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HALLOWEEN
T.G.I.F.

When?
Friday, October 31, 1980

What?
Costumes Optional

Where?
Cafeteria at 3:15 P.M.

Not Quite Excellent?

New Grade Adopted

By Tom Harrigan

A new grading system will be in effect here at the Law School this semester. Students now have the possibility of getting a B-plus grade, rather than simply an A, B, C-plus, C, C-minus, D or F.

The proposal to add the new grade was submitted to the faculty by the faculty’s Grading and Examining Committee and approved by the faculty last summer.

The new policy will afford greater latitude to reflect gradations in the performances of students in a class, according to Dean Abraham. The purpose of the change was to afford professors the opportunity to recognize (with a higher grade) groups of students. Originally, when number grades were used (for example, 70, 71, 72, etc.), extremely fine distinctions were possible. The switch to letter grades reversed this situation entirely, restricting professors to a few broad categories.

The addition of the new B-plus grade to the scale which already includes A-plus and C-minus, is a swing back to the middle ground in terms of gradation.

Leftovers

Unsold books may be picked up by contacting Joe Marucci. Hours when money is being distributed will be posted periodically.

Wall Street Style

Law Office Politics

By Tony Green

In a way, the young Wall Street associate considered the story he was about to tell hysterically funny. Funny enough to make one cry. It was about one of his colleagues at his firm, one of Wall Street’s biggest.

“You see, this guy used to wear those bikini underwear,” he said, smiling. “And he was standing at the urinal next to one of the more senior, senior partners who evidently noticed that his junior was wearing that kind of underwear.”

“Word got down to the associate, very quickly, that this was just not done at our firm. Why was this so significant? Well, first of all, it shows that nothing is sacred, nothing private. But it is also a question of image. This firm is stuffy. And the image should be reflected by its members — from their Brooks Brothers suit to their shiny black shoes to their underwear. Needless to say, he switched to boxer shorts.”

Check out any book store these days and you’ll find a shelf full of books telling you how to make it, how to win through intimidation, how to dress for success, how to scratch your adversary’s eyes out and how to win at office politics.

So you might as well face it: the political games are played out everywhere. In a marriage. In a love affair. In a kindergarten classroom. At a law school. And at law firms, large and small. The games are played by almost everyone, the mail boys, the summer associates, the young lawyers and the big boys who play games to make the little guys work harder. And you might as well be prepared to play the game.

Now you are asking: Who are you, Tony Green, to know the office politics game? Well, better, as a political reporter I learned the game from the best of the business, guys like Buddy Cianfrani, Bill Green, a fat committee woman from South Philly, and media wizard David Garth, the man who’s running John Anderson’s presidential campaign. (Garth has had some successes.)

By John Delaney

The Student Bar Association has finalized its budget for the 1980-81 academic year. Approximately $1200 was allocated to various student organizations, while the S.B.A. reserved $1650 for its own use.

S.B.A. administered funds are a prime source of income for organizations in the Law School. Any student group is eligible for such monies, provided that its officers file a copy of the organization’s constitution with the S.B.A., submit a written budget request, and attend the budget hearing. The Executive Board of the S.B.A. — the elected officers, class representatives, and University Senator — then considers the request and allocates the money. The procedure is repeated in the early spring.

Paul Dougherty, S.B.A. president, explained the criteria used in determining who gets what. “To receive funds, the organization must be open to all law students. We examine the organization’s history, size, proposed activities, and alternate sources of funds. Additionally, each request is considered in light of all the others — there is a need to balance them based on how much money is to be distributed.”

Eight student organizations were allotted money this semester. S.B.A. treasurer Patti Fleming reported the following allocations:

- Environmental Law Club, $40
- Intercollegiate Basketball, $70
- Garey Hall Rugby Club, $160
- Women’s Law Caucus, $135
- National Lawyers’ Guild, $30
- Thomas More Society, $300
- Interscholastic Basketball, $110
- Tramural Athletics, $100

The S.B.A. uses its own funds in diverse ways. The social committee will have $600 to defray expenses of hosting lectures and social functions. The athletic organizations will use their grants to pay for equipment and league expenses.

