Smashing the language barrier
Making English the official U.S. language would do more good than harm, says 3L David Hitsman.
OPINION, PAGE 6

Did you vote?
A complete list of Student Bar Association election winners winds up the season of campaign posters and mailbox candy.
LAW, PAGE 4

Latrine wisdom
3L Damon Taylor spent his spring break building latrines in El Salvador. We asked him to share his insights from the trip.
LAW, PAGE 2

Video dazzles, recalls C-M's pioneering female grads
By Ann Vaughn
STAFF WRITER
Defying one's father to attend law school. The granddaughter of a slave becoming the first woman admitted to the Cleveland State Bar Association.

These were only two of the stories of Cleveland-Marshall's first 100 women graduates told on March 30, at the "Remember the Ladies" Celebration. A magnificent video, produced by Susan Yarb Petersen '97, featured Edna Shalala, professor Jane Picker, and Dr. Bernice Miller, among others, as the history of women at C-M was reviewed.

One of the remarkable first 100 women, former Judge Jean Capers '45, who occasionally is spotted researching in the library,regaunted current students with her joy in everyone's accomplishment, both in the video and at the reception.

Special guests included the graduates' relatives or "legacy families" and more than 40 C-M alumnae judges.

CSU extends 1L's sanctions
Suspended until fall 2001 for conduct code violations, Sargent plans appeal
By Kevin Butler
STAFF EDITOR
First-year student Scott Sargent was suspended from classes April 14, after members of Cleveland State's Judicial Board found he violated student handbook provisions barring the disruption of classes and the harassment of students.

In a letter to Sargent from President Claire Van Uumersen, the CSU administrator who oversees student conduct matters, Hinton-Hannah said President Claire Van Uumersen will now decide whether to impose the recommended sanction against him - suspension until December of this year, with no possibility to reenter law school until fall 2001.

In all likelihood, Van Uumersen will uphold the suspension. On March 2 she formally charged Sargent on the advice of Associate Dean Frederic White for violating three provisions of the student handbook. University police escorted him from the law building that day, and he has not returned to classes since.

After a March 30 hearing, the judicial board found that Sargent violated two sections of the handbook - disruption of class and harassment of students - with his behavior in professor Linda Ammons' legislation course this semester. The board exonerated Sargent on a third charge of threatened infliction of bodily harm.

According to White, evidence considered against Sargent
See SARGENT, page 4

New tutors aim to refine students' writing skills
By Lucy Curry
CONTRIBUTING WRITER
Out of the growing concern that Cleveland-Marshall students have substandard writing skills, the legal writing program is in the process of a transformation.

Analysis
One recent development has met with much success: the formalized legal writing tutorial program.

This program benefits the overworked legal writing faculty because tutors can serve as filters or a support system for students and lessen the volume of questions and the steady flow of students who scramble for appointments with professors at the last minute when major assignments are due. The tutors hold regular office hours and help students prepare for exams and other classwork.

Mentors must play roles of friend and supporter to boost students' legal writing prowess

They have computer access to help alleviate legal research aggravations.

Tutors provide students with an alternative to meeting with their instructors, but more importantly, they can play different roles. Tutors give first-year students emotional support, friendship, advice and individualized attention.

Moreover, having recently completed the first-year course themselves, the tutors have a very different perspective and can vividly recall and hopefully enhance that learning process.

As a result, tutors are able to offer credible assurances that legal writing is a "learnable" skill that merely requires practice, diligence and attention to detail. Hopefully the program is here to stay.

Curry, a 2L, is a legal writing tutor.

Supreme Court to decide on Texas law permitting prayer in school athletics
By Linda Griffin
STAFF EDITOR
The movement for student-led prayer in public schools is again an issue for the U.S. Supreme Court.

The March 29 arguments in Santa Fe Independent School District v. Doe marked the first time since 1992 that the Court considered the constitutionality of school-sponsored prayer. At issue is a Texas school board's policy permitting students to elect someone to deliver an invocation, a prayer or other solemn message at football games.

Jay Schaloske, chief counsel for the American Center for Law and Justice, argued for the school district. Both Anthony Griffin, attorney for the respondents, and John Cornyn defended the students' First Amendment rights.

Griffin contended that religion is a matter of individual conscience and not subject to a majority vote. Cornyn emphasized the neutrality of the school board's policy toward prayer and religion.

The Supreme Court is expected to hand down its decision in June.
In my mid-20s, in my last semester of law school, I’m on the way to build nine latrines in two rural, not-even-on-the-map communities in El Salvador — El Panel and El Carmen. Half a decade ago I was on a similar trip to Panama City to assist in the rebuilding of bombarded-out communities. I can’t help but ask myself how much of me has changed these past years? Has my experience in law school transformed me? For the better, or for the worse? More appropriately, have I allowed law school to alter my being from one who was once angered by injustice and impassioned by hopeful visions for what the world could be to one focused on material gain and the selfish struggle to gain power?

