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Caveat, February 3, 1981

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the Caveat

Vol. XVI No. 18

February 3, 1981

ACADEMIC STANDARDS DEBATE HEATS UP

by Mark Cohen, Member, FSC

One of many changes that are taking place at the Gate is a revision of academic standards. The standards committee (consisting of Mike Golden, Janice Kosel, Hank McGee as consultant, and Les Minkus as chair) is charged with the responsibility of developing proposals to revise the law school's academic standards policies.

The academic standards set the minimum grade point average (g.p.a.) necessary for a student to remain in good standing. They also determine probation and re-examination policies.

The specific requirements relating to the present or proposed academic standards will not be discussed here. Copies of these standards are available in the SBA office. All students are urged to review them and to seek out the members of the committee to question them and express concern for what is going on.

Both the faculty and students have been concerned with the recent low bar pass rate of Golden Gate graduates. This rate does not reflect favorably on the faculty or the school. It also does not make recruiting easier.

One solution that will definitely increase the pass rate is to eliminate those students that have statistically done worst on the bar exam. This has been the bottom quartile of the class. Anyone with an elementary understanding of statistics knows that this is all you have to do to make the numbers look radically better.

This solution (a mere tightening of academic standards) does not even pretend to deal with the root of the problem. Indeed, there are a number of faculty members that would rather eliminate the students that they do not teach effectively than change their method of teaching. Fortunately, it appears that these faculty members are in the minority. This approach shifts the responsibility of the problem out of the hands of those that are charged with the duty to teach.

cont.p.6

LAW REVIEW

Law Review. What law school worth its salt would be without one? Sharpen your pencils and gear up; the competition begins in March. All first year day and second year night students are eligible.

Current Review Editor-in-Chief Stuart Sutton explained that each volume of the Law Review is composed of three separate issues, each dealing with a specific subject. The first issue to go to print is the "9th Circuit Survey." It serves as a practitioner's guide to important decisions and focuses on the direction of the court.

"Notes and Comments," the second issue, is what most of us would consider the traditional "law review" i.e., scholarly articles on important issues.

The third issue, the "Women's Law Forum," is truly unique and non-traditional. Due to its inherently political nature, the "Women's Law Forum" takes a distinct feminist political stand. The fourth edition of the "Women's Law Forum" is currently nearing completion. The "Forum" has demonstrated phenomenal circulation growth in its short 4 year life.

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MOCK TRIAL WINNERS

Bob Nichols and Moss Jacobs, third-year students at Golden Gate, won the final round of the GGU Mock Trial Competition Saturday, January 17th. On Thursday, February 4th, they'll take off for Utah for the next round, the Western Regionals. Provo, home of Brigham Young University (and Donny and Marie), will host teams from California, Arizona, Colorado, Oregon, Washington and Utah. Mark Nussenbaum and Dick Grosboll were chosen to accompany them by Prof. Segal, director of the Criminal Litigation Program. Winners in Provo will go to Houston, Texas for the National Mock Trial Competition in March. We wish them all the best of luck!

**For more details on
Academic Standards
changes, see p.3**

❧ JOB OPPORTUNITIES ❧

Department of State, Wash. D.C.
Minority students are encouraged to apply for summer internships in the field of foreign affairs. Application deadline is Feb. 15. See summer book in room 205 for more details.

Colorado Rural Legal Services
First or second year students urged to apply for summer intern program. Application deadline is Feb. 3.

Juvenile Justice Legal Advocacy Project

Three full-time law clerk positions for second year students with ability to speak Spanish. Must be work-study.

Office Of The Attorney General Nevada

Work-study positions available for any year student for summer. Forty hours per week at \$6.00 per hour. (Civil and Criminal).

City Attorney Interviewees

The City Attorney's office would like all those that signed up for interviews to submit a resume to the Placement Director by Feb. 3.

Are you interested in pursuing a career in entertainment or copyright law? Prof. Neil Boorstyn will conduct a question/answer session on Friday, Feb. 6, at 12:30 in room 223. Bring your lunch!

National Labor Relations Board San Francisco and Oakland
Recruiting second year students for legal interns for summer '81. Application deadline - Feb 25.

Oakland Unified School District
Summer externship available for students on volunteer basis or for credit. See Placement Office for details.

