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AMICUS CURIAE

VOLUME 1
NUMBER 4

S.B.A. NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 23, 1970

FROM DUNCAN GARNETT

When several of the over-worked staff members of the Amicus Curiae complained of the difficulty of getting students to submit material I urged a get tough policy. "Dig out those articles" I admonished loftily. "Badger, cajole, coerce and threaten students to write, write, write." Alas, they took that advice and turned on me with great glee. Little did they realize that I now plan to keep this space for future rambling.

Our new form of student government appears in general to be functioning well. The Board of Directors in its bi-monthly sessions has been able to cover more ground in half the time that it took the old town meeting SBA to have the minutes approved. Happily, the ex-officio members have faithfully attended each session and have contributed meaningfully and effectively. There is naturally much room for improvement. Specifically, the class representatives are not being utilized by the students as effectively as possible.

A recent example of this failure occurred in regard to the second year course requirement issue. The faculty approved the

abolition of required courses beyond those of the first year. Unfortunately, because of administrative problems it was determined not to effectuate this long overdue improvement until fall 1971. Then, as I understand it, instead of going through their class representatives, several students approached the Dean in an effort to demonstrate that immediate effectuation of the plan is administratively possible. As of this writing (16 Nov.) that attempt, though well intended, is frankly a mess.

I submit that the project could have been more effective if these students had simply given their class representative a written copy of their idea. The rep. would then have notified the Council which through written handouts would have informed every student of the entire situation, including the problems involved and the goals sought. Each class could then have had time to realistically and rationally consider the proposal. The Council would then have distributed printed tentative schedule forms to an informed student body. Once compiled, the results including suggestions and criticisms from each class involved would be presented to the Dean.

THE COLONIAL

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Ask Other

Law Students

It may still be possible to carry out the procedure just enumerated. The point is, the project should have been initiated through the proper channel. As it happened, with no advance warning and little explanation many third-year students were asked in class to hand in a copy of next semester's schedule at the conclusion of the hour. Naturally, response was not as it could have been. And of course, the Marshall-Wythe rumor machine cranked out a few dozen ill-advised reports to further confuse the issue.

Another example of failure to properly use the system almost occurred in the area of placement.

Should any student be dissatisfied or adversely affected by our placement program, he need only contact our Placement Director. If after meeting with Mr. Reavely the student desires further action he may direct of Mr. Reavely to take the matter to a private and confidential meeting of the Executive Council. Or if the affected student prefers, the matter may be brought before the Board of Directors through either the Placement Director or the class representative. These meetings are open to everyone and are reported in the Amicus Curiae. Placement was begun by the students and must remain responsive to student needs. The system is effective. Help stamp out rumor and confusion by using it.

Speaking of rumor, in spite of the diligence of the Student Ad Hoc Committee, few can deny that last week's referendum regarding curriculum reform was perplexing to many students. To help eliminate that problem it will be proposed at the next faculty meeting that students be placed on faculty subcommittees. Areas of particular interest to students include the subcommittees on curriculum, admissions and recruitment, and the library.

To be at all effective on these committees the student has to be well prepared. Accordingly, student committees in these areas are being

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Lunch & Dinner

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Weekly Student Specials

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8 oz. steak w/ FF & salad

Tues. → Fish Platter → \$1.35
w/ FF and salad

Wed. → Baked $\frac{1}{2}$ Chicken → \$1.50

Thurs. → Spaghetti → \$1.25

WHO p d p ELSE?

CALL 201-201-2011
ZODIAC

friday

DEC. 11

at 8:00 pm

- [1] ZODIAC
- [2] MARGARET
- [3] RAY & MARY ALIE
- [4] WINE & CHEESE

formed to support student ideas through research, evaluation and detailed proposals. The benefits of such a system are obvious. To function however, it needs the support of interested and responsible students who are willing to continue working long after the initial enthusiasm subsides. Concerned students should contact their class representatives immediately. Committee chairmen will be elected by the Board of Directors and hopefully, these chairmen will then be placed on the appropriate faculty sub-committee.

Recently the two fraternities sponsored highly enjoyable TGIF happy hours at a nominal charge for

non-members. It has been suggested to me that these Friday afternoon get-togethers should be made a regular event. Washington and Lee University does have a weekly school funded (not SBA) happy hour. Those from W & L with whom I have talked proclaim that it is a fantastic program, well attended by students, faculty and any alumni who can make it. Duke Law School accomplished the same sort of camaraderie through a tradition whereby each faculty member sponsors at least one cocktail hour for the students each year.

With few exceptions our faculty seem loath to attend this sort of activity. Few teachers attended the free SBA picnic-keg party and to date few have

All Students Are Welcome To Open A Charge Account

Faculty, Also!

