

Grade delays cause concern



An earlier spring semester caused students to start class without having fall grades. The Gavel talks with the administration about student concerns and possible solutions.

LAW, PAGE 3

Alumni take on outdoor sports



Two Gavel alumni have included water adventure sports in their professional lives. The Gavel learns about their alternative experiences and adventures on the Great Lakes.

CAREER, PAGE 4

Student opposes smoking ban

The new smoking ban took effect in early December. In a letter to the editor, one C-M student sounds off on why this law is unconstitutional and should be disobeyed.



OPINION, PAGE 6



THE GAVEL

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THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT CLEVELAND-MARSHALL COLLEGE OF LAW

Justice Scalia speaks to clinic crowd

By Paul Deegan
STAFF WRITER

Do you harbor dreams of one day sitting on the Supreme Court? If so, "good luck" Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court Antonin Scalia told the audience at the Cleveland Clinic's Inter-Continental Hotel on January 10, 2007.

Justice Scalia, famous for his sharp wit and sharper pen, held the rapt attention of the capacity crowd as he spoke on the importance of tradition; the dangers of relying on foreign law or practice when interpreting the Constitution; the Supreme Court's declining case load; and the risks of the Senate's judicial confirmation process falling victim to the harmful liberal versus conservative lexicon of American politics.

Cleveland-Marshall College of Law's Dean Geoffrey Mearns and Case Western University School of

See SCALIA page 2

C-M offers advocacy opportunities

By Emily Honsa
STAFF WRITER

C-M's moot court and trial team are excellent opportunities to get practical experience in a competitive environment.

Becoming a member of either team, however, is not so easy.

To join C-M's trial team, sponsored and coached by Reminger and Reminger, Co., L.P.A., students are asked to prepare either an opening argument or closing statement based on a hypothetical case and deliver either statement in front of a panel of judges composed of previous team members and practicing litigators.

Eight members are chosen to participate on the team, and practices require a large commitment of time and energy, said Laura Frament, a trial team member.

Practices are held all day Saturday and Sunday during the semester and require outside preparation, Frament added. Because of the time commitment, Frament advises interested students to be



Photo by Bradley Barman, Trial Team Coach and Associate Attorney at Reminger & Reminger Co., L.P.A.

Trial team members (from left to right) Karrie Howard, Joseph Orlando, Margan Keramati, Laura Frament, Fred Papalardo, Adam Davis, Dave Valent and Justin Gould prepare for regional competition.

realistic.

"During law school, we only have a finite amount of time to participate in organizations and activities outside the classroom," said Frament. "It would be better for a new student to already know

that litigation is the arena of law that they would like to be in."

Frament also noted that if a student is granted a place on the team and does not put in equal effort, then the team can suffer.

Trial team competitions in-

volve going through the entire process of an actual trial - from opening statements to closing arguments.

The team occasionally participates in scrimmages, which allow them to test their skills against

See STUDENTS page 3

C-M searches for new professors

By Joanna Evans
STAFF WRITER

The faculty appointments committee is engaged in serious negotiations with two faculty candidates and is close to filling vacancies that were created by the retirement of professor Stephen J. Werber and the departure of Dean Linda Ammons.

The committee screened hundreds of resumes that were submitted en masse through the American Association of Law Schools.

Candidates who did well in the half-hour screening interviews were then invited to participate in a full day of interviews with other faculty members and students.

"We brought in an unprecedented number of candidates and the amount of work was just breathtaking," said professor Jim Wilson, chair of the faculty appointments committee.

The consideration of lateral

candidates, people who are already teaching in the industry, was a new approach for C-M. Other law schools had been successful with this approach in the past.

"I think that it will help our academic reputation and standing if we now started going out and finding good people. By doing this, we are saying that we are competitive and that we're no longer at the bottom of the food chain," Wilson said.

In selecting the candidates who would go on to half-hour screening interviews, the committee considered a wide variety of factors in order to maintain the rich, diverse, multicultural environment that is C-M.

"In the faculty hiring process, we want to ensure that the faculty is reflective of the community that we serve, not only in gender, not only in academic areas, but also in race, ethnicity, and in terms of

ideological perspectives," Dean Geoffrey Mearns said.

"We want to make sure that as many different perspectives as possible are brought into the faculty community and therefore the classroom," Mearns said.

Professor Bryan Ray, who recently joined C-M's faculty in 2006, indicated that it was this rich and diverse faculty environment that attracted him to C-M.

"C-M has a really interesting and well-respected mix of faculty doing different things in different fields, and diversity was important to me," Ray said.

Faculty members were very much engaged in the process, and students are often asked to become involved but sometimes find difficulty in doing so, Wilson said.

"I understand why students can't make it. There's often not

See HIRING page 3



Substance Abuse Seminars

If you are planning on taking the Ohio Bar Exam in July 2007, then you must complete one hour of substance abuse instruction. The seminar includes causes, prevention, detection and treatment alternatives for substance abuse. C-M is sponsoring a free seminar on March 24, 2007, which is available for Spring, Summer and Fall 2007 graduates.

Information provided by Marcie J. Rechner

Law faculty makes plans for C-M's future

By Geoffrey Mearns

Last year, the law faculty and administration engaged in some strategic planning. During that process, we received input from our students, our alumni, and some community leaders. As a result of that process, we articulated six ways in which the law school wanted to improve in order to fulfill our institutional mission.



The Dean's Column

Although that process was valuable, the strategic plan we produced last year was not complete in two important respects.

First, we did not prioritize our goals. Second, we did not articulate specific tactics that we would need to implement in order to accomplish those goals.

During this current academic year, we are engaged in a collaborative process that will address these two deficiencies. That process began last Fall with a session to review and, if necessary, revise our strategic goals. During that session, we also ranked those goals in order of their institutional priority.

We are presently having a series of planning sessions devoted to each of the strategic goals. The purpose of these sessions is to identify the specific tactics we need to implement in order to attain the strategic goal.

At this stage in the process, the plan includes six strategic goals. They are listed here in order of priority, but they are all important.

1. We will continue to improve our graduates' first-time bar passage rate on the Ohio State Bar Exam.

2. We will enhance the quality of and attain a more diverse student body, and we will expand the professional opportunities available to them.

3. We will improve the scholarly productivity and reputation of our faculty.

4. We will develop a signature program or a small number of "centers of excellence" at the law school.

5. We will strengthen our curriculum and expand our teaching strategies to maximize the educational experience for our students in order to prepare them to practice law in the 21st century.

6. We will expand our long-standing commitment to public service.

When it is complete, this plan will guide the direction and administration of the law school for the next five years.

Accordingly, we have selected strategic goals that are capable of being achieved within that time frame. In that regard, we set six goals, so that we can focus our efforts and resources on the most important objectives.

I share this information with you for two principal reasons.

