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The Dean's Column

The Quality of Excellence

In this issue the Dean's Column consists of a copy of a remark he delivered at the Faculty Forum sponsored by the Student Bar Association on the evening of September 20, 1978.

There are at present major, unresolved legal and moral issues. Controversies about the death penalty continue. Problems relating to discrimination occupy much of the courts' time and they range from the busing of small children to the establishment of quotas in graduate, professional schools. We know that Bakke has not resolved these problems. We have seen lawyers struggle with charges of Presidential abuse of authority. Universities and industries cry out against the burden imposed by the federal bureaucracy. The Supreme Court continues to struggle with the tensions created by clashing constitutional rights: How to balance the press' right to freedom with an accused's right to a fair trial; how to reconcile the press' right to freedom with your right and mine not to be defamed by newspapers. The list is without end. My subject this evening, "Excellence and the Role of the Law School" tempts me to speak about excellence in the context of those major issues, that is, to speak about the attributes that those lawyers who will participate in the debates on those issues should possess.

I shall resist that temptation for two reasons. First, most lawyers deal with more common issues. Issues that are common and seldom of national significance, they are very important to the people involved — very important. My second reason, therefore, is that the issues of interpersonal dealing with those more common problems should be the same as those possessed by the lawyers dealing with the major issues of our time. Consider for a moment the lawyers who first successfully pressed a right of action for the wrongs continues to be the same as those lawyers dealing with those more common problems should be the same as those possessed by the lawyers dealing with the major issues of our time.

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Dean's Forum Speech

(Continued from page 1)

our process in order to improve it and to move it ever closer to excellence.

My obligations to society encompass, of course, those owed to the students. The Law School represents to the public that our students are a unique group of people; that they are highly qualified and trustworthy; that they are highly motivated and hard working. We tell the public that our graduates can be relied upon to respond to their problems in a highly competent and efficient manner. We have an obligation to see to it that those representations are true. Those representations impose upon the school, upon me and upon all who teach here an obligation to demand excellence.

Consider also the fact that what our graduates do in practice has a major impact on the school and its students. The Villanova Law School enjoys an extraordinarily fine reputation. We have that reputation because our graduates have done well. Several things flow from the success of our graduates — things apart from their contributions to the alumni fund. They have become emoluments of our graduates. More importantly, they have through their competence, persuaded the legal community that Villanova graduates are first class, a force of great worth, eminently good. You will be the beneficiaries of the competence of our graduates. Because I have an obligation to you to provide the best placement service and climate of acceptance possible, I have a vital interest in the excellence of our graduates.

I wish to make my position clear. I am not neutral on this issue. I am a partisan and a partisan with a right to insist that excellence be pursued. Just as a competent graduate has a favorable impact on the school and its students, a graduate who does not meet appropriate standards of excellence will have an unfavorable impact on the school and its students. It is incumbent upon me to see that all can see it to that our affirmative obligations are met and to avoid the inevitable consequences that would flow from our inattention.

Some teachers take the position that whether a student works hard is a personal matter to be determined by the student alone. What I have just said tells you that I do not believe that for one moment. I have as an informed person in the success of each and every student in the school. I have an interest in the success of each and every graduate. I assert that interest without reservation.

When you start the quest for excellence? The overwhelming majority of you already have — and properly so. While no one — for obvious reasons — can graduate from law school a highly experienced lawyer, you must start now — at the very beginning of your entry into the profession. We will provide opportunities for clinical experiences but as always — you must be properly prepared before you undertake to help that first human being. That human being does not exist to give the novice experience — the lawyer exists to help the human being.

How does one achieve excellence? There is but one way — work, work and still more work. It has long been said that: “everything yields to diligence.” So you must practice constantly, you must drill. Once when the pianist Jan Paderewski played before Queen Victoria, she said, “Mr. Paderewski, you are a genius.” He replied, “Your Majesty, before I was a genius, I was a drudge.” You will soon tire. You will become impatient with the constant repetition of the statement of cases. You will chafe because of the patronizing attitude given to some cases. You will seek the comfort of lectures and free-wheeling discussions about what the law ought to be — without being allowed down by discussion about what the law is and why it became what it is. You will long for the chance to practice even if you are not really ready to begin. You will complain that you should be receiving a practical education, as if what we are doing is somehow not practical.