❧ On-campus recruiting is being conducted by the Placement Center, Room 142. LLM/Tax and MBA students graduating in May, or August, 1981 may be interested in interviewing with some of the company representatives. Sign-ups for interviews are on a first-come, first-served basis, beginning Monday, January 26, 1981 in Room 142. For further information, call Andrea Matsushima at ext. 7484. ❧

❧ ANNOUNCEMENTS ❧

WRITING CONTEST -- \$500 Prize

The American Society of Writers on Legal Subjects and the Conference on Personal Finance Law announce the sponsorship of a law student opinion writing contest. GGU students are eligible to submit an opinion letter of no more than 500 words and a supporting legal memorandum of no more than 2,000 words answering a question regarding personal finance/consumer law.

The deadline for entries is April 15, 1981. See Marge Holmes for further information, including copies of the fact situation and the question to be answered.

The Beverly Hills Bar Association is holding its eleventh annual I.H. Prinzmetal Competition. A cash prize of a minimum of \$250.00 will be awarded for the best article submitted by a second or third year student.

For more information please contact Marge Holmes at the Deans' Office.

BOOKSALE NOTICE

If you have not picked up your unsold books, you may get them at the SBA office during office hours. Books which are not promptly picked up will be considered donated to the SBA.

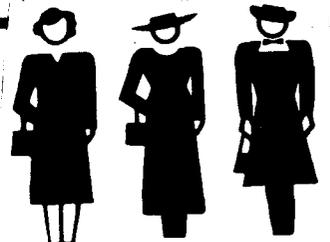
Women's Association

The Women's Association has tentatively set Sunday, February 8, as the date for the upcoming pot-luck dinner. (Meeting at 5:30, dinner at 6:30) Location tba. If anyone would like to offer their home, please leave a message on the WA board on the Mezzanine.

Any women who would like to attend the 12th National Women and the Law Conference, being given in Boston this April, should contact Pat Warner at the WA office

The WA is looking for someone to attend FSC meetings and represent the Association's views. Please contact the WA if you are interested.

The WA is looking for someone to staff the office. If you have an hour to volunteer on a regular, weekly basis, add your name to the schedule sign up sheet on the Mezzanine WA door.



Summary of Proposed Changes: Academic Standards

I. PROBATION & RETENTION RULES

<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u>
(2 probationary categories - -)	(3 probationary categories - -)
<p>1st yr. <u>GPA</u></p> <p>1.75 - "probation-no 1.99 restrictions" -may enter 2d year and take any classes -may re-examine any 1st yr. class of C- or less -MUST have cum. GPA of 1.9 at end of 2d yr; cum. GPA of 1.75 in all re-exam courses</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* * * * *</p> <p>below "probation with 1.75 restrictions" -to MAX. 6 units, may take as many units in 2d yr. as rec'd. C or above in 1st yr. -MUST re-examine in all classes of C- or below -MUST have cum. GPA of 1.9 at end 2d yr. or be disqualified</p>	<p>1st yr. <u>GPA</u></p> <p>1.85 - "probation - no restrictions" 1.99 -may enter 2d year and take any classes -may re-examine in any class of C- or below -MUST have cum. GPA 2.0 at end of 2d yr., or be disqualified</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* * * * *</p> <p>1.75 - "probation with restriction" 1.85 -may take <u>as many units</u> in 2d yr. (from select list of courses)¹ as got C or above in 1st yr. -may re-examine any 1st yr class of C- or below -MUST have cum. GPA 2.0 at end 2d yr. or be disquali- fied</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* * * * *</p> <p>below "probation with restriction" 1.75 -to MAX. 6 units, may take as many units in 2d yr. (from select list)¹, as rec'd. C or above in 1st yr. -MUST re-examine all classes of C- or below -MUST have cum. GPA 1.9 at end 2d yr. or be academically disqualified</p>

¹List: Comm. Prop., Remedies, Wills & Trusts, Evidence, Corps., Labor Law, Legal Drafting, Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, and for night students, Property and Crim. Law and Proc.)

II. RE-EXAMINATION POLICY

Proposed that re-examination rules be "clarified" to provide that re-examination option CAN ONLY BE EXERCISED IN FIRST YEAR COURSES.

(Ed. - What happens if 2d or 3d yr. students fail any required courses after 1st year?)

cont.p.6

STUDENT OPINION:

By Pete Cohon

I understand that the Dean and Academic Standards Committee are seeking suggestions to help them raise the law school's Bar Exam pass rate. As a 3rd year law student about to take the Bar Exam, I am especially concerned about that problem. Therefore, I would like to offer the following suggestions:

(1) The Bar Exam is a written exam and the quality of one's legal writing must affect one's score on the exam. First year writing and research courses at GGU have traditionally been

Be Innovative

taught by more advanced law students, some of them very capable, some of them less so, but none of them vastly experienced in legal writing. First year students would undoubtedly learn far more if they could benefit from the knowledge, experience and criticism of more experienced teachers. Improving the quality of writing and research teachers would improve the writing skills of GGU students on all of their papers and exams, including the Bar Exam.

