**Why do law students drink so much?**
The Anonymous 3L explores what drives students to consume alcohol.

**OPINION, PAGE 9**

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**Supreme Court of Ohio justice visits C-M**

**By Paul Deegan**

The C-M College of Law Republicans hosted a Lincoln Day dinner event in the Moot Court Room featuring keynote speaker, Supreme Court of Ohio, Associate Justice, Maureen O’Connor on February 11, 2008. Justice O’Connor offered nuggets of wisdom to attendees including the advice to take advantage of all opportunities that arise and not to exclude any possibilities.

Her talk focused on the importance of public service and she related the story of how perseverance and C-M impacted her career. Her story was expanded on the events that led to her being elected to the bench. Justice O’Connor said her time at C-M impacted her career. Her story illustrates how perseverance and acting on opportunities is the real key to success.

Justice O’Connor graduated from CM in 1980 and has served Ohio for nearly her whole career.

See O’CONNOR, page 4

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**Some students fail to receive grades before semester starts**

**By Michelle Todd**

**STAFF WRITER**

Ask any law student what the most challenging and stressful part of law school is, and undoubtedly, they will tell you it is the process of studying for and taking final exams. However, many Cleveland Marshall students may argue that the wait for grades that follows after taking exams has become just as difficult. The source of their anxiety is that the majority of final exam grades are not released until after the spring semester has already begun. Many students have a difficult time understanding why this is the case, considering that they have taken their final exams weeks ago. Also, by not having grades from the prior semester, students feel demotivated and frustrated as they begin a new semester without knowing whether their hard work has paid off, or whether they will need to work harder in the spring.

As stressful and frustrating as this wait has become, C-M students can rest assured that they are not alone. In fact, they may not have as long of a wait as the majority of students enrolled in other law schools across the country. According to C-M Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Phyllis Crocker, most law schools actually allow professors four to five weeks to finish grading final exams. “For the fourteen years that I have been here at Cleveland-Marshall, the faculty have been given three weeks to grade their exams,” Crocker said. She added that these three weeks begin at the end of the week that the professors administer the test.

Dean Crocker also said that the majority of C-M professors are very good about meeting this deadline. “Most of our faculty...”

See GRADES, page 2

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**Committee rejects trial team proposal regarding credits for participation**

**By Kevin Shannon**

**STAFF WRITER**

In a controversial decision last semester, the C-M Curriculum Committee decided to reject a proposal by the trial team that would have awarded team members more than the two hours that they currently receive. The team members were seeking more credit hours, requesting that they receive grades for the course, and asking for the team be allowed to receive credits for two years of membership on the team. As it currently stands, team members are limited to two credits for only one year of participation.

Sitting on the committee this year are Professors Gordon Beggs, Dena Davis, Peter Garlock, Kamal Parker, Lloyd Snyder. Dean Jean Lifter is an ex officio member of the committee.

Only two professors on the committee responded to the Gavel’s request for comments on the decision. Professor Davis explained that she no longer sits on the Curriculum Committee. Professor Lloyd Snyder expressed a willingness to discuss the topic. However, due to the publication schedule, the Gavel was not able to interview Professor Snyder in time for this article.

The Gavel will publish Professor Snyder’s comments in the next issue.

Neither Heather Galisto nor Keith Scheurman, the committee’s student representatives, responded to an email asking for their comments.

Dave Valent, a 3L member of the team expressed dismay over the treatment that the team has received. He thought that if the school is going to offer the trial team as a class, it should be judged on the same standards as any other class. He thinks that the class should be graded and offered for at least four credits per year.

Valent also explained that he put more time into the trial team than any other class that he was taken at C-M. Every team member shared Valent’s opinion. Another team member, Ramsey Lama, explained: “I have never taken a class at Cleveland-Marshall more demanding than participation in trial team.” Noting that he practiced from 10-14 hours each weekend, Lama added that “to receive only two credits for so much work is difficult to understand.”

As a result of the decision, two of the trial team’s coaches decided to resign. Robert Yallech

See TRIAL TEAM page 4

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**CSU to Host Presidential Candidate Debate**

Democratic presidential candidates Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton have accepted an invitation from Cleveland State and NBC to debate in Cleveland on February 26, 2008.
Dean reflects on C-M’ future, achievements

As you make your way through another semester of law school, I suspect you have settled into a familiar routine of preparing for and attending classes. In addition to feeling comfortable in that routine, I hope you share my sense of excitement about what the future holds for you -- and for this institution.

Some of you are in the middle of your final semester of law school. Undoubtedly, you are excited that the finish line is drawing near. You should also be excited that, in a few months, right after you pass the bar exam, you will embark on a career for which you are well prepared.

