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CAVEAT

VOLUME X No. 6 Golden Gate University School of Law

February 12, 1975

Elaine Ackerman Second Year Rep.(Day)

I intend to assume the responsibility of helping to bridge the gap between students and faculty if elected Second Year Representative to the S.B.A. Though there generally appears to be a smooth rapport between the students and the teachers academically, there does seem to be a lack of communication between the two groups as to feelings concerning the running of the school as a whole. I believe it is necessary to persist when seeking to invoke change and therefore will not let the frustration of obstinate red tape interfere with my duties as a representative.

I further intend to help bridge the gap between students and students. As yet there has been only one activity, the picnic, sponsored by the school (as contrasted with an independent organization) to bring students together on other than academic grounds. As the picnic was a success, and as I have heard numerous requests for additional similar activities, I feel the S.B.A. should expend some energies in this direction.

In short, I hope to help the law school students and faculty tighter community by representing the Second Year class and any others' views to the S.B.A.

Roni Schwartz Second Year Rep.(Day)

A sincere desire to participate in improving the quality of legal education at Golden Gate University is responsible for my decision to run for one of the Second Year Representative positions.

Based on my experience as a member of the Student-Faculty Planning Committee this year, I think that I have a realistic view of the duties and responsibilities of a student representative.

If I am elected, I am prepared to undertake those duties and responsibilities, be responsive to the desires of the student body, and attempt to increase communication between the student body and Golden Gate University Law School's administrative staff.

Howard Moskowitz - Second Year Rep.(Day)

In significant areas, GGU's reputation as a progressive law school is well-deserved. Its firm commitment to achieving women's equality in the legal profession, the general accessibility of its faculty, and student membership on all policymaking committees are areas that immediately come to mind.

Nevertheless, when it comes to governance procedures and the vital area of communication regarding proposals and policies that directly affect us, GGU is downright retrogressive. We are continually presented with fait accomplis or, alternatively, we learn of important actions only by accident. The tuition increase, the Segal affair, and most recently, the belated discovery that our Writing and Research requirements have been increased for next year clearly point up an intolerable situation which must be laid at the door of both the S.B.A. and the administration.

Fortunately, the Dean is fast coming to realize the sad state of communications here. The S.B.A. must also act aggressively to rectify the information gap, as well as to press for more basic governance changes. Why, for instance, is there a 3-1 ratio of faculty to students on the Faculty-Student Committee, the body that makes the final decisions around here? (Prior to 1972 there was equal representation!) Why isn't there direct election of student members to this all-important committee rather than the present policy of benevolent S.B.A. appointments? Why are meetings of the Faculty-Student Committee closed to the general student body?

As lawyers, many of us will be working to open up to scrutiny and change a legal and political system more than content to keep people in the dark and in their place. Along the way, let's make sure that we take the time to see that our own law school functions in an open and democratic manner. I'll do what I can.

Although the power available to students through student government is generally very limited, the students here have available to them much power which has not been exercised. As SBA representative this past year, I have helped increase the areas of participation by students. As SBA President, my main goal will be to continue to increase the exercise of student power. As SBA President, I will stress the following:

1) Student-Faculty Committees - since the faculty and administration possess the ultimate power at this school, these committees are important. The student members of these committees should regularly report to the student body at large, probably through the CAVEAT.

2) Additional Committees - As a result of the tuition increase a Budget Analysis Committee was formed. This committee should investigate the finances of the law school and make policy decisions as to financial aid. Further, the amount of money available for financial aid must be increased. One source of money is Law School alumni.

Also, I will establish a Public Relations Committee (for lack of a better name). The role of this committee will be to acquaint members of the legal community with Golden Gate, through lectures or small group discussions.

3) Class Schedule - The scheduling of classes this year did not reflect student needs. The second year night student offerings, in particular, were inadequate. Student input into class scheduling is needed.

In conclusion, I view the role of SBA President as being the primary advocate for student demands. Therefore, I will be open to all student suggestions. And, as a result of being a member of the SBA Board of Governors this year I think I know where to go and who to see to implement these demands.