First, I want you to know that the faculty and the administration are actively engaged in a planning process that will extend this law school's legacy of excellence and opportunity. We are quite proud of what our faculty, our graduates, and our students have achieved. Indeed, the recent bar results demonstrate that when we make a concerted community commitment to solve a problem we can achieve a common goal. But in order to maintain and expand our impact and our reputation, we must improve in many other respects too.

Second, we want your input. If you have thoughts about these goals or suggestions for specific tactics that can help us achieve them, please speak to me, or please speak with any member of our faculty or administration.

I look forward to your input. And, I look forward to working with you to make this very good law school even better.

One year later: 1Ls endure extra class

By Brenda Hruska

STAFF WRITER

The six-class requirement for second-semester 1Ls implemented in the 2006 spring semester continues for current 1Ls. A three-credit criminal law class is added while torts, property, and contracts drop to two-credit hours, and legal writing and civil procedure remain at three-credit hours.

Karoline Butler, 2L, who was in the first class to experience the change, said she pulled all-nighters just to get reading done, which she didn't have to do first semester. Criminal Law also got placed on the back burner, Butler said.

"You have that background in those other five classes already, and criminal law was so new so everyone let it slide a little," Butler said.

Butler, as well as current 1Ls, express concern over finals. Finals were a nightmare last year because each final was about 36 hours apart, Butler added.

Current 1L Mark Toskey is already concerned about finals. Finals are scheduled for Monday, Wednesday and Friday of the same week, Toskey said. "There is no doubt [that finals week] is going to have a lot of people worn out."

"Although it's supposedly the same amount of time each week spent in class, it sure seems like more," Toskey said.

He attributes that to the fact that there is no longer a break between his morning and afternoon classes. He has

also noticed that the two-credit classes aren't any less work than they were last semester.

"Professors seem to be speeding up class, making it more of a lecture, to fit 75 minutes worth of information into 50 minutes," Toskey said. Toskey added that he now brings an extra nickel for the parking meter in anticipation of his professors ending class late.

Academic Excellence Program Manager Daniel Dropko said second semester students are better equipped to handle the class. "Almost all have learned to read more efficiently, and almost all are better law students," Dropko said.

Despite his confidence in the students' ability to handle the work, there will always be a small number of law students exhausted by the work load and burdened by the extra class, Dropko said. He advises that within the first few weeks of having to take an additional class, students should get a sense of what really needs to be known and should focus on it.

"Realize there's a lot you don't need to know," Dropko said.

Though not a well-known option among 1Ls, some students have decided to put off taking the sixth class.

Though 1Ls were told to take the sixth class unless their first semester grade point average was less than 2.6, Gittle Chaiko chose not to enroll despite the fact that her grade point average first semester was above that threshold.

"I figure a higher GPA would be more beneficial," said Chaiko, who said she needed high grades to keep a scholarship.

Though she plans to take summer classes and doesn't think this will hinder her, she may be at a disadvantage next year when she will have to enroll in criminal law and other students will have already completed the course, Chaiko said.

Despite widespread stress, there is still a sense of optimism among some students about taking the class. Toskey is "pretty fired up" about the extra class. "But, if everyone else can do it, so can I," said Toskey.

Tony Hoehler, 1LE, who works forty hours a week and has given up a couple hours of sleep a night to now take four classes, said he's laid back and doesn't let the stress get to him.

"I think the real important thing is working out and doing something active and get your mind off of it," he said. "Go run. Do something."

Though not a well-known option among 1Ls, some students have decided to put off taking the sixth class.

Scalia: discusses today's court

Continued from page 1--

Law's Dean Gary J. Simson moderated the event.

Justice Scalia refers to himself as an originalist. When interpreting the Constitution, he looks to the meaning of its words at the time they were written. Scalia finds that meaning by looking to tradition, among other factors.

Simson challenged that interpretive theory by asking Scalia whether it becomes difficult for the Court to justify its decision in 1954 to strike down segregated schools under the Equal Protection Clause if tradition is entitled to great interpretive weight.

Scalia responded by clarifying that tradition is not controlling if the language of the Constitution is clear and unambiguous. With regard to *Brown v. Board of Ed.*, the 14th Amendment clearly prohibited segregated schools, Justice Scalia said.

Mearns addressed the increasingly contentious judicial nomination process and asked Scalia for his views on the trend and whether it could be reversed. Scalia fondly recalled that he was approved 98-0 in 1986 and acknowledged the vote would certainly be different today. He expressed concern that the best and brightest among us may become reluctant to subject themselves to such scrutiny and controversy. He also suggested that labels such as conservative or liberal are inaccurate with respect to Justices, and he gave examples where his opinions were anything but conservative. Ultimately, Scalia believes the trend will reverse itself naturally, but he hopes it happens sooner rather than later.

In response to a question posed by Simson, Justice Scalia lambasted the Court's majority for relying on foreign law and practice in recent opinions. Scalia argued that the United States is autonomous and bound only by its own laws and traditions. He also expressed concern that lawyers could find precedent for just about anything if they looked to enough countries.

Mearns also asked Scalia for his thoughts on whether the trend to reduce the number of cases that the Court has accepted in recent terms will continue and whether it affects the administration of justice.

Scalia said that there is a limit to the number of cases the Justices can consider, but that perhaps one hundred cases was a realistic number. In recent terms, the Court has accepted between seventy and eighty cases. He explained that the process for accepting cases has not changed and that the number will go up when more Justices agree to accept them.

Following the "conversation," Scalia fielded questions from the audience. Most notably, a law student at Case from outside Ohio asked Scalia for his opinion on practicing law in Cleveland. In response, Scalia reminisced about his days as a junior associate at Jones Day and said that he cherishes his memories from Cleveland, and he recommended Cleveland as a great place to begin a law career.

Justice Scalia was nominated by President Ronald Reagan in 1986 and is the first Italian-American on the U.S. Supreme Court.

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Students, administration deal with grading delay

By Kevin Shannon

STAFF WRITER

The first week of this semester, students could be overheard asking each other one question: Did you get your grade in Professor X's class yet? The fact that this semester began a week earlier than spring semester last year had the unfortunate effect of students starting classes without receiving some, or in some cases all, of their grades from the previous semester. This was a common complaint among students during the first few weeks of this term.

According to SBA President Scott Kuboff and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Phyllis Crocker, the reason for grades being delayed was the shortened Christmas break, and the spring semester starting a week earlier this year.

The decision to start the semester a week early was made to give C-M students a chance to take the six-day Preliminary Multistate Bar Review ("PMBR") course, Kuboff said.

The course prepares students for the MBE or multi-state portion of the bar exam. In the past, C-M students have been precluded from taking this test because it

was offered during the second week of final exams. With the early start to the semester, C-M students may now take PMBR, however they also must accept the fact that grades will be delayed.