(2) I have noticed after two years of working as a law clerk (part of the time

cont.p.8

National Lawyers Guild (NLG)

"ENERGY STRUGGLES IN THE SOUTHWEST" Friday, February 6, 5-8 p.m. Guest speakers Bill Simmons and Eugene LaMone, recently arrested during an occupation of coal company land to protest stripmining in New Mexico, will discuss continuing efforts to prevent Consolidated Coal Company from its destruction of Indian burial sites. Location: Bernal Heights Law Collective Office, 707 Cortland, S.F. (826-6900).

"Teach Our Children" a film and presentation on the Attica prison rebellions in New York and the Pontiac Prison rebellion in Illinois. Tuesday, February 10, 12:00 and 5:15 p.m. at GGU, Room tba.

"Fighting the Klan In Contra Costa County" Wednesday, February 11, 7:30 p.m. Boalt Hall, Room 150 -- Guest speakers are Barbara Cross, Chairperson, People's Coalition Against Racism, Tom Meyers, NLG Affirmative Action Committee; Legal Alliance for Racial Justice, and Lester Radke, Teacher, Richmond High School. This presentation will follow a membership meeting wherein elections for NEB delegates will be held.

"Geronimo Pratt Defense Team" week of February 17: Stuart Hanlon and other members of Geronimo Pratt's defense team will speak at GGU. Look for details in later issues of the Caveat.

S.F. PIONEERS vs. DALLAS DIAMONDS -- Friday, February 27, 7:30 p.m., SF Civic Auditorium. Special benefit for the Bay Area Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild -- tickets include a no host reception before the game; meet members of the Pioneers basketball team! Tickets are only \$8 and may be obtained from Bob Mueller (2nd year day), Nancy Conway (1st year day), or Prof. Charlotte Fishman. Or tickets may be picked up at the Old Mole Bookstore (1942 University, Berkeley), National Jury Project (1419 Broadway #530, Oakland), or the NLG office (558 Capp St., S.F.).

PONTIAC BROTHERS

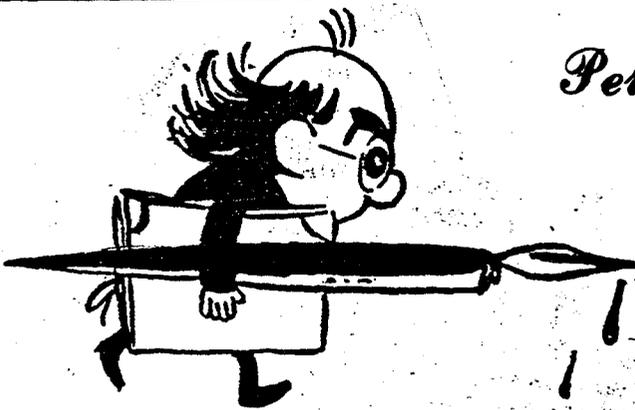
The Pontiac Brothers are 16 Black men who are on trial for their lives in Chicago. Charges against them stem from a prison rebellion at Pontiac Prison, in Southern Illinois in July, 1978. 1,100 prisoners, mainly Blacks and Latinos, rebelled against the horrible prison conditions: 2,000 prisoners stuffed into a prison built in the 1800's for 600 men; cold, unhealthy meals; and little or no job training or education. They also rebelled against the rampant racism at Pontiac. Many of the guards openly claim membership in the KKK. During the rebellion, three white prison guards were killed.

After the uprising was quelled, the prison was put on lock down for eight months. For the Pontiac Brothers this meant no visitors no mail, and 24 hours per day in a 9' by 10' cell. During this time the state of Illinois fabricated its case against the 16 by bribing, threatening, and intimidating guards and prisoners to give harmful testimony.

In spite of the defense's documentation of the state's actions, the presiding judge, Judge Miller, has refused to grant all but one of the defense's motions. The one motion granted was for a change of venue.

Jury selection is going on now and the trial is scheduled to begin in March, 1981. Six of the 16 Pontiac Brothers, members of the New Afrikan Nation, have filed a motion seeking to have themselves declared prisoners of war under the Geneva Convention.

