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Caveat, April 6, 1976

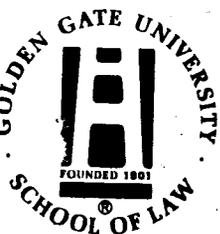
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caveat

April 6, 1976

GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

VOL. XI No. 25

SBA NOTES

The SBA Board of Governors met March 29 at 5 p.m. for the weekly meeting. The following committee reports were given: Admissions - Steve Alexander reported that student applications are down approximately 25% from last year. The committee is establishing a substantial waiting list to fill up the first year class and avoid the confusion of last minute cancellations. Steve also reported that the committee is aiming for 50% women in future first year classes. Minority applications are being given extra scrutiny for admission qualifications and probability of success. This was later voted by the Admissions Committee to be brought before the FSC.

Academic Stds - Vicenta Montoya reported that the committee is considering various proposals by its members for establishing equitable probation policies. Some changes already agreed upon are the grade C- will now be called a D+ and have the same numerical value, discretionary probation after the first year only has been eliminated, students with a D+ in any course may be re-examined, and students may have the option to take a course pass/fail after receiving a grade. (This would be non-bar courses only.) Once the committee makes its final recommendations, a full report will appear in the Caveat.

Scheduling - The open forums held were a minor success. First year day students generally agreed they liked their schedule. Night students want a more standardized curriculum for predicting future individual schedule planning. A meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. April 8 to discuss this further.

The SBA passed a resolution giving the Budget Committee official permanent status, requesting voting power on the FSC. This should be implemented as soon as possible.

DENNIS BANKS - TO SPEAK HERE

On Tuesday, April 5th at noon Dennis Banks, American Indian Movement (AIM) Leader, will speak at GGU in the auditorium on the legal issues involved in his extradition cases and South Dakota trial. ALL ARE INVITED!!

Gloria Dralla

SUMMER CLINIC : MANDATORY MEETING APRIL 8

All students who desire to participate in summer clinic must come to one of two meetings next Thursday, April 8. The number of students who will be allowed to participate in summer clinic has been limited to 30. It is essential to attend this meeting and place your name on the list of applicants for clinic in order to be considered for a position.

The meetings will be held next Thursday, April 8 at 3 p.m. in Room 207 and at 5:30 p.m. in Room 406. Any questions regarding the summer clinic program should be directed to the program's director, Mort Cohen, or Associate Dean, Mary Minkus.

NO MORE GALLO ADS!!

As a result of a series of meetings and encounters last week, the editor of the GGU Spectrum agreed not to run any further Gallo ads. In light of the fact that Gallo is putting several million dollars into student advertising in an attempt to gauge student opinion it is significant that GGU has decisively rejected this attempt. The decision not to run the ads is a victory for farmworkers and is a result of the interest and concern of many GGU students. DON'T BUY GALLO WINE!

There will be a meeting Wed. April 7 to discuss summer jobs that will be available through UFW/Migran Legal Services. Wine, cheese & information will be available. Check signs on the second floor for time and place.

GGU-UFW Support Committee

REPORT TO STUDENTS: ADMISSIONS, AFFIRMATIVE
ACTION AND RELATED MATTERS

Howard Moskowitz,
FSC Representative

In mid-March, the Admissions Committee* took a step that can only be viewed as the beginning of Golden Gate's retreat from its commitment to affirmative action in admissions. While a minority applicant with a "predictive index" below 2.0 GPA was previously admitted upon approval by one two-member subcommittee, the committee decided that such applicants will now have to be approved by two subcommittees. On the theory that this was only a procedural change, the committee concluded that it need not consult with the student body at large, the Affirmative Action Committee or the FSC.

At a committee meeting last Tuesday, Chairperson Mike DeVito frankly conceded that this "procedural" change did, in fact, pose an additional barrier to admission of Third World Students. Mike explained the change as a response to poor results in the past. "We felt that we needed to take greater care and that four heads would be better than two," he said. The committee refused a suggestion to reconsider its action. Instead, it voted, 3-2, to bring the matter before the FSC.

To say the least, it is highly regrettable that the committee chose to act on such an important matter with no input from the rest of the school.

The contrast between the Academic Standards Committee's year-long, well-publicized policy deliberations, open hearings and all- and the Admission Committee's action is striking, indeed. The conclusion is inescapable that the committee has handed an important victory to those who argued after last summer's controversy over minority student retention that one answer was to reject some of these students at the outset.