According to Kuboff, the benefits of the schedule change, which allow students to attend PMBR, outweighs the grading problems.

The change is in everyone's best interests, and first and second-year students will appreciate the benefits once they begin to prepare for the bar exam, Kuboff said.

"You can have all the grades in the world posted timely, but [grades] do not mean a thing unless you pass the bar exam," Kuboff added.

He also acknowledged several complaints that SBA had received from the student body but noted that all the complaints had come from first and second-year students.

The SBA is taking the complaints seriously, but students must exercise some patience and realize that grading exams does take time, Kuboff said. He also noted that the faculty and administration are doing everything they can to address the concerns

of students.

According to Crocker, who oversees the grading process to make sure professors' grades fit within the school's grading curve guidelines, each professor has 21 days depending on which week the exam was administered to submit grades. If a professor has not submitted the grades by the deadline, Crocker and the student records officer follow up with the professor and do everything they can to expedite the process, Crocker said.

When alerted to the fact that some students had received grades after the semester began despite their professors turning the grades in much sooner, Crocker explained that there is a strict time period established by Cleveland State University in which grades can be posted to CampusNet.

In anticipation of the early start to spring semester and problems that may arise with the grading period, Crocker said she contacted associate deans at other law schools to determine whether shortening the grading period for professors might be an option. According to Crocker, C-M's grading period is actually pretty short compared to other schools.

Three weeks seemed like the minimum time necessary to ensure that professors could grade their exams without changing the types of exams that professors could administer, Crocker said. She explained that the school did not want to dictate the type of exam a professor could give, and all she could do was press upon the faculty the need to get grades in on time.

Crocker acknowledged how tough it is for students to start a new semester without receiving grades in every course especially for first-year students who start the second half of a course without knowing whether he or she actually passed the first semester.

When asked if she had considered forcing professors of two semester courses to submit their grades soon enough to post them before the semester began, she stated that she had considered it.

Crocker explained that in theory it is a good idea; however, it would mean that all first-year courses would have to be tested during the first week of exam period.

Despite Dean Crocker's sympathy for the student body's concerns, she made it clear that she did not anticipate any change in the grading period.

New entrance models



Renderings provided by Collins Gordon Bostwick Architects



April 2007: Preparation work for new entrance set to begin. The areas that will be affected include some student offices and the Dean's suite.

May 2007: Major construction work will begin after finals to the new entrance, repositioning of the inner link walkway, and construction of new CSU classrooms along current inner link walkway. The areas that will be affected also include clinic offices and

the small classrooms above the Dean's suite.

August 2007: Construction will conclude on the university classrooms and the repositioning of the inner link.

December 2007: All construction will conclude.

*Information provided by Victoria Plata and is subject to change.

Students: Gain practical experience

Continued from page 1--

opponents.

To new team members, the scrimmages can be an eye-opener. Techniques the opposition uses can be surprising and often take the opposition by surprise.

Trial team members are currently preparing for the American Association for Justice's regional competition in Columbus, Ohio.

To become a member of the moot court team, 1L students must submit their final legal writing assignment to the moot court board of governors.

Finalists are chosen based on their briefs and must then make an oral argument. Members are then chosen based on their combined written and oral advocacy scores.

Second-year students are also able to compete for admission to the team. They must be enrolled

or have completed advanced brief writing, and they must enroll in the moot court tryout course.

Participants in the course write a brief specifically for the competition and argue it in front of a panel. Second-year students are also chosen based on their combined written and oral advocacy scores.

Participation in moot court allows members to receive academic credit while gaining significant experience in research, brief writing, and arguing. There are opportunities to travel as well as for inter-scholastic competitions. Earlier this year, the team presented arguments in front of a packed audience at Moot Court night.

"It has given me an opportunity to refine my writing ability and to develop good techniques for presenting an oral argument," said Scott Kuboff, moot court team member.

Greg Jolivet, the chair of the moot court team, indicated that

the experience never fails to be a significant part of the discussion during job interviews.

At the most recent Chicago Bar Association moot court competition, a highly competitive and regionally-based tournament, C-M's teams were very successful.

The two teams, consisting of Luis Carrion, Christy Nicholls, Ladi Williams, Jennifer Gross, Samantha Seberg, and Jeff Stupp, advanced to various levels of the competition's final rounds. Jennifer Gross was awarded second place oralist.

At the national moot court competition for region VI, the team of Greg Jolivet, Kelly Means, and Karen Swanson-Haan received awards for best respondent's brief, best brief overall, and best team. Best oralist went to Karen Swanson-Haan.

Next on the Moot Court agenda is a competition in New York this spring for the National Finals.

Hiring: C-M looks to build on faculty diversity

Continued from page 1--

the world's best notice, they're all juggling schedules, and students have things going on in the afternoon. But, student participation is really important. Students are usually accurate in their assessments, particularly when it comes to the teaching aspect – whether the candidate will seem like a good person, accessible, direct, competent," Wilson said.

Mearns also stressed the importance of student involvement in the faculty hiring process.

"To the extent that students don't come to those forums, it does not send the best message to those candidates. It suggests that the students don't care, and I don't think that that's the case. I think that students very much care about the quality of the instruction and the quality of their instructors. By not participating, I think that it sends an unfortunate message," Mearns said.

"One thing we said about the students to every candidate after every interview was that last year, the students collectively raised over \$30,000 toward the Iris S. Wolstein scholarship fund. I told every candidate to show them that collectively, the students are supportive of the institution and feel good about it. All of the candidates were impressed, and to me, that message means more than whether or not some people show up for coffee and cookies in the middle of December. We are so proud of our students and so grateful to them," Wilson said.

Five candidates were brought forward by the committee as finalists. Two offers are now being negotiated with decisions anticipated to come in the next few weeks.

Advice for managing six classes

By Karen Mika

LEGAL WRITING PROFESSOR

Do you have any recommendations for first year students to be able to prioritize time given that some of us have six classes?

The entire practice of law is a high stress profession in which each day may be a struggle to get everything done while still attempting to maintain some quality of life.

Of course, as a law student, quality of life is often something that gets the least amount of priority.

Unfortunately, that's kind of the way that it has to be if you want to do well in law school and succeed in the

profession.

Legal Writing

That's not to say that you shouldn't take any time for family or hobbies,

but try very hard not to fall behind in reading because of nights out that might be a luxury.

In terms of prioritizing the work for classes, there are a couple of things that should be remembered:

1) Never fall behind.

2) Pay special attention to classes that might require extra preparation (such as a class where you know you will be called on soon).

3) Don't try to do a writing assignment in the days or hours before it is due, and

4) Try not to learn by way of marathon sleepless sessions.

The best thing to do is to set aside time for a series of classes for each day, and, like with an exam, try not to go over that time period.