The film "Teach Your Children" (following up on the Attica Prison rebellion) will be shown on Tuesday, February 10 at both noon and 5:15 p.m. here at GGU. Melinda Powers will lead a discussion on the Pontiac Brothers case following the film.



Personals

Joel, it's not that simple. Give me time to think.

To Little C., with concern -- I can't do your studying for you, too...

Why so many Aquarian attorneys? Happy Birthday to Amy, Tommy, Larry, John C., Charma and Sheila.

To Susan: since you know more about everyone here than anyone, why not write that column? Just use initials, no names, and then we won't worry about lawsuits. You know who.

Name the professor: Who walks down the hall looking as if (s)he'd just swallowed a canary? (Has (s)he???)

Congratulations are in order for Rhoda Wilkinson, Bob Lowney and Vicky Perry. They've each received a Gold Star from Neil Levy in Torts class. Don't shine it on...

To SLEAZY, from SLEEPY: EVERY night???

SBA MEETS AGAIN

by Leslie Tick

The Student Bar Association met again on January 22.

Tommy Norton reported that the SBA Booksale was not overly successful and netted only about \$40.00. Second and third year representatives indicated that this result is expected at the spring booksale.

The SBA passed a motion not to refund Y-passes past the date of the ticket. The SBA makes about \$25.00 per week from the sale of these passes. This does not, however, cover the cost of the passes.

A student meeting was held last week to discuss the Academic Standards controversy. Everyone at the meeting agreed that a tutorial program of some sort is much needed. It was also agreed that the 1st year curriculum ought to be reduced by dropping either Criminal Law or Criminal Procedure. The SBA has set up a subcommittee to study academic standards and present proposals to the faculty. The committee is in the process of developing a questionnaire to get input from all students.

Bernie Segal has expressed interest in having GGU students take part in the Order of the Barristers Mock Trial and Moot Court competitions. Students should contact Moss Jacobs, 3rd year day representative, for further information (notes can be left for Jacobs on the SBA office door).

Second year night student Jim Cohen is interested in the possibility of having a GGU yearbook. Cohen can be contacted at the writing and research tutors' office.

Registrar Wally Walker is concerned with professors who turned their grades in late and those who still haven't submitted their fall semester grades to his office. An SBA committee has been set up to help Walker encourage professors to get their grading done in a more timely fashion. Some suggestions that have been made so far are (1) a per diem fine (2) withholding of pay checks once the due date has passed and (3) a combination of the two. All money collected from late grade fines would be earmarked for a scholarship fund.

The SBA voted to support Tommy Norton's suggestion that a student-sponsored professional evaluation program be established. Forms evaluating teaching skills, organization, student rapport, clarity of examination questions, and fairness in grading will be distributed to students. The results will be tabulated and made available to the student body prior to summer registration.

The next SBA meeting will be February 4, 5 p.m. in the library conference room. All students are welcome to attend.

LAW REVIEW

cont. from p.1

700 copies are now printed. This is almost double the "9th Circuit Survey" circulation. When the "Women's Law Forum" began there were only four other legal publications dealing exclusively with women's issues. Golden Gate, however, stood alone as the only publication funded by its supporting school.

The Law Review staff now consists of 28 writers. Stuart Sutton is the Editor-in-Chief. "Notes and Comments" editor is Lee Roper. The "9th Circuit Survey" editor is Ed Willner. The Women's Law Forum is co-edited by Julie Barre and Barbara White, and Vivian Schneider is the research editor of the Senior Board.

The structure of the Law Review is unique in that it redefines itself every year. It is based on the notion that "once on Law Review, always on Law Review (if you so choose)." This year's writers, if they choose to stay, become next year's associate editors and can run for the Senior Board., which has ultimate editorial responsibility. The associate editors decide on the number of incoming writers. This year's associate editors decided to work with 2 writers each, but due to declining law school enrollment, the overall review staff is smaller.

Editor Sutton believes the number of writers taken from the competition may increase this year because they are chosen in March, and begin May 31, whereas the writers selected by class standing are not chosen until grades are posted in late summer. There have been overlaps, i.e., students chosen from the writing competition have also been among those chosen by class standing.

The reputation of our Law Review has been steadily growing. It has been cited more and more by the 9th Circuit court. The "Women's Law Forum" was recently cited in the Marvin case and also by the U.S. Supreme Court.

