TUATARA SEeks STUDENT LEGAL ADVISORS

TUATARA is a new social service agency which has been serving the Dallas area since June 1970. It was founded by a group of medical students at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School who are concerned about the widespread nonmedical use of drugs in our society, and who believe that physicians and future physicians have a responsibility to better serve their communities.

TUATARA is a "Medical-Legal Information Center." Its primary functions are: a) to provide accurate information about drugs and related health and legal problems; b) to provide a sympathetic ear to people needing to talk about their problems; and c) to refer people with specific medical and/or legal problems, who don't know where to go to find help, to appropriate agencies or professional personnel. Clients may either visit the Tuatara office, located at 2311 Lucas Street, or call the "hot line": 528-1511. The office is open daily between seven and eleven p.m., and an answering service takes calls the rest of the day.

In addition to these basic services, Tuatara's program has expanded in several directions. Panels of medical students and professional personnel are available to address and lead small group discussions. Tuatara workers often help drug users through "bad trips." Medical fact sheets about drugs and related health problems such as hepatitis are distributed throughout the city. And the Tuatara office is becoming a center where young members of the "hip"

Legal Writing Sought on Pass/Fail Basis

by Al Ellis

With the introduction of a new approach to the Research and Legal Writing courses last year came a gigantic moan from the first year class. As the semester proceeded, several students almost came to blows as they vied for possession of the needed statute. Others began to camp out in the library in anticipation of the next fifteen-hour assignment. The complaints covered several areas ranging from the quality or lack of quality instruction to an hour discussion on the correct number of spaces to place between each dot in an ellipsis.

During the summer the new breed student instructors with their new breed leader, Harvey Wingo, worked hard on evaluating the complaints, revising and shortening the assignments, and even meeting with some of the first guinea pigs to receive their distorted views on the subject. As a result, the course was much improved. But alas, several inequities still remain as evidenced by the recent conference between the instructors, Mr. Wingo, and this year's first year class. The complaints were noted, and to the
EDITORIALLY:

PRESENT GRADING SYSTEM IS ABSURD

The most evident absurdity of the present system of legal education is the concept of numerical grading. Any honest member of the S.M.U. law school community knows that numerical grades and class ranks are ineffective, ludicrous attempts to measure an individual's knowledge and/or potential as a lawyer.

Law school purportedly teaches one to think, act, research, and write in a lawyerlike manner (remember first year orientation?). If true, then let us get on with the process of education and rid the system of the hindrance of petty, childish grading games.

The following scale of merit should be adopted: Honors (H) for those who excel; Excellent (E) for those who demonstrate above average work; Satisfactory (S) for those who demonstrate average work; Unsatisfactory (U) or no credit for those who do not deserve passing marks; and Withdrawal (W). The four divisions should represent a range similar to the following, which is based on the grading trend at SMU: 81 - 100 = H; 74 - 81 = E; 63 - 74 = S; below 63 = U or N/C.

This system would alleviate the cutthroat attitude of law students and extraordinary amount of time spent grading exams. Any interviewer or individual examining a transcript can observe the courses taken and general level of performance and motivation. In professional training when a single paper or single exam must gauge one's proficiency and accomplishment for an entire semester's work, the decision between a 64 or 68 or 70 and 75 is not worth the hassle. The change will cut down on the gossip and bulletin, and will allow more time for communication and learning. —fby

Students Castigate Honor Code Stance

To the Editor:

Like Mr. Poynor, we agree that the Honor Code is in serious need of revision. The standard of conduct which professional responsibility demands remains a mystery. Perhaps such standards are nebulous by necessity. Yet even a cursory study of the present code (assuming one is still in effect) raises a host of procedural difficulties, part from the more familiar substantive ones. It may be impossible to formulate an inclusive definition of "cheating," but every student is at least entitled to know what it means to be accused.

We believe that the students and faculty of the law school should be informed, earlier this semester, that a committee was organized to analyze these procedural problems. The committee's function was to gather criticism of the present system (obviously no problem), draft a new code, consult the present court concerning every procedural difficulty the new code raised, draft appropriate rules of procedure, and submit the entire plan to the SBA (not only to officers, but also to every student). The new code would have become effective prior to exams in December.