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Presidential Predictions: A Little Horse Sense

By Tom Bevensi

I finally caught up with good ol' Tom "Horse" Spicular the other day to ask him what he thought this year's presidential election would bring. Horse has always been an at-
ttractive student of the political arena and ever since our high school days the Horse has had a penchant for backing the losers. I fi-
gured I'd find out what Horse was support-
ing this year so I could let everyone else know who was going to win. Well Horse's incalculable sense of better that predicted in 1972 that Richard Nixon would experience his suicidal humiliation. I just can't believe Horse in 1975 said a peanut farmer from the South with absolutely no experi-
ce in Congress could never be elected President because "the people just ain't stupid." Well the Horse was guessing a few cold ones down at McCann's Pub when I finally put the question to him.

"Whose going to win the election this year?" I asked.

"What election?" said Horse.

I could see Horse was up to his usual coy playing down again so as not to give me the benefit of his true underlying decision. "What horse, you voting for this year for President?" I asked hoping the political wizard would open up a bit.

"In past years, you ought to know by this early in the year, they all stink," gloated Horse.

But Horse had been pretty much oblivious to the Code of Conduct. In fact, a new committee was formed to discuss the proposed code. The committee was comprised of faculty and students on the honor board that case was, under the former wording of the Code, not reviewable. After the 1979 change in the introduction to the Code, the faculty could apparently review de novo the case of a student exonerated by his peers under the Honor Code proceedings and then, without regard to the earlier finding, hold the student in violation of the Code. On the floor before the committee studying the new Code are two proposals which relate directly to this problem. One proposal essentially mimics the 1979 change, giving the faculty jurisdiction over "all conduct which fails to meet the standards of academic and professional behavior, whether such conduct constitutes a violation of the Honor Code or not." The other would give the Honor Board exclusive original jurisdiction over Code violations, with the faculty retaining jurisdiction over all other matters. We favor the latter approach as the proposal which recognizes the responsibility of students to each other in enforcing a Code of Conduct at the Law School. The new Code, proposed by Abraham to examine the Code of Conduct. The most significant changes proposed by the new Code are:

(1) A clarification of the definition of conduct constituting a violation of the Code. The Code's provisions in this area were felt to be confusing and overlapping.

(2) Jurisdiction of the Honor Board. The Honor Board, under the new Code, would have exclusive original jurisdiction over Code violations.

(3) Rights of the Accused — Discovery. The Code, in addition, a new committee was formed to discuss the proposed code.

(4) Report Submitted to Faculty. The new Code proposes that in the event the Honor Board conducts a hearing and submits a report to the faculty, the name of the accused shall not appear in the report but shall be communicated privately to the Dean. This is to insures the faculty will not have knowledge of the identity of the ac-
cused when reviewing the Board's findings.

(5) Rights of Appeal of Appeals. The new Code requires the Board to turn the report over to the Faculty for review within 24 hours and to the Board and to the Board for further proceedings. It should be noted that at this stage, these are merely proposals, to be seen how many of these provisions will be adopted.

A Job Well Done

The Placement office announced recently that about 2000 interviews had been scheduled this fall by employers interested in interviewing Villanova Law students at the Law School.

The most of the 360 employers from the public and private sectors who have requested these interviews have demonstrated their confidence in the graduates of this Law School.

The Placement Office and Ms. Delane are to be commended for their efforts in encouraging these employers to meet VLS students. Congratulations!
LEGAL BRIEFS

94 Miles to Go

By John Schreck

Outstanding distance runners are not very hard to find around Villanova, and a few can even be found at the Law School. One of the best is a '68 graduate of V.L.S., Professor Taggart basically sees his running as a hobby. "I really enjoy the social aspect of distance running, being with friends and doing what I enjoy. In a way it is a lot like playing golf."

However with a full teaching schedule and many responsibilities to the legal community outside of V.L.S., he often finds it difficult to run his usual 90 miles per week and has to drop down to as few as 50 miles per week.

"It was an intolerably hot day and I had to jog in the last two miles," he says. However he adds, "I was really pleased with my performance in the rest of the race. I had gone out at a much faster pace than before and didn't have any trouble other than with heat, and that seemed to be getting everyone down a slower time than usual."

"I really enjoy the social aspect of distance running, being with friends and doing what I enjoy. In a way it is a lot like playing golf."

The same men that opened the scoring for the Garey Hall Rugby Club on Township Line road, be careful how you pass him. He could probably catch up with you before you get home.