It is almost impossible to retain information in law school by cramming it in. It is also almost impossible to master knowledge when you have fallen behind by a few hundred pages and are trying to catch up.

In order to be retained, knowledge must be obtained incrementally. If done in this way, there should also be at least some time left over for hobbies and a personal life.

There gets to be a certain point where the brain will not absorb any more information, and that would be the time to take a break and do something else.

That being said, the break should also be metered so that you can return to your schedule refreshed.

In terms of time management, most people who work fulltime and attend night classes seem to be best at balancing hours in a day to best achieve their goals.

This appears to be not only the motivation of these individuals, but because of the limitation of available hours and the scheduling of those hours. So, the best way to go about prioritizing while getting everything done seems to be by way of scheduling your time evenly and sticking to it.

Alumni combine law and outdoors

By Emily Honsa

STAFF WRITER

The stereotypical lawyer is uptight, a know-it-all, and argues every minute point to death.

Basically, they're dry. But, two C-M alumni defy the stereotype.

Scott Ditzenberger just might be the most relaxed-looking law alumnus you've ever seen.

You would realize why if you watched him suit up and plunge into Lake Erie with a surfboard.

In September 2006, Ditzenberger left a comfortable, although somewhat tedious, job in law doing document review to join a film team working on a documentary about his hobby- surfing.

Ditzenberger left his legal job for the same reason he decided to go law school: to get paid for his ideas.

Ditzenberger realized that he would have to devote all of his attention to the film, or it would prove to be an endless project. He found that the same consulting role played by lawyers is also present in the world of film.

His upcoming collaboration is entitled "Out of Place." The documentary was originally intended to be a sparse, visual demonstration of Lake Erie/Edgewater Park surfers.

However, his film-savvy partners decided the story had much more promise, and they decided to delve deeper into the lives of the surfers, allowing viewers to connect on a much more personal level with the film's characters, Ditzenberger said.

The New York Times recently featured Ditzenberger in an article about surfing the Great Lakes. The Travel Channel has scheduled an appointment with him for a feature, and other forms of free advertising are simply appearing out of nowhere.

And though he intends to continue working in film, he also plans to return to law in some capacity, most likely as a consultant.

But surfing will likely remain part of his life: "It's great for perspective. The stress in law can be overwhelming. Surfing allows you to put yourself in a very calm place."

C-M alumnus Jason Bristol is a partner at Cohen Rosenthal & Kramer LLP, and an adjunct professor, teaching Advanced Brief Writing, at C-M. But, he also co-owns 41° North, the largest provider of sea kayaking instruction and tours in the Midwest.

41° North trips are led by an energetic staff that all have full-time jobs elsewhere. One is a life flight nurse, another is a teacher, and another is a double amputee.

The guides are conservative with their customers, but they can relate harrowing stories of daring kayaking out on the lake with other experienced kayakers.

Bristol was drawn to forming the sea kayaking enterprise by his love of the outdoors and the sport itself – not because he believed it would be overly lucrative.

"It will never make us rich, but it is healthy and thriving," Bristol said.

41° North's birth was incidental to run-ins between Bristol and co-owner Mark Pecot.

They were both frequently asked about the basics of Lake Erie kayaking and soon came to the conclusion that it was a growing and untapped market, Bristol said.

The two first submitted their idea to a "business plan" competition. Although the plan did not win, Pecot and Bristol decided to implement the plan regardless of their success in the competition.

Starting with ten boats and a trailer and de-

pending upon friends for cars with hitches, 41° North now boasts a fleet of close to 50 boats and was rated "Best of Cleveland" in

October 2006 by Cleveland Magazine.

"It's good to have something else in your life that you can draw from," Bristol said.

It's a value he's had at least since his years as a full-time student at C-M. Bristol kept active and sane with a daily run, which was always finished with a trek up Murray Hill.

The first type of law Bristol considered practicing was environmental law, but he soon realized that he had a stronger affinity for litigation.

He now works at a small boutique firm with four other attorneys, primarily litigating complex civil matters and class actions.

Bristol's Advanced Brief Writing course at C-M has consistently received positive evaluations.

The student that completes the best key exercise is rewarded with a complementary sunset Lake Erie kayak tour.

He also advises the C-M Moot Court program and was a recipient of the Moot Court Alumni Award for 2003-2004.

"The law is one of the most difficult professions with tremendous time requirements and pressure," said Bristol. "It's essential to have a healthy balance."

Information about course and trip offerings can be found at <http://www.kayak41north.com>.



Mark Pecot co-owns 41° North with C-M alumnus and professor Jason Bristol.



Photos provided by Jason Bristol

The CSU Recreation Graduate Program participate in a 3-day intensive course with 41° North in the Erie Islands during the summer of 2005.

THE GAVEL

We are always accepting submissions.
If you are interested in contributing to the Gavel,
e-mail the editors at
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Come Join Us!

The Political Broadside

How do free trade agreements affect Ohio?



By Bradley Hull

CONSERVATIVE GAVEL COLUMNIST

Current U.S. FTAs substantially benefit Ohio. Milton Friedman, the 20th Century's most highly respected economist, once said "[for over 200 years] there has been virtual unanimity among economists...that international free trade is in the best interests of trading countries and of the world". All credible economic data supports Friedman's statement.

As will be shown, in Ohio in 2002, nearly 200,000 high-paying, stable manufacturing jobs depended on exporting, and foreign companies employed approximately 200,000 workers, while international trade directly caused only 13,093

manufacturing job losses.

In the NAFTA era, which began in 1994, Ohio manufacturers' dependence on exporting far outweighs the job losses they endure from increased foreign imports. In 2002, Census Bureau data showed that 20.5 percent of the jobs of all Ohio's roughly 900,000 manufacturing workers depended on exporting. By contrast, of those 191,000 manufacturing jobs lost from 1999-2003, a smaller percentage, 18.2, were directly traceable to international trade, as conceded by left-leaning Policy Matters Ohio. Further, one would expect manufacturers' exporting dependence to continue to rise, as even in a mostly pre-NAFTA Ohio, the state's share of export-related manufacturing jobs increased from 31.6 percent to 38.5 percent from 1991-1994, as found by BLS data.

By opening foreign markets to exports, current U.S. FTAs greatly aid Ohio manufacturers. The Buckeye State's 28 percent increase in export shipments of merchandise from 2001-2005 was the fifth largest of all U.S. states. Ohio's 2005 \$34.8 billion total ranked seventh largest. Though the Census Bureau allocates exports to states based on their "transportation origin" in making this determination, its conclusions demonstrate both Ohio's booming export and transportation industries.

Export-related jobs, in addition to enjoying greater stability in a globalizing economy, are high-paying. Jobs that depend on trade generally pay 13 percent to 18 percent more than the average U.S. wage, according to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. Given these benefits, future federal legislation aimed at creating quality jobs for Americans should attempt to expand and open global markets for U.S. manufacturers.