At the other end of the spectrum, some of you have just begun your second semester of law school. While I hope that those first-year fears have dissipated, I hope you retain the enthusiasm and optimism you felt during orientation.

I am very grateful to the students who are leading a Graduation Challenge campaign to raise $8.8 million renovation of our law building. These renovations were made possible by the generosity of Mrs. Iris Wolstein, whose $25 million donation to the project and to create a new endowed student scholarship fund.

Her generosity inspired many other alumni and friends to provide financial support for our law school. Indeed, last year, we received more than $3 million in donations to the law school -- by far, the most money in our 110-year history.

This year, our alumni and friends, and many law firms in the community, continue to express their appreciation for our law school by giving us the resources to educate the next generation of lawyers and leaders.

And the Class of 2008 has already embarked on a Career Services campaign to raise funds and pledges to support the law school. I am very grateful to the students who are leading this campaign and to all the students who are responding to their appeal. Your commitment to the future of this institution is an inspiration to me -- and your generosity gives me great leverage when I am asking our alumni and friends to support us.

As I travel the country, I meet many alumni who are grateful for the opportunity and the education they received at our law school. It is very gratifying to hear their personal stories and to hear about their professional achievements.

In turn, I tell them that this is an exciting time to be at Cleveland State and Cleveland-Marshall. And that's because you are expanding our reputation for excellence and service.

Schedule change affects receipt of grades prior to start of semester

Consistently meet these deadlines, and those who miss it usually have a good reason for not getting the grades in on time," Crocker said. When asked if C-M professors who fail to miss these deadlines face any sort of sanctions, she stated that they do not, but added that "many law schools do impose monetary sanctions on professors who miss deadlines." Unfortunately, this was the side-effect of beginning the spring semester early, but there was really no way to avoid it," Crocker said.

I did some research to find what other law schools were doing and found the majority had even longer wait times for grades than our students.

Perhaps many students have expressed frustration and confusion over the grading process because they are unaware that the spring semester has only recently begun to start during the second week of January. Two years ago, ABA passed a rule asking the law school administration to begin the spring semester a week earlier than it previously had so that graduating students would be given an extra week to study for the bar exam in July. After this change was put into effect for the 2006-2007 school year, students were not receiving their final semester grades until the spring semester had already begun. Unfortunately, this was the side-effect of beginning the spring semester early, but there was really no way to avoid it," Crocker said.

I did some research to find what other law schools were doing and found the majority had even longer wait times for grades than our students.

She added that the University of Akron's law school solves the problem by administering final exams on Saturdays and Sundays in order to cut the exam period from two weeks to ten days. Although, this is a possible solution, it is not one that the dean felt the majority of students would want in the long run.

She also stated that with the recent bar passage rate success of C-M students last year, it seems that the extra week given to graduating students for bar exam study is beneficial. "There is a balance that has to be struck between giving graduating students the time they need to study for the bar exam and getting the final grades for fall semester out to students in a timely manner," Crocker said. She added that although the earlier spring semester has resulted in a longer wait for grades, it is a sacrifice that was made to accommodate graduating students, and so far it has paid off.

But, Crocker does recognize the frustration that students have about the wait for their fall semester grades and encourages them to talk with law school administration or faculty if they are concerned. "Students should feel free to come to me or to their professors with any problems they have with the grading process," she said.

Debate over CSU or C-M reduces availability of law school “spirit wear”

By Sarah Dixon

STATE WRITER

Are you tired of wearing your undergraduate yoga pants? Have you worn holes in your high school T-shirts? Are you discouraged by walking through the halls of our beloved university only to see students wearing their tired, old clothing from their schools of yesteryear? Do they like their undergraduate schools better? Are they ashamed of C-M?

Dean Mearns explained that part of the problem in the past has been the battle over what to call the school. Vendors have been afraid to order products with "Cleveland State University" or with "Cleveland-Marshall College of Law" because students and alumni are split between two groups who prefer one or the other. He stated that he would be very happy to see more students supporting the school by wearing items that showed their school pride with whichever name they choose.

There may be a lack of supply to satisfy our demand for the apparel. The Student Bar Association is having their annual sale of C-M branded apparel. Are you tired of seeing the same old T-shirts and sweatshirts every year? Are you worried that you will miss these deadlines face any sort of sanctions, she stated that they do not, but added that "many law schools do impose monetary sanctions on professors who miss deadlines." Unfortunately, this was the side-effect of beginning the spring semester early, but there was really no way to avoid it," Crocker said. I did some research to find what other law schools were doing and found the majority had even longer wait times for grades than our students.

