**Barrister’s Ball 2008: a night of revelry**

**By Paul Deegan**

Our SBA oudated itself by hosting Barrister’s Ball 2008 at Windows on the River, in the West Bank of the Flats. The event began at 7pm with the elegantly dressed attendees beginning to arrive around 6:30pm. The open bar was especially a hit since it served top shelf liquor and a variety of other drinks. “Now this is the type of bar I’m talking about,” said Chuck Northcutt. All of the hard work and planning paid off as nearly 250 students, faculty and their dates attended.

Windows was exquisitely prepared for the Cleveland Marshall crowd. With ample space to dine and dance there were no long drink lines or feelings of restraint. The catered meal was delicious which ever dish you ordered. “This Prime Rib is fantastic,” raved Glennon Quinn as he took another bite, but the big hit according to many was the cheesecake. The author of this article had two pieces himself. See **BARRISTERS, page 7**

**Delta theta phi sponsors spring break trip to D.C.**

**By Kevin Shannon**

On Sunday, March 9, 2008, 16 Cleveland-Marshall students embarked on a trip to Washington D.C., leaving the Blizzard of 2008. Organized by Delta Theta Phi and funded by the SBA, the trip included tours of the Supreme Court and the Library of Congress. A chance encounter with Representative Dennis Kucinich further provided a smaller group of students with an intimate after-hours tour of the U.S. Capitol.

The trip was almost cut short when it began due to the almost two feet of snow that mother nature unceremoniously dumped on Cleveland on the eve of the trip. The undaunted students dug out their cars and traversed the dangerous terrain on their way out of the city. The students were glad they did, once they arrived and discovered that lodging was at the luxurious Days Inn of Alexandria, just minutes outside of the city.

Awakening on Monday morning to a deliciously catered breakfast at the Chickz Restaurant, the students fortified themselves for the long day ahead. They boarded the Metro for a short trip into the city. The students began the day at the U.S. lawyer’s lounge, where lawyers argued before the Court wait for their case to be called. He gave a lecture about the court and answered students’ questions about memorable oral arguments, cameras in the courtroom, and his basic training experiences with Elvis Presley. One student asked him about the so-called “happiest court in the land,” which is the **D.C. TRIP**, page 3

**Delta Theta Phi group takes tour of the Capitol with Ohio Representative Dennis Kucinich.**

Supreme Court, where they met the Court’s Clerk Major General William Suter for a tour of a building that few people have ever seen. Suter began the tour in the private lawyer’s lounge, where lawyers argued with the justices that they hope to one day. The tour of the building would prove to be the most memorable experience of the trip. The students were thrilled to learn about the building and many of the fascinating stories that surround the building.

The trip was almost cut short before it began due to the almost two feet of snow that mother nature unceremoniously dumped on Cleveland on the eve of the trip. The students were glad they did, once they arrived and discovered that lodging was at the luxurious Days Inn of Alexandria, just minutes outside of the city. They unpacked their bags and were paired up with someone to help them get around.

As a volunteer in the “spin room”, Lallo helped reporters and politicos conduct their interviews with the press. Lallo and approximately 20 other “spin room” volunteers were paired up with someone whom the media would like to interview. Once this person entered the room, the spin room volunteer would stand next to this person and hold a sign with the individual’s name on it, so that reporters could identify their position in the room.

When asked what the most memorable aspect of his experience was, Lallo said that meeting Ohio Governor Ted Strickland in person was something he truly enjoyed. “Probably the best part about the debate was that I got to talk to him.”

**See D.C. TRIP, page 3**

**CSU hosted democratic presidential debate**

**By Michelle Todd**

On Tuesday, February 26, 2008, Cleveland State University received national recognition when it hosted Decision 2008, the Ohio Democratic Presidential debate between Senator Hillary Clinton and Senator Barack Obama at the CSU Wolstein Center.

By hosting Decision 2008, CSU and the city of Cleveland took center stage in one of the most hotly contested races for the Democratic Presidential nomination in recent history. Such a position definitely had its advantages for several C-M law students, who were given the unique and invaluable opportunity to attend this highly anticipated debate between the Democratic candidates.

Although tickets to attend the debate were limited, all CSU students were given the chance to enter a lottery for a chance to be one of the 200 volunteers needed for the event or to sit in the audience of approximately 1,000.

According to the CSU Marketing and Public Affairs Department, more than 20,000 ticket requests were received for the debate, including 5,000 from CSU students alone. A public lottery was held in addition to the student and volunteer lotteries. In addition to volunteers and attendees of the Decision 2008, more than 500 reporters from across the nation and around the world converged on the CSU campus to cover the 90-minute debate. As a result, all classes at the University were cancelled for the day in order to properly accommodate this large media presence on campus for the historic event.

