

THE DISSENT

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University of Oregon School of Law

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LIASON COMMITTEE MEETING UNPRODUCTIVE LAMENTS SBA VICE-PRESIDENT

A meeting between students, Dean Chapin Clark and members of the Oregon State Bar's Law School Liason Committee "wasn't very productive," according to SBA vice-president Peter Fels.

Fels, as well as students Sue Burgott, Dave Powell, Jay Williamson, Dana Weinstein and Merrill Schneider, attended the meeting at the law school Saturday, Feb. 26.

Fels said, after the meeting, that neither the committee or the students seemed prepared to discuss issues of mutual concern or understood much about each other's activities. According to Fels, this was unfortunate since the Bar does have some power over the structure of law school education. He felt that perhaps a student division of the Bar would help foster communication. He said, in addition, that he would like to see it happen because what the Bar does will have a strong effect in terms of a law student's later career--by its decisions concerning the Code of Professional Responsibility, specialization, certification and others. He said the committee will visit the school again next year and hopes students will be ready for them.

In any event, said Fels, students and committee members did raise some points.

Lane County Circuit Court Judge Edwin Allen, chairer of the committee, asked each student who attended the meeting what was on his/her mind. But most of the students responded that they had only a vague idea of the committee's purpose and they had come to find out what the committee had on its mind. Fels observed that this method wasn't the most successful approach to achieving effective communication.

Dana Weinstein, however, pointed out that many students are uneasy about the "moral Character" requirement for entry to the Bar and that the standards don't seem very objective. Dean Clark replied that his question was within the realm of the Board of Bar Examiners, who will visit the law school this month. According to Fels, after some discussion, it seemed apparent that part of the problem is that the Legal Professions class, which many students don't take until their third year and which Willamette requires its students to take in the second year, covers the subject too late in a student's education. Judge Allen suggested that the law school

include the class, or at least that part relating to admission to the Bar, in the first year curriculum. This would save those persons likely to be ineligible for admission from finding this out after three years in law school. The committee, however, (or at least Judge Allen) did not agree with students that the standards were vague or that a person's political views might be sufficient for the Bar examiners to exclude him or her from practicing law.

Merrill Schneider wanted to discuss with the committee the new "D" grade, but the committee felt that it was an internal affair of the law school.

Fels suggested the formation of a student division of the state bar, similar to that of the ABA. Judge Allen indicated that most Bar committees already are willing to accept student participation, especially in the area of research. The committee, however, seemed willing to consider formalizing an avenue for student participation and asked Fels to draw up a proposal for them to consider at their next meeting. Fels said he will be working on this and anyone interested is invited to contact him. He said he would welcome help and ideas.

Jay Williamson commented on the number of subjects the bar exam covers, feeling that the average student is left little time for in depth study of a particular topic or taking more esoteric subjects. The committee responded that the exam needs to be broad so long as a license allows a person to practice in any and all areas of the law. There was some more general discussion about the bar exam, but the committee again referred to the fact that the Board of Bar Examiners were the proper body to direct such comments.

Money left for more plants . . .

NEW GREENERY DOTS LAW SCHOOL

You may have noticed the new greenery in the law school. The Student Bar Association (SBA) appropriated money to purchase new plants and supplies. The new arrivals are a rabbits foot fern and an asparagus fern, hanging in the lounge, a maranta (prayer plant) sitting in the lounge, and yucca and a bamboo palm, resting in the downstairs hallway, and a spreading philodendron, which is keeping company with the benjamina fig outside the administration office. The fig and the dracena (cordiline reflecta) were purchased in the spring of 1975 with SBA funds. The sheffleria outside the SBA office was purchased in 1976.

All the plants have been securely attached to law school fixtures, thanks to Dean Chapin

Clark. Even though locks and chains do not compliment growing things, the growing things won't stay around very long without such devices. Three of the plants we bought in 1975 were stolen because they were not attached.

Right now I will be watering and caring for them, but with any luck I will graduate this term. Anyone who would like to take over watering the plants during the summer and/or next year, please get in touch with me. The job is not onerous--I water about once every three or four weeks.

There is still some more money left. If you would like to macrame or crochet or design some sort of covering for the locks, or if you have plants to donate, or if you have any ideas, please get in touch with me.

--Susan Schmerer

Notes and announcements . . .

LAW PROFESSOR TO SPEAK THURSDAY

Professor Emeritus Thomas Emerson of the Yale Law School will talk on "Control of Intelligence Agencies" Thursday, March 10, at 10:30 a.m. in Room 129.

Emerson is a distinguished scholar and constitutional lawyer.

There will also be a reception in his honor at 2:30 p.m. in the Lounge.

AAA MOOT COURT COMPETITION CONTINUES

All students are invited to attend the Advanced Appellate Advocacy Moot Court Competition at the law school Monday through Friday, March 7-11, according to the Moot Court Board.

Preliminary rounds will be held Monday through Thursday at 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Judges will be local attorneys and judges.

The semi-final round will be held Friday at 11:30 a.m. in the Court Room (Room 221). United States Attorney Sidney Lezak, Solicitor General Michael Gillette and Judge William Richardson of the Oregon Court of Appeals.

