here, and stellar performances on law school exams do not automatically translate into career success.

I was lucky to have a great clerk position during school, but it could not turn into a full-time position after graduation. Considering that I would look for jobs while studying for the Bar, but let’s be straight here: that just is not going to happen. I’m sure that all of you have received a good amount of advice concerning the Bar Exam, so I won’t go into it here. Suffice it to say that the tests consume your life. I quickly learned in retrospect that if you have an offer in hand, the final spring seminar is the last chance (until the following Fall) to try secure a job, so get wise and start now.

Although I took a great road trip out west with my father, but even that did not wash away the pressure of finding a job, so I was allowed to stay at my clerking position until only the Bar results were released. Needless to say, the thrill of passing the Bar was soured somewhat by the realization that my future was now uncertain.

I then hit bottom. I did not start drinking, but did something far more damaging to one’s psyche: I took a legal temp job.

Volunteering enhances resumes

By Sarah Dixon

GAVEL CONTRIBUTOR, THE WAZZER

With one full semester of law school under their belt, some 1L’s are still dazed and confused, while others have begun translating contracts they find on the Internet for fun. Regardless on which end of the spectrum you fall, you may want to consider volunteer opportunities to supplement your academic performance. Now that everyone is receiving their e-mails, has located the restrooms, and all are in the giving spirit with the holidays right around the corner, it is a good time to get involved, network, and learn something new.

There are so many opportunities available requiring different skills and interests that there truly is something for everyone. For the students who are not sure yet what kind of law that they would like to practice, the Legal Aid Society is a great place to look for general law-related opportunities. They have brief-advice clinics in which students complete intake interviews with low-income clients seeking legal advice. Those who are interested in immigration law may wish to volunteer for the immigration clinic, where students are assigned to families with immigration issues to help them complete the filing process. 1Ls who want to become involved with family law may consider the pro-se divorce clinic, which helps low-income clients obtain divorces without costly legal fees. These clinics are a great way to get involved for only a few hours a month, while still getting all of the benefits of volunteering. They also have a competitive Summer Associate Program for those of you wondering who do all summer.

If you like kids and think that you would be a good mentor, the Big Brothers-Big Sisters program is a great way to make a difference and take a much needed break from law school stressors. Students spend time with children in need of a mentor and provide a positive role-model for children. For something with kids, but still in the legal realm, the 3R’s Program helps teach 10th grade social studies classes in Cleveland City Schools. If you have always wanted to help the homeless, the Cleveland Homeless Legal Assistance Program allows students to do research as well as prepare documents for clients seeking legal advice in over 30 areas. If you are interested in the programs above, please use the following contact list to get involved:

Legal Aid Society: Lauren Gilbride at lauren.gilbride@legalaid.org

Legal Aid Society’s Summer Associate Program: Melanie Sharakian at melanie.sharakian@legalaid.org

Big Brothers-Big Sisters: Regina Fisher at regina@law.com

Cleveland Homeless Legal Assistance Program: Joan Burda at Joan.Burda@necdo.org

Habitat for Humanity: Linda Harshman at Linda.Harshman@tuckerellis.com

3R’s Program: Mary Grott at mkgrott@clevelandbar.org

Tax Credit Coalition: Kathleen Mattews at kathryn_m.mattews@yahoo.com

SPILLO’s Faculty Advisor: Pam Dahir-Meddaugh at pamela.dahir-meddaugh@law.cleveland.org

Cleveland Bar Association website: www.clevelandbar.org

Recent C-M grad shares job-hunting tips

Some of the best and brightest from my class were alongside me, doing the legal equivalent of asking someone if they want fries with that.

During this time, I chased down every lead I could, mostly coming up empty-handed. I was eventually (thanks to the tireless efforts of our own Alumni Association) connected with an esteemed local attorney who was looking for a young associate to join his new firm. After May of 2007, LMI only persists in my mind.

Again, this is where I restate that you are still entitled to nothing, even after being offered a real job. I was thrown right into the world of personal injury litiga- tion, and had to grasp foreign concepts immediately, sometimes in the presence of a judge. By the end of the summer, I became more comfortable with these re- sponsibilities, but this was accomplished only through hands-on experience. Now, a full year after being sworn in, I am beginning to feel like a real lawyer.