Unfortunately, some insurmountable procedural problems soon forced a dissolution of the committee itself. First, because the chairman Mr. Poynor was only a second year student, the constitutionality of the committee's organization (Cont'd page 3)

Anderson Questions Editorial Policy

To the Editor:

The debate concerning South African affairs that appeared in the October 21st issue of The Adversary gave rise to many questions. In order to allow interested readers to answer these questions, I offer the following citations:

1. For evidence that there are terrorists (not "terrorists") who are aided and abetted by black African countries north of the Zambezi River in their operations against Rhodesia and South Africa, see The New York Times: Jan. 30, 1970, p. 9; Feb. 8, 1970, p. 5; June 1, 1970, p. 16.


3. For evidence that Rhodesia and South Africa are quite corporeal thank you, and that they want close relations with the West based on the hitherto universally accepted principal of non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign nations, see The New York Times: Mar. 3, 1970, p. 2; June 21, 1970, p. 24; June 23, 1970, p. 9.

(Cont'd page 4)
**reminder from Mrs. T**

Please help keep our beautiful new library neat, orderly and clean. Smoking is permitted only in closed areas, where ash trays are provided. Use them only in these closed areas. No drinks, coffee or snacks are to be brought into the library. Use first floor area for coffee, cold drinks and snacks. Waste baskets are conveniently located. Please use them.

Please reshelve all periodicals and reporters after use. Put all other books on a conveniently located black shelf to be reshelved by library assistants.

It will take the cooperation of all users to keep our library presentable to the many visitors attracted to one of the most beautiful new law libraries in the United States. Please help us keep these facilities beautiful and useful.

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**Honor Code Review, from page 2**

...the justification for spending the money of all the students in the particular area. The finance committee of the Caucus has just been appointed and is currently working on the administration of the current budget.

(Cont'd page 6)
"One Liners" From the 
Middle East Coalition

By Harry L. Najim and 
Peter A. Lesser

We support George Bush in 
the Texas Senatorial race, 
not because we feel that 
Bush is so great, but because 
Bentsen is so lousy.

We're glad Spiro and Dick 
made it to Texas; we're 
ecstatic that they left-- 
they should have taken 
Bentsen with them.

We're sorry to see that 
the Nixon administration 
believes that Plessy v. Ferguson 
should be the law. What 
next, Dred Scott?

We do support President 
Nixon's pre-election peace 
initiative--here's hoping 
he doesn't forget about it 
after November 3rd.

Judging from the performance 
of the cooling-heating sys-
tem in Underwood Law Library 
we note fashion trends emerg-
ing: wear snow suit when air 
conditioner is in operation; 
wear swim suit when heating 
system is in operation; 
possible solution--turn both 
on together and we might have 
normal weather.

Due to our overwhelming fan 
mail (we both wrote letters) 
the adventures of Spiro, et 
al, are now being serialized 
campus-wide. See the daily 
campus every Tuesday.

We can't tell a lie! Rumor 
has it that someone is plan-
ing to chop down the "torts 
Tree," because nothing has 
been done to alleviate the 
problem. Right on, George!

Glad to hear that Canada has 
scraped U.S.-made pre-1949 
maps, and extended diplomatic 
recognition to the Peking 
government in mainland China.

We are sorry to hear that 
University Park is going into 
bankruptcy--but we wish they 
wouldn't take it out on the 
people who park their cars 
near the campus.

TUATARA NEEDS YOU!, from page 1

community can meet and talk with interested citizens from 
other segments of the Dallas community. Tuatara hopes in 
this way to help open lines of communication between groups. 
The Tuatara office is currently staffed by medical stu-
dents, law students, and other interested volunteers. In 
addition, a number of physicians, lawyers, and other pro-
fessionals serve on a referral basis, providing information 
and/or services on request. Professional advisors include 
Pat LaRuffa, M.D. and Gregory Dimijian, M.D. of Southwestern 
Medical School, Miss Beverly Neblitt, attorney, and Profes-
sor Walter Steele of the Southern Methodist University Law 
School.

TUATARA's organization and activities have been ap-
proved by the University of Texas Southwestern Medical 
School, the Student American Medical Association, and the 
Dallas Committee on Drug Abuse. Initial funding was by a 
grant from the Sears Foundation through the National Stu-
dent American Medical Association.

TUATARA is utilizing a new approach in attempting to 
where problems posed by drug abuse in our society. 
We hope and expect that it will prove to be an effective 
means of serving the entire community.

