As I See It...

By Harold Gill Esuechlein

Of necessity, the copy for this column must be in the editor's hands well before the day of registration. This year I write under circumstances familiar to all. This is written amidst the uncertainty which engulfs us all—the uncertainty created by the military action in Vietnam. And so I write to the new class of 1969. I do not know. Despite the uncertainty, I do welcome the Law School Class of 1971 enthusiastically and warmly, we are sure your numbers will prove to be.

We have admitted a greater number to your class own experience with which we are confronted. Happily, we have managed to do this without relaxing standards of entry into the Villanova Law School. This is by way of telling you that we are convinced of your worth and you specially expect you, despite distracting influences, to prove us correct in our judgment as to your worth. This "advance special issue" of the Docket is calculated to give you a hearty welcome and to launch you auspiciously upon your new career.

One idea, above all others, must pervade all that you do from the moment of your entry into Garey Hall. You have, today, entered the legal profession. In our book, your date of entry into the profession is not the day when you receive your license to practice, not the day you stand before the bar of the Supreme Court, but the day you are notified that you were successful in your bar examination, not the day you receive your diploma from Villanova; but on your very first day as a law student in Garey Hall. Of course, you must be a student in the most serious sense of that term. But you must be something more—you must be an apprentice lawyer. This means you must discipline yourself accordingly.

I know that you will always feel that there is not sufficient time to do the work assigned. But your lifelong career is the career of a student—now, ten years from now, fifty years from now. A real student never has enough time. From the time of your entry into law school until you retire from practice (if you are ever foolish enough to retire), the law will demand more time from you than there is. You cannot read enough, study enough or think enough. Here at law school, I shall treat you as responsible adults. When I say that, I mean to emphasize responsibility and self-discipline. No one is going to compel you to work hard. It is your own professional aspiration which must induce you to have your commitment as a serious student and which must generate and propel your will to succeed. You are on your own.

For some of you being on your own will prove to be a new experience. I love to think of Villanova Law School as a demanding and exacting school, but withal a most friendly place. Despite the fact that we have grown relatively large over the years, I am determined that the School of Law remain a friendly place. Please do not forget this, especially during the initial months of your new career when you will, perhaps, frequently find yourself bewildered. If we seem to leave you in a more or less constant state of bewilderment, please remember that this is inevitable and that here you must deal with the stuff of which human experience is made. Indeed, very often, your teachers will pose problems which do not receive positive answers. Often this must be the case.
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THE DOCKET DEFINES AIMS

SBA
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The student loan fund, which is open to all students, advances short-term loans to students at the rate of $3.25 per month. Students in need of such loans should apply to the Treasurer of the S.B.A. who will fill their requests in accordance with the availability of funds.

Honor Board’s Duties Outlined

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