The final round is 2:30 p.m. Friday in the Court Room. Judges will include Justice Ralph Holman of the Oregon Supreme Court, Justice Allan Shepard of the Idaho Supreme Court and Judge Jason Lee of the Oregon Court of Appeals.

CLIENT COUNSELLING COMPETITION COMPLETED

Second year students Jan Chrisman and Dunbar Carpenter are the winners of the 1977 Client Counselling Competition held at the law school Saturday, Feb. 26.

They, however, failed to advance to the nationals at South Bend, Indiana after losing at the regional competition at Missoula, Montana the weekend of March 5-6.

Comments needed . . .

TOWARDS A FEDERAL BAR EXAM

Will future graduates of the law school have to pass not only a state but also a federal bar exam? Chief Justice Warren Burger has appointed a "Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States to Consider Standards for Admission to Practice in the Federal Courts." The 24 person committee met in September and December, 1976, and identified three issues which the members felt were within the scope of their inquiry. The first two issues were the quality of present representation in federal courts, and if inadequacies were found to exist, their causes. It was the third issue, identified by the committee as remedies for this situation "particularly in relation to proposing a uniform rule for admission to practice in the Federal Courts," which indicates that the committee shares Chief Justice Burger's articulated desire for special standards for federal practice.

The Committee is presently conducting a sampling of federal judges and lawyers in federal practice, as well as conducting a comment type hearing process which will be open to responses received by April 8, 1977. The committee has three apparently non-voting members, but as the committee's survey encompasses only judges and practicing attorneys, any input from law students will have to come through the comment process. There is a suggested format for comments, and this format and the address to which responses should be directed are posted on the SBA bulletin board. The format for responses indicates once again that it is a variation of a federal bar exam which is contemplated as the committee "particularly invites comment on the following concepts:" D(1) a rule for admission such as that of the Second Circuit which requires successful completion of five particular courses; D(2) a national federal bar exam or a federal section within the multi-state bar exam; D(3) specialty certification for federal court representation; D(4) mandatory continuing legal education; or D(5) other concepts.

Any of these changes would effect the majority of present law students for a long period in the future, particularly as the graduates of the next several classes are the most likely candidates not to be grandfathered through any future system. Now is the time for comment generally and upon the specific proposals; the alternative is mere grousing after the committee has taken action.

--Jas. Phillips

The Dissent is published every other week. The next date for publication is Tuesday, March 22, and the next deadline for submitting articles or whatever is Friday, March 18.

The Editor-in-chief is David Ludwig. The next issue of The Dissent will have a new editor.

Letters to the editor . . .

SBA PRESIDENT THANKS FORMER EDITOR

To the editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Richard Parsons for doing an excellent job as editor-in-chief of The Dissent. For the first time since I entered law school, The Dissent has been a viable and regular institution, and Richard is responsible for this. The Dissent may never be as viable as it is now. For these reasons, I regret that Richard has resigned.

On the other hand, I do take exception to some of Richard's policies. Giving due regard to the fact that Richard is under pressure from such shady characters as Eric and Frac, the Dean and the Women's Law Forum, still, the decisions on what to print and what not to print seem entirely arbitrary.

Editorial discretion is sometimes merely a code name for censorship. The Dissent should attempt to meet the needs of all students and not the needs of the faculty and the administration. Material should be published though a minority of students believe it offensive.

I welcome the opportunity for selecting a new editor of The Dissent. I would like to see an uncensored Dissent willing to print everything of interest to the students.

--Merrill Schneider
SBA President

READER URGES NEW EDITOR TO AVOID PRATTLE

To the editor:

I would like to urge the new editor, whoever he or she may be, to avoid printing the mindless prattle submitted by "Uncle Ned." Aside from the fact I personally found his last effort disgusting and offensive, his writings are humorless, not relevant to anything related to the law school or law students and poorly written.

Why waste paper on such tripe, particularly when the author doesn't even use its real name.

--Patricia Sully

Letters to the editor continued . . .

SELECTION PROCESS CONTINUES

To the editor:

This is the final Dissent that I as publisher will print. The next editor, when selected, will publish the next three or four issues for the remainder of the semester.

The selection process is proceeding at a slow rate, but since only one candidate has applied, it appears that it will be relatively easy to complete the process in the next week.

I and Barrie Herbold, who represents the SBA, are the only ones thus far to make up The Temporary Selection Committee. Hopefully, SBA president Merrill Schneider will soon choose the third member from among the ten applicants for the position in order to complete the process.

I also hope that the news editor will confront some of the problems former editors have failed to overcome:

--a lack of communication with the SBA and the faculty and administration;

--inconsistent or non-existent editorial policies;

--an inability to separate news and editorial items and to label each as such;

--until now, a selection process that failed to incorporate anything that remotely resembled due process. (Hopefully, the new editor can work with the SBA to come up with a procedure to select next year's editor.);

--and a complete lack of credibility among just about anyone.

Good luck to the next editor.

--Dave Ludwig

Question . . .

When Susan Schmerer bought the plants, the store took a security interest in the plants. For some dumb reason the store filed a financing statement but not a fixture filing.

The SBA unfortunately fails to keep up on the payments, i.e. it defaults. The law school administration especially likes these plants and loudly disputes the store's claim that it has priority.

Who has priority?

Address all answers to Professor Mooney. You have 15 seconds to complete this question.

Good luck.