Some of you have secured jobs already, and you should be proud of that. For the rest of you, take heart that you’re not alone, and embrace the idea that real life is a great teacher, and you are about to get schooled. Trust me, you will be a better attorney for it.

Ryan Harrell is a 2006 graduate of C-M and an associate at Chamberlain Law Firm.

By Karin Mika

LEGAL WRITING PROFESSOR

Page 6

December 2007
The Political Broadside
Should the U.S. government provide universal healthcare?

By ChuckNorbeck
CONSERVATIVE GAVEL COLUMNIST

The real solution lies in looking at the causes of healthcare's high costs and fixing them through the free market, ensuring that there is "real" competition in the medical industry. And, yes, my fellow future lawyers, placing limits on medical malpractice suits may also be necessary to drive medical costs down. Ultimately, the govern...
By Paul Deegan
Co-Editor-in-Chief

As I walked into Starbucks the day after Halloween, I noticed a peculiar atmosphere unlike any that I had experienced before. The place was full of green and red, and there was festive merchandise placed all around. I was aghast to instantly realize that somehow, someway, the corporate world decided to eliminate Thanksgiving this year. It felt unnatural, like drinking beer with breakfast – it was just wrong.

I knew it was coming. For a number of years, the “holiday season” has crept upon us; after Halloween one feels obligated to compete with those who have never encountered the traditional meaning of Christmas that somehow negate their classroom experiences.

Not too long ago, the holiday season began the day after Thanksgiving. That day was always the first day of the shopping season, and all the stores around the nation seemed to have prepared their decorations the night before to prepare for a grand unveiling that somehow gave a person a special feeling inside.

But nothing is special anymore – tradition is dying. The only thing special today is profit, the only tradition hoped for quarterly gains.

Many businesses completely rely on the holiday season to stay profitable. The response is understandable, but it doesn’t change the fact that Thanksgiving, one of the most important holidays celebrated in the nation is taken for granted.

Thanksgiving is so important. First, the holiday is patriotic and helps give us an identity. Nothing is more inspiring than thinking about those original immigrants giving thanks for the bounty the future United States provided for them that autumn season.

It further represents the determined spirit of Americans and the American dream for a better life. Second, Thanksgiving is a holiday everyone can celebrate. It doesn’t matter what religion a person belongs to – everyone can give thanks for something.

Even with all of its faults, the United States is still the best nation in the world and we can all give thanks for being here.

This is not to say there aren’t those who venerate the holiday. Almost every community has some sort of outreach program to help the poor in their area and there is always some story of a philanthropist donating turkeys or pies to those in need.

It’s just unfortunate that the commercial industry doesn’t follow that example. It seems the only commercial players acknowledging Thanksgiving are supermarket chains trying to sell turkeys and pumpkin pie.

Of course, other companies don’t market much of their festive products and decorations, well before Thanksgiving, in order for their company to survive.

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Of course, other companies don’t market much of their festive products and decorations, well before Thanksgiving, in order for their company to survive.

Not too much of the difficulty of the first year curriculum is unfamiliarity with legal reasoning and final exam testing practice, how could it possibly be fair that students with a year’s familiarity with the law and law school are permitted to compete with those who have never encountered these trials before?

The rejoinder that 2L’s in first year classes have had “extra commitment” that somehow negate their classroom advantage is utterly unconvincing. 2L’s year-long exposure to the law and law school – an exposure not enjoyed by 1L’s – occurred whether or not they were subject to other pressures.

This cynical and resigned approach to justice should not be countenanced in a college of law.

I propose a fix: the professor creates the curve without considering the 2L’s scores. Once the curve is formed with 1L’s scores only, 2L’s scores are then placed at the appropriate points on the already fixed curve and assigned corresponding grades.

This method would justly award all and penalize none.

Others may counter, complaining that this would create too many A’s and B’s. But wouldn’t this rejoiner simply confirm the suspicion that the 2L’s have an unfair advantage?

This article quotes a 1L passively sighing that life and law are not fair.

This cynical and resigned approach to justice should not be countenanced in a college of law.

If a law school’s grading of students early on fosters in them the impression that fairness and justice are fiction and fantasy, then the society which these students will one day serve is unfairly disadvantaged.