The debate was broadcast locally on WKYC-TV3, while other NBC affiliates broadcast the debate throughout Ohio. NBC also broadcasted two editions of NBC Nightly News from the CSU Wolstein Center, as well as a taping of the Hardball program featuring Chris Matthews.

Some of the more recognizable faces in the debate audience were Ohio Governor Ted Strickland, Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson, Senator Sherrod Brown, Reverend Jesse Jackson, former Senator John Glenn, Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones, and Chelsea Clinton, who was celebrating her 28th birthday.

Several lucky C-M law students were also in attendance at the debate, both as volunteers and audience members. 2L Matt Lallo won a ticket in the student lottery to volunteer at the debate and also got the chance to sit in the audience. As a volunteer in the “spin room”, Lallo helped reporters and politicos conduct their interviews with the press.

Lallo and approximately 20 other “spin room” volunteers were paired up with someone whom the media would like to interview. Once this person entered the room, the spin room volunteer would stand next to this person and hold a sign with the individual’s name on it, so that reporters could identify their position in the room.

When asked what the most memorable aspect of his experience was, Lallo said that meeting Ohio Governor Ted Strickland in person was something he truly enjoyed. “Probably the best part about the debate was that I got to talk to him.”

**See DEBATE, page 2**

**You Should Know**

**Attention 3Ls**

The application to sit for the July 2008 Ohio Bar Examination is due on April 1, 2008.

For more information log onto the Supreme Court of Ohio’s website: http://www.sconet.state.oh.us/admissions/examApps/default.asp
Dean congratulates distinguished C-M faculty

By Geoffrey Mearns

The foundation of any academic institution is its faculty. We are fortunate to have a foundation of dedicated teachers and creative scholars. Two weeks ago, we celebrated the accomplishments of four of our faculty members who were appointed to named professorships. Such an appointment recognizes a faculty member who is an outstanding teacher and accomplished scholar. Professor Susan J. Becker: Charles R. Emrick, Jr. – Calfee, Halter & Griswold Endowed Professor of Law

Professor Becker received her law degree, magna cum laude, from our law school in 1983. After graduation, she clerked for the Honorable Robert Kulpinsky of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, and then she was an associate at Jones Day. Her publications address civil litigation and cutting edge issues in the area of sexual orientation and the law. Her recent articles have appeared in the American University Journal of Gender & Law and the William and Mary Journal of Women and the Law. She is the author of two books, Discovery of Employees (2005), and The Law of Professional Responsibility in Ohio (with J. Gutenberg and L. Snyder) (2008).

Professor Joseph C. Hostetler: Sheldon Gelman – Baker & Hostetler Chair in Law

Both Mr. Baker and Mr. Hostetler were members of our early faculty. During his leadership years, the firm experienced astounding growth. Chuck Emrick ('50) and his wife, Liz, along with his colleagues, friends and clients, funded this professorship. He was a partner at Calfee, Halter & Griswold. During his years in practice, Chuck helped build the firm into one of the region’s most successful. He and Liz have been unwavering supporters of our law school and our students. Professor Kathleen C. Engel: Leon M. and Gloria Plevin Professor of Law

Professor Engel graduated from Smith College and the University of California at Berkeley School. She clerked for the Honorable John H. Kennedy of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and then she practiced law at Burnham & Hines in Boston. She is an authority on mortgage finance and regulation, sub-prime predatory lending, and housing discrimination. In January, she was appointed to the Federal Reserve Bank’s Consumer Advisory Council. Her publications, a number of which she co-wrote with Professor Patricia McCoy, include articles in the Texas Law Review, Forensic Law Review, Washington University Law Quarterly, and Housing Policy Debate. Leon Plevin ('57) is a highly respected and very successful trial lawyer. His wife, Gloria, is a nationally respected painter and printmaker. In the 51 years since he graduated, he has never lost touch with his law alma mater. He has been a member of our Visiting Committee and President of our Law Alumni Association. Both the law school’s and the university’s alumni associations have honored him. Gloria’s work hangs in museums and galleries all across the country, as well as in our law school.

Professor Sheldon Gelman: Joseph C. Hostetler – Baker & Hostetler Chair in Law

Professor Gelman received degrees from Rutgers College, Rutgers University; School of Law and Harvard Law School. His writing and teaching focus on issues arising from the intersection of medicine and constitutional law. His articles on abortion, free speech, and women and men, and psychiatric medications, have appeared in the Georgetown Law Journal, the University of Minnesota Law Review, the William and Mary Law Review and elsewhere. He is the author of MERCANTILE SCHOPENHAEER (1999). Professor Gelman is the current President of the Cleveland State University Faculty Senate, an organization offering counsel to the University President on educational policy and procedures.