Nothing is more practical than knowing how to read and understand the decision of a court. You court said or did. You will not have to be led to your conclusions by others. You will become independent thinkers, leaders in the profession and your communities. Finally, the question becomes: what action must you take tonight? You must dedicate your selves to your profession. While you must take good care of body and spirit so the intellect will have a proper host, you cannot make self-serving excuses to avoid the burdens imposed by the quest for excellence. If you wish to pursue excellence, you must practice. Paderewski practiced constantly.

You must train your minds. John Gardner said it well. “Some people may have greatness thrust upon them. Very few have excellence thrust upon them.” Because you cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today, you must now commit yourself to the quest for excellence. It is that commitment that this Law School is all about.

You must know exactly what the court said, what the court did not say, and what the court would be likely to do under slightly different circumstances. You must not only be able to answer questions posed by others about a decision, you must be able to formulate the questions yourself. The lawyers who took up the original cases and changed the law — the lawyers who made the law more responsive to our needs — those excellent lawyers, they knew how to do those things. You must learn how also. That takes drill. It is a practical drill no less than your law school. Learn how to read and understand a decision, you will never forget. You may forget what a court has done in the past with respect to a particular problem, but you will always know how to determine exactly what the lawyer exists to help the human being. You must train your minds. John Gardner said it well. “Some people may have greatness thrust upon them. Very few have excellence thrust upon them.” Because you cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today, you must now commit yourself to the quest for excellence. It is that commitment that this Law School is all about.

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When asked if his attention to the school was beyond the scope of alumni affairs, D'Ambrosio replied "It would be easy to say that today's student is tomorrow's alumni, but it goes deeper than that. There are many programs at Villanova Law School where all alumni can participate and assist the student and I hope to make the alumni not only more aware of them but to utilize them to a fuller extent. The Law School is committed to keeping up with the needs of both its alumni and students by initiating expanding programs, however, like anything else the key word is visibility."
New Villanova Professors Hail From the Main Line to Ethiopia

by Kathleen Yesenko

This year Villanova Law School is welcoming three new additions to the law faculty. They are Prof. Thomas Welch, Prof. Dolores Spina, and Prof. Minnaas Haile. Prof. Welch hails from the Villanova area; he grew up in Wynnewood here on the Main Line. A history major in college, with a theology minor, Prof. Welch graduated from Stanford in Dec. ‘71. He decided to go into law because he saw it as an enjoyable way to make a living.

Prof. Welch graduated from Harvard Law School in 1975. He was an attorney for a large San Francisco law firm dealing with corporate litigation before coming to Villanova to teach law. He’s noticed that things have changed a little in the past few years; the student body is older than it was and more conservative. He feels students are less active politically than they used to be, and many work a few years after college before going on to law school. Empathetic with the students, Prof. Welch is generally pleased with the school. His advice is that “everyone should try to relax. Retain the confidence and ability to think that you brought from college.”

Prof. Spina graduated from Villanova Law School and practiced law for twelve years in the Villanova area; he grew up in Wynnewood here on the Main Line. A history major in college, with a theology minor, Prof. Spina noted that the school has a very good reputation in practicing law and has become well established among area schools. She attributes this to the tremendous reputation of the graduates.

Her experience has shown that it pays to work hard in law school because law firms place heavy emphasis on grades. Unless you have a definite feeling of what law you want to practice, get as varied a background as you can, especially writing and speaking experience. Prof. Haile has an extensive background in international law. He previously taught “International Organization” and “International Law” at Haverford on a part-time basis, but decided he’d rather teach at the graduate level.

He likes Villanova very much, especially the atmosphere and beautiful campus. Prof. Haile teaches “Public International Law” to second and third year students.