Ed Herman, 1L.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Student responds to “2Ls in 1L classes” story

After reading November’s ‘2Ls competing in 1L classes – Is it fair?’, I am in disbelief that most respondents believe the practice of grading 1L’s and 2L’s on the same curve is fair. Most surely it is not.

Not too much of the difficulty of the first year curriculum is unfamiliarity with legal reasoning and final exam testing practice, how could it possibly be fair that students with a year’s familiarity with the law and law school are permitted to compete with those who have never encountered these trials before?

The rejoinder that 2L’s in first year classes have had “extra commitment” that somehow negate their classroom advantage is utterly unconvincing: 2L’s year-long exposure to the law and law school – an exposure not enjoyed by 1L’s – occurred whether or not they were subject to other pressures.

Refraining to advertise Christmas until the right time. The negative ramifications of this practice are twofold. 1) Thanksgiving becomes overshadowed by Christmas and the holiday season. 2) The true meaning of Christmas and the holiday season is diluted when companies add an extra month of intense marketing.

Thirty more days of holiday shopping only increases consumer debt and shifts the traditional meaning of Christmas that promoted family and charity to consumer greed and a feeling of entitlement.

It seems like we are all so worried about what we’re getting for the holidays that we forget why we’re celebrating in the first place. Unless we get back to the true meaning of things, Thanksgiving is doomed to continue to take a back seat to commercialism.

Now that the real “holiday season” is upon us, I appreciate seeing festive decorations, hearing holiday music, and smelling holiday scents. But I can’t help but be disappointed that Thanksgiving was hijacked this year. I know it will only get worse. Maybe next year they will start the holiday season the day after Labor Day. I wouldn’t be surprised.

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Anonymous 1L

The following is the third part of a six-part series following the experiences of an anonymous first-year student.

As I struggle to find something to write about, I am forced to face the fact that there is nothing new or interesting for me to relay to the student body. I am completely stagnant. I have nothing creative, nothing witty, and as always, nothing intelligent to share with you. Ego, I write about the mediocrity and predictability that is my current state of being. I walk to class every morning, coffee spilling over the rim of my paper cup burning my hand. I walk in the same direction everyday. I walk through the same streets, up the same stairs, and into the same room. The regularity of my life not only leaves me feeling vulnerable to a stalker, should one choose to become one, and at times, I feel like a shell of the person I once was. I pull my pen out of my bag and wait for something important to write down.

Law school has made me stronger. I feel like, after what I’ve been through over the past few years, I can do anything. I can see the light at the end of the tunnel, and I have recently (finally!) gained clarity. Law school is not the end all and be all. I am not a bad student or any less of an accomplished person because I am not at the top of my class. There are far worse things in life besides not doing well on one exam, just as there are greater joys in life than doing well on an exam.

Law school is not mastering proximate cause. While these things may seem expendable, they are not. Drink a beer. Brush my teeth. Take out my trash. Draw a picture. They are relatively simple procedures that do not require much energy, but I often forget to do them…except drinking a beer. I usually do not forget to do that but I felt that I had to mention it for those students who are not prone to drinking. Beer is relaxing.

Finally, it is most important to not forget who you are. Although grades are important, they are not so important as to justly losing oneself in the thick of law school. Since I have become a law student four months ago, I have changed.

The way I dress, the manner in which I speak, and my mode of thinking have become alarmingly different from my pre-law existence. At the end of the day, I still look extremely unattractive when I sleep, I still despise cilantro, and I love to be around grass, inappropriate people. The things that comprise us are most likely a large part of what got us into law school to begin with. We need to hold those quirks to least: beer, personal hygiene, overall cleanliness, and fostering my creative faculties.

Anonymous 3L believes law school life is not “end all, and be all of life”

Anonymous 3L

The following is the third part of a six-part series following the beaten and broken law student.

As we approach the end of another year, I find myself in a state of reflection. I am not the same person I was when I began law school. I think many (if not most) of us have changed in ways we didn’t anticipate.

There are the ways in which I wish I wouldn’t have changed, including my renewed sense of insecurity and self-doubt. Law school has beaten me to a pulp and spit me out, and, at times, I feel like a shell of the person I once was. On the other hand, law school has made me stronger. I feel like, after what I’ve been through over the past few years, I can do anything.