The late John Deaver Drinko, a senior partner at Baker & Hostetler, was the principal creator of the Baker & Hostetler Endowment. During his leadership years, the firm experienced astonishing growth. Joseph C. Hostetler, for whom our chair is named, together with Newt D. Baker and Thomas Sidlo, founded Baker & Hostetler in 1917. Both Mr. Baker and Mr. Hostetler were members of our early faculty.

Dean's Column

The debate at Cleveland State

continued from page 1

paired up with Governor Ted Strickland while he was in the spin room. The governor, along with his press secretary and security team, were all very friendly. After about two hours of interviews with every media outlet in the room, the governor even took some time out to talk with me and get to know who I was,” Lallo said.

Another C-M student and moot court member, Rick Ferrara, was one of the lucky ticket lottery winners. Ferrara, who received a ticket to be part of the debate audience, said he enjoyed the debate overall, but was “shocked” that debate moderator, NBC’s Tim Russert (C-M ’76 alumni) and Brian Williams, failed to set ground rules for the candidates. “They [the moderators] made the biggest mistake they could have made in a debate,” Ferrara said. “At times, the debate got boring when the candidates would simply talk over the other, or the moderaters. I remember an instance where a collective groan escaped the audience as Senator Clinton interrupted Brian Williams a third time on the same question,” Ferrara said.

Despite this, Ferrara noted that there was a clear debate “winner” in his mind. “Senator Obama won because he kept his poise throughout the debate, answering questions with an even tone and clear language. Meanwhile, Senator Clinton seemed irritated, eager to interrupt others at the slightest provocation, and long winded in his answers,” Ferrara said. Ferrara also said that there seemed to be more audience interest in Senator Obama than Senator Clinton. “Senator Obama’s line for autographs was much longer than Clinton’s after the debate,” Ferrara noted.

Although he remained undecided as to whether he would actually vote for Senator Obama, Ferrara felt the debate improved his “perception” of the Senator, adding that Senator Obama “certainly is a presidential figure.” Along with Ferrara and Lallo, SL JASON GRIMES was in the audience for the debate after winning a volunteer spot on the Hardball program with Chris Matthews. Grimes described his volunteer duties as “background scenery” on the Hardball program. “The best part of my debate experience was being about 45 minutes of background face time on national cable television,” Grimes said. Although Grimes said he does not feel that the Ohio debate changed any of his political viewpoints, he did see Senator Obama as the clear “winner” of the debate. “Hillary sounded pretty when she complained about the alleged negative treatment she’s gotten from the press,” Grimes said.

When asked what impact, if any, hosting the debate had on CSU and the city of Cleveland in general, both Lallo and Ferrara speculated that any impact would be positive in nature. “The debate got CSU’s name out in a public forum as a reputable and distinguished university,” Lallo said. “Hosting the debate here also forced the candidates to address issues that are specific to our region...as a result, the spotlight should continue to focus on our region’s issues which in turn is some improvement to our local/regional economy,” noted Lallo.

Ferrara said he hopes that hosting the debate will “increase CSU’s prestige,” but also said that realistically it will have next to no national impact. Grimes echoed these sentiments when he commented on the fact that the majority of people cannot even remember where the 14th debate was held. “No one other than ‘Cleveland Plus-types’ will remember where this debate was held,” Grimes said. Although hosting Decision 2008 may not have any long lasting national effect on CSU, it is likely that those students who attended and volunteered at the debate will not soon forget their experience or the people they met there. “It was really nice to hear Tim Russert talk to the crowd and acknowledge his C-M background...he said that he wouldn’t be where he was today without his Cleveland education at C-M....”, Lallo said.
Students tour U.S. Supreme Court, Library of Congress

--Continued from page 1

basketball court located on the top floor of the Court. Suter confirmed the basketball court's existence and promised to show it to the students before the tour was over.

The tour then moved to the historic courtroom where the students were surprised just how close the justices are to the podium where advocates present their arguments. At Suter's suggestion, Jennifer Pugh, a 3L, bravely stepped onto the historic courtroom floor. Pugh, a 3L at the University of Michigan Law School, spoke with confidence, proclaiming “Mr. Chief Justice and may it please the court, I'm here representing Cleve- land, and I have the honor of addressing you today.”

The tour concluded with a stop in the residence of a representative of C-M. At this point, some of the students were likely tired after the busy day, but they continued to enjoy the tour. The students were impressed with the historical significance of the Court and the opportunity to see it firsthand. The tour provided a valuable educational experience that helped them understand the workings of the Supreme Court and its role in the legal system.