We extend the privilege of opening a charge account to students of W&M because their Honor System has inspired them with a sense of responsibility. Men and women of the college have been accustomed to purchasing the correct apparell and charging their purchases to their own account here or else sending the bill home to the folks.

Earl N. Levitt

attended the fraternity
TGIF affairs. Nonethe-
less, should there be
sufficient student
interest there may be a
possibility of our having
regular happy hours. The
SBA of course does not
wish to trample on the
activities of other
organizations. To the
contrary, I am merely
suggesting that with
cooperation, the TGIF hour
may mature into a regular
gathering of faculty and
students.

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"When You
Think of
a Party
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US"

HOT
POLLOI

PHI DELTA PHI is proud to
announce that the follow-
ing have become members in
its fall rush:

Robert Magoon Koch, Jr.
Morgan Eugene Scott, Jr.
Earle David Lees, Jr.
Timothy Duffy
Joseph Anthony Abdelnour
Thomas Stewart Shadrick
Bruce Harris
Joseph Montgomery III
William Musser III

The SBA and the Barrister's
Brides will hold a
CHRISTMAS DANCE on
December 17 from 9 til 1.
Campus Center Ballroom.
It will be your last
chance to get together
before the holidays and
finals. Hors d'oeuvres
provided. \$2.50/couple
for dues paying members.
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&
The Pussycat
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M & W 12-1

FRI. 9-10

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VA. BAR NOTES

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The New Revised Virginia Bar Notes are set to go to print. Because of financial limitations, copies can only be purchased in advance. Due to the high cost of printing this may be the last edition unless a favorable response is shown.

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EDITORIAL

Perhaps, the most difficult task for an entering law student prior to the beginning of classes is finding a place to live. The housing shortage in the area is acute.

Reasons for the shortage are obvious. Williamsburg is a town of limited size with a large transient population of students, military personnel and tourists.

Certainly, something should be done to provide for our entering colleagues. The question as to how to do this now faces us. We can no longer ignore it, for it gets more and more severe as our enrollment increases.

If you have any ideas or wish to express any opinions concerning this problem the editors will be glad to publish them in subsequent issues.

A possible suggestion is that until something is done, maybe before one leaves his house or apartment he could try and make arrangements for another law student to move into his abode after you leave.

To the Editors, Amicus Curiae,

The following comments are offered for the consideration of those parties who contribute to the maintenance of law school publications.

The arrival of the 1970 Colonial Lawyer inevitably causes a reader to compare it with previous issues. The general appearance of the magazine is markedly different this year, but the honor of the profession requires one to say that the turn is for the worse. Regardless of cost or amount of savings, the "lily-white" issue does little to make it a selling commodity or to instill pride in the student body. A limited budget is an ominous roadblock for the staff to overcome, but the result hardly seems to justify the effort and money expended. The veil of secrecy thrown over the compilation of the issue seems only to have hidden one thing - the secret to success.

One must further query whether Sen. Harry F. Byrd would have been a featured writer if the political slant of the Editor had leaned in that direction.

The rise of the Amicus Curiae is an adventure to be applauded for its success. Could not the funds now allotted to the Colonial Lawyer be turned over to the staff of this newsletter to raise it to a level comparable with weekly papers published at U. Va. and other schools? The present newsletter is

predominantly self-sufficient, which inspires great hope for further improvement if the necessary capital was made available. It appears a better bet to be a publication able to stand on its own legs.

Charles Richard Ashman

SBA REPORT

The president opened the meeting by reading a letter from Mr. Stason thanking the SBA and those students involved for their assistance during the recent international antitrust symposium.

The feasibility of a law school bookstore has met initial resistance in that existing insurance and space considerations are discouraging. Bob Harwood volunteered to chair a committee to study the problems involved.

An enthusiastic report from the Pete Desler announced a law school Christmas Dance from 9 til 1 on December 17 at the Campus Center Ballroom.

The Barrister's Brides are handling refreshments and decorations. The 17th is the Thursday before the Friday that begins the Christmas recess.

The coffee bar is responding but is still not the recreational coffee bar that it should be. The Executive Council is looking for someone to run the shop in the morning at a reasonable wage. This is a chance

perhaps for a Bride to work part time at convenient hours.

The Amicus Curiae, after three issues, was officially approved to continue as the law school newsletter.

NEW ARRIVALS

There is now another Kaplan in Williamsburg; Bob Kaplan is to be congratulated on the recent birth of a six pound fifteen ounce baby boy. In order to maintain the balance of numbers between the sexes, Paul McElhinney has just contributed a new baby girl.