Ohioans greatly benefit from "in-sourcing". Lured by American openness to international trade, Bureau of Economic Analysis data shows that foreign-controlled companies employed 203,600 workers in Ohio in 2004. This included 95,000 in the manufacturing sector, or 11.5 percent of its total workforce. Honda alone employed over 16,000 Ohioans in 2004. Restriction of current U.S. FTAs would jeopardize these jobs, regardless of whether the employers are headquartered in a U.S. FTA partner nation, by implying newfound U.S. hostility to foreign companies and dollars.

Further, FTAs' global benefits inure to Ohio. Both economist Solomon Polachek and a Columbia University study recently found that free trade substantially reduces global violence. Further, world leaders from Kofi Annan to President Bush have noted that free trade greatly reduces global poverty. Thus, due to FTAs fewer Ohioans are killed in war, and fewer Ohio tax dollars need be spent for strife or aid.

In a curious attempt to refute "virtual unanimity" among economists, opponents often cite substantial Ohio manufacturing job losses, without qualifying those losses by citing studies such as PMO's (which concluded that well over 80 percent of Ohio's 1995-2003 manufacturing job losses were not directly traceable to international trade). Opponents often then cite the same PMO study's estimate that 45,734 Ohio 1995-2003 job losses were "trade-related", but fail to mention the 203,600 Ohioans employed by foreign companies, largely because of U.S. FTAs.

Current FTAs bring stability and good-paying jobs to Ohio's exporter-manufacturers. Those Ohio manufacturers that do not substantially export will continue to cut payroll for reasons mostly unrelated to international trade. Before clamoring for substantial reform, the "globalization-pushback" crowd should heed Friedman's admonitions and current economic statistics regarding FTAs' actual effects.

Liberal rebuttal...

I cannot begin to comprehend why you argue "[i]n the NAFTA era . . . Ohio manufacturers' dependence on exporting far outweighs the job losses they endure from increased foreign imports."

Clearly you don't even know the issue. Viewed against one another the terms 'dependence on exporting' and 'loss endured by increased foreign imports' cannot account for the trade imbalance caused in Ohio by current FTAs.

Perhaps you meant to write that FTAs bring about a net economic gain to Ohio by causing a greater increase in valuable export-related jobs than they do a loss from outsourced jobs and increased imports.

But you didn't write that- because that wouldn't be true.

Your argument fails because you weigh the worth of existing exporting jobs against those lost due to FTAs. You groundlessly presuppose that FTAs created these exporting jobs or in some fashion perpetuate their presence in Ohio.

Don't try to make us feel ok about what we've lost by reminding us of what we still have left. That's like stealing my car and telling me not to worry- you kindly left me my bike.

Next time at least frame the issue in its proper terms before you contort statistical data to defend a losing position.

By Joseph Dunson

LIBERAL GAVEL COLUMNIST

Current free trade agreements (FTAs) have damaged Ohio's economy by sending thousands of high paying manufacturing jobs overseas.

Policy Matters Ohio analyzed numbers from the Department of Labor's Trade Adjustment Assistance Program (TAA) to find that "the TAA program certified 45,734 Ohioans as being eligible to apply for trade adjustment assistance between 1995 and 2003."

The TAA numbers do not account for all FTA related job losses though. To track such losses, The Economic Policy Institute (the real EPI) used an input-output economic model, which tracks both the diminution in U.S. exports and the increase in imports.

EPI found that "[i]ncreases in the U.S. trade deficit from 1994 to 2000 removed more than 135,000 jobs and job opportunities from Ohio's economy, nearly 100,000 of which were from the high-paid manufacturing sector."

Such great losses continue to weigh heavily on Ohio's families in communities across the state. 'Outsourced' workers seldom find commensurate substitute employment, and many local businesses have been forced to make layoffs or close their doors because people in their towns simply don't have the same money to spend.

Apologists like President Bush offer only a partial picture of the trade landscape by ignoring the effects that increased foreign imports have on the domestic job market. According to economist Robert Scott, "[t]he impact on employment of any change in trade is determined by its effect on the trade balance, the difference between exports and imports. Ignoring imports and counting only exports is like balancing a checkbook by counting only deposits and not withdrawals. The many officials, policy analysts, and business leaders who ignore the negative effects of imports and talk only about the benefits of exports engage in false accounting."

FTAs further offend tens of thousands of Ohioans who find reprehensible the glaring human rights violations and nightmarish public health conditions abroad in many 'free trade zones', where native labor is exploited by U.S. companies with impunity.

The FTA 'side agreements' framed to ensure some base level of protection go unenforced at the expense of powerless workers in countries like Mexico, where workers are horribly underpaid and forced to live in squalor among the clusters of maquiladoras spread out along the U.S. border.

FTAs undermine classical nation building models in developing countries by removing the capital generated by native labor driven production- never allowing the laborers to reap the harvest they've sown.

This creates a modern day sharecropping scenario in which native economies have little hope for infrastructure development and diversified private native ownership of industry.

In his 2004 book *Myths of Free Trade*, Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown illuminated many FTA realities, and he criticized the west's treatment of developing nations.

"Western lending institutions-led by the IMF and the World Bank- have pushed privatization and deregulation, the so-called Washington consensus, on developing nations. . . They have forced developing nations to move away from sustainable agriculture to commodity exports, such as coffee and chocolate, which are consumed mostly in wealthy nations." Senator Brown noted the unfortunate irony in this approach.

"The countries that these bankers represent- France, Japan, the United States, Great Britain, Canada, Belgium- had developed their economies very differently; they in fact had protected their industries."

Current FTAs fail Ohio's workers and workers abroad. FTAs exacerbate the disparity in wealth between the ultra rich and ultra poor in developing countries, and they drag down our economy at home. While FTAs push down the price of goods they do so at the cost of people.

Which is worth more to Ohioans?

Conservative rebuttal...

No credible facts support your argument. Nearly all the world's economists reject Brown's and EPI-staffer Scott's conclusions of FTA-caused net domestic harm.

You disingenuously ignore Ohio's trade-related in-sourcing and increased exporting, which both substantially outweigh the negative local effects of FTAs.

EPI's findings are laughable. Notably, unions provide EPI five times more funding than corporations. Its ridiculous study included hypothetical jobs that never actually existed in Ohio, but might have been created, as "trade-related losses". Further, even if EPI's fraudulent findings were correct, the foreign in-sourcing of nearly 200,000 jobs to Ohio by 2000 still trumps its conclusion.

You cite zero (0) statistics to demonstrate FTA-caused net Third World harm. Instead, you rely exclusively on "Corporations are Evil!"-inspired conspiracy theories. This myth is debunked by the "inconvenient truth" that free trade greatly reduces global poverty. In agreement are, among others, nearly all economists, Kofi Annan, Australia's government and a recent U.K.-Israeli study. Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz, a rare dissenter, actually argues that *even freer* trade (U.S. elimination of domestic subsidies) would further reduce global poverty.