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin with a BA in Economics, Prof. Haile received his LLB from Columbia School of Law, NY. He also has an MA and PhD from Columbia in International Law. Prof. Haile is a native of Ethiopia where he was the Minister of Information & Tourism in the ’80s, and the Emperor’s Legal Political Advisor up until 1974. “I felt I could make a greater contribution to my country by studying law,” he said. He was most recently the Minister of International Affairs for Ethiopia and Ethiopia’s ambassador to the U.S.

Prof. Haile likes the U.S. and has lived here for many years as a student. He plans to research and write in the future, and continue teaching.

Legal Research student “teaching assistant” instructs first year class.

“Teach Thyself”

by Kevin O’Connor

Continuing in its ever changing methodology, the Legal Research course being presented to the Class of 1981 has taken on the dimension of “self-teaching.” Experience being the best teacher, Law School Librarian Charlie Harvey has decided not to teach the course to Section A and B as last year, but to delegate that chore on students acting as “teaching assistants.” For groups of approximately 25 students, these second year students selected because of particular success on last year’s legal research examination, have the task of meeting weekly with their groups to present material and hopefully alleviate some of the confusion generated by anyone’s first trip to the law library.

Armed with Cohen’s Nutshell on Legal Research and little else, the first year students must attempt to get a feel for the library prior to beginning Moot Court I later in the semester. This is to be accomplished by a series of problems dealing with the various tools available in the library. As an example, conscious students have found by now, this usually means finding the correct book, placing it on the table and watching it open to the case required. For the extremely lazy (and foolish) there is always someone who doubles as an advisor, copying the answers from the person next to you.

Early reaction to the new program has been mixed. As with any self taught course, the ultimate responsibility lies with the student and not with the teaching assistants or Miss Harvey. Until one becomes comfortable with the library, the problems assigned are frustrating and time consuming and much like the trigonometetry learned in high school, some of the skills may never be used again. However, it is a feeling of accomplishment when that one cite is finally found.

The course continues for six weeks at which time a final examination will be given and graded on a pass/fail basis. One credit will be awarded as part of the third year legal research/Moot Court Program.

Moot Court I Starts This Week

by Tom Wilkinson

First year students will be assigned Moot Court I problems during the first week of October, according to Co-Chairman of Moot Court F. Schumacher.

In what Schumacher calls “a return to tradition,” second year students, under the direction of the law school, will have written a new set of first year problems, rather than having problems leftover from previous years. At the suggestion of faculty advisor John Hsymon, Moot Court Board members decided to return to the practice of writing problems from scratch. The result of the change, Schumacher says, is that this year’s problems are fresh, and of higher quality than those of recent years.

There will also be nearly twice as many Moot Court I problems this year, 21 in Schumacher’s estimation that the greater number and variety of this year’s problems will result in less of a bottleneck in the use of library resources.

First year students will have five to six weeks to prepare a memorandum of law in answer to the problem. Each of the problems involves first year subjects so that students will develop familiarity with the area of law in question.

Students have been grouped in multiples of four, with 17 groups of 12 students, and 4 groups of 8 students. The Moot Court Board is made up of a new student with the title of student advisor who devised the problem that will meet with the assigned group in early October to discuss the moot court process, and to do some preliminary teaching on how to research and write a legal memo, according to Schumacher.

First year students have been assigned to a faculty advisor who is familiar with the problem. A student-faculty advisor list is posted outside of Room 29.

During the second semester the first year student with the faculty advisor will judge the group’s briefs and oral arguments in appellate posture. In previous years first year students have not been assigned a faculty advisor who is familiar with the moot court.

Each Moot Court I problem will have two major issues so that partners may more easily divide the work. Most courts is a pass-fail course.

All questions should be directed to the Moot Court Board, Room 25.
WLC Programs Are Underway

by Angel Martinez

The Women's Law Caucus has a "Sibling Sponsorship Program" in process. Any first year student who wants/needs the help and friendship of our second or third year members is asked to sign up in our office (next to Student Services). The purpose of the program is to provide a real relationship between people and to thereby make the first year a little easier. The first year student is encouraged to bring any kind of problem or question to the upper class student.