So if you've got the gumption to compete against 150 of your peers for a time-consuming but rewarding experience, the writing competition will be held in March. Applicants will have four days to write a five page analysis of a brief and a law review article. Look for more details in future issues of the Caveat.

Ed.'s note: The Caveat's Monday publication deadline has placed the GGU Copy Center under undue pressure, with its already heavy Monday schedule. Until we begin to sell enough advertising to allow us to return to a newspaper format, the job of printing the paper will remain with the school's facilities. To give Mark Hartman and Tony Thomas the time they need, we have decided to bring out the Caveat on Tuesday mornings. Please bear with us as we try to smooth out operations and bring you a better, more readable product. Thank you.

III. CREDIT/NO CREDIT

Current:

- Credit rec'd. for any class of C and above
- after grade posted, may elect C/NC within specified time
- election irrevocable
- may re-examine in any class of C- or below

Proposed:

- Credit rec'd. for any class or C and above
- MUST elect before final exam
- may use C/NC election in only ONE non-required, non-bar course per semester
- if already enrolled in one "mandatory C/NC" course, may NOT elect C/NC in graded course
- if elect NC and get C- or lower, may change NC to grade to get units

IV. FACULTY GRADING "CONSISTENCY"

Proposed that no mandatory curve be established; imply that by circulating chart of grades given in each class by grade category, faculty might police themselves

V. FIRST YEAR CURRICULUM

Propose goal of reducing the number of 1st year exams:

- a) drop Crim. Proc.; give Crim. Law in Fall
add one unit to Civil Proc.
- b) drop section on Jurisdiction from Civil Proc; teach Pleading in Fall;
other courses same

concern: short & long term financial impact

VI. TUTORIAL PROGRAM

Propose generally:

- model like USF
- separate from Writing & Rsch.
- one Co-Ordinator, full-time paid like faculty hired by special committee (not Hiring)
- priority for minority students
- hire 5 - 10 additional tutors

On the other hand, such a solution might force some of the students that are just "getting by" to use a few more brain cells.

In recognition of the fact that manipulating numbers alone reflects a blatant abandonment of responsibility, the academic standards committee that met last fall (consisting at that time of Tony Pagano, Bob Calhoun, Jan Kosel, and Les Minkus as chair) recommended that along with a tightening of academic standards the first year curriculum load should be lightened. They also recommended that an effective tutorial program be instituted to deal with the root cause of the low bar pass rate, that is, poorly written exams. The writing and research program could stand a great deal of improvement as well.

This approach seems to be fairest to all. It is a sincere attempt to deal with the real cause of the problem. It is crucial, however, that any tutorial program be instituted with proper staffing and funding. A change in academic standards alone would be a fraud. A token tutorial program would also be meaningless.

There is a distinct possibility that such a fraud will be perpetrated. The Dean indicated that the new committee should start from scratch in revising the standards. She has indicated that student opinion(s) on academic standards should be heard and the committee has set aside Thursday, February 12, at 3:00 p.m. for that purpose. The Dean, however, has not agreed to have a student sit on the committee. It should be pointed out that at the end of the spring semester of 1980 the students were kicked off this committee. The record speaks for itself as to whether the Dean is concerned with students feelings about academic standards.

In all fairness, some of the committee members have expressed a sincere concern with the interests of the students.

All students are urged to attend the February 12 meeting. Students are also urged to seek out the members of the academic standards committee, the Dean, and the curriculum committee members and express concerns and opinions. The members of the curriculum committee are Larry Jones, Dru Ramey, Roger Bernhardt (chair), and students Jeff Clark and Mark Cohen.

dent-authored articles that GGU law school has known. I especially looked forward to reading a faculty column. I was pleased that at least one professor shared my enthusiasm. However, the cancellation of this column was a regretful mistake and not in the best interests of the law student body.

The quality and creativity we saw in the Fall 1980 CAVEAT's will be difficult for the next editor(s) to reproduce. But it is apparent that Brenda and Andrea's efforts will be missed.

Cordia Farrell

Letters to the Editor

The following is reprinted without editing:

TO THE EDITOR:

The law school student body recently experienced a great loss. The resignations of Brenda Comer and Andrea Karpis from the CAVEAT staff have left us with an embarrassing weekly publication.

Each time a new edition is released, I am reminded of the many hours Brenda and Andrea devoted to making the CAVEAT a newspaper we were proud of. Their experience and creativity gave us many thoughtfully prepared editions.

With these editors came the publishing of possibly the widest selection of stu-

life is rough

by Cindy Ossias

Dear Cindy,

I'm not the type of person who writes letters to advice columnists, but I've got a problem I just can't cope with on my own. It's so bizarre, I dare you to print this.