By Katie Vesoulis

...continued from page 1

Law students seek relief from stress in many ways

By Katie Vesoulis

With finals forthcoming, stress levels are bound to escalate to an unhealthy level. Although stress is often viewed as a typical byproduct of law school, many students are looking for outlets to relieve their stress. Upon entering school, it becomes abundantly clear that many students equate alcohol consumption with stress relief mainly because it offers the interest- ing juxtaposition between the pomposity of the classroom and the classmate with the 3.7 that can no longer reckon how to drink out of a cup. A close second in apparent means of stress management is the obsession with a cup. A close second in apparent means of stress management is the obsession with drinking. Some students turn to alcohol as a way to escape from the stresses of law school, while others use it as a coping mechanism to manage the pressure of academic performance. Regardless of the reason, alcohol consumption can lead to negative consequences both during and after law school.

Stress is a common problem faced by law students, and it is important for them to develop healthy coping mechanisms to manage it. This can include finding ways to relax and unwind, such as participating in intramural sports, engaging in mindfulness exercises, or seeking support from peers or professionals. By taking proactive steps to manage stress, law students can maintain their mental health and academic performance.

Generally, when people think of stress, they immediately think of deadlines, exams, and the intense workload that comes with being a law student. However, there are many other factors that contribute to stress in law school. These may include financial pressures, social isolation, and the fear of being behind in coursework. It is important for law students to recognize the signs of stress and find ways to cope with it effectively.

One of the most common ways that law students cope with stress is through alcohol consumption. This is not without its dangers, as alcohol can lead to negative consequences such as health problems, academic difficulties, and social isolation. It is important for law students to consider the risks associated with alcohol consumption and to seek alternative ways to manage stress.

There are many resources available at law schools to help students manage stress. These may include counseling services, peer support groups, and stress management workshops. By utilizing these resources, law students can develop healthy coping mechanisms to manage stress and improve their overall well-being.

In conclusion, stress is a common problem faced by law students, and it is important for them to develop healthy coping mechanisms to manage it. By recognizing the signs of stress and finding ways to cope with it effectively, law students can maintain their mental health and academic performance.
By Karen Mika
LEGAL WRITING PROFESSOR

The only way to do well on something is to rehearse for it. Consequently, aside from studying many legal areas, finals is the time to do mock exams under exam conditions. Obvi-
ously, there is no way to tell how you did unless you have some type of model answer, so the best
mock exams to use are the ones with sample
answers. In the alternative, the mock exams should be done in a small group and should be compared.
When comparing what is writ-
ten down, the end determination should not be critiqued so much as the
clarity of format (are rules separated from
analysis?) and the logic and depth of the analysis.
(are there merely statements with facts in them or are they connected to the rules set out?)

Students too often underestimate the value of these
dress rehearsals. Pretty much every
student knows the same amount of law prior to
going into finals. There are only a finite amount of
elements and tests to memorize. Success on
exams depends on clear organization, articula-
tion and application of those elements or tests. 
Additionally, it is nearly impossible to anticipate how one will parcel out time under exam condi-
tions. Quite often, exams involve complex issues
that have many subparts. Without “rehearsing” how long it will take to organize and set out the
numerous subparts, it is likely that organization will suffer during an exam. Panic often sets in,
and the student winds up writing a stream-of-con-
sciousness diatribe on every aspect of a particular

Legal Writing

Best practices for doing well in classes

By David L. Moore
GIVING WORKING WITNESS

While the legal field is typically rec-
ognized as an industry that weathers eco-