The Caucus had its first meeting and decided to form four standing committees: Administrative; Speaker Acquisition; Fundraising; and Creative. Anyone wishing to sign up for these committees, or with questions about them, should come to the Caucus office.

WLC is also taking nominations for people who wish to be the Section A or B liaison to the Caucus. Nominations will be accepted until October 1, and voting will be by all first year members at the meeting on October 3 at 2:00 p.m. in the WLC office.

WLC Calendar of Events

Oct. 3 — WLC Meeting — 2:00 p.m. - Office
Oct. 5 — Panel of Judges — 7:30 p.m. - Room 29
Oct. 27-29 — Fall Roundtable of LSD-ABA — To be announced

The SBA Social Committee is in the process of soliciting suggestions for law school activities (parties, dances, sports events, movie series, picnics, pinball machines, etc., etc.) for the year 1978-79. Suggestions should be submitted to Myron Farber of Spring Mill Road.

The Villanova Law School has been selected to host this year's Law Student Division/ American Bar Association Fall Roundtable. This Third Circuit conference, with its twelve member schools and 6,000 students, is an annual weekend of workshops, panel discussions and social events, and is scheduled for October 27, 28, and 29.

Panel discussions will focus on police brutality, juvenile rights, federal housing, starting a law practice, and other law-related topics. Some of the accepted speakers are Charles Peruto, Milton Street, and Joan Dinerstein. Attempts are also being made to contact Myron Farber of The New York Times.

Social events such as a masquerade party and a banquet will round out the activities.

All Villanova students are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity and show support by attending the events.

Watch the bulletin boards for further details and registration information.

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Any Student who submitted a Case and Comment in the recent Open Writing Competition can still have a one-on-one review of the work by a member of the selection committee. Anyone who has not yet done so can still sign-up for an appointment in the Law Review office.

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THE DOCKET

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LSD/ABA Seminars To Be Held At VLS

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Food Service: Go For Broke

It is popular among some schools involved in fund raising for World Hunger to ask their students to skip lunch one particular day and donate the money that would have been spent on lunch to the cause. This activity was carried on here, in light of the recent hike in cafeteria prices, VLS could probably break all records based on a per capita basis.

First indications of the boom being lowered occurred last January when coffee junkies returned for second semester to find the price per cup was higher, yet the new streamlined cup gave you fewer ounces for your money. But this was only the hint of what was to come this semester.

Several years ago, the Villanova cafeterias throughout the university were contracted out to private, off-campus, institutional caterers. It was the poor quality of the food that caused this to be the case. A Villanova Food Services department servicing all of the university cafeterias uniformly.

Only the cafeterias for commuters in Bartley Hall, Dougerty Hall, and the Law School cafeteria deal on a cash and carry basis. Four other cafeterias are for resident students only and are maintained via the overall room and board charge. Should a visitor wish to dine in a resident cafeteria (usually while touring the campus) the price as of last semester was $3 for breakfast, $4 for lunch, and $5 for dinner, no matter what the menu.

The prices in the four cash and carry cafeterias are uniform throughout the Bartley Cafeteria has food items unique to the other three. Many have sampled the cuisine in a majority of all seven cafeterias. Students who brown bag it have also felt the pinch. Tea has gone from 20c to 23c; milk from 25c to 35c to 40c and 50c; and soda is up to 35c and 45c. More significant increases have occurred in hot prey items; even yogurt was not spared; it suffered a nickel increase to 50c.

It should be noted that the personnel in the Law School cafeteria are not responsible for the prices charged. Those decisions are made by the Food Services department in Dougerty Hall. Therefore, complaints and dirty looks to the people behind the counters (all of whom are quite pleasant) may make some patrons feel better, but they will go unnoticed by the people actually responsible for the increases.

The only way the patrons of the law school cafeteria will have their disfavor brought to the attention of the proper administrators, is through united action. The possibilities range anywhere from a food fight to a consistent and effectively lunging boycott. Since the former end of the spectrum is ridiculous, and since "money talks," perhaps the best solution lies more in line with a boycott.