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Future of Marshall’s trial team remains uncertain

Continued from page 1--

Brad Barmen resigned immediately in protest and Brad Barmen decided that he would resign after this season. Dean Geoffrey Means explained that he had spoken with Mr. Yallech and asked him to reconsider his decision to resign. Means noted that Yallech “and his colleagues at Reminger & Reminger have made a substantial contribution to the law school through this program in other ways.” He is hopeful that with the passage of time, Yallech will decide to stay with the program.

The coaches enjoyed coaching the team but they resigned because they feel that the committee’s decision will not allow them to compete on the level that they want to. Mr. Barmen explained that every other school that participates that has a trial team offers credits for at least two years. The decision to limit C-M students to one year means that the team is “guaranteed to be unable to compete at the level we expect.” Both Barmen and Yallech enjoyed the team but “if we don’t have a chance to win – or even seriously compete – I can’t justify the time anymore,” Barmen said.

Barmen stated that with the committee’s decision he believes that “the C-M program is doomed to mediocrity.” He noted that membership on the team will still be a valuable and worthwhile experience for participants; especially those who wish to become litigators. However, he believes that students will no longer be willing to contribute as much time as they do. As a result, the team “won’t be able to compete region wide like we do now.”

Barmen called the committee’s decision “arbitrary and short sighted” and noted that no one from the administration had ever attended a practice or competition to see how much time and effort goes into it. Dean Mearns explained that while he respects the committee’s decision, he also disagreed with it. He said that he thinks that students would benefit from the ability to receive credit for two years of trial competition courses.

Barmen is encouraged by the interest and support expressed by both Dean Mearns and Dean Crocker. However, he also noted that “they took no steps to influence the committee’s decision in any way.” Barmen feels that “a few words from them would have carried significant weight.”

Despite the committee’s decision, the members of the trial team are still putting in long hours on the weekend preparing for competition. Only time will tell how this decision will impact the future of the program.

Role of student evaluation in the faculty critiquing process

By Drew Odum
Gavel Contributor

One thing that can be heard in the hallways of many universities is students discussing their classes. Students can be heard complaining of how boring a class is or even praising their professor’s incite and clarity on a subject. However, are these critiques ever heard by the faculty?

At many other colleges across the nation, students are asked to evaluate their courses. Here at C-M, at the end of every semester students are asked to complete the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Faculty & Course Evaluation Questionnaire. This questionnaire asks students to rank on a scale of 1 (Poor) to 5 (Excellent) their professors and the course. Only after the professor submits the final grades for the course are they able to see the actual questionnaires. A copy of each is also made available in the law library and can be accessed by students.

Dean Crocker, a professor and associate dean at C-M, explained that the evaluations are used by students, faculty and staff. She explained that she uses the evaluations from the courses she teaches by looking for specific comments that pinpoint an item that she can change to help students. In the past, she has considered changing course books based on student comments. In her capacity as an Associate Dean, she looks over the evaluations of all the adjunct professors; while Dean Mearns reads the evaluations for the entire faculty. The student evaluations of the course are an important aspect of each professor’s annual review with the Dean. The evaluations can be used when decisions are made about tenure, teaching assignments, salary, promotions and retention.

2L’s and 3L’s can use the evaluations when deciding on which courses to take for the semester or in considering which course to drop. All students may consider using the evaluations to try to discover the most effective way to learn given the professors teaching style.

New York University College of Arts and Sciences has a similar program, however their evaluations are searchable online and the results are averaged amongst all students. Upon visiting the website, anyone can search through the evaluations by subject, course, or teacher. After locating the course, one can see the percentage of students who participated in the evaluation process versus the amount in the class. The website also offers averages of how the students responded to the questions. Dean Crocker commented that she would be interested in seeing how a web-based evaluation process would work here at C-M. However, Professor Weinstein cautions against relying too heavily on averages. He observed that the averages may not accurately reflect a student’s view of a professor because it can be difficult to quantify subjective material. One student’s 3 may be another student’s 4.

The evaluations are most useful when students give specific comments on how professors have done during the semester. Whether good or bad, the evaluations are designed to get honest feedback from students to improve the services provided by the university.

C-M’s response to political survey about upcoming Ohio primary election

In which voting block do you include yourself as a member?

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Who do you intend to vote for on March 4th, if you intend to vote for a Democrat?

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<td>John Edwards</td>
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<td>Barack Obama</td>
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Who do you intend to vote for on March 4th, if you intend to vote for a Republican?