domestic turmoil just as well as it flourishes in
economic prosperity, that time may be
retreating in 2008. The current domestic
and international environment is result-
ing in a “Perfect Storm” for law firms: a
whirlpool of slowed profits, less litigation, and
less recruitment, according to the Feb.
25, 2008 Wall Street Journal article Why
In recent years, law firms, large and
small, have been characterized by
rising associate salaries, higher cli-
ent rates, and increased national and
international growth. Average revenue
has been seen rising in excess of 10
per year, while profit per-partner numbers have seen similar gains, accord-
ing to The Wall Street Journal Online.
The rise in litigation throughout the
late 1990’s has added to the expen-
sial increase in profit margins and thus
increased hiring. With recent judicial
reform and economic uncertainty, though,
lawsuits are declining and so are profits.
According to a recent report by the
Wall Street Journal, a survey of 250 law
firms, conducted by Hildebrandts Inter-
national Inc., concluded that profit and
litigation numbers have seen a stagger-
ning slowdown throughout the latter half
of 2007 and are forecasted to continue
downward through 2008. As a result,
associate pay rates and new associate
hiring rates are expected to stagnate or
marginally decrease in the near future.
Both general practice and tailored
practice firms are experiencing a slow-
down. The current economic condition of
slowed growth, rising gasoline and
food costs, and rising unemployment is result-
ing in less disposable income for clients
and less certainty within the legal
termination of settlement. Discretion-
ary litigation is subsiding and is being
postponed. Class action firms and
shareholder recovery firms are on the
decline as well as those with corporate gover-
nance revamping. Likewise, corporate
litigation firms, real estate firms, and
financial segmented firms have been less active in pursuing litigation due
to their direct exposure to the sub-
prime debacle and financial uncertainty.
The easy money that existed during
the recent years has come to an end.
Law firms using debt financing to aid
growth have found it more difficult to
obtain further financing, despite the
status of their credit. Combine that with
decreased profit growth and expecta-
tions, the ability to repay that debt is
becoming more difficult. While budgets
are being cut, advertising and recruiting
efforts are being postponed or limited.
The news is not all bad. With in-
creased economic turmoil, law firms
specializing in subprime litigation and
international litigation are well set to
thrive in this turmoil. Diversity and
global exposure are mitigating the ef-
fact of a U.S. downturn. While new
hiring isn’t going to be as flush as it has
been in the past, law firms are al-
ways on the prowl for strong recruits
with a diversified skillset, and most
importantly, a strong commitment.
Recently, large law firms are report-
ing a 30-50 percent attrition rate of new
associates after 3-4 years due to lack of
responsibility, nominal partnership pros-
tests, and the so-called “drudge work,”
according the Feb. 29, 2008 Wall Street
Journal article How Bad is Associate
Life. New associates may find it difficult
to land positions at large firms, but as
associates at large firms may find it more
difficult to subsequently develop their
skills than their peers at smaller firms.
C-M students are also feeling the
impact of the economic situation on
their legal employment prospects. The
percentage of C-M students employed
after graduation remains at approxi-
mately 93 percent, a level consistent with
that of previous years, said Bernadette
Salada, assistant director of the career
services department. However, students
are finding a need to work more dili-
gently than they have been in the past, as increased economic costs and increased
competition are making the already com-
petitive legal field more competitive.
But Cleveland’s resilient legal econ-
omy, complimented with C-M’s strong
alumni presence in the community and
its superior student achievement have all
enabled this employment rate to remain
relatively constant, said Salada. Students
finding it difficult to obtain employment,
though, are encouraged to seek assistance
from the career services department.
Setting up individual appointments and
submitting resumes and cover letters
for review are a few of the ways stu-
dents can seek assistance, said Salada.
Ultimately, prospective hires and
new associates can be expected to work
harder now than ever in the past, both
in their job search as well as on the
job. Confidence, networking, perpetual skill
refinement, and assistance from those
able and willing to offer it are necessary
criteria to be successful in this economic
environment. While decreased salaries and competitive hiring may continue,
a diversified background, high productivity, and long hours will still continue to be the
mandate of, and the gateway to, big law.

Summer
Law Study

in

Barcelona

Dublin

Florence

London

Moscow

Oxford

Paris

Prospects for employment in legal field diminish

STUDY ABROAD

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Contracts Vocabulary Word Search

ny y s a r p s e g a m d b t
ott dek tai sm i s k
ll l u a f r u t a t i o n
l i c k o f c a p a c i t y
air r p c d mi o t e t r
b t b f a e d o o f o c o y e
na af o m y m u f e n g i t p
m i s c e n s i o n
so i e c s d r i t e l d c p d
i e t t e b e s p a s d o g i
rc cuc i e n e s c c e s h a
psa t e c c i e a h o c l t
enr a f c el p s r u a h o i
ro p t a h l i n f c e r i o
s c m e s e t r n a r r a w s g n
i n i m p o s s i b i l i t y
m u n o t i d n o c s r p m m

Created by Maryann Fremion
It’s another presidential election year, and the Republicans have once again produced a strong candidate. In Senator John McCain we have an American hero with extensive foreign policy and military experience, and he also has immense legislative experience with 25 years in Congress. Senator McCain’sExperience in the Senate has been strong. At the end of the day, McCain has served in Congress for less than half that time, a combined 12 years. While some question McCain’s conservativeness, he scored a lifetime rating of 83 percent from the American Conservative Union. In Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton we have a candidate who has served in Congress for 20 years as the first female senator to do so, and she also has served as First Lady. Both Clinton and McCain have a well-deserved reputation for having strong voting records in the Senate. While Clinton and McCain have different backgrounds and experiences, both candidates have demonstrated a commitment to their respective parties and their country. In this election cycle, both candidates have run strong campaigns and have made significant contributions to the political discourse. It is important to consider the specific strengths of each candidate to determine who would be the best choice for the presidency. While both candidates have strong records in foreign policy and have served in the Senate, McCain has a stronger military background and has been involved in military policy decisions more directly than Clinton. On the other hand, Clinton has a longer record of experience in foreign policy and has been involved in policy decisions at a higher level. Ultimately, it is up to the American people to decide who they believe would be the best candidate to lead the nation. The election of 2008 will be a critical moment in the country’s history, and it is important for voters to carefully consider the candidates and their positions before casting their ballots.
Law school dulls intellectual curiosity