At any rate, this problem has come to the surface; now it is up to student leaders to affect it.

Horatio Alger At Villanova?

When the Law Review Open Writing competition became an article assignment for this issue of The Docket, I put it in the back of my mind as another cut and dry, smacks of a Horatio Alger story. To think that one, even if Horatio Alger is right up there with apple pie and mom. The New York Times.

Seminars Are Underway

So if there are any crimps in the system, here is hoping

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Food Service: Go For Broke

It is popular among some schools involved in fund raising for World Hunger to ask their students to skip lunch one particular day and donate the money that would have been spent on lunch to the cause. This activity was carried on here, in light of the recent hike in cafeteria prices, VLS could probably break all records based on a per capita basis.

First indications of the boom being lowered occurred last January when coffee junkies returned for second semester to find the price per cup was higher, yet the new streamlined cup gave you fewer ounces for your money. But this was only the hint of what was to come this semester.

Several years ago, the Villanova cafeterias throughout the university were contracted out to private, off-campus, institutional caterers. It was the poor quality of the food that caused this to be the case. A Villanova Food Services department servicing all of the university cafeterias uniformly.

Only the cafeterias for commuters in Bartley Hall, Dougerty Hall, and the Law School cafeteria deal on a cash and carry basis. Four other cafeterias are for resident students only and are maintained via the overall room and board charge. Should a visitor wish to dine in a resident cafeteria (usually while touring the campus) the price as of last semester was $3 for breakfast, $4 for lunch, and $5 for dinner, no matter what the menu.

The prices in the four cash and carry cafeterias are uniform throughout the Bartley Cafeteria has food items unique to the other three. Many have sampled the cuisine in a majority of all seven cafeterias. Students who brown bag it have also felt the pinch. Tea has gone from 20c to 23c; milk from 25c to 35c to 40c and 50c; and soda is up to 35c and 45c. More significant increases have occurred in hot prey items; even yogurt was not spared; it suffered a nickel increase to 50c.

It should be noted that the personnel in the Law School cafeteria are not responsible for the prices charged. Those decisions are made by the Food Services department in Dougerty Hall. Therefore, complaints and dirty looks to the people behind the counters (all of whom are quite pleasant) may make some patrons feel better, but they will go unnoticed by the people actually responsible for the increases.

The only way the patrons of the law school cafeteria will have their disfavor brought to the attention of the proper administrators, is through united action. The possibilities range anywhere from a food fight to a consistent and effectively lunging boycott. Since the former end of the spectrum is ridiculous, and since "money talks," perhaps the best solution lies more in line with a boycott.

At any rate, this problem has come to the surface; now it is up to student leaders to affect it.

Horatio Alger

At Villanova?

When the Law Review Open Writing competition became an article assignment for this issue of The Docket, I put it in the back of my mind as another cut and dry, hang-it-out-on-the-typewriter story. Suddenly I was being approached by strangers in the hall, accosted by acquaintances in classes; everyone had an opinion. I began hearing the same arguments repeated, the only difference being in the tacky gossip attached to each version. No version was ever substantiated and I must admit I was quite relieved of that.

Granted, when the number of finished, submitted papers drops from ninety to one half that in the course of one year, there has got to be a reason even if the Law Review does not seem too concerned. But despite any less than fortuitous aspects, the Open Writing Competition smacks of a Horatio Alger story. To think that one, even if it were only one, can gain access to Law Review (for what ever reason) without "growing roots in the Library" (to quote one who made it by grades), is refreshing. After all, Horatio Alger is right up there with apple pie and mom.

