## **Prof:** Computers communicate concepts

One of the prime obstacles in getting science across in practical, understandable terms to students is making the lesson vivid and dy-

namic.
Scott Schneider, a physics pro-fessor at Lawrence Technological University and a resident of Farmington Hills, and computers are playing a greater role in mak-ing students understand rather than memorize scientific princi-ples.

BY WENDY PIERMAN MITZEL STAFF WEITER

Attorney takes seat on Christian Legal Society board lous cases, aids Congress in draft-ing religious logislation, provides low-cost legal assistance to the poor, works with alternative methods to litigation and meets regularly for Bible study and prayer.

BY WENDY PREMAN MITTEL.
Farmington Hills attorney
Schattlan Crass Jr., who credits
his involvement in the Christian
Legal Society with giving him direction in life, has been appointed
to seet on the organization's national board of directors.
Grazi, a Troy resident, has
been Michigan's membership direction of the society since 1992.
The Christian Legal Society is,
had out of 4,700 lawyers, judges,
life professors and law students
who concentrate on protecting the
religious liberties of all faiths under the U. S. Constitution — including both the idea of separation of church and state and the
free exercise of religion.
CLS writes legal briefs for relig-During his last year of law school at the University of Detroit Mercy, a member of his church asked him a question that stumped him. "What do you plan to do to make a difference in your life and in the lives of others?"

Grassi decided to join CLS to

"For me it was a practical way to think through and work through my religious beliefs and put them into the practice of law and assist others," he said.

physics lab is equipped with 10-terminals and interface hardware. This equipment, just starting to show up in Michigan's colleges and universities, allows students to conduct physics experiments and chart results in mere min-utes. This approach is meant to give students more time to actual-ly alt down and look at the data. "We find a lot of students who go through the motions, and do well on tests but miss a lot of con-ceptual lidess," asid Daniel

than memories scientific principles.

This program of conceptual learning and confronting predictions is gaining a lot of momentum in the physics teaching committy. Schneider said.

The key to this revolution is piece of bardware, a universal lab interface, which permits a computer to be connected to various sensors — ultrasonic detector, force probe, temperature probe, and a microphone.

Currently, one Lawrence Tech

willing "guines pigs" to test prove the lab and find areas of improve-ments. So far, students are giving the lab thumbs up, according to

ments. So lar, successed are given the lash tumbe up, according to Schneider.

"One student told me that in his job he had to do some tests dropping beams to measure acceleration, and vibration with equipment just like this." Schneider said. "Industry is applying all kinds of uses to sensors. This is an introduction to that."

Schneider admitted he has embraced the new equipment soquickly he finds it hard to think about going back to the old way, students using stopwatches, counting, and plotting numbers on a graph.

"The primary goal is not to have students were ying about actually taking the data, but in understanding what's going on. Let the computer take, store and graph the data, "Schneider said.

As a national board member, Grassi hopes to establish chap-ters in every law school in the na-tion. So far, CLS works with 130 of the 176 law schools in the

or the arc and country.

He also plans to continue to inspire other attorneys and students, he said. "CLS provides a framework to help law students become practical and compassionate in their future delivery of "local sarvices."

legal services."

Grassi concentrates his own

"If you let the computer do all the drudge work, then we can concentrate in the lab on what's going on. They can seek the answer to what does it mean when they get this result or that result, and they can see it by looking, and comparing the readout on the screen.

"This is opposed to taking the data and chart home to graph it and seeing that something was done wrong. Here we can see whether an experiment worked in minutes and get immediate results with thousands of measurements that would be impossible without the sensors and interface."

These lessons are not restricted.

face." These lessons are not restricted to acience majors. Schneider said the practical applications for the lessons embrace "just about every major on Lewrence Tech's campus. Engineers to architecta — they are all being exposed to the sensors."

practice in the areas of business isw, tax planning and estate planning. He has published many articles, gives frequent lectures and travels to other countries to teach legal skills.

He is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, American Bar Association and the Financial and Estate Planning Council of Detroit.

Grassi has lived in Troy since 1984 with his wife, Elizabeth, and three young children.

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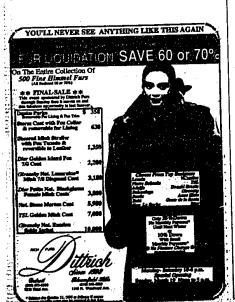
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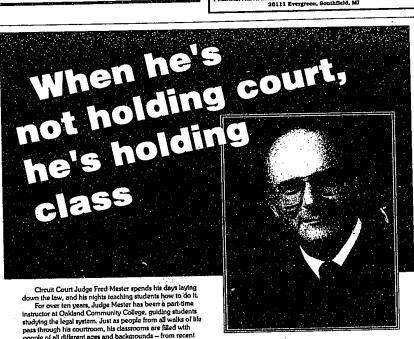
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