(Ed. note: The above description of TUATARA was written by 
a medical student and stresses the medical and community 
problems. However, about half of the requests that TUATARA 
handles concerns legal matters--not only drug or narcotic 
theft, but breach of contract, illegal eviction, traffic 
tickets, police harassment, juvenile delinquency, domestic 
problems, etc. Law students are desperately needed. Any-
here interested in aiding the Dallas community in this manner, 
please drop by TUATARA on any evening or contact Tom Goran-
son at 361-1201.)

How can law students help?
1. Become an active member of TUATARA and maintain 
office hours one night every two weeks at the Lucas Street 
address.
2. Put your name on the law student reserve list. 
Occasionally you will receive requests to answer specific 
problems such as the legal age to get married in Texas or 
the current status of the Texas abortion law.
3. Assist in the preparation of short briefs on recur-
ring legal problems.

POLICY QUESTION, from page 2

4. For indications that, in light of the volume of 
U.S.-Soviet trade, cessation of this trade would have about 
the same effect on the U.S. "balance of trade" as the re-
tirement of "Marvelous" Marvin Throneberry had on profes-
sional baseball, see The Statesman's Year-Book (1970-1971), 

5. For information as to why anyone would write an 
article concerning a topic about which he has a palpable 
dearth of knowledge, see Mr. Jim Hockert, SMU School of Law 
'72.

6. For a statement as to whether any attempt will be 
made to follow a more even-handed editorial policy in The 
Adversary by affording students with conservative views pre-
publication access to liberally oriented articles, as well 
as the opportunity to present "simultaneous" replies to such 
articles, see P. Burns Vick, Founder, Editor, and Chief 
Ideologist of The Adversary, SMU School of Law '72.

Stuart I. Anderson
LEGAL WRITING HASSLE, from page 1
extent possible at this stage, adjustments will be made. However, given the nature of the law student, the gripes will continue to be recorded. The legal writing and research course should be put on a pass/fail basis. As long as it's a graded course, the competitive instinct will prevail over the necessity to proportionately budget one's study time; and, despite the extremely small effect that this one-hour course has on the overall average (I was not convinced last year either), the ambitious first year student will spend 8, 12, even 20 hours on each assignment.

Of course, the argument against such a solution is that there will be no incentive to develop a good research technique. Considering the fact that a lawyer's success is largely based on his research and writing ability, the incentive lies within the natural desire to become a successful attorney. The time has come for the sacrificial lamb to be taken off the altar with this year's class.

Al Ellis
(second year)

First Year Student Reiterates Complaints

First year students moan and groan, and situations remain. Hours go by while students struggle in the library, thinking they are following their instructions, all the while not realizing that they are going astray. And why? Because they are receiving insufficient instruction. Do they realize it? No, often not until their papers are in and graded. Then they understand that many of those hours were totally wasted. They wonder why their much-needed study time is being swallowed up by a course that is worthwhile (See next column) but inefficiently guided.

Legal Writing and Research is principally taught with written instructions to assignments from which students must dig out an effective personal research method. These instructions are very plain on the surface but rather meaningless to the first year students, who as a rule have very little legal background.

Throughout this mechanical research, however, students are graded on their wanderings through the maze of materials. As the academic year progresses, that which was totally unfamiliar two months ago becomes increasingly familiar; but the stress on grades has given the course questionable value.

Therefore the first year students are asking that the course be made pass/fail, and a committee is being organized by Mr. Bernstein to consider possible changes. Generally, first year students appreciate the challenge of being thrown into the Underwood Sea with minimum of instruction on how to swim to shore. They do not appreciate being graded on how well they flail their arms.

Evelyn Hudson
(first year)

Dallas Bar Instigates Pre-Trial Release Program

In coordination with the Legal Aid Clinic, the pre-trial release program now gives the law student an opportunity to further his practical knowledge of the profession. The program is sponsored by the Dallas Bar Association under the direction of Mr. Robert Peacock.

Pre-trial release makes it possible for certain categories of prisoners to be released by the judge either on personal bond or on reduced bond while awaiting (See next column) trial. Recommendation for release will not be given to prisoners with adverse criminal records nor to those charged with crimes such as murder, armed robbery, and most narcotic and sex crimes.

This type of bond will permit a man to return to his job in the community while awaiting trial rather than have him in jail and his family on welfare. The student, through a voluntary interview of the arrested person, determines his prior criminal record, family and employment stability and community ties. After the information is verified by project personnel, it is given to the judge with a recommendation that the prisoner should or should not be released on bond pending trial. The final decision rests with the judge.

Students participating in the voluntary program are as follows: Ray Russell, Wally Nobles, Sam Pfaff, Fred Schwendemann, Steve Wells, Irv Queal and Rod Poirot.