So if there are any cramps in the system, here is hoping Law Review has the good sense to straighten them out. It would be a real shame to lose so positive a side to so serious a business.
For Theater Buffs:

“THE WIZ,” a modern-day black version of “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz,” has started the Philadelphia theater season off in fine style. Currently in the midst of a seven week run at the Forrest Theater, “THE WIZ” was the winner of seven Tony Awards when it first opened on Broadway. Gaye Luzine Turner, who plays Dorothy in the production, was the understudy for the role in the original production. Her’s is a demanding role, with very little stage time, yet her fantastically strong voice, lithe dancing abilities, and high level energy run unalated to end. Just as in ‘The Wonderful Wizard of Oz,’ the Cowardly Lion, the Scarecrow, the Tinman, and the Cowardly are, or in this case Oscar, Leo (Ron Taylor) and The Wicked Witch of the West (Carolyn Miller as Evillene). Seldom are these two on stage at the same time, and this is fortunate for it is doubtful that any one stage could contain those two “larger than life” personalities for any given time.

Although the show handles the original story line tenaciously at the best, the tacked and true theme of “wishing will make it so,” receives new life here thanks primarily to the larger musical numbers like “TORNADO,” “FUNKY MONKEY,” and “YELLOW BRICK ROAD.” At times one wished the stage was twice its size to accommodate the company’s dancers. It is easy to be left with the impression that some of the leaps allowed to run their course, half of the dancers would exit stage left before touching down.

If this creative, unorganized and totally unpredictable version of “THE WIZ” is any indication of what the Philadelphia theater is going to be like, it’s going to be great.

Used books bring bucks

Book Sale A Success

by Tish Dugan

This year’s SBA sponsored Used Book Sale has been hailed by many of its patrons as the most efficient held in recent years. The necessary organization to accomplish such efficiency can be attributed to the combination of a sales management background and the efforts of Gary Cutler, ’79, the student responsible for the sale.

During the Spring Semester, the SBA considered those students who showed an interest in taking the job. Several were interested since the person who handles the sale received 10% of the total money taken in on the used books sold. Cutler was this year’s choice and he got to work immediately.

Used books were collected throughout last semester’s summer period. Since most students were cramming for finals, Cutler enlisted help from his wife and several friends. This was an aid to students traveling home or away for the summer; it can be difficult enough just getting some law books from the locker to the classroom. These books were stored over the summer and were available to set up shop with at the very beginning of classes. As students returned to campus and the books were brought in to replenish the supply already on hand.

Cutler estimates that over 200 students turned over used books to the sale. Approximately 250 to 300 students bought books there. Of the 200 or so students who had books sold, most received between $15.00 and $25.00. The highest amount returned to one student was $200.00 with the next highest figure being $97.00. The efficiency of the sale, according to Cutler, depended on a quick process of returning money and unsold books to the sale’s participants. In past years, weeks would go by before anyone saw a cent and even more time passed before unsold books were returned.

During finals this December, Cutler will be collecting used books again for sale in January for second semester. Used books, horn books and commercial out-lying manuscripts are all accepted for sale. According to Cutler, books in better condition sell most quickly and can bring a little over half of the original price as the selling price. If a student is offering a book in poor condition, he can expect not to get more than one-third the original cost. Cutler has made arrangements for the book sellers from the class of ’78 to receive their profit, minus the 10% commission.

Students who plan on disposing of books through future sales can keep in mind that their markings can either raise or lower the selling price.

These students currently in a class they really wish they had dropped, can take heart; because of the used book sale they can be certain that they will get something good back from the course.
Open Writing Revised

by Chris Barbieri

The annual Open Writing Competition is a longstanding tradition at Villanova Law School. It is the only means available for second year students not selected as contributors to the Law Review for their writing to be evaluated. This competition provides a way for second year students to demonstrate their writing ability, and it is used by the Law Review to evaluate their potential as contributors. The competition has three main components: the Open Writing Competition, the Annual Open Writing Revised Competition, and the Open Writing Revised Competition.

The Open Writing Competition is held each fall, and it is open to all second year students. The competition is judged by the Law Review Board, and the winners are announced in the spring. The competition is divided into three categories: Organization, Legal Analysis, and Writing Style. Each entry is reviewed by four different members of the Law Review Board, and the scores are tallied and compiled. The final cut is made by the Law Review Editor-in-Chief and the faculty advisor, and the winners are announced in the spring.