I had my nose bobbed ten years ago when I was eighteen. The surgical anesthesiology involved injections of cocaine directly into the nasal membranes and post-operative packing of cocaine-soaked cotton into the upper nostrils.

Ever since, I've had an uncontrollable desire for that controlled substance. My undergraduate years were speckled with ugly incidents of illegal acquisition, of grovelling before shady characters in dark alleys, of paying through the nose for some of the worst sh... stuff around, of avoiding detection by the authorities.

I thought I had it licked last summer when a friend locked me in an apartment with only The Complete Sherlock Holmes and a set of Richard Pryor albums for company. But in celebration of my recovery, I went to a showing of "The Seven Percent Solution" and it's been downhill ever since.

In August, I entered law school in hopes that hard work would take my mind off drugs. No one told me that law schools throughout the country are breeding grounds for drug abusers and other low-life types, and that GGU is called Ga-Ga U. in certain circles.

I've reached a point of desperation: there's a hole in my septum I can stick a spoon through; I have chronic rhinitis and post-nasal drip and a medical condition known as rosacea has turned my plastic surgeon's work of art into something W.C.Fields would be embarrassed to carry around.

Please help me, Cindy. You've helped so many others straighten out their lives, there must be something you can do.

Trying to Learn the Law
While Running From It

Dear Trying,

You should contact your clergyman without delay. He and God are there for you to call on in times of trouble. Take advantage of their concern and love. And need I add that all too often the power of prayer is underestimated.

If all else fails, check yourself into the nearest hospital or sanitarium, or send for my booklet entitled "Twenty Halfway Houses with a View of the San Francisco Bay" (enclose \$.50 and a stamped self-addressed envelope).

And please, write me again to let me know of your progress. I care.

Confidential to Atrocious in Ann Arbor
As Max A. Teslar, the noted gastroenterologist, once said, people with obsessions such as yours "can better serve their needs by transmuting this scatological concern to a concern of greater importance, such as money, sex, love, life." Try it. You'll like it.



NETS FOR NUTS???

(The following is reprinted from the Los Angeles Daily Law Journal, January 29, 1981.

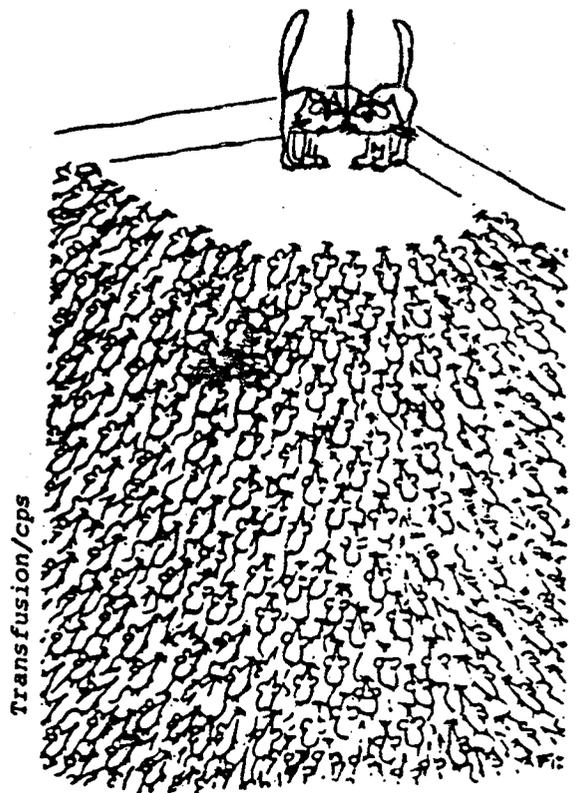
New York City police will begin using nets to capture mentally disturbed people, a Police Department spokesman says.

The nets, which will be used in conjunction with fire extinguishers that spray a bicarbonate of soda mixture designed to disorient the subject, are being tried on an experimental basis, the spokesman said.

The spokesman said the department, which responded to 21,000 complaints involving emotionally disturbed people in 1980, hopes the nets will provide a means of capturing deranged persons without injuring them or exposing officers to needless danger.

Question: How many police officers does it take to capture a mentally deranged person?

Answer appears upside down on page 10.



'Well, don't just stand there—negotiate!'

on Clinical or Externship programs) that such work greatly improves one's writing skills. Perhaps it should be mandatory for students to earn a certain number of clinical credits during their law school careers.

