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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

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## Greenspan opposes death penalty

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statement. Why is the issue so dear to you and on your trip did you find yourself just preaching to the converted?

**GREENSPAN:** Not at all. In fact, the best illustration of that is when I started the debate, 79% of the people in the polls were in favour of the return of the death penalty. By the time of the vote in the House (of Commons) it was down to 61%. The debate had a big impact on the public, once they got to hear the other side.

I became very frustrated when it dawned on me that there was going to be a vote and there was going to be no debate. We were facing the return of the death penalty, because Bill Domm (a backbench Conservative MP who successfully lobbied the PC leadership to put the issue to the House—Domm is also well known for his anti-metric crusade) was spreading falsehoods and I decided that I wasn't going to let that happen without a fight. When someone stands up and says "bring back the death penalty, because it will reduce the homicide rate" that annoys me. It's a lie, it's false and I wanted to make sure that people didn't vote for it because of this idiocy.

To me it was the most important social issue of the '80s to date. I didn't want to return to the kind of punishment that we had abolished in 1976.

The problem with the death penalty is that any justice system that operates as a human system can make mistakes and we would inevitably convict and hang the wrong person... And in England when they discovered they convicted and executed an innocent per-

son, they abolished the death penalty. Any civilized state, once it's been shown that a mistake has been made, abandons the death penalty. Why return to a system that will inevitably lead to error.

**EXCALIBUR:** How do you decide which cases you handle personally?

**GREENSPAN:** There's no real magic formula. Some people say "oh, you win so much you must pick and choose your cases." That's said by people that don't have any understanding of what a criminal lawyer's day to day job is. People come in and retain us, we have no idea the day they retain us whether they have a good or bad case. It may take months before you realize that but by then you're in. I tend to have a rule: if people get by my secretary to see me, then I'm a sucker for a story.

**EXCALIBUR:** What was the most interesting case that you've ever handled?

**GREENSPAN:** I don't think I can pick like a baseball pitcher can pick his favourite game—A Don Larsen shut-out in the World Series. I don't think I have a single case like that. I've been blessed with many that I consider fascinating.

**EXCALIBUR:** For about the last decade, it seems your name has always been preceded by the description "top criminal lawyer." What case do you think put you there?

**GREENSPAN:** It was the Peter Demeter appeal. I was the junior counsel on the

trial and when I came out at the time of the appeal, there was a great deal of attention surrounding the case. Peter Demeter was a real-estate developer who lived in Mississauga. He had a very beautiful home, a very beautiful wife—Christine Demeter, an exceptionally beautiful lover—Marina Hunt—a model. It was a case that had all the elements—the rich and beautiful people and a contract killing. Christine Demeter was found brutally murdered in a garage in Mississauga while Mr. Demeter was at a shopping plaza. Ultimately he was charged with her murder. They never found the murderer. The question was if you never found the murderer, how would you ever convict Peter Demeter of hiring the murderer (you never found)? But the jury did.

**EXCALIBUR:** How do you view the present state of the Canadian common law judicial system.

**GREENSPAN:** My book is in fact a celebration of the legal system. I am a great fan of what I think is the greatest legal system ever devised. And I quote Oliver Wendell Holmes, "You can criticize that which you revere." You're entitled to look at areas of criticism in the law. And there are many areas that can be changed to be better, fairer, more just and criminal law is no exception. As an example, I think we should move away from a system where the police lay charges. I think the time has come to move on to a more sophisticated system of letting prosecutors make the charges.

## Proper study habits reduce stress

By STACEY BEAUCHAMP

Effective study habits can reduce stress, says Bryan Phillips, Senior Staff Counsellor for York's Counselling and Development Centre.

Three major methods of studying effectively were outlined by James Fitchette, Learning Skills Counsellor for the Centre. First, students should make notes which are useful for reviewing. This can be accomplished by summarizing the main ideas and the relevant details supporting them. Details which do not support these main points should be left out.

Second, when reading, students should read to answer questions.

Finally, and most importantly, reviewing should be done "often and briefly." This reviewing, however, must be done actively by asking questions and testing oneself, rather than passively reading over the material.

Besides applying good study habits, there are other ways in which a student can minimize pressure, thus reducing stress, says Phillips. These are:

- \*Focusing on one thing at a time
- \*Structuring time by estimating how long it would take to complete a task, and sticking to the deadline set out.

- \*Keeping an organized list, in order of priorities, of tasks
- \*Slotting relaxation time into one's schedule.
- \*Physical activity as well as a good diet are also important.

The Counselling and Development Centre provides, to all members of the York community, personal counselling, relaxation training, as well as learning skill workshops, which include study systems, reading a textbook, note taking, effective listening, using memory, and time management. For more information, students should go to room 145 Behavioural Science Building, or call 736-5297.

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