Garey Ruggers Win Again

by Pete Barrett

The full classic of Rugby was recently held on the Villanova University Campus. The Garey Hall rugger were pitted against their undergraduate counterparts in a hard hitting match characteristic of the fierce rivalry that has grown between the two teams. When the dust had settled and the legs were tuned Garey Hall had come out on top 13-8.

The same men that opened the scoring for Garey Hall are also opening doors for important employment opportunities for all of us. If Nicky Caniglia hadn't charged into the endzone, if Mike Hagan and John McChlister hadn't combined for another try, and if the "Big Foot" Bentley hadn't added his extra points, well then perhaps Chief Justice Warren Burger wouldn't have offered a clerkship to team captains Neil Davidowitz and Dennis Platt. Actually, it may be true that no such offers were ever made, but this only highlights further the general atmosphere of ignorance in this country as to the importance of the Garey Hall Rugby Club.

Time To Spare?

ABA Law Student Division members interested in writing book reviews on current legal literature for the "Books for Lawyers" section on the ABA Journal should send writing samples, particularly published work, to Carrie L. Hedges, Book Review Editor, ABA Journal, 77 South Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606.

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A recent New York Times article caught our eye with what, at first, looked like cheerful news for job-hunting law students. The article cited a study by the National Association for Law Placement which said there's been a "slight improvement" this year in recent law grads finding employment (over previous years).

The article noted that top students have a "seller's market" to look forward to when peddling resumes. Our hopes were dashed, however, by this quote from McGeorge Hall School of Law placement director Arthur Terakas: "Every law placement office is concerned with the bottom 90 percent of the class. For them, the market is still very competitive."

That's funny. "Bottom 90 percent" is not how we phrased it on our resume.

Cannon on Stage

Villanova Law School's own thespian Professor John Cannon will be performing in Plays and Players' current production at their theater at 1714 Delancey Street in Philadelphia.

Professor Cannon plays the part of one of the candidates in Gore Vidal's The Best Man, tonight, tomorrow night, October 30, 31, and November 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. For more information, call PE 5-0630. Tickets are four and five dollars.

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Switzerland in World War II. Nobody will believe that there's one problem.

You can't let it bother you when you see some ne'er-do-well in the cubicle next to you climbi­ng the bucking bronco with his golf bag or his Snickers bar. He doesn't know his Brooks Brothers pin stripes, but he has a perfect mount of his law firm and becomes his protege. You better make sure that your adopted mentor is truly a rising star and that he does the kind of work you enjoy.

Q: How do I establish myself with a mentor?

A: Obviously, you can't go up to a partner and say, "Will you be my mentor?" Instead, you should find something you have in common with him — football, asbestos litigation, Ronald Reagan's campaign, the ERA, anything — and talk to him or her about it. One of the first things you should do upon walking in the door of a firm is to learn all you can about your employer: the firm's history, its leaders, its stars, its clients, its income, its taboos and its rules of etiquette.

Q: What if I find myself politically stagnant? Let's say I'm assigned to a falling star or a boring piece of business?

A: If you've been assigned to the drudgework, you have probably done something wrong already. The best thing to do is to apply yourself to the work vociferously. Get the busy job done with and, at the same time, impress your bosses with your dedication. Maybe you can recoup some of your losses. Or maybe you should find another job.

If you have found that you have attached yourself to a falling star, don't desert him like a musician jumping from a sinking Dutch ship. Stay with him — thus demonstrating your loyalty — and try to find another, more useful mentor.

Q: How about if I meet this really nice guy or girl at my firm? Can we go out?

A: Strictly speaking, that depends on the etiquette of your firm. But, generally, inter-office love affairs backfire. First you try to keep it a secret but that's impossible. And when you break up — if you break up — things can get a little dicey, with the scorned partner pouring and crying. Such scenes might look petty and immature to the higher ups. Besides, you're not really supposed to think about such things. You're supposed to think about only one thing: the niches in such fields as asbestos litigation, environmental law, aviation law and the like. Recently, a small coterie of clever Philadelphia and Jersey lawyers have cashed in on casino gambling in Atlantic City. Bringing in a choice piece of business will also earn you some points.

Q: Do I have to kiss ... feet to get ahead?

A: Apple-polishing might work in a groovy spoon or a real estate firm but lawyers are specialists in analyzing people and they can spot a young associate playing the Eddie Haskell game a mile away.

"Lawyers can spot a young associate playing the Eddie Haskell game a mile away."