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<td>Fred Thompson</td>
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<td>Unlisted candidate</td>
<td>4</td>
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UC 102

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February 15
(Fri)
@ 3pm
MC 401
What to do during the summer after your first year

By Karen Mika
LEGAL WRITING PROFESSOR

How important is it to get a clerking job after the first year as opposed to taking classes or doing something else?

It is important to get legal experience as quickly as possible to be competitive in the job market, but that doesn’t mean that there aren’t choices.

Some first year students take clerking jobs for the sake of taking a clerking job, and it isn’t always the right fit.

For the unattached 23-25 year old who knows he/she is going to be an attorney, but doesn’t quite know what kind, the answer is easy. That person should find some type of summer legal job and get experience.

For students falling into other categories, the answer is not so simple. There are sometimes other options, including studying abroad, or participating in various other service projects that are rewarding and/or resume building, but do not necessarily result in a paycheck.

For family breadwinners, sometimes there is no choice but to retain (or procure) a higher paying job with benefits outside the scope of the law.

There is also the possibility that a student might choose to take classes over the summer. This choice has its benefits, too, because it could result in more “experience building” time later on in law school.

In addition, taking a class does not necessarily preclude working in the summer.

Lastly, a student might consider taking it easy in the summer and doing something enjoyable before embarking on a life of endless work. That might be the best choice of all, as long as it isn’t the continuous choice throughout law school and after law school.

Frankly, I’m of the opinion that anyone who graduates from this school should be able to find a job in the legal field, even if he/she never worked an outside clerking job at all, but that’s in part due to being realistic about the possibilities and using your experience to your advantage. If you chose not to work an outside clerking job at all during school, then your career in the “legal field” might have to start with setting up shop at the back of your house and doing family wills, or property transfers.

The bottom line is always to think before you act, always weigh your options, and always consider what might be the result of the options you do choose – whether they relate to future employment or present personal fulfillment. Don’t think that the decision that you make in the spring of your first year of law school will necessarily be life-altering, but look at each decision with at least one eye on future possibilities.

And a plug for the Placement Department: Talk with them. There are the ones who know the most about possibilities and can relate the experiences of former students who may have followed a similar path that you are contemplating.

Study abroad opportunities for law students

By Tara Chandler
STAFF WRITER
Maryann C. Fremion
STAFF WRITER

Have you been asking yourself, “what am I going to do this summer?” If you have, you probably haven’t landed that dream summer clerkship you’ve been banking on. But don’t be discouraged– there is an alternative way for you to spend the summer.

Studying abroad offers an opportunity to immerse law students in a different culture and language while taking a class (or classes) in another country. Some programs even offer internships. For many students, it is a great way to get out of Cleveland, get some credits out of the way, and even get some practical experience in the legal field.

What kind of opportunities are available this summer? You might be surprised to find programs ranging from a class in antiquities law in Turkey to maritime law in Greece. Or, perhaps you want something a little more applicable to your future niche in the legal profression. Then you may want to consider an intellectual copyright class in London, or an internatinal human rights class in Costa Rica.

Program lengths vary, but the average time for a class is three weeks. Some programs offer the opportunity for the student to stay for an additional period of time to work at an internship. For example, if you studied in South Korea, you could intern at various locations, including Samsung, Hyundai, and the South Korean Supreme Court. Various programs in Beijing offer placements in law firms around the People’s Republic of China. Externships in Guanajuato, Mexico, involve the Mexican legal system and social development.

When choosing a study abroad program that’s right for you, there are several things you should research. First, what country is right for you? Is there a language or culture that particularly interests you?

Keep in mind that the exchange rate of the United States dollar ranges from country to country. Right now, one US dollar is worth approximately .67 Euros, compared to the US dollar’s value relative to the Australian dollar, 1.12. If you are partaking in the St. Petersburg program in Russia, it will be helpful to know that each American dollar you spend is worth 24.47 Russian rubles. For more currency conversions, you can visit: www.gocurency.com.

Also, when choosing a program, think about a class that will help fulfill your requirements for graduation at Cleveland-Marshall. To see if a program credit can transfer to this law school, send the program’s website to Jean Lifter. She will then review it and guide you accordingly.

Summer is not the only time when study abroad programs are available. You can also participate in classes during the regular school year. If you are planning to study abroad in the summer, you may find a program that starts earlier or later in the summer, making it conducive to also having a summer internship. However, pay close attention to application deadlines, some of which may be open until May.

No matter what program you choose, you should make sure to prepare a budget in order to ensure that you can afford the experience. Remember to include additional money in case there is an emergency.

In order to maximize your experience, reading up on the culture and language of your destination is imperative. Knowing something about the country you are visiting not only will help you better appreciate your experience, but it will also help you represent C-M. Believe it or not, English is not the only language spoken abroad, and many common American gestures can be very offensive. Make sure you know enough of the native language to be polite to native speakers as well as how to navigate in an emergency.