The Annual Open Writing Revised Competition is held each spring, and it is open to all second year students who did not participate in the Open Writing Competition. The competition is judged by the Law Review Board, and the winners are announced in the spring. The competition is divided into three categories: Organization, Legal Analysis, and Writing Style. Each entry is reviewed by four different members of the Law Review Board, and the scores are tallied and compiled. The final cut is made by the Law Review Editor-in-Chief and the faculty advisor, and the winners are announced in the spring.

The Open Writing Revised Competition is held each spring, and it is open to all second year students who did not participate in the Open Writing Competition or the Annual Open Writing Revised Competition. The competition is judged by the Law Review Board, and the winners are announced in the spring. The competition is divided into three categories: Organization, Legal Analysis, and Writing Style. Each entry is reviewed by four different members of the Law Review Board, and the scores are tallied and compiled. The final cut is made by the Law Review Editor-in-Chief and the faculty advisor, and the winners are announced in the spring.

The Law Review Board spends many hours working on the new rules package, which presents a set procedure for resolving questions and disputes. The rules also provide the best answers to the posted questions, James says. "I consider them to be a significant improvement over previous years."

Moot Court II, Reimels Underway

by Tom Wilkinson

In a break from the past more teams have signed up to compete in the Nineteenth Annual Reimel Competition than in the Moot Court II Credit Round. Forty-six teams have entered the competition, which was held on April 23, and the competition was won by the University of Pennsylvania Law School, which was represented by four entering Moot Court II teams.

The Moot Court office bulletin announced the dates for both petitioner's and respondent's briefs by three days of the deadline for the printing of the revised set of Moot Court Rules of Appellate Procedure, according to James. The printing process took a lot longer than we expected," says James. "It was a very busy time, and the best work product rather than be governed by arbitrary figures. The first round of Reimel Competition was selected rather than the customary 20 second year students for Law Review on the basis of grades, there are actually more second year students on Law Review this year than last year."

Mr. Struzyna concluded by observing that the previous competition of participants of no "feed-back" was being alleviated this year. All participants will compete with a member of the committee for a session to have their case evaluated for them individually. He added that, like last year, there will be a forum at the end of the year to explain the competition. All are invited to attend the forum, and the committee will encourage everyone to enter the Open Writing Competition for next year's edition of the Law Review.
Career Prospects Brighten

by Joan M. Beck
Director of Placement

Once again Villanova law graduates excelled in the national average in placement in law-related jobs within eight months after graduation. The National Association for Law Placement (NALP) statistics show 99.8% of graduates to be working in related positions. Villanova's Class of 1977 was 96% employed, 97% of the class responded to the survey.

Similar to the statistics of the Class of 1975 and 1976, Villanova's employment successes were strongest in highly-paid corporate positions 14% (NALP 10.1%) and prestigious judicial clerkship positions 17% (NALP 8.9%). A comparison of the other categories shows private practice 45% to NALP's 31%, government 16% to NALP's 16.7%; public interest/legal services 9% to NALP's 5.6%; academic 3% to NALP's 3.3%; and other positions including military 1/2 % to NALP's 2.8%.


Grades unsuccessful in obtaining employment are generally those who are inflexible geographically or in their area of legal interests.

The major difficulty of the job search for recent graduates is one of communication. Law graduates may be uninformed of the wide variety of career options quoted to a law-trained person. Also, there is, in general, a lack of knowledge about smaller firms—legal specializations, firm personalities to make a working marriage "match," and financial arrangements available to a recent graduate. Law schools' alumni associations and local bar associations could perform a great service to the youngest members of the legal community by providing information of this nature. Loyalty and good will is engendered by assisting a young lawyer in obtaining his first legal job.

Villanova law graduates are successful in obtaining employment. The Law Review's high admissions standards and top quartile rank among law schools nationally, in skills confidence in their legal education and self-confidence in their own abilities.