In the final analysis, it must also be remembered just what it is that these students are "failing" at: good, old, irrelevant exams. If the chairperson of the State Bar publicly recognizes the need to re-evaluate whether the bar exam has any relationship to competency, isn't it long past due that GGU do the same for its own testing procedures -- before we decide that these Third World applicants "can't make it."

By chance, the next meeting of the FSC is shaping up as a major crossroads in this law school's commitment to undo the effects of racism in the legal profession. In addition to the admissions question, it is expected that the Academic Standards Committee proposal for a new retention policy will be presented. Also, the student members of the Hiring Committee will propose that the law school commit itself to affirmatively seek out and hire at least one full-time Third World faculty member next year. If these matters concern you, speak with members of the FSC and attend the meeting. Date and time will be posted.

*

Members of the Committee are Professors Mike DeVito and Les Minkus, Admissions Director Pat Ostini, and students Steve Alexander, Terry Helmick, and Maryanne Tomecek.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TO: All June 1976 Law Graduates
FROM: Ben Bycel, Gail Osherenko (Members of
RE: Bar Exam Application the California
State Bar)

The Committee of Bar Examiners requires all prospective applicants to fill out a lengthy admission form. In brief, they want you to tell your whole life story. Much of what they ask bears no relevance to your academic qualifications or moral character. Unfortunately, however, even though we think they invade your privacy the Committee seems to be on safe ground except in one instance.

Social Security Card Numbers. You have a right as matter of law not to disclose your social security card number to the Committee. (Section 7 of the Privacy Act of 1974, Public Law 93-579, 2 U.S. Code Congressional and Administrative News, 2194, 1974).

The proliferation of the use of social security card numbers to construct life time computer dossiers on all citizens has reached a dangerous level. Your social security number gives a government or private snooper a greater opportunity to invade your privacy.

What you can do: You can refuse to disclose your social security card number and cite relevant provisions of the Federal Privacy Act. If you have any problems, you can call on us for assistance. If the bar fails to accept your application prior to the exam, we will file a class action in your support. Don't allow the Committee to intimidate you into disclosing your social security card number.

ACLU Legislative Office
Ben Bycel, Gail Osherenko 1107 9th Street Suite 1032
Members of the Calif. Bar Sacramento, Ca. 95814

THE CONFRONTATION WITH THE BAR

Three hundred law students, chanting "Lawyers for the People!" in front of the state Bar building, received verbal commitments from the president of the Bar's Board of Governors to do something about the situation.

What situation? the situation that exists for third-world people each time the bar exam is given.

A coalition of third-world law students from most of the bay area law schools held a media demonstration of support, is currently "negotiating" with the state Bar to change present criteria required to be certified to practice in the state, and is preparing for a discrimination law suit against the Bar in the event negotiations prove fruitless.

Calling themselves the Coalition of Third-World Law Students for Justice in The Legal System, they claim to represent Asian, Raza, Black and Native American law student associations in California's law schools. Their cause is to change the California Bar's practice of complete reliance on the results of the bar exam to an alternate system of selection that actually measures the competence required to represent people in a court of law.

To continue the current system is felt to perpetuate an exclusionary device that falls a disproportionate percentage of third world test-takers. Replacing the system with a one year apprenticeship under a practicing lawyer who would then certify competence, is one alternative being negotiated.

Not daring to imagine the state Bar to be willing to change, the Third-World Coalition is preparing to show, in a discrimination suit, that third-world communities are starving for legal representation due to the exclusion of so many third world candidates by the use of a device which is not known to measure what it exists to measure.

A report on the negotiations will be periodically issued by the Coalition, which is using the following mailing address:

Third World Coalition
USF Law School
Fulton & Shader SF 94117

GGU law students are involved in the activities.

Bill Taylor

TO: Faculty and Student of Golden Gate Law School
RE: Advocacy

Lawyering is advocacy of ideals, principles, rules, ideas. A basic skill of lawyering is advocacy. Classrooms are ideal field for such skill. Participation in class in one method of developing the skill.

Does the faculty, by not mandating participation, condone nonadvocacy-training in the classroom? Some method of encouraging or mandating participation by everyone should be developed because a basic aspect of the skills of lawyering is being ignored by most professors in most classes.

Mandating participation can be achieved quite easily by giving a certain percentage of the grade to the amount and quality of participation of each student. This of course could be facilitated by reducing class sizes, especially in the first year . . . smaller sections for discussions of underlying principles perhaps lectured on a previous night.

I think an open dialogue on this issue might be fruitful in planning future curriculum and scheduling patterns.