For a complete listing of ABA programs, please visit: http://www.abanet.org/legalaid/studyabroad/foreign.html.

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The Gavel

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What should the U.S. do about illegal immigration?

By Chuck Norcross

CONSERVATIVE GAVEL COLUMNIST

In creating a solution to the illegal immigration epidemic, I’m the first to admit that we should not forget that illegal immigrants are people, too, and should be treated with dignity. However, it is equally important that we don’t sacrifice our laws when dealing with illegal immigration. Fortunately, we can uphold our laws and treat illegal immigrants with dignity all at the same time.

In solving this issue, we must first acknowledge that this is a crisis with detrimental effects to our nation. One such danger is that, while a lot of illegal immigrants are hard working people in search of a better life, many are also criminals. As reported by the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation estimates that 28% of inmates in California, whichbother with the Mexican Mafia, are illegals. This gang commits an assault or robbery every day in L.A. County. Furthermore, in 2000, the L.A. County Sheriff reported that 23% of jail inmates were deportable. Not only are these particular illegals criminals, but now we have to support them in our jails, creating a strain on taxpayers.

Another outrageous epidemic is the “anchor baby.” This is where illegals have babies after arriving here, as a means to confuse the facts of the 14th Amendment. This baby is automatically considered a U.S. citizen. Because our government doesn’t want the bad press of splitting up families, they usually let the whole family stay.

In effect, this practice allows the U.S. born baby to “anchor” the rest of the illegal family. This is a total of 20,000 illegal aliens born each year, all allowed to stay in our country.

These families headed by illegal immigrants that are allowed not only to stay, but to collect social benefits. This was estimated to cost U.S. taxpayers $700 million under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program, and another $400 million in food stamps in 1995, according to a 1997 General Accounting Office report.

The 14th Amendment has been misinterpreted. In comments made by its drafters in 1868, it was clear that the 14th Amendment was intended to make illegals and natural born citizens alike; “All persons born or naturalized in the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens ...” was included to show that simple accidental citizenship does not justify citizenship as a time-tested truth, when it has never been more than popular political propaganda.

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In solving this issue, we must first acknowledge that this is a crisis with detrimental effects to our nation. One such danger is that, while a lot of illegal immigrants are hard working people in search of a better life, many are also criminals. As reported by the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation estimates that 28% of inmates in California, whichbother with the Mexican Mafia, are illegals. This gang commits an assault or robbery every day in L.A. County. Furthermore, in 2000, the L.A. County Sheriff reported that 23% of jail inmates were deportable. Not only are these particular illegals criminals, but now we have to support them in our jails, creating a strain on taxpayers.

Another outrageous epidemic is the “anchor baby.” This is where illegals have babies after arriving here, as a means to confuse the facts of the 14th Amendment. This baby is automatically considered a U.S. citizen. Because our government doesn’t want the bad press of splitting up families, they usually let the whole family stay.

In effect, this practice allows the U.S. born baby to “anchor” the rest of the illegal family. This is a total of 20,000 illegal aliens born each year, all allowed to stay in our country.

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Opinion

February 2008

Women’s evolving experience in the legal profession

By Katie Vesoulis

The presence of females in law school has become so acceptable that it seems almost outlandish to think that at one point in time otherwise qualified female applicants were rejected based solely on their gender.

During the 19th century, the general view perpetuated by the court regarding a woman’s ability to practice law can be summed up by the Wisconsin Supreme Court’s statement that womanhood is “molded for gentler and better things.” Although I would not necessarily categorize myself as a feminist, I believe issues regarding the experience of female attorneys are important and interesting enough to warrant some sort of dialogue among law students.

According to an employment and gender survey published by the American Bar Association (ABA), females received about 48 percent of all J.D.’s awarded each year, but they comprise only 29.1 percent of the traditional legal workforce.

First-year student Luisa Taddeo believes that although there is a discrepancy in the numbers, eventually the statistics will level out and become more equal.

3Ls artificially inflate 2L grades

By Matt Samsa

Gavel Columnist

In the last issue of the Gavel, I read an article that criticized the practice of allowing 1Ls and 2Ls to be graded against each other in some core classes. The article noted that 2L part time students in 1L classes could potentially have a more rigorous curriculum than the 1Ls because the 2Ls have more experience with the rigors of law school. However, the article failed to note one important fact—that 1Ls more than make up for any possible prejudice when they become 2Ls and compete against 3Ls.