Admission Policies Revised

by David Schrager

It was probably about last January that Sandy Moore, Director of Admissions at Villanova Law School, sat down with her admissions committee and concluded that a change was in order as far as general admission policies were concerned.

"Too often in the past," related Moore, "we would lose students who really wanted to come here but were placed on the wait-list. In a situation like that, there's not much a person can do but accept someone else if offered. He can't wait forever to get in here."

So what Moore decided to do was take a larger initial group of people with the hope that the same number of withdrawals would be received as in the past and, as a consequence, there would be fewer people accepted off the wait-list.

"This year we wanted to get the individuals who liked Villanova as a first choice," explained Moore. "We got a faster return and that's just what we desired."

A few statistics might be illuminating about the differences between the entering class of 1977 and this year's first-year class. In 1977, there were about 410 people accepted initially, while this year there were almost 700. These figures were pared down to a situation where 316 paid their deposit in 1977 and 313 paid in 1978. These figures were pared down to a situation where 316 paid their deposit in 1977 and 313 paid in 1978. But as Moore said, "We ended up with the same number of people in the long run. The important factor this year was that the students were placed in much less agony because they knew their status very early. We wanted to provide a service for our students and applicants and we felt it was extremely important that we do. It was essential that we make sure that those who really wanted to come here and, in the past might have ended up hearing late, could come here and not have cause for worry."

Another major addition to the admissions process this year was a lenient policy of granting deferrals. "We considered financial aid a legitimate reason for deferral and that went contrary with past practice," continued the head of admissions. "A deposit refund system was also instituted whereby the sooner it was known that a student was going to defer, the more money you would get back."

When queried about whether the new admissions policies would be continued in the future, Moore related a recommendation to the faculty and students and a year guard, "I think all of you can argue with success and that's probably just the way things look at the situation. It worked this year and undoubtedly it will in the future.

Dieter Strzyyna, Coordinator of this year's Law Review Open Writing competition.

Valente Speaks

On October 19, 1978, Lehigh University is sponsoring a symposium program focusing on the recent developments and pending cases and statutes affecting Pennsylvania and New Jersey public schools. Professor William Valente, chairman of the local government section of the American Association of Law Schools, will discourse on the topic of the "Application of Federal Case Law to the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Public Schools" during the morning session. Anyone interested in attending this very relevant conference should contact Dr. Leroy Tuscher, Dept. of Administration, School of Education and Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa. 18015 or telephone (215) 491-7000 Ext. 489, or by contacting Prof. Valente.

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Carpenter Jerie "Jerry" Douglas adds his special touch to Law School remodeling.
contemplating a "get-tough" policy on attendance, for instance. A few years ago, Mrs. McFadden conceded, VLS rigorously enforced its attendance policies, even to the extent of having office staff take roll in the classrooms. Now, few professors seem to pay much attention to attendance, at least in the larger classes. But there is no intention of returning to strict monitoring of attendance, according to the Registrar.

The charts ran into a few snafus this year. Not only was it made at the last minute. New seating charts had to be prepared in blank; then the pictures had to be taken and matched with signatures on the old charts. This, Mrs. McFadden disclosed that about 60 students have so far not have their pictures taken. She feels that many of these students simply neglected or forgot it in the rush of the first weeks at school. She hopes to have another camera available soon. For the true "re-fonkics", no action is contemplated to force the unwilling to have their pictures taken.

The charts will be prepared both more quickly and more cheaply. It is hoped that next year the charts will be prepared both more quickly and more cheaply. This, according to the Registrar.

But the charts are coming. The first-year classes already have them up at the office before class and return them afterwards, because of fears that pictures might be removed (or worse) if the charts were allowed to remain in the classrooms.

The cost of implementing the program was relatively high this year, mainly because of the normal problems of starting something new, and because of the last-minute rush. It cost about $1.50 per student for eight pictures. It is hoped that next year the charts will be prepared both more quickly and more cheaply. One idea, for instance, is to have the blank seating charts in the room where the photographs are to be taken. Students could then either photo directly to the chart, and write in his or her name, under the picture.

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