By Shawn Romer
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Before I entered law school, I used to like to read books and write things. I was unable to sate my intellectual curiosity. If I had downtime, I was trying to read every book I could get my hands on and memorize poems, watch Jeopardy! (I was captain of my high school quiz team, so I had some mad Jeopardy skills). It probably helped that I had a job that involved a lot of emailing and traveling and little reading and writing. When I wasn’t doing all day, doing “school” stuff during my downtime was fun and rewarding. I even considered myself to be a creative person. I had an energy that I wanted to get out – in writing and poetry. Sometimes I sang in the shower, but if you heard it, you probably wouldn’t call it music. I visited art museums and attended concerts. I enjoyed having philosophical and political debates with my friends.

And then I went to Law School. Now, after a day of classes, I just want to watch “Pimp my Ride” and eat Cheetos, or go to the Boneyard. I remember the last time I read a book for fun – it had to be before I started law school, and I’m 3L. I tried to read a biography on Bill Clinton over Christmas break, but I didn’t even get through his schooling. Living in Cleveland, we are surrounded by music and art, yet I pass up opportunities all the time to attend these events. I spent all day deciphering UCC 2-207. I just want to go watch basketball, and get some sleep so I can do it all over again tomorrow. Sure, I knew that going to law school would be a lot of work. I didn’t realize that it would take a lot of reading and writing, and I knew that I’d be less inclined to spend my off-time pursuing intellectual activities after reading cases all day.

However, I was not prepared for this. When filling out a survey asking for the applicant’s occupation, a friend of mine, instead of writing “student,” said the following: “I read boring crap all day, write boring crap about the boring crap that I just read.” Fortunately, I’m not so cynical. But I see their point. Some of the material is intellectually stimulating, but I find the intricacies of the Uniform Commercial Code stimulating should become law professors (and or be excited about the book, on CD) George Washington that I can listen to while working out. I’ll be one of those people watching “Hills, sucked-into-caring about who is cheating on whose boyfriend instead of contemplating the great mysteries or indulging in perhaps the most valuable part of life – beautiful music. I remain optimistic. I’m just a little burnt right now.

After the exam, it came back. I watch Jeopardy! again instead of playing Nintendo games on my computer. “Hope springs eternal in the human breast,” Alex. Under Pope once said. Hey, I’ve already started busting out the poetical references, maybe I’m back on track.

Anonymous 3L

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

My law-cerd is dwindling everyday. I feel it. While I may have witty things to say in class, I can’t help but remain in cool control of my rampanth mouth to manifest itself. I find myself pushing on the envelope on a daily basis. Saying things that should not be said. Doing things that should not be done. Last week I was at the grocery store. I began talking to the checker as if she actually cared about my life. By the end of the transaction, she was convinced that my ego had to do with the gargantuan size of the Charlie Brown balloon in the Macey’s Thanksgiving Day parade. I had proceeded to tell her how about my job, how I suppose the troops, how my father tends to be a bit bull-headed, and how I did not particularly care for bananas. I guess that when I feel uncomfortable, I tend to spew out words and sentences that are not causally connected. Hopefully, she will never be a client. I will not even take out my garbage on a regular basis. I don’t floss everyday. I ignore warning labels. I drive through yellow lights. One time I actually got my head stuck between a beam and a wall. How am I to ameliorate my everyday life with being an attorney? People will be trusting me with their lives. I can’t even figure out how to use the magnet strip on my credit card work. Somewhere, I keep thinking that something will click. Somehow, the way that I am supposed to be will find its way into the universe, and I will be worthy… but “we’re not worthy”.

I just graduated undergrad where chugging a Nutty Light in 10 Seconds was equivalent to writing the next verse in the Bible. While the weather teases us with its eulogous beams of light and the occasional warm wind, I am willing time to stop. I would rather not spend time to decipher my professor’s cryptic explanations rather than actually being responsible. Mastering the restatements is more preferable than to try to figure out how to have a company two-hundred thousand dollars or trying to acquit a seemingly innocent man of statutory rape. The last time I had to be emotionally for the real world, especially that a mechanic loses his fingerprinting, who devote their lives to describing needless products without losing their unique capabilities and features of the product? Those who find satisfying. The last time I had to be satisfying should become law professors (and or be excited about the book, on CD) George Washington that I can listen to while working out. I’ll be one of those people watching “Hills, sucked-into-caring about who is cheating on whose boyfriend instead of contemplating the great mysteries or indulging in perhaps the most valuable part of life – beautiful music. I remain optimistic. I’m just a little burnt right now.