Third year law students are possibly the largest creatures I have ever seen. There’s a general sense of malaise surrounding these burnt out students. 3L Alexis Osburn recently described herself as a “stain” when asked how much work she was doing in her classes. Matthew Gambrel noted that he “would rather gouge his eyes out with a rusty spoon than respond “pass.” When asked why a spoon, he responded “because it’s dull you twit. It’ll hurt more.”

This is not an unusual 3L. Dated 3Ls can be spotted throughout the school. Unlike 1Ls, they are no longer scared of their classes or professors. Unlike 2Ls, they no longer even care to complain about classes. That’s probably because they’ve stopped doing work altogether.

I understand that students get really concerned about GPA and class rank and all of that rigamarole, but competing against five part time students and a 2L that failed a core course really isn’t skewing the curve too terribly.

So remem-ber the name of another case, or for that mat-ter even read ing one more page case seems to be asking far too much. Certain-ly being tested on the material can’t be fair. That’s not to say that the third year can’t have some interest-ing or useful aspects.

For example, my experience in the Urban Development Clinic has been help-ful, because clinical experience teaches me something that I can carry over into my career.

And the third year does allow students a bit more space between becoming lawyers and trading in full time for free. Because from what I can tell being an attorney involves quite a bit of work.

That’s yet another reason that 3L stu-dents can’t bring themselves to do much work – the summer is a wash because of tuition, 3Ls could postpone adult life for another year of pass/fail classes. That way, the law school could still collect tuition, 3Ls could postpone adult life for another year and nobody would be any worse for the wear. Let the 2L fight it out in their classes as the 3Ls continue to respond “pass.”

Typesetting

By John S. Shafer

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People in law school have also changed, and we may perhaps be the first generation of lawyers who actually want to leave work after 14 hours to spend time with our families. It is my hope that this change in attitude and beliefs will transfer to increasing opportunities and ensuring equitable treatment of female attorneys.

As illustrated in class on a daily basis, females and females sometimes approach legal issues in different but complimentary ways that makes the understanding of the issue complete.

It is important to remember that both men and women are receiving the same tools and building blocks towards becoming lawyers, and it is up to us to make sure that we are all given equal platforms in which we are able to practice these skills.
3L describes drinking as a personal escape from the pressures of law school.

Anonymous 3L
The following is the fourth of a six-part series following the beaten and broken law student.

Fellow 3Ls, we will be finished with law school in 3 months. Yep. That means we will have our JDS and soon become practicing attorneys, and attempt to manage paying back loans. (Speaking of finances, I recently stumbled upon a website that has great advice and tips about loans – www.frgallawstudent.com.) It is a scary thought, however, that some people I know are more knowledgeable about the contents of a long island iced tea than the rules of evidence. And, the only way they are going to be lawyers.

This got me thinking about drinking and law school. As shocking as it may seem that I have non-law school friends, I was telling one of “these” friends about the last law school social I attended. In the middle of a great story, he stopped me and asked, “What is it with law students and alcohol?” I guess this is a good question considering this is the most I have ever drunk in my life – including college.

Are we alcoholics? Has law school pushed us over the edge? Is alcohol the only way we can deal with the stress? It’s true that law students do work hard, but we sure know how to play hard. I propose that drinking excessively does have something to do with the massive amounts of stress we are forced to deal with everyday. However, I think it is also to do with the fact that we are perfectionists as well. We are Type A. We want to have the best grades, best internships, best of everything or we are not happy. Wikipedia states that Type A’s are actually intrinsically insecure and, therefore, are workaholics to make up for the lack of self esteem. I think wikipedia is on to something there.

In other words, we don’t know how to do something unless we do it balls to the wall. I believe this is true in every aspect of our lives. Ok, maybe I’m being a bit extreme in my own theory here.

Anyways, drinking has been a big part of my law school experience. I’m not sure if this is a good thing or not. I do know one thing though, if it wasn’t for drinking I sure wouldn’t have had the desire to run a marathon. I trained for a marathon. And, if looking around at the Blind Pig on a Friday during happy hour tells me anything it’s that this drinking trend will go on through my legal career as well.

Lessons learned after completing first semester of school

Anonymous 1L
The following is the fourth of a six-part series following the experiences of an anonymous first-year student.

The internet beckons my remaining mind. The number of void sites just a click away waits for my eager eyes to read about Heath Ledger’s death, or about Hillary crying for the ladies’ vote.