Your anti-trade argument roughly translates to "Let wars wage, Third World kids starve and all Ohio exporters suffer to delay comparatively few union layoffs!" Touching.



SBA President thanks senate task forces

By Scott Kuboff

SBA PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Students,

On behalf of my fellow SBA Officers – Meredith Danch, Chan Carlson, Nick Hanna, and Jaime Umerley – I want to assure you that we are dedicated to making the spring semester just as successful as the fall semester.

As many of you are aware, your SBA passed Resolution 10222006-A, which called for a 24-hour Exam Policy. On Thursday, Nov. 30, 2006, the C-M faculty approved an amended version of the SBA policy.

Specifically, the faculty approved a 23-hour exam policy that would allow a student to reschedule one exam in the event that he or she has a night exam scheduled at 6:00PM and then one the following morning at 9:00AM. However, this policy is temporary. After the 2007 spring semester, this policy will be reevaluated to determine whether it should be permanently implemented.

This is a good step in the right direction, and I would like to thank SBA Treasurer Nick Hanna for his hard work with this initiative as well as the faculty for their continued support of C-M students.

This year, Barrister's Ball will be held on March 3, 2007, at the Hyatt at the Arcade, Downtown Cleveland, and beginning at 6:30pm.

Barrister's Ball is traditionally a formal affair where students have the opportunity to socialize and network with friends, faculty, and alumni. I would like to thank SBA Vice President of Programming, Meredith Danch and the SBA Programming committee for their hard work in planning the Ball.

In addition to the dinner and dancing, your SBA will be auctioning off two Bar/Bri courses for the SBA Student Scholarship Drive. I would like to thank Ryan Feola and Bar/Bri for their continued support of the students of C-M.

Moreover, this year's Barrister's Ball will mark the first time a student will be awarded with the Stephen J. Werber Collegial Integrity Award.

The Stephen J. Werber Collegial Integrity Award was created in honor of Professor Werber and will be given to one student who has exhibited high character, collegiality and an outstanding commitment to C-M and the surrounding community.

The student will be chosen from nominations sent to the SBA Executive Committee. I would like to thank Dean Mearns for accepting our invitation to serve on the selection committee.

Finally, your SBA has created a Web site to facilitate communication and keep you better informed.

The Web site address is

<http://www.law.csuohio.edu/students/SBA/index.html>.

I would like to thank Nick Hanna for his work in getting the site launched.

As always if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Facing gender dilemmas in the legal field

Has the playing field become equal for men and women in the profession?

By Margan Keramati

CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Most students here are aware that C-M was one of the first law schools in the country to admit women. The first generation of female C-M graduates, and really the first generation of female attorneys across the country, faced the challenge of breaking down the "old boys' club" sign. The question that faces both female and males in the profession today is whether or not that sign has been completely taken down.

It would be a gross overstatement to say that women today face the same challenges that women two or three generations ago faced. Change in any field is a slow process. Female advancement in many fields is due in large part to legislation that prevents discrimination in the work place.

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 protects individuals against employment discrimination on the basis of sex, as well as race, color, national origin, and religion.

The Equal Pay Act of 1963 requires equal pay for equal work.

Women now comprise 40 to 50 percent of law school graduates though this number is not reflected in the upper legal hierarchy. However, the number of women attaining positions of power is on the rise.

According to a 2006 study by NALP, The Association for Legal Career Professionals, the number of females in large firms rose by 1.48 percent from 2005. Nationally, 16.3 percent of partners are women, while 44.33 percent of associates are women.

While legislation prevents employers from discriminating in the hiring process, women still face challenges in larger firms due in part by demanding billable-hours systems and having to choose between caring for a family and having a law career. Women also face the challenge of being labeled a "bitch" for being too aggressive or a push over for not being aggressive enough.

But, women don't face these dilemmas alone.

Law firms face the challenge of balancing

the business of law with the needs of employees. When women make the choice to take maternity leave, firms have to deal with an absent body. When men choose to take paternity leave, although less common than women, firms have to deal with that absent body too.

Above that, men face societal scrutiny for not being their family's provider. And as societal norms change, and men are "allowed" to be more sensitive, they still face scrutiny for not being "macho" enough.

There's no easy answer to the question of how firms can change their business environments to become more conducive in dealing with society's gradual change in perception of gender roles.

Perhaps re-thinking the billable hours system where the focus is directed on the quality rather than the quantity of hours worked because a large number of hours doesn't necessarily produce quality work.

And, perhaps, large law firms perceptions of what makes an individual valuable to their firm will lead to more equality and balance in law firms in the future.

The
Gavel
Editorial
Opinion

SBA
President

Student criticizes new smoking ban

One of my favorite sci-fi guy flicks is Demolition Man starring Sylvester Stallone and Wesley Snipes.

In the movie, both good guy/cop Stallone and bad guy/criminal Snipes find themselves in a future in which all of man's favorite vices, from salty foods to sex, is denied by an over-moralistic intrusive government.

Good guy and bad guy alike quickly find themselves at odds with a society that fines a person simply for uttering a curse word.

While I greatly enjoyed this movie, I remembered thinking to myself, "My God; I could never function in such an uptight society!" Of course, being a science fiction movie, I never seriously considered that my beloved America, the land of the free, would actually turn into such an oppressive society.

However, with the passage of the new smoking ban in our state (along with other) states, I am about to be proven wrong on this point while my worst fears of losing my personal liberties seem to be coming true.

I firmly believe that allowing a majority of voters dictate to the minority is mob-ocracy in its worst form. The last time I checked, our nation was a republic, an institution supposed to guard against mob-ocracy, as argued in Federalist Paper # 10.

I will argue with anyone telling me that prohibiting me from smoking a cigar with my beer at one of my favorite

bars is not a deprivation of my personal liberty without due process by the State per the 14th Amendment of our beloved Constitution. Just as Abraham Lincoln observed after the Dred Scott decision that the people will decide Scott to be free, I argue that despite any court rulings upholding smoking bans, we the people will decide such bans violate our personal liberties and pursuit of happiness. This law must not be obeyed!

For that matter, I simply do not see how the 14th Amendment property rights of the bar and hookah shop owners have not been violated by forcing them to enforce this ban.

This is a restriction that should simply be left for the business owners to decide not the government via mob rule. Let the free markets decide this issue!

Even before the ban, there was already non-smoking establishments catering to nonsmokers, so the people of our State already had a choice as to going to a smoke free establishment or not. To simply force smoke free establishments on everyone, just to appease nonsmokers, is inherently wrong.

