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Southern Methodist University School of Law

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THE ADVERSARY

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Vol. 3, No. 2

DALLAS, TEXAS

September 16, 1970

Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER

- 16 PAD meeting - 12:00 in 207F (note change)
- 19 SBA Dance at the Four Seasons Room of the Tower Motel - 9:00-1:00; dress casual; BYOB; \$3 in advance and \$4 after Sept. 16
- 21 SBA meeting in Room 107F (Honor Code discussion) - 12:30
- 21-23 Athletic cards due for block seating at the N.M. game - SBA office 8-12
- 24-25 SMU-PLI - "Guidelines for the Prudent Fiduciary"
- 25 Pick up tickets for N.M. game - SBA office 8-12
- 26 SMU v. N.M. - Cotton Bowl 2:00 p.m.
- 28 SBA meeting - Room 107 F - 12:30

OCTOBER

- 5-10 Esquire Week
- 5-9 SwLF Short Course on Federal Taxation
- 7 Faculty meeting
- 7 Law Wives meeting
- 10 U.T. v. O.U.
- 10 Esquire Week Dance - Marriott Motor Hotel

Briefly Stated

Don't forget the dance this Saturday evening at the Tower Motel, 10108 Harry Hines from 9-1. The dress is casual. R.L. Griffin & the Pacesetters will play for the BYOB affair.

It's not too late to try LSD (membership, that is). See Al Ellis in the SBA office between 9-10 a.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, or call 369-1543.

SBA OFFERS JUDICIAL INTERNSHIP

There has been an excellent response to the new S.B.A. Judicial Internship Program. Any law student interested in trial work or just wanting to find out how things are run at the courthouse should get involved in this program.

Those in the program will work with District judges (civil jurisdiction from \$500 to the \$1,000,000's), and have a chance to accompany the judge in private "in-chambers" conferences with litigants. Opportunities will also be afforded to see every stage of a law suit, learn some practical procedure, do a little briefing, and get to know judges and lawyers. Such contacts can easily lead to job offers. In addition the experience will put the individual in a good position when interviewing with law firms.

First, second, and third year students are eligible. One can arrange his own hours. Work for a week or a semester. The sign-up sheet is on the SBA Bulletin Board. There is still room for you!

Mike Poynor,
SBA President

Registration Methods Questioned

by Harry L. Najim

There appears to be another credibility gap brewing in our midst. This time it is emitting from the corridors of Storey Hall. Granted, the law school is beginning to offer relevant and contemporary courses, but only a select few can take them.

The fact that one is accepted in the School of Law, pays his tuition fees and remains in good standing presumes that he should be afforded the opportunity to take courses outlined in the school's bulletin and class schedules. Some students choose schools for their location, fine faculty, physical plant facilities. However, those who examine the published curriculum and make their decision on this basis should not be denied the right to take advantage of the courses allegedly open to all. Thus, the gap exists in the curriculum supposedly offered, as to the courses which are for all practical purposes enrollable.

This fall many second and third year students encountered numerous registration and career planning problems. Complaints have issued from numerous students regarding the ineptness in the enrollment procedure calling possibly for the need of tighter supervision. The limiting of class sizes, the exclusion of many enrollees, and the disrupting of class schedules all point to a situation which demands immediate remedial action.

It is rather disheartening to note that those precious few contemporary courses offered have been subject to limited enrollment.

Cont'd on Page 2

CREDIBILITY GAP (Cont'd from p. 1)
Nearly twenty students were dropped from Legal Aid A; approximately thirty-five were dropped from "Law and Psychiatry," and a similar number from "Products Liability". It is my understanding that the other seminar and planning courses were subject to this same limitation.

I guess one should be sympathetic with the problems faced by the administrators of the SMU School of Law in their attempts to find workable solutions -- but in the same token they should be criticized for their lack of foresight and poor planning. It is unfortunate to have to turn away ONE student from a course, let alone TWENTY. It is, however, unconscionable to turn away a student from enrolling in a class two years in a row. Since many of these courses are only offered once a year, the all too obvious result is that the student doesn't again have the opportunity to take the course.

A viable alternative would be to simply set up an additional section for these popular, over-filled courses, if the professor prefers to conduct the course on a seminar level. Lecture courses should not be limited. If the present size faculty can not meet these needs, then additional members should be acquired. It is no harder to prepare for two sections than it is to prepare for one, since the material is the same. The extra time consumed would be that hour or two each week that the additional section meets. (My sympathies during finals, however. Perhaps grading assistants could be procured.)

What it boils down to is this -- the administrators are not meeting their professional responsibility in providing for adequate sections to accommodate student desires. In effect, the interest in said courses will be retarded by the denial of a student's enrollment. It would be unfair to accuse the school of "puffing" in their attempt to attract top students, but realistically, a school that has just completed one of the finest law library facilities in the country should be able to afford its students with adequate accommodations so that no student shall be turned away.

letter to the admissions committee

by Al Ellis

Much praise has been bestowed upon the admissions committee for bringing to the SMU School of Law the highest academically-rated first year class in the school's history. Without a doubt this praise is well justified, for a mean undergraduate average of 3.0 and mean LSAT score of about 600 cannot be argued with.

It is to the best interest of all students that the standards remain high so that the school's reputation may be greatly enhanced over the years. Additionally, a first impression of the incoming class leads one to believe that it is an activist group that wants to contribute to the overall functioning of the school. So, at first glance, it looks like the admissions committee has made an outstanding selection.

However, in one phase of this selection process it would seem that either the committee has not shown a valid concern or has failed miserably in its attempts. That phase is in the area of minority group recruitment. The present first year class has not one Black nor, to my knowledge, on Mexican-American student. The expected rebuttal to this failure would be, "Well, our standards are so high that no member of a minority group qualified." This may be a valid argument, but if it is, it should be presented to the students. I am not advocating a lowering of the high standards of admission. I only wonder if the committee made the effort to utilize various government programs such as CLEO -- a short study course for LSAT tests and an introduction to law school methods.

If the committee has actively recruited at Black campuses, state campuses or St. Mary's University, the students should be made aware of these facts and should be told the reasons why such efforts were unsuccessful. If the committee did not actively recruit, the students should know this too. Perhaps there are perfectly valid reasons for this lack of minority representation. If so, the student body should be told.

I would call upon the admissions committee to report to the student body in the next issue of "The Adversary." Perhaps with the facts in front of us, we can make a more valid criticism, if one is necessary, and, even more important, make some constructive suggestions for future actions and programs.

ADVERSARY

Editor-in-Chief Burns Vick
Associate Editor Jim Lemmon
Staff members: Al Ellis, Doc Hale, Jim Hockert, Harry Najim, John Pitts

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Letters from readers are welcome and encouraged. Each is subject to condensation. Views offered are not necessarily those of the paper.

Bickley Discusses "Dirty Movie" Controversy

by Doc Hale

City Attorney Alex Bickley's talk on pornography at the Phi Delta Phi dinner on Friday, September 11, produced more heat than light on the subject. Mr. Bickley traced the history of pornography and then made himself and two of his Assistant Attorneys available for questions.

The audience expressed two principal views during the discussion period: first that the money spent on the war on pornography could be more effectively spent elsewhere and second that the pornography statute (Tex. Penal Code §529) violates First Amendment rights.