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Anonymous 3L

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My law-cerd is dwindling everyday. I feel it. While I may have witty things to say in class, I can’t help but remain in cool control of my rampanth mouth to manifest itself. I find myself pushing on the envelope on a daily basis. Saying things that should not be said. Doing things that should not be done. Last week I was at the grocery store. I began talking to the checker as if she actually cared about my life. By the end of the transaction, she was convinced that my ego had to do with the gargantuan size of the Charlie Brown balloon in the Macey’s Thanksgiving Day parade. I had proceeded to tell her how about my job, how I suppose the troops, how my father tends to be a bit bull-headed, and how I did not particularly care for bananas. I guess that when I feel uncomfortable, I tend to spew out words and sentences that are not causally connected. Hopefully, she will never be a client. I will not even take out my garbage on a regular basis. I don’t floss everyday. I ignore warning labels. I drive through yellow lights. One time I actually got my head stuck between a beam and a wall. How am I to ameliorate my everyday life with being an attorney? People will be trusting me with their lives. I can’t even figure out how to use the magnet strip on my credit card work. Somewhere, I keep thinking that something will click. Somehow, the way that I am supposed to be will find its way into the universe, and I will be worthy… but “we’re not worthy”.

I just graduated undergrad where chugging a Nutty Light in 10 Seconds was equivalent to writing the next verse in the Bible. While the weather teases us with its eulogous beams of light and the occasional warm wind, I am willing time to stop. I would rather not spend time to decipher my professor’s cryptic explanations rather than actually being responsible. Mastering the restatements is more preferable than to try to figure out how to have a company two-hundred thousand dollars or trying to acquit a seemingly innocent man of statutory rape. The last time I had to be emotionally for the real world, especially that a mechanic loses his fingerprinting, who devote their lives to describing needless products without losing their unique capabilities and features of the product? Those who find satisfying. The last time I had to be satisfying should become law professors (and or be excited about the book, on CD) George Washington that I can listen to while working out. I’ll be one of those people watching “Hills, sucked-into-caring about who is cheating on whose boyfriend instead of contemplating the great mysteries or indulging in perhaps the most valuable part of life – beautiful music. I remain optimistic. I’m just a little burnt right now.

After the exam, it came back. I watch Jeopardy! again instead of playing Nintendo games on my computer. “Hope springs eternal in the human breast,” Alex. Under Pope once said. Hey, I’ve already started busting out the poetical references, maybe I’m back on track.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR
3LE’s view on 2Ls in 1L classes

I was recently reading the past articles about 2Ls in 1L classes. I was thinking about my first year and the other section of 1Ls that feel even more disgruntled about GPAs and class mixes - the 1LEs. They are almost completely forgotten by the administration and sometimes even despised by the faculty. During my first year, I often heard my classmates saying how unfair it was that all the extracurricular activities, meetings, and presentations were either scheduled during our work hours or during our class time. Even the all-important “how to schedule for 2L classes” was initially scheduled during the day. (After many complaints by students, another session was set up after one of our evening classes.)

This “unfairness” did not get any better when the schedules came out. Not only were there few choices for summer classes, but the 1LEs are put at the bottom of the registration list based on the number of credits earned. This meant that most 1LEs were full by the time 1LEs were able to register. On top of that, for the fall schedule many 1LE day students registered for the evening portion of Constitutional Law rather than the day section that was on a Friday, filling up the evening section before the 1LEs could even register. Luckily, the administration opened up another summer class for evening students and turned the evening Con Law section into a massive class of over 80 to accommodate evening students. But the fact remains that 1LEs get the short end of the stick, too. Day students have the ability to register for either the day section or evening section. Evening students are pretty much stuck with whatever few options there are for evening classes - options that become even slimmer the further along we get (the most recent schedule being a perfect example for those of us entering our fourth year).

So, a 1L that complaints about a 2L in their class and proposes that 2Ls should be graded differently needs to realize that similar proposals have been made regarding day and evening students. I have heard evening students argue that day students should not be allowed in the evening classes because the day students, supposedly, destroy the curve. I don’t know if that is correct, but hearing a day student’s input in class based on their ability to read every case fifteen times and know all its intricacies (while students are hiding away in restrooms and reading in our cars in order to get the case read even once) is quite annoying. Don’t take it personally, but day students - realize that you may be just as disdained in an evening class as the 2Ls are in your 1L classes. But we all just have to get used to it.