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Ronald Kagan - SBA President

Why would anyone run for SBA president? It would seem that as law students, we have enough aggravation per se; I'm running because of the aggravations, and because I think I can eliminate (or at least reduce) some of them. One of my aggravations is worrying whether there are going to be any jobs when we graduate, and I've got some proposals to increase the market, at least for GGU students.

First, would be a change in the clinic program to a series of specialized clinics, (similar to the proposed criminal law clinic for next year) in areas of student interest, e.g. taxation, minority rights, poverty law, and perhaps legal assistance program to aid COYOTE. These programs would allow students to get real experience (i.e. marketable experience so that a prospective firm is apprised of the startling situation of a law school graduate with practical experience in a specialized field.

...To get this information to employers, a committee of students, under SBA, will work with the placement officer to effectively get information on the program, and resumes of students to the attorneys practicing in those areas. The result should be paying clerkships, summer jobs and full-time, after the bar jobs.

Another aggravation is the present systems of hiring, and tenuring at GGU. While Professor Segal was retained for a year through student efforts, it became clear during the hearing that the present method of student evaluations and student representation of those evaluations at tenure committee hearings needs extensive reform. The issue is still alive, and I don't think the students should accept the "bone" thrown us by the tenure committee and in return forget the main issue.

I'd also like to see some more student input on hiring. It seems strange that there are no full-time women professors (Janet Kosel is unfortunately only visiting). While one could not really say that GGU is sexist, I cannot believe no well-qualified women law professors have applied here. The same goes for Black and Chinese applicants; a stronger effort must be made to make the faculty representation of more than white males from the University of Chicago.

Another problem is GGU's image, or lack thereof - while our reputation has risen rapidly in the legal community, it doesn't come close to being representative of how good a school this is. (Of the top 1/2 of the last class taking the bar about 90% passed). Conferences, such as last year's "Women and the Law" conference help by giving attorneys a first hand knowledge of GGU and its students. More conferences of this nature should be held.

I think that a lot of these aggravating situations can be remedied, and the SBA can work faster than the administration; I think I can make it actually do so. I'll at least put up with the aggravation of trying....

Larry Weinberger - Vice-President

I am taking this opportunity to enable the law students at Golden Gate to know the reasons why I am running for Vice President of the S.B.A. Like the majority of you, I, too, have not felt a part of the S.B.A. I know it's there, I know its officers are here, but I don't know what it's done for the students. I believe that a responsive S.B.A. can be instrumental in representing the needs and acting as a catalyst in initiating activities for the benefit of law students at Golden Gate. Therefore, I believe the best way to achieve this is to become an integral part of the S.B.A. as its Vice President.

Student government will always seem distant from the students if they don't know what, if anything, their selected leaders are doing. The corollary to this is that students will not participate in student government if they are unaware of the forums to which they can channel their interests. Indeed, the "magic" of these two problems can be solved by effective communications between the S.B.A. and the students. The CAVEAT is funded with more than half of the S.B.A. revenues of the current school year. While one would think that this would afford the S.B.A. an opportunity to inform students about their government, this has not been the case. With the exception of a recent article that described in depth the workings of one student/faculty committee, that information has been all but kept from the students. Not only do we need to know what the committees functions are but the criteria used for selecting students to these committees. I believe that once students are informed about the activities at Golden Gate they will take an active part, or, at least, interest in them.

One effective way of determining student interests and ideas is through referendums. While faculty evaluations are filled out every semester, why isn't a student questionnaire offered at least once a semester? Through such a survey, we could determine the attitudes and opinions of students with regard to Law Review (selection of students and publication), the questions of clinic credits, classroom conditions, placement services, the housing office, day care, a student directory, speakers, writing and research and many other vital topics that "touch and concern" all of us as students.

I believe that apathy is the result of a feeling of non-involvement due to the surrounding conditions. I propose to change the surrounding conditions to enable all students to have the best possible knowledge of what's happening at Golden Gate. I haven't made any promises I can't keep, but the first step is yours, vote for Larry Weinberger for VP of our S.B.A.

Emily Shenkin Treasurer

Alan Stevenson Vice-President

I. MORE POWER THROUGH BETTER SBA COMMITTEES: COMMUNICATION BETWEEN COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND THE STUDENT BODY

We feel the S.B.A. has not been extending its power as completely as it might. When the S.B.A. has used its power through the committee structure results have not been effectively communicated to the student body as a whole. We will institute a better procedure whereby students will not learn of faculty and/or administrative decisions ex post facto.

II. ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES

There are additional areas that could be benefitted by additional S.B.A. committees, e.g. placement and public relations functions have been severely neglected by the administration. We propose a watchdog S.B.A. committee to oversee the problems in that area and initiate policy changes.

We further propose that the S.B.A. budget committee expand its functions to assure no further tuition increases.

III. MONEY TO STUDENTS

The S.B.A. has extra funds in its account which we propose would be used for a small student loan fund, and/or partial scholarships.

HOLIDAY

NO CLASSES on Monday the 17th - we're celebrating Washington's Birthday. The Law Library as well as the Law School will be closed. Classes will be made up on April 28th.

David Polin - President

Firstly, it is well known that student governments generally have little or no power. Consequently, my first purpose at all times will be to accumulate as much power as possible for the S.B.A.

This is easier said than done, as the alert reader will note. But it is not impossible for a well-organized student body, with sufficient access to information, to operate effectively in the protection of its own interests. This is the goal I seek for the student government here.

Among my more specific aims are these:

1) Tuition - A serious, well-counseled attempt should be made led by the S.B.A., to prevent any future tuition increases and, if possible, to repeal the recent one. In a very real sense, we are the victims of an adhesionary contract.

Students of Golden Gate are graduating into a shrinking job market, burdened by GGU's reputation as a "third rate institution" (i.e. Boalt & Stanford are "first rate", and Hastings "second rate") The correctness of this reputation is questionable but that is no consolation to the class of 1975.

And remember the class of '75 is paying \$48/unit. The class of '76 will pay \$75/unit. Class of '77: what about you?

2) Faculty and Curriculum - It is not enough for students to have "input" on the questions of hiring and firing. The students should know how that "input" will be evaluated, and by whom. Ways should be found to provide significant student participation (by more than a few students in a committee) in the actual decision-making process.

Also, I think that it is time for some courses directed to the purposes of the law. Legal philosophy and legal ethics are subjects deserving of more attention than one course in Professional Responsibility designed solely in response to the Bar Exam.

Most importantly, law school should not be a place to "pay your dues" by being browbeaten and terrorized. There is no place for the "Paper Chase" atmosphere in a human institution. There should be a more rational distribution of units according to the workloads of various classes, and an overall reduction of the proportion of one and two unit classes, thereby freeing many students from having to take as many as 6 classes for their required units.

3) Student Services - The Financial Aids Office has not performed the job which we have a right to expect. Alleged commitments for specific sums have been broken with no notice to the affected students. Other schools have paid their students more per hour on the work-study program, at the same time providing more hours. I have not discovered any compelling reason for this disparity. I propose an effort to revitalize the CAVEAT as a newspaper, not simply a bulletin. I believe that we can have a good, creative newspaper at a very reasonable cost.

4) My motto: RESIST BUREAUCRACY

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Lynda L. Sands - Secretary

I feel there is an urgent need for true communication between students in general and the committees representing their interests and between students and administration. Policies are set and decisions are made with few students fully aware of the circumstances. How many of you know how much money the S.B.A. has and where it goes? How many of you knew the purpose of student evaluations of teacher performance before filling out the forms? How many of you know where to take a complaint for action?

Lip service to "honest communication" will not do. Student apathy develops when there is no one who will hear you, only people who listen. We spend three years and six thousand dollars here. We ought to know the terms of our bargain. I fully intend to perform the duties of the S.B.A. Secretary in accordance with these ideas and am prepared to do my part and more to convey to the student body the information necessary to keep them aware.

I have considerable work experience in many areas. I have been a waitress, a teacher, and a secretary. I have organized my own adult classes, plus handicraft clubs for underprivileged children. I am confident that I have the organizational ability and reliability to function effectively as S.B.A. Secretary. Despite the lousy pay.

On Feb. 14-17 the Bay Area Chapter of NLG is sponsoring a three day NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD CONFERENCE on RACISM AND THE NLG. A presentation on third world women is scheduled for Feb. 16 in conjunction with the Conference. All Guild members are urged to attend. Registration fee: \$20. For details, contact the NEB headquarters: 285-5066