MORE "ONE LINERS"

Have you ever driven to class and, being unable to find a parking space within hiking distance of the law quad, suddenly discovered yourself up that "prominent tributary without the proper means of propulsion?"

Ultimate solution to the parking problem: Paint your car fire-engine red and attach a ladder and/or hose, and feel free to park in firelanes.

The increase in militant radical activity activity U.S., is deplorable -- it seems that you don't have to be a weatherman to tell which way the wind is blowing.

Don't miss the next issue for mmore comments on "the times."

THE ADVERSARY, Page 5

PRE-TRIAL RELEASE PROGRAM, Cont'd
Committee Studies Oversubscription Proposals

(Editor's note: Following are five proposals on oversubscription of limited enrollment courses which have been submitted to the Faculty Curriculum and Graduate committees by Paul Schoonover and Tim Vineyard, student members.)

1. Notice. If a new course or professor is added to the curriculum, or a course that was not taught in the previous year is revived, notice of this fact should be posted well in advance of registration. If a new professor is added, notice of his background should be posted. If a new class is added, or an old class is revived, the following should be included in the notice:
   a) a brief description of the course content,
   b) the text (if known) that will be used,
   c) the name of the professor,
   d) requirements for credit in the course (e.g., final exam, substantial paper, etc.),
   e) the degree requirements that will be satisfied by the course (e.g., number of hours credit, ICLJ requirements),
2. Pre-Registration for Limited Courses Only. Two alternative systems of pre-registration are offered for your consideration:
   a) Informal Pre-Registration. An informal pre-registration of either all courses or at least courses of limited size to measure the popularity of certain courses and thus allow for advance planning for scheduling and section additions or subtractions.
   b) Mandatory Pre-Registration. Require that those students who want to take courses limited in size must pre-register for that course before he will be allowed to take it. This would allow for early selection of students and provide the administration with time to (see next column)

add new sections if necessary and if possible. Also, after the pre-registration deadline has passed no student would be allowed to register for a limited course except those students selected (except for a predetermined number of graduate students).

3. Priority. Third year students would always be given priority over second year students in admission to limited enrollment courses.

4. Course Re-Evaluation. Each professor would be asked to reconsider the requirements for each course he teaches with respect to: a) the need for limited enrollment, b) the number of students to be enrolled, where limited enrollment is deemed appropriate, and c) requirement of a substantial paper in lieu of a final examination.

5. Limit Student Registration. Limit the number of "substantial paper courses" a student can take in one semester to two. This does not include planning courses or directed research. It is the opinion of the writers that this policy will not have to be adopted or enforced if each member of the faculty seriously considers the need for limited enrollment as to each class. Probably only two or three classes, besides planning courses, will need to be limited in enrollment.

STUDENT CAUCUS, from page 3

At this point, considerations of next year seem a long way off. But with the emphasis of the new governance structure and the influence of academic governance personnel on the Caucus, it would be logical to expect a shift away from budgeting for parties and social activities toward expenditures for academic, political, and community programs.

THE ADVERSARY, Page 6

LSD/ABA HOLDS WORKSHOP

The forthcoming LSD/ABA workshop to be held Saturday, November 14, 1970, at Baylor Law School should be of special interest to all SMU students. The workshop will begin at 9:00 a.m., and the morning hours will be devoted to speeches by and discussion with several State Legislators. The afternoon session will be devoted to the drafting of a Model Court Rule that is acceptable to all Texas Law Schools.

The main purpose of the proposed rule is to serve as a basis for a statute which would allow law students, working under the supervision of an attorney, to represent indigents in criminal and civil proceedings. However, the possibility exists that the rule may limit such activities to 3rd year students. If such action were to be taken, it would limit the activities of our Legal Clinic which now has many 2nd year students working in the civil courts.

At this stage, this is only a possibility, and the purpose of the workshop will be to develop the details for the proposed rule. However, it would be most advantageous for as many SMU students as possible to make the trip to Waco so that the interests of the school and the Legal Clinic are adequately represented.

Further information on the substantive portion of the rule will be posted on the bulletin boards as soon as it is available. Anyone interested in attending should contact me in the SBA office or call 369-1543 for details. All students are urged to attend. Several free pamphlets will be distributed, and this will be a good opportunity to BS with students from other law schools.

Car pool arrangements can be made in order that any one interested can take advantage of this opportunity.

Al Ellis