To put it another way, as a man who served his country honorably for four years in the US Marine Corps, I refuse to

accept a law that deprives me of the enjoyment of a cigar with my beer at the bar or a hookah at the local hookah shop.

This smoking ban proves the old adage that "if you give them an inch, they take a mile." My fellow smokers, this ban is just the beginning of the loss of our personal liberties. It was not that long ago when nonsmokers kicked us out of public buildings. Now, thanks to the ban, we can no longer smoke in privately owned bars. To top it off, we now have to stand 20 feet away from the buildings we have been banned from, regardless if there are appropriate shelters built for our harsh Ohio winters and rainy seasons.

I can't tell you how proud this freedom-loving cigar smoker is every time I walk by the doors to the law school and see all of those cigarette butts on the ground while the outdoor ashtray moved 20 feet away is empty. To all of you do-gooder nonsmokers, good luck enforcing this ridiculous oppressive part of the ban!

This kind of resistance is the only way that this ban will ever have a chance of going away, just as the American people resisted the similarly ill-advised prohibition of the 1920's.

As if the ban in its current state is not enough, currently, two states (Arkansas and Louisiana) have made it illegal for people to smoke in their own homes and cars if children are present, and other communities in Maine and California are seriously considering the

same option as reported by Bangor Daily News and CBS Broadcasting.

I'm not trying to say one should smoke in front of kids, but I do believe that when a citizen is banned from smoking in the privacy of his own home and car, there is a higher constitutional principle at stake. Besides, my parents smoked around me when I was a child, and I grew up to be healthy enough to join the Marines!

Once these do-gooders have completely banned smoking, which is their goal, they already have their next target in place: trans fats. There is already a trans fat ban in New York City and L.A. County is looking into the feasibility of such a ban as reported by the Associated Press on January 11, 2007.

Remember, it was in both California and New York that the idea for the current smoking ban started. The irony here, nonsmokers, is that the precedent for government to take away your cheeseburgers and pastries has already been established by the nonsmoking laws you have so vehemently campaigned for in spite of the Constitution.

All of a sudden, thanks to the smoking ban advocates, I will soon find myself in an oppressive do-gooder future, much like Stallone and Snipes in Demolition Man, in which I am denied all of my favorite vices and personal liberties. That is a future that I want no part of.

Chuck Northcutt, 2L

Fear and Loathing in Beantown: The recent terror debacle in Boston

By Kurt Fawver

GAVEL COLUMNIST

We live in a society steeped in anxiety. Ours is a culture that prays for safety and security but secretly yearns for the release of mass hysteria and panic.

We sense conspiracy in every wary glance from a stranger. We seek out death and destruction so we can point at it in abject horror, all the while feeling strangely validated in our shared paranoia.

America is a land where the apocalypse is impending in the heart of every citizen. Move over baseball, because terror has become our official national pastime.

Our society so desperately clings to protection that it often suffocates liberty. A recent example of this collective obsession provided a glimpse into the rashness and absurdity that now permeates our society.

*Respectfully
dissenting*

Since the middle of January, Turner Broadcasting has run a marketing campaign for the Cartoon Network show "Aqua Teen Hunger Force."

As part of this promotion, over 30 small light boards depicting an "Aqua Teen" character were placed around the city, as well as in other metropolitan areas. The cartoon character, a Mooninite, which resembles an alien from a 1980s video game such as Space Invaders, was shown with its middle finger in the air.

These Mooninite light boards caused panic, confusion, and a full-scale deployment of Boston's emergency personnel. Why? Because members of the public as well as government and police agencies believed the boards were terrorist devices.

Each light board had some wires and a battery attached to its back and was, therefore, presumed to be a deadly weapon of indescribable carnage. As a result, Boston launched a massive effort to recover all the light boards, to prevent disaster and to alleviate concern.

When Turner finally explained what had happened, Boston officials were outraged. They demanded a heartfelt

apology for the incident. They arrested two of the technicians that created and installed the light boards. They played the part of dutiful martyr, absolving themselves of any blame for the panic and loss of resources. After all, they were only protecting the city from a potential terror plot, right? Wrong.

This is ridiculous. First of all, who believes that any device with a few wires and lights could be a terrorist weapon? Are these the same people who believe that the movie Tron is an accurate portrayal of how computers work?

I mean, come on. These people were essentially looking at the insides of a Light-Bright and panicking. Even if you know nothing about technology, you have to be aware that a deadly weapon needs more than a battery, lights, and wires to kill anyone.

How the police could make this same mistake raises an entirely different issue about the competence of law enforcement. Didn't someone from the bomb squad or Homeland Security see the light board and say "Nope. It's not dangerous.?"

Then there's the issue of why these devices attracted attention in the first place. People who reported them said they were "menacing" or "sinister." Anyone who's seen "Aqua Teen" knows that the Mooninites are not menacing.

They do not hold guns or knives. They don't frown or scowl or have evil eyes, set in narrow slits. They just look like squares with faces and appendages, more or less. So, this scared people? An anthropomorphic square scared people? Are you kidding? Perhaps it was the middle finger in the air that really kicked in the fright. I know how terrified of that gesture I am.

Are we, as a society, so sensitive that giving someone the middle finger causes them to fear for their life? I would hope we're a bit more mentally and emotionally resilient than that. If not, we might as well accept the fact that we've become

a nation of eight year olds.

The response from Boston officials is also disheartening. Boston's mayor as well as the Attorney General for Massachusetts both called for an apology from Turner Broadcasting and reimbursement for their financial losses. They blame

Perhaps it was the middle finger in the air that really kicked in the fright. I know how terrified of that gesture I am.

Turner's advertising ploy for causing panic and, subsequently, the need for widespread emergency dispatches.

The truth is that paranoid individuals caused the panic, and Boston officials got swept up in the fever of the moment. At some level, police and elected officials need to be more rational and intelligent than the masses. They cannot cater to illogical, unfounded anxieties. Here, that is precisely what happened.

Boston PD and the local government fed the panic to pacify and legitimize their citizens' paranoia. Very simply, Turner shouldn't be forced to pay for their hasty decisions. If Boston officials are trying to find scapegoats for this incident, they need only take a glance in the mirror.

Terrorism plays into a most basic fear of the Other. Whatever is abnormal, whatever deviates from preconceived notions of a routine, ordered world must be a danger. Psychologists call it xenophobia. I call it ignorance.

I'm not so naïve as to believe that every American is paralyzed by a fear of that which is different. I don't even contend that the majority of Americans worry about terrorism daily. What I do believe is that it's in the back of everyone's mind, and it's become a conclusion that is jumped too far too often and with too much ease.

FDR once said something along the lines of "There is nothing to fear but fear itself." That's patently untrue. There are plenty of perfectly real horrors in the world. However, as a society, we need to focus more of our attention on these tangible dangers, such as domestic poverty, rather than chasing after light boards in Boston back alleys.