Realize that none of the suggestions in this and the prior articles will happen. The faculty doesn’t have the time, and most of the administration may not even care. The administration is bombarded with so many complaints and suggestions that it can’t concern itself with each one. And besides, what should they do? Separate classes by day/night students, age, work experience, and so on? One of the keys of life is learning to deal with diversity, and like it or not mixing day and evening 1s and 2s is the only way to get some diversity in the classroom.

No matter how much you think that law school is generically unfair, you realize that it is just as unfair to others: day students, evening students, students living on/off campus, students planning on taking the bar in another state. My suggestion to everyone is to just suck it up and accept that law school is unfair. The sooner you do the sooner you will start concentrating on other things - like those exams coming up.

Kristin Cool - 3LE

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The Gavel OPINION

Barristers have a ‘ball’ at Window’s on the River

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by the time dinner was over, SBA President Nick Hamma had a number of awards to hand out. Professor Chris Sagers was once again voted Faculty Member of the Year, while Jessica Mathewson was voted Staff Member of the Year, breaking Israel Payton’s streak. In addition, Colleen Cassidy won the Stephen J. Werber Award, the prestigious distinction offered to a student of high collegial integrity. The SBA also offered three new Student Leadership Scholarships to deserving students who demonstrated a commitment to leadership and service. The three $1,000.00 scholarships were given to The Gavel’s own Shahn Romer, Kathryn McFadden and Laura Perme. And, of course, Rod Mastandrea won the “Best Dressed” distinction.

After the formalities ended the party began. The DJ was particularly engaging and interactive. He was even successful in getting Dean Meamens to participate in a “musical chairs” type of game (he ultimately lost) that ended with a few belts on tore. The crowd loved the music. At one point there was even a limbo line.

The general consensus was that this Barrister’s Ball was the best in recent memory. The only complaint throughout the night was that some of the drinks were too strong. “Hey, if that’s the only complaint, I can deal with that,” said Greg Gentile.

With all of us so used to the structure and professionalism of being at school its no wonder that Barrister’s Ball 2008 will be a night long-remembered as one of those rare times that we let ourselves go and relax.

---C-M students attend Barrister’s Ball. The night started with dinner followed by a brief awards presentation. The rest of the night was spent on the dance floor.---

Students should have a choice: RTA u-pass fee is unfair

By Klaus Luhta

GAVEL CONTRIBUTOR

If you followed the news this past October, you heard the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) earned an award for the “best large transit agency in North America” from the American Public Transportation Association. Considering the outstanding mass transit options available in cities across the continent, this award brings prestige to Cleveland.

The RTA may be succeeding nationally, but at home, particularly at CSU, the agency has some problems. A growing number of students question why they are forced to purchase a $25 “U-Pass” from RTA every semester that many never use. Students are concerned that they are unwillingly subsidizing this agency.

To ease parking congestion in 2001, the CSU student government adopted a provision establishing the U-Pass on a trial basis at a rate of $15 per semester. The program mimicked an established arrangement between RTA and Case Western Reserve University. Students carrying the U-Pass sticker could ride any RTA route without restriction. The program was deemed a success, and in 2005 the rate increased to $25 dollars per semester.

The cost to students clearly is not the issue. If the U-Pass program did not exist, students who travel on the system would be required to pay the same $63 monthly RTA fee available to university employees. For a student body that is largely commuter-based, this is a huge savings, so the argument goes.

The problem lies in the lack of choice given to students. Ask around and you will find more students who do not use the U-Pass on a daily basis than those who do. And those students who do not are not given the option to opt out. As a result, students who do not use RTA essentially subsidize the students who do. Upon inquiry, RTA failed to provide revenue statistics as they relate to the U-Pass program. The CSU bursar’s office also failed to respond to inquiries.

RTA’s stance is that if everyone does not participate, it is not cost effective for the agency to provide U-Pass to the few. This makes little sense. Whether U-Pass as a program exists or not, RTA buses, trains, and trolleys will still traverse the Euclid corridor, downtown Cleveland, and outlying areas. RTA incurs no additional cost by participating in the U-Pass program since its routes and operational costs are fixed. However, RTA does receive a great benefit from the program. Let’s say 10,000 CSU students pay the $25 per semester. That amounts to an annual $500,000 tax against CSU students that goes right into the RTA coffers.

Without U-Pass, it is argued that RTA could not maintain the level of transporta- tion service it currently provides. Even if true, does this make the program fair? How can RTA and CSU rationalize subjecting individual students to an arbitrary charge for an often unutilized service that is not only unreasonable, it is un-American. What will be next? Charging students account to fund prestigious organizations they do not belong to?

Giving students a choice in the matter would solve the problem. But that choice is neither available nor apparently up for debate. So whether you see your manda- tory U-Pass charge as a subsidy for the students who ride RTA or as an illegal tax on the CSU student body as a whole, it is evident RTA is taking us for a ride.
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