I walk to class every morning, coffee spilling over the rim of my paper cup burning my hand. I walk in the same direction everyday. I walk through the same doors, up the same stairs, and into the same room.

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Law School has beaten me to a pulp and spit me out, and at times, I feel like a shell of the person I once was.
The best Christmas movies of all time chosen by someone who dislikes Christmas

By Matt Samsa

Opinion

In an attempt to put myself in the holiday spirit, I’ve decided to compile my unofficial list of the top Christmas movies of all time. These movies are in no order in particular. The numbers after the actors are their roles on IMDB.

Die Hard – New York cop John McClane gives terrorists a dose of their own medicine as they hold hostages in an LA office building

Nothing says Christmas like a disgraced, divorced police officer played by Bruce Willis (2) blowing up the Nakatomi Building in Los Angeles. This movie hit it: Bruce Willis’ corny one liners (all too foul to quote here), the warm Los Angeles Christmas environment, Carl Winslow (Reginald VelJohnson, 2) from Family Matters buying Twinkies and arguing with his recalcitrant supervisor, Deputy Police Chief Dwayne T. Robin. It’s always nice to see a really foul, violent movie at Christmas time, and Die Hard certainly fits the bill. An ‘I miss Christmas flick.’

Home Alone – An eight year-old, who is accidentally left behind while his family flies to France for Christmas, has to defend his home against idiotic burglars

Another can’t miss Christmas film. Joe Pesci (1) and Daniel Stern (1) bumbling through a house as Macaulay Culkin (2) sets painful traps for them. This film comes complete with a wide range of slapstick humor, including countless blows to the antagonists’ gums. John Candy (1) even makes a cameo as the Polka King of the Midwest and drives Culkin’s mother, played by Catherine O’Hara (2), back to Chicago in time to pull off a Christmas miracle. As a bonus, Daniel Stern reminds me of The Wonder Years, which he narrated, which reminds me of the rumor about Martin’s ribs.

Bad Santa – A miserable commoner and his partner pose as Santa and his Little Helper to rob department stores on Christmas Eve. But they run into problems when the commoner befriends a troubled kid, and the security boss discovers the plot.

There’s nothing like drunken Santa and his Little People friend robbing a department store. Billy Bob Thornton’s (2) tour de force as an alcoholic disgruntled Santa really cheers us up. There’s something about a terribly foul Christmas movie that makes me feel much better. Like Die Hard, there’s absolutely nothing autobiographic from this movie’s humor, but does make a wonderful a momenta femer.

The Nightmare Before Christmas – Jack Skellington, Pumpkin King, ruler of Halloweentown, happens upon Christmas and decides to change Christmas into another Halloweentown.

At the very least, this movie is enjoyable because it turns Christmas into something goth. Nobody has ever captured Santa quite as well as Jack Skellington when he said ‘And on a dark cold night, under full moonlight, he flies into the fog like a vulture in the skies’ or watch Beefsteak with a Christmas twist. Catherine O’Hara does the voice of Sally, which gives her appearances in two of the top Christmas movies of all time.

A Christmas Story – Ralphie has to convince his parents, teachers, and Santa that a Red Ryder BB gun really is the perfect gift for the 1940’s.

I wasn’t sure whether I wanted this movie on the list anymore because I simply cannot stand how they play it for 24 hours straight on the Shields and Smith. But I think it really needs to be on the list. This movie was filmed in Cleveland and it’s nice to see downtown Cleveland the way it used to be during the Christmas season, especially the old Higbee’s Christmas bonanza. I also love watching the waiter cut the head off the duck at the Chinese restaurant. As a side note, there’s a Christmas Story museum on W.14th Street in Tremont.

It’s A Wonderful Life – An angel helps a compassionate but despairingly frustrated businessman by showing what life would have been like if he never existed.

This is the only sappy movie I’m going to put on the list, but I don’t think any list of the best Christmas movies would be complete without it. However, it’s funny to think that everyone in the town loved the town banker so much – I can’t imagine loving my banker. Also, being in the midst of a foreclose crisis, it’s interesting to think back to the scene where James Stewart (2) reminds people making a run on his savings and loan that their money is tied up in the houses in the community. I wish there had been more small town institutions instead of a mortgage backed securities market.