In the twilight of my law school career, I confront two paths — one leading to private enterprise, the other to public service. Are these mutually exclusive? Are these the only options for me, for my law school colleagues?

Along with one college professor, 11 college-aged students and one newspaper editor, I traveled to rural El Salvador in an effort to reach across borders to aid in the monumental task of building the foundation for long-term, sustainable living and to create a bond between two worlds.

Our hosts in El Salvador were the Salvadoran Association for Rural Health, or ASAPROSAR. The brainchild of Dr. Vicki Guzman, ASAPROSAR is an organization rooted in the warm hearts, callused hands and pragmatic minds of the rural poor who make up much of what is considered the Salvadoran populace.

At the base, the organization believes in the wisdom of the people with whom they work. From developing health care to advocating micro-credit programs to protecting child laborers in the marketplace, ASAPROSAR plays a historic role in the country’s genesis. In 1992 El Salvador witnessed the conclusion of its brutal 12-year civil war which left the country with 50 percent of its population below the age of 19. Now it has become a nation where its people overwhelmingly possess a great hope and vision for their future.

A few facts on El Salvador:

- It’s comparable in size to the state of Massachusetts.
- The country has 14 administrative divisions; each administered by a governor and a mayor. The country is situated on a stunning volcanic plane which lays claim to the tallest volcanic structures in Central America.
- The two communities where much of my time was spent are made up of 475 families scattered throughout the arid and rough countryside. Many of these people rent land to grow produce. Normally, they have a 30-month lease with the landowner. More often than not, the farmer must provide enough corn, beans and cattle feed to sustain their own families, and still give a portion to the landowner. All this is done despite the Northwest region of their country lacking even one potable water source. This means that the farmer is rarely able to get ahead, often faltering under the stress of overcoming the daily trials of poverty.

In unlikely ‘temples’ deep in the heart of El Salvador, 3L Damon Taylor finds an inner balance — brick by brick

The job: building stable toilets in El Salvador

THE LATRINES WERE ROUGHLY 11 FEET DEEP and four feet wide. When digging the holes, we used only a 40-pound spade, a pick and shovel. A skilled mason then installed an inner silo structure. Soon after, we constructed a solid base consisting of either concrete or a rock-dirt mixture. This was covered with a pre-fabricated concrete pad which had a hole cut out of the middle.

We built a square, red-brick structure on top of the foundation. Then we constructed a wooden door frame with roughly cut wood and strips of tin and attached it to the brick building. The last component was the roof, a heavily corrugated piece of metal that was laid atop the latrine and marked completion of the project. — D.T.
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Students elect SBA officers, senate for upcoming year

**GAVEL STAFF**

**Election results for the 2000-01 Student Bar Association follow.**

**Officers**

President: Matthew J. Hate
Vice President Programming: Dan Mackey
Vice President Budgeting: Jim Stephenson
Treasurer: Newton Cargill

**Senators**

2L Day
- Michelle Conoud
- Tom Green
- Meghan Graves
- Chris Zirke

2L Evening
- Denise Salerno

3L Day
- Genesis Brown

RODKYN DPERO
Anna Ferguson
Adan Van Ho
3L Evening
Roger Bandy
Paul Petrus
4L Evening
Jeff Crossman
Andrew Fink

**Joint Degree**

Sandra English

**Senators-at Large**

Maureen Conners
Bomie Hésseley
Kelly Horitz
John Kress
Carlin Neupepe
Lea Schemler
Monica Whitson
Angela Wiggins
Renee Zaidenurs

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Mere charity won't help the homeless

By Renzi "Z" Zifferblatt

The recently held Cosgrove Fair, which provided Cleveland's homeless with free food and services, seemed worthwhile until I noticed that a majority of the fair's patrons were extremely well dressed — donning new leather jackets, pressed pants and expensive jewelry. Because I'm the center's director and asked about its policies for issuing free services. The director solemnly told me that they can't turn away a "client" because proving your homelessness can't be done. But the director picked up my subiety and confirmed my suspicion that all present were not homeless.

A young man who now works for Cosgrove passionately explained the flaws in the system. He said the homeless often walk from food banks to social service buildings collecting edibles and whatever else is available on any given day. His reply made me aware of the inept approaches to the problem used by many cities. The homeless focus on how to fill a day before bed that I can do both. Running for public office is a right that many Americans take for granted. Yet we must abide by that country's laws and norms to further a well-run society. This includes assuming certain responsibilities to facilitate and maintain basic communications. A person's heritage is not an automatic trump to this necessity.