(3) Perhaps law school exams could be used to better prepare GGU students for the Bar Exam. Presently, students receive no feedback from professors concerning their work on exams, except letter grades. Such grades show relative positions in a class but do not show strong or weak points or problems with analysis or writing style. Comments by professors on exam papers would be extremely helpful to prepare students for the Bar Exam. Of course, such comments would require a much greater amount of time and effort from teachers than merely assigning a letter grade to an exam paper. But then, how much do our teachers really want to improve the Bar Exam pass rate?

(4) There is a tremendous diversity of teaching styles among the members of the law school faculty. Some professors spend incredible amounts of time asking students to memorize and recite the facts of the case. They discuss the law and then move on to the next case. This traditional style of law school education is poorly suited to preparing students for the Bar Exam, which does not ask for the facts of a particular case but rather tests ability to apply the law to hypothetical fact situations. Of course, there are other professors, such as Levy or Calhoun, who far better prepare their students for both law school exams and the Bar Exam by working extensively with hypotheticals so students can practice applying the law discussed in lectures to differing fact situations. The difference between these two types of teachers is not a difference in knowledge of the law, but a difference in teaching ability. But, teachers, like lawyers, are not born. They are made through training. Perhaps educational consultants could be made available to assist teachers in evaluating their teaching styles and improving their teaching methods.

But how do we know which teachers need improvement? Surely, none of us likes to admit our own weaknesses. Therefore, it might be helpful to look to student evaluations of professors to find out where assistance is needed. Mandatory workshops for professors who are not measuring up could help them to better prepare their students for the Bar Exam.

(5) Increasingly high tuition has forced many students to work far more than the maximum hours officially permitted. Future tuition increases will force students to work even more hours. Of course, if we were able to work fewer hours, we would have that much more time to study. The law school could help by hiring a full time, professionally experienced fund raiser to raise funds from alumni and foundations. Those funds could be applied to offset future tuition increases. If that resulted in students being able to study more hours

each week, it could have a noticeable impact on GGU's Bar Exam pass rate.

(6) Whenever an educational institution finds itself in trouble, there is always pressure to "return to the tried and proven ways of the past." But as far as I know, GGU has never had a hugely successful bar pass rate in the past. Thus, I would suggest that we look to innovative ideas for our solution. In fact, innovative ideas may also help attract prospective students to the school, as the litigation program now does. Because the prestige market in law schools is cornered by Boalt, Hastings and Stanford, GGU can only compete with those schools by offering an innovative legal education. Of course, innovation requires flexibility to allow for adaptation to the changing needs of the students who are preparing for the Bar Exam. In order to adapt to those needs, the law school's faculty and administration must be sensitive to the students and the problems they are having with their legal education.

Unfortunately, the faculty is moving in the opposite direction. By recently removing students from the Faculty Student Council, the faculty has insulated itself from the students, desensitized itself to criticism as well as to information about changing student needs, and rigidized policy-making where flexibility and adaptability are sorely needed. If the faculty really wants to improve the school's Bar Exam pass rate, students should be returned to the FSC and their concerns and needs should be seriously addressed. It would be a sorry mistake to assume that a student's preparation for the Bar Exam occurs only in the classroom.

(7) I urge the faculty to avoid falling into the trap of blaming the law Bar Exam pass rate on the "poor quality of the applicants which the school is accepting." Blaming our problem on the students is the easy solution, but is not accurate. It is not LSAT scores and college grades which prepare us for the Bar Exam, but our legal education. A quality relevant legal education is all that is needed to improve our Bar Exam pass rate. If the faculty is willing to admit the failings of the present system and to work to improve it, instead of blaming the problem on "the applicants," there is hope for GGU students who will take the Bar Exam in the future.

I believe that adopting the above ideas will be of assistance in raising GGU's Bar Exam pass rate, as well as in improving the number of qualified candidates for admission and the respect which GGU and its alumni have in the community. I urge their future study and support.

Thanks . . .

The Caveat thanks 1st year student Suzanne Marria, Chair of the SBA's Academic Standards sub-committee, for her assistance in clarifying and highlighting the differences between current and proposed academic standards policies.

U.S. Senator Alan Cranston (D-Calif) on January 15, 1981 recommended Senate confirmation of fellow Californian William French Smith as Attorney General in the Reagan administration.

Press Release

"It's easy to understand why President elect Reagan chose him," Cranston said in introducing the Los Angeles attorney at the latter's confirmation hearing by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"People who know Bill Smith invariably have confidence in his dedication, his commitment to the public good, and his integrity," Cranston said.