Alice Schaffer Smith
Second year student

CONSUMER RIGHTS BOOKLETS AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICE OF ASSEMBLYMAN HOWARD BERMAN

What are your rights as a consumer fraud victim? Do you understand your responsibilities if you purchase an item on credit? What does it mean to buy something "as is"?

These and other questions are answered in a new consumer guide available free at the office of Assembly Majority Leader Howard L. Berman.

"Included in this guide, On Guard, is some extremely useful information on new and used car purchases and repair; how to correct inaccurate credit reports; what to look for before signing health studio and swimming pool contracts; and a glossary of credit sale terms," Berman said.

Copies of On Guard are available at Berman's district office, 13719 Ventura Blvd., Sherman Oaks, California 91423.

Press Release
Assemblyman Berman

CAVEAT is published weekly by students of Golden Gate University School of Law.. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the University, Law School or the Student Bar Association. Deadline for materials to be published in the following week's issue is Thursday, noon.
Editor-in-chief: Dianne L. Niethamer
Staff: Mark Derzon, John Fisher, Rita Whalen
Cindy Duncan.

notice!

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION TO HOLD TUTORIAL SESSIONS

The Women's Association is offering five tutorial-review sessions for the first year class:

1. Contracts Tues. April 13
Valerie Ranche
2. Property Thurs. April 15
Andra Pearldaughter
3. Jurisdiction & Judgements Mon. Apr. 19
Rita Whalen
4. Torts Tues. April 20
Karen Kadushin
5. Criminal Procedure Thurs April 22
Priscilla Camp

The sessions will start promptly at 5:30. They will be held in Room 205, except for Torts, which will be in Room 207. Valerie will be leading an informal review/question-answer session for contracts. So if you want answers to all those questions Rosenak says there are no answers, come! The other four sessions will be more formally organized to give an overview like the Pleadings and Practice session given by Karen last semester. The five second year women leading the sessions are volunteering their time and energy to organize these. (Please keep this in mind next year when the SBA requests more funds for school groups like the Women's Association and you are wondering what the W.A. has ever done for you.)

Cindy Duncan

NEWS FROM THE GRADUATION COMMITTEE

Some people have expressed an interest in having caps and gowns at graduation.

The committee would like to hear from class members on this subject because if a sufficient number of graduates want caps and gowns, the committee will change its decision not to have them. The price for them will be approximately \$15.

The Graduation Committee is taking nominations from class members for Outstanding student of the Class of 1976. There will be a sealed box in Molly Stelmack's office for your vote. There will be a tabulation of votes, and final ballots will go out to you with your graduation packet. These preliminary votes must be in Molly's office no later than April 8, 1976.

Robbie Aronson Ron Kagan
Gloria Dralla Paul Peplau
Jerry Richards
The Graduation Committee

ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS WHO TOOK ONLY JURISDICTION AND JUDGEMENTS OR ONLY PLEADINGS AND PRACTICE:

Please contact Mary Minkus immediately, as a planned curriculum change will affect you and provisions must be made to allow you to complete this required course material.

BARPSTER'S CLUB ANNOUNCES UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

WED. APRIL 7, 1976 : CORPORATIONS

12 Noon to 2 p.m., Gino's Restaurant, 7 Spring Street. Cost: \$6.25 including tax and tip. (law students can attend only the discussion portion of the meeting) For reservations, phone Maryann Gallagher (983-1204).

Topic: What Corporate Lawyers Should Know About Recent Amendments to Division 9 (Secured Transactions) of the UCC.
Speakers: Marvin D. Heilson, Partner, Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro; Patrick A. Murphy, Partner, Cowans & Murphy.

THURS. APRIL 8, 1976 : NON-VICTIM CRIMES

12 Noon, brown bag meeting, Bar Assoc. conference room, 220 Bush Street, 21st fl. Reports on meeting with Chief Gain, Speakers Bureau, and developments with regard to SB1. For further information, contact David Moon. (362-5630)

FRI. APRIL 9, 1976 : CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

12 Noon, brown bag meeting, Bar Assoc. conference room, 220 Bush St., 21st Fl. Guest speaker: Mike Gilfix, Director of SALA (Senior Adults Legal Assistance) of Palo Alto, who will discuss age discrimination and employment.

FISL APPLICATIONS

Federally Insured Student Loan applications will be accepted by the Financial Aids office beginning April 8, 1976 for the summer session, and June 17, 1976 for the academic year, 1976-77.

Financial Aids Office