All this emotion and still my contracts book sits in front of me, like my mother standing in the doorway telling me to clean my room. After all, it was in my best interest she discovered the petri dish I had been growing under my bed. (I was about 5 mind you.) So reading contracts is perhaps the best decision as opposed to filling my mind with delight of the day-to-day responsibilities. So in the recesses of my mind I have the luxury of time to contemplate the effects of our actions – that bullets we fired ripped through the soft tissue, bones, and skulls of fellow human beings. Two very important things after one has completed first year finals and has a couple of weeks of “spare time.” For those of you who have forgotten what those words together mean, here is a definition to clear things up: Spare time is not time spent working or attending to other-day-to-day responsibilities. So in the recesses of those thoughts those thoughts stayed until Sunday night, when I checked my first-year grades and was pleasantly surprised. Somehow I still feel like an impostor, like my grades were purely based upon luck. Law school has a way of forcing me to really look for answers.

Introspection is tough to do. Holding myself up to my own standards is not something I believe I am cut out to do. I do not feel the need to do something unless we do it balls to the wall. I believe this to be true in every aspect of our lives, not just drinking.

We are constantly bombarded with the opinions of would-be experts and the politicians who got us there in the first place. “I will withdraw our troops immediately” says one. “I would stay until the job is done” says another. Which of them should we listen to?

As a former U.S. soldier who has personal knowledge of the bitter taste of Mesopotamian sand and everlasting memory of service members dying, I did not have the luxury of time to contemplate the effects of our actions – that bullets we fired ripped through the soft tissue, bones, and skulls of fellow human beings.

On the battlefield, I did not have the luxury of time to contemplate the effects of our actions – that bullets we fired ripped through the soft tissue, bones, and skulls of fellow human beings. We were asked to project U.S. policy from the ends of Baghdad and our little corner of the war.

I suppose completing the first semester of law school is something to celebrate, but somehow there is something nagging feeling of inequity lurking behind every case brief. I was in no hurry to see my grades, not because the prognosis was less than decent, but because I had taken those thoughts pertaining to clean up and had took them away into the recesses of my mind. Break was about relaxation. I had wiped the worries from my thought process and drowned in relaxation and family.

We were asked to project U.S. policy – something that has to do with the immediate war, but it would also speak volumes to the effect of destabilizing the entire region, now would not only have the immediate effect of destabilizing the entire region, but it would also speak volumes to the purpose of the war.

I trained for a marathon. And, if looking around at the Blind Pig on a Friday during happy hour tells me anything it’s that this drinking trend will go on through my legal career as well.

When can we leave Iraq? A foot soldier’s perspective

By George Sakellakis

There is much debate recently between our political candidates as well as our friends and families about when the people of Iraq will be able to be left with our own country.

We are constantly bombarded with the opinions of would-be experts and the politicians who got us there in the first place. “I will withdraw our troops immediately” says one. “I would stay until the job is done” says another. Which of them should we listen to?

In the Army, I learned to read between the lines and assess a situation for what it is, not what it might seem. From the first signs of the Bush administration’s verbal hostility towards Saddam Hussein, I had a good feeling we would eventually be involved. I was, in no way, a believer in what was then called “rollback” of Iraq. However, I was left with no option but to do my duty as a citizen and to fight to the end.

On the battlefield, I did not have the luxury of time to contemplate the effects of our actions – that bullets we fired ripped through the soft tissue, bones, and skulls of fellow human beings. I didn’t have the opportunity to realize that the U.S. soldier screaming next to me, his arms or legs a mangled mess, had family back home wondering how he was doing, and soon would get a knock at their door from a man in a dress uniform. But I was responsible for their own neighborhoods. We did what we had to do to kill our enemies, because we believed in the cause or for our love of war, but simply to keep them from disrupting the peace. It is a lie that America will not kowtow to a enemy and our purposes have changed.

I propose that drinking excessively does have something to do with the massive amounts of stress we are forced to deal with everyday. However, I think it is also to do with the fact that we are perfectionists as well. We are Type A. We want to have the best grades, best internships, best of everything or we are not happy.

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C-M’s spreadin’ the love for Valentine’s Day

Compiled by Tara Chandler & Maryann Fremion

To: Stephanie Marder & Nina Lucci
From: Emily Honsa
You guys are the best law school friends EVAR. May your lives be filled with love and happiness... oh, success too.

To: Terri Collier
From: The Legal Writing Professors
You are the best. You keep us and our students in line. You make our jobs so much easier. You may think you might retire, but we are going to do our best to see that you don’t.

To: Professor Kevin O’Neill
From: Federico Fellini
Happy Valentine’s Day. Thank you for your wicked sense of humor. From the Nucleus of my heart.

From: Learned Hand
Although the burden of loving you is great and the probability of you breaking my heart is High, the severity of said broken heart is something I’m willing to take.

To: Stephanie
From: Tom
Happy Valentine’s Day!