Cranston noted, however, that he has "several times" asked Smith to resign his membership in the Bohemian Club and the California Club of Los Angeles -- "two well-known California clubs" which, Cranston said, "have a history of discrimination in membership against women and minorities."

"Despite this history, both clubs include as members many Californians who support progressive policies in the area of civil rights and equal employment opportunities. Moreover, I understand that both clubs are gradually ending their discriminatory traditions, and that Bill Smith has been a leader in tearing down these vestiges of historical intolerance. I don't believe his membership in these two clubs in any way disqualifies him from being an effective Attorney General."

"Nevertheless, I think Bill Smith should resign his membership in both clubs, and I have told him so -- several times."

"I believe membership in organizations like these suggests to many an insensitivity to the consequence of discrimination of women and various minorities. As our nation's top law enforcement officer, our Attorney General has a unique responsibility to demonstrate the fairest and most impartial attitudes and to symbolize justice and equality in all his actions."

Cranston also noted the "common practice by recent Presidents -- and as a Democrat I want to note that it started with President Truman -- to appoint their close personal or political adviser to the position of Attorney General of the United States. Often, the Attorney General has been appointed as a reward for service in the most partisan of roles, that of campaign manager. This was the case in the Truman Administration when, very unwisely I think, the chief political post in the Cabinet was switched from the Postmaster General to the Attorney General with the nomination of Howard McGrath. It was true in the Kennedy Administration with Robert Kennedy and in the Eisenhower and Nixon Administrations with Herb Brownell and John Mitchell. President Carter

continued the tradition of appointing a very close friend and adviser with his naming of Griffin Bell."

"Even our best Attorneys General have never been free from suspicions simply because they are political appointees of the President to whom it is expected that they will be loyal. This potential for abuse ultimately resulted in the prosecution, conviction and incarceration of John Mitchell and one of his deputies. Fortunately, the subsequent creation of a Special Prosecutor reduces the likelihood of such gross criminal action in the future, but it does not resolve the fundamental problem involved in such appointments."

"I think also that Attorneys General who have accepted such an appointment have found upon occasion that the extra constraints placed upon them in order to avoid any appearance of impropriety have gravely impeded their ability to carry out their duties to the fullest of their capabilities."

"Nevertheless, despite these well-worn caveats about appointing personal advisers as Attorney General, I am confident that Mr. Smith and President-elect Reagan will be successful in their decision. I think it is a good decision because of my high regard for Bill Smith's integrity."

"I have in the past seriously considered proposals to make the Department of Justice politically independent. This and similar solutions, however, lack the political accountability which I believe is essential to the functioning of our free democratic form of government."

CAVEAT

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SBA QUESTIONNAIRE ON ACADEMIC STANDARDS PROPOSALS

Due to a concern about low bar passage rates, the Dean and faculty have initiated a break-neck review of current academic standards policies. There are strong currents among the faculty pressing for change. So far, the proposals drafted for faculty to consider tend to encourage tightening standards by raising GPA probation levels and limiting students options.

This questionnaire is designed to get specific student reaction to the main proposal presented to faculty for discussion. This should be considered only an initial response from you. The SBA would like to encourage you to join us in drafting alternative proposals on issues and policies we think are priorities. In the meantime, please fill-out the questionnaire below.

STUDENTS ARE ASKED BY THE F&C TO ATTEND A MEETING FEB. 12 TO MAKE COMMENTS ON THESE OR OTHER PROPOSED CHANGES TO ACADEMIC STANDARDS POLICIES.

(Please see Feb. 2d issue of CAVEAT for summary of proposals referred to below.)
(ACS = Academic Standards Committee)

I. PROBATION/RETENTION POLICY

- maintain current policy
- accept ASC proposal
- accept ASC proposal only if applies prospectively to incoming class of 9/81
- other (write comment)

V. TUTORIAL PROGRAMME

Should a tutorial program, distinct from Writing & Research be offered?

- Yes
- No

Comments:

II. RE-EXAMINATION POLICY

- maintain current policy
- accept ASC proposal
- accept ASC proposal only if prospective
- other

III. CREDIT/NO CREDIT POLICY

- maintain current policy
- accept ASC proposal
- accept ASC Proposal only if prospective
- other

IV. FIRST YEAR CURRICULUM

- maintain current load
- accept ASC proposal
- other



Answer: One to spray the mixture and two to cast the net.