The principles of freedom and independence, I'm sorry to say, have been vastly liberalized and convoluted. The official language issue is important because people must realize there are negative ramifications when people cannot or will not speak a nation's primary language. A police officer in pursuit of a criminal shouldn't need to wait for an interpreter to ask a non-English-speaking witness what happened at the scene of a crime. Nor should the government assume the cost (in taxpayer dollars) of translating government publications just so these same people know the laws they are supposed to follow. To me, it doesn't make sense to protect the non-English-speaking motif at society's expense.

People mistakenly believe that simple preferences of the individual are the be-all and end-all of human existence. On the contrary, mankind's laws and values lay focus on the common good. No reasonable person, scholar or politician ever advocated banning a person's cultural identity to promote the public welfare. The more rational practice prohibits people from asserting their cultural prerogatives to create obstacles for the rest of society.

Perhaps someday a universal communication will evolve. Perhaps we will become adept at conversing in all languages and cultures. But that can happen only if people stop using heritage preferences as an excuse for not contributing to communication and unity.

For the time being, a uniform standard of English communication in America is paramount, and it is a feasible step toward the goal of universal communication. Knowing English furthers this aim and benefits everyone. And, as far as I know, knowledge and education never an imposition on anyone.

Zifferblatt is a 3L.

It's a tough sell, but all Americans would be better served by making English the national language

By Gordon Short

It's a tough sell, but all Americans would be better served by making English the national language and convoluted. The official language issue is important because people must realize there are negative ramifications when people cannot or will not speak a nation's primary language. A police officer in pursuit of a criminal shouldn't need to wait for an interpreter to ask a non-English-speaking witness what happened at the scene of a crime. Nor should the government assume the cost (in taxpayer dollars) of translating government publications just so these same people know the laws they are supposed to follow. To me, it doesn't make sense to protect the non-English-speaking motif at society's expense.

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Zifferblatt is a 3L.
Chomsky missed historically

As a First Amendment fan, it was a privilege to hear Noam Chomsky, an M.I.T. linguistics professor, voice his opinions. Yet I was puzzled that the lecture was sponsored by C.O.A.R.E. because such anti-American, anti-Western and anti-Israeli demagoguery seemed better suited for an undergraduate audience.

Equally surprising is that my colleagues are generally unaware of Chomsky’s peculiar historical remarks.

In a foreword to a collection of his non-Nato books, Chomsky wrote that the Holocaust "never took place"; Hitler never ordered the Final Solution; Anne Frank’s diary is a forgery; and Hitler’s gas chambers never existed.

Chomsky defended the author’s findings as based on historical research.

To my friend and all potential fans, it was a privilege to meet Chomsky’s brilliant man, perhaps he should stick to linguistics, not history.

Robert S. Yellick
Yellick is 1A.

Chomsky misses historically

Why they flee the Dark Side of the Force

One of my friends, a devout liberal, is considering becoming a conservative. Apparently he found himself — to his own disbelief — pushing the conservative line in a class. The class discussed whether localities should determine their own standards in law without intrusion from the federal government. My friend believed that localities should. He believes that people can take care of themselves without the constraints of the economic foundation. He is a conservative.

Matthew Lombardy

Making the change from liberal to conservative is like coming of age — a process called growing up.

I know this description of liberal is unknown, but then, again, when have I ever been kind in my description of the Dark Side of the Force? The liberal system of beliefs absolutely defies economic logic to believe that confiscating prosperity. This is a rational move.

Chomsky explained that the elite choose to kill or jail those who don’t conform. Secondly, Chomsky explained that the elite choose to kill or jail those who don’t conform.

The transformation arrives at its logical conclusion, welcome aboard!

Noam Chomsky

Mail Paul

The Gavel - Opinion

April 2000

71. Many

The Gavel - Sidebar

April 2000

Answers

6. — the pearly gates
7. What the world looked like to Little Red
8. 106 in old Rona
9. Remove air from
10. See 43A
11. Radio wavelengths
12. Hockey position
13. Promisory but not res
14. Joints together
15. Fountain — or — cheese
16. Virtue by Cicero
17. Holds up 4D
18. Never do this in class
19. A body of representatives
20. Tricks on thin ice
21. Am. Law Inst. for short
22. Staff of
23. District Atty. abbr.
24. Joins together
25. A covering with lashes
26. A body of representatives
27. Patty Broadcasting abbr.
28. Ornamental pattern
29. Bills making it through Congress
30. — Bell & — Island
31. Symbol of freedom:
32. Symbol of freedom:
33. Between Small and Large
34. Radio wavelengths
35. A covering with lashes
36. Staff of
37. What the wolf looked like
38. Siddhartha’s author Herman
39. A foreword to a
40. — the pearly gates
41. A covering with lashes
42. Staff of
43. A foreword to a
44. See 38A
45. Symbols of freedom:
46. Tricks on thin ice
47. Between Small and Large
48. Between Small and Large
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71. Many
72. Ability
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78. — the pearly gates
79. — the pearly gates
80. — the pearly gates
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