Importance of researching political parties and politicians

Continued from page 1--

look out for them and will end crooked government. Even with knowledge of classical philosophy if reading this makes you think, good. If it causes you to seriously contemplate which candidate will earn your vote, even better.

But have they ever seen “regular person” John Edwards’ house? Are they aware that the much touted “Hillary Care” is not a national health care plan at all but rather just an injection of a little more control, some tax credits, and insurance portability into the current system? Isn’t Barack Obama’s once-and-for-all idea of securing our borders and speeding up citizenship for current illegal immigrants similar to... wait a minute... Ronald Reagan’s? My prediction makes you think, good. If it causes you

1L reflects on first-week mishap

By Tamie Myers

GAVel CONTRIBUTOR

I got stuck in one of Viking Hall’s elevators a few months ago. It was early Friday afternoon of Labor Day weekend, right after Property class. I was eager to get on my holiday plans—a “working week” right after Property class. I was eager to get going on my holiday plans—a “working week

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I wasn’t sure whether I wanted this movie on the list anymore because I simply cannot stand how they play it for 24 hours straight on the Shields and Smith. But I think it really needs to be on the list. This movie was filmed in Cleveland and it’s nice to see downtown Cleveland the way it used to be during the Christmas season, especially the old Higbee’s Christmas bonanza. I also love watching the waiter cut the head off the duck at the Chinese restaurant. As a side note, there’s a Christmas Story museum on W.14th Street in Tremont.

It’s A Wonderful Life – An angel helps a compassionate but despairingly frustrated businessman by showing what life would have been like if he never existed.

This is the only sappy movie I’m going to put on the list, but I don’t think any list of the best Christmas movies would be complete without it. However, it’s funny to think that everyone in the town loved the town banker so much – I can’t imagine loving my banker. Also, being in the midst of a foreclose crisis, it’s interesting to think back to the scene where James Stewart (2) reminds people making a run on his savings and loan that their money is tied up in the houses in the community. I wish there had been more small town institutions instead of a mortgage backed securities market.
What does Hillary Clinton stand for? You decide

Compiled by Daniel Kelly

Do you think you know the presidential candidates? How does Hillary Clinton really feel about certain topics? The following are some often overlooked quotes involving presidential candidate Hillary Clinton that put some of her positions in perspective.

Iraq
-Leslie Stahl: “We have heard that as many as a million children have died as a result of the sanction the U.S. insisted on maintaining on Iraq regardless of any thing Iraq did to comply with the Clinton Administration demands.” Is the price worth it?

-Mateline Albright, currently a top advisor to Hillary Clinton. I think this is a very hard decision, but the price—we think the price is worth it. 60 Minutes May 17, 1996

-Susan Rice: Powell: “Saddam has not developed any significant capability with respect to weapons of mass destruction. He is unable to project conventional power against his neighbors.” Feb. 24, 2001

-Prs. Bush: “Fuck Saddam, we’re taking him out” March 2002 — As reported in The Nation

-Prs. Bush: “I’m committed to a regime change.” September 10, 2002

-Q: “And doesn’t this really con form with Kerry’s view that war is not interested in a U.N. resolution that would resume inspections of any kind, that what’s really interested in is getting international support for the military action, the regime change that he feels is necessary?

-The Whitehouse Spokesman Fleisher: Well, Wendell, I think what it shows is that the President is interested in exactly that.” September 13, 2002

-Sen. Clinton: “Today we are asked whether to give the President of the United States authority to use force in Iraq should diplomatic efforts fail” October 10, 2002

-H.J.Res.114: “The President is authorized to use the Armed Forces of the United States to defend the United States against terrorist attacks. For the sake of our nation’s security, we must unite and prove them wrong.”

Note: Sen. Clinton voted for the Lieberman/Kyl Act.

Honesty
-Sen. Clinton, former board member of Wal-Mart: “We’ve got to have more unification because we need to give workers the opportunity for our economy going forward.”

-Website of Burston-Marstellar; PR firm headed by top Hillary strategist Marc Hotynsky: Companies cannot be caught unprepared by Organized Labor’s coordinated campaign.” (as of March 2007)

-Mark Penn: “Companies cannot be caught unprepared by Organized Labor’s coordinated campaign.”

Note: Hillary Clinton really feel about certain topics? How does Hillary Clinton that put some of her positions in perspective?

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