To: Williston
From: Corbin
My love for you is not unconscionable. Although I was under duress the night we met and you asserted your undue influence. This love is no mistake and I will never attempt rescission via impracticability if you frustrate my purpose.

To: Professor Borden’s Contract’s Class
From: Ashleigh
I just wanted to wish you all a Happy Valentine’s Day! I am so proud of all of you for being the smartest and best students ever!!!

To: Chris Germano & Melanie Shaerban
From: Emily Honsa
Working with you guys is better than... a lot of things. Thank you for all your fabulous guidance- Happy Valentine’s Day.

To: Rachna Patel
From: Arunesh
Happy Valentine’s Day, I miss you! See you soon!

To: Carrie
From: Alex
Happy Valentine’s Day

To: Adam
From: Samantha
I heart you. 17 months!

To: Maryann
From: Tara
Happy Valentine’s Day

To: Alex McCready
From: Carrie Lewine
Happy VD!

To: Andrew
From: Ashley
I love being married to you. Happy Valentine’s Day!

To: Israel
From: The Student Body
Thank you for all you do for us. Happy Valentine’s Day!

To: Maryann
From: Anthony
Happy Valentine’s Day :)  

To: Aarti
From: Heidy Valdes
I love you! I am very greatful to have a friend like you.

To: Jody Allen
From: Valerie
Happy Valentine’s Day!

To: Moore
From: Lindsey
Thanks for noticing my shoes!

To: Tara
From: Heidy Valdes
I love you! You are one of the funniest friends I have. Thanks for being a wonderful friend.

To: Lauren
From: Dan
Happy Valentine’s Day. You are the coolest law student ever!

To: Nicole
From: Heidy Valdes
I love you! You are a blessing. I’m so thankful to have a friend like you. Moving from California was not easy, but being around such great friends has made my life much easier.

To: J. Andrews
From: J. Cardozo
I am a foreseeable Plaintiff within your Zone of Danger.

To: Maryann
From: Jake
Happy Valentine’s Day, you are probably the coolest person ever.

To: Ed
From: Lindsey
See you after graduation! Hugs & Kisses! (see, this is what you get in return for Guitar Hero)

To: Anthony Rich
From: S. Burke
I hereby charge you with trespass to chattels or taking my heart away, for you came in like Pierson v. Post, and snagged up my heart like it was the wily quadruped fox. Happy Valentine’s Day.

To: Tara
From: Anthony
Happy Valentine’s Day :)  

To: Matt
From: Sheree
Vegas baby. Happy Valentine’s Day

To: Maryann and Tara
From: Rob
Happy Valentine’s Day

To: Maryann and Tara
From: Kaleb
Newspaper ladies keep it sexy.

To: The C-M Community
From: The Gavel
HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY
Bar exam is waste of time, money, and energy

The bar exam is pointless. There, I’ve said it, the heresy of all heresies. The bar exam is nothing more than an inane waste of time, money, and energy. I have never heard a cogent, convincing argument advocating the bar exam’s usefulness. It serves no functional purpose. It under mines the essence of legal education and it is ridiculously costly and time-consuming. It is an unproductive, frivолов activity that should be abolished as a requirement for legal licensure.

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If this is the case, the bar exam becomes not a test of your ability as a potential lawyer, but a test of your memorization skills. There is less emphasis on understanding than on mindless regurgitation.

Barrister’s Ball A Last Hurrah

Mark your calendar! It is once again the time for the annual Barrister’s Ball. This year’s ball will be held at Meridian 1st at the beautiful Windows on the River located on the second and third floors of the Powerhouse in the Flats in Cleve land. The bar exam supposedly tests the substantive knowledge you’ve gained during the three years of your life spent pursuing a career in law.

The problems with the bar exam are legion. It would take a book to catalogue them all and a companion volume to explain how to rectify them. Clearly, the bar exam is not going to disappear overnight. However, I urge current and former law students to support our troops with the U.S.O. in the semester, so be on the look out for more details!

True understanding of the legal principle comes from their time in practice and years of hands-on research, not from a Gilberts law summary or a Thompson- West casebook.

This is why some sort of apprentice- ship program should take the place of the bar exam. Such a system is a far better means of acclimating potential lawyers to jurisdiction-specific rules and regulations.

The knowledge required to practice law in specific jurisdictions could just as easily be imparted through continuing legal education courses. CLE courses are easily be imparted through continuing education courses. CLE courses are exceedingly expensive and only 20% of everyone who donates forms to this program. Due to the success of this program, the U.S.O. is working to help support our troops with the U.S.O. in the semester, so be on the look out for more details!
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