DOMA doesn't defend marriage

By John Rose

GAVEL COLUMNIST

Like a lot of people, I really hate it when someone lies to me. This goes to both smaller more direct lies, like "I did not have sexual relations with that woman," and to broader lies such as "I'm a uniter, not a divider."

In a lot of ways the latter type of lie is more repugnant to me because the people telling them are trying to sell me something. Likely what they're trying to sell is something I don't want to buy. That's why they have to lie about it.

I think I got this from my dad. He used to say, "don't piss on my leg and tell me it's raining. I can smell the difference." He used to get especially riled up about lies and trivialities dressed up as important issues to try to get people to act on things that generally didn't concern them.

For me, maybe the best example of this is the so-called Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA. Republicans have gotten a lot of mileage out of this issue, both nationally and at the state level. Inclusion of DOMAs is widely credited with getting out the vote in 2004, which re-elected President Bush.

There are two things about DOMAs that bug me. First off is the martial aspect of it. Can't these people solve anything without it being a war? It's like they're trying to conjure up these images of gays massing up some great sissy army to sashay down the main streets of Everytown USA, swinging their man bags to lure straight men astray. And, I can't even bring myself to think about what's gonna happen when they send in the lesbian storm troopers.

The other thing that bothers me about DOMA is the sheer dishonesty of it all. You see, this issue isn't about marriage. Not yours and not mine.

These folks don't give a damn about marriages as they apply to real people. If they did – if preserving marriages was truly important to them – they would address the real issues that drive real people out of their real marriages. They would be talking about issues like wage stagnation and the inability of a lot of working families to even dream about affording health care.

But they're not talking about these insignificant things. No, this "issue" is all about gays and how some people can incite hatred of their fellow citizens. It's all about rallying the basest of "the base." Kind of like what they used to do to African Americans. Just to get votes.

Now we all know that the GOP got a bloody nose in the midterms. Seems to me that they need to freshen up their message a bit. I think it's time for a new marketing campaign. How's this one: tell us the truth. Now, when it comes to DOMA, that's going to mean changing some things.

I think DOMA supporters should take a page from the great social conservative thinker, the Rev. Fred Phelps. You know Fred; he's the guy who leads his merry band of pranksters to military funerals to scream at the families of fallen heroes that their sons or daughters deserved to die because America tolerates homosexuals.

Fred even has his own Web page: www.god-hatesfags.com. Disgusting but true. At least it's honest. You don't have to try to guess where he's coming from. Maybe DOMA supporters could follow in his footsteps.

May I humbly suggest that supporters re-name DOMA to something that more accurately – more honestly – tells us what they want? I propose that DOMA be re-titled the America Hates Homos Act, or AHHA for short.

Think about the marketing possibilities this could present. Conservative Web sites could print up AHHA t-shirts, coffee mugs, nightsticks, all kinds of stuff. Bill O'Reilly could sign off his nightly telecasts with a hearty "AHHA" shouted to his audience. I mean, it could add a whole new chapter to right wing codespeak.

Most important is that by making this change these folks would tell the American people the truth for once. And, they'd stop pissing on our legs and telling us it's raining. Some of us can smell the difference.

Student upset with grade postings

I am writing this letter today as a disappointed customer of Cleveland-Marshall College of Law.

The reason for my disappointment is one many students can relate to; namely the delay on the part of the faculty and administration in communicating grades to students. I am writing this letter on January 10th, which by my count is exactly three weeks since the last day of finals.

As of this moment, I only have two out of five grades for the Fall Semester. As a paying customer of this institution, I find this situation totally unacceptable.

One argument advanced on behalf of professors who take eons to submit grades is that they are responsible for comparatively evaluating three-hour essay tests. This argument falls flat on its face when I remember back to my undergraduate years, where I also took three-hour long, comparatively graded essay tests, yet managed to obtain my grades within a week of taking the final, just in time to enjoy Christmas with my family and friends without the looming angst of grades or school anywhere in the picture.

Furthermore, one of my finals this semester was a Scantron (fill in the bubble) test graded by a computer, yet I still do not have results for this.

After a third semester of enduring the purgatorial time

period between the end of finals and the time the good faculty and administration of this University get around to posting grades, I have come to the conclusion that there simply has to be a better way.

I may be a lowly law student peon with no idea about the nuanced and complicated process of grading a law school exam versus any other exam at any other learning institution, but I simply cannot fathom how it can really take nearly a month to grade these exams.

What the faculty and administration do not seem to understand are the real life problems such a delay in grading poses for students. Many of this year's 1L students are sitting in classes they do not even know they passed and can continue in for the second semester. Many upperclassmen, myself included, are eagerly awaiting last semesters' grades for summer employment purposes.

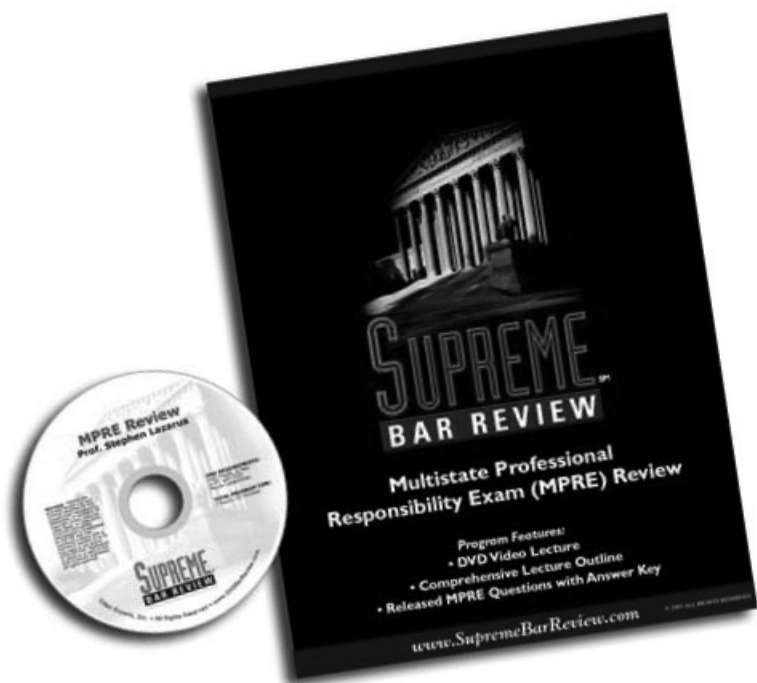
In any event, this unacceptable delay places many deserving customers, namely law students, in an awful state of limbo. The life of law students is stressful enough without having to put their lives on hold waiting week after week for grades to come out.

Therefore, it is high time that the faculty and staff of this institution set a more ambitious timeline for grading in a manner consistent with serving their customers, the students of Cleveland Marshall.

Ross Ahern, 2L

Letter To The Editor

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