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Res Gestae

Roger Marce, Editor

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

----- THE LAWYERS CLUB OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LAW SCHOOL -----
VOL. 17 ----- APRIL 9, 1965 ----- NO. 12

IN RE: COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES IN THE LAW SCHOOL: I would like to outline some of the factors which affect the Law School calendar and its relationship with the University commencement exercises.

First: the present calendar of the Law School is designed to provide students with (1) An extra week of Christmas vacation, of special benefit to job-seeking seniors, (2) A full week of spring vacation, rather than a 3-day weekend, (3) A full ten-day examination period, of special importance since, in law school, final exams are often the sole measure of grades.

I suspect that, in the eyes of most students, these advantages outweigh attempting to finish in time for the University's commencement. In order to conform to the University calendar, all these would have to be foresaken.

Second, the actual history of participation by graduating law seniors in Commencement exercises which were held after exams were over does not reflect any very widespread interest in attending. Typically, 30-45 graduating law seniors have attended. Unless there has been a substantial change in attitude and a much larger number of students are interested, there is little reason to attempt to change the calendar or to go to the effort of arranging a post-exam ceremony for the law school, an alternative that has been suggested.

Third, the actual awarding of diplomas or granting of degrees is a power of the Board of Regents, typically delegated to the President, and not to any Dean. Hence, any law school ceremony would not be an actual "graduation" or "commencement." At most, it could recognize the fact of candidacy for degrees which, in most cases, matures on schedule.

All this leads to this conclusion: this fall we will work out a mutually agreeable questionnaire to determine some facts upon which some sensible decisions can be made. If those facts indicate widespread interest in some sort of Senior Recognition Day in the Law School, either before Commencement or immediately after Law School exams, we will make every effort to make such arrangements.

- Allan F. Smith

PLACEMENT NOTES:

The following information is offered re: junior clerkships, and in the hope that those who applied for these positions this past fall, only to be disappointed, will not be discouraged from using the Placement Office as Seniors.

As has been noted before, the widespread willingness by firms to take on second year men as clerks is a fairly recent development. Characteristically, it has been a recruiting device used by large, big city firms. Usually, a short term financial loss is incurred by the hiring firm, since it cannot recover what it pays the clerk--unless the clerkship proves successful as a recruitment tool. Moreover, hiring often results from no mere contact than the half-hour interview.

On the other hand, firms interviewing seniors for permanent positions vary significantly from those hiring junior clerks. First, they are far more representative of law firms generally, in respect to size and location. Second, the emphasis on grades is far less pronounced with senior interviews than with those hunting juniors. Third, quick judgments and spot offers are rare, hence due weight is given factors other than grades at this point in the recruitment process.

As was indicated last September, increased interest on the part of firms in the hiring of juniors suggested a possible softening of grade requirements. While juniors with a 2.5 or better were encouraged to experiment with interviews, it was made clear that no assurances could be given. The School's interviews were offered as one way to the right summer job, not as the way. Direct contact with attractive firms was encouraged. A look at the statistics compiled on the basis of summer jobs reported to the Placement Office tends to refute the generalization that students with less than a 3.00 average were unsuccessful. The figures also show a steady, and impressive increase in the number of juniors securing summer clerkships each year. Although the present senior class was, when they were juniors, discouraged from using the Placement Office, unless they had an average of 2.8 or better, encouragement of students falling below this mark to use the Placement Office this year proved fruitful for many such students.

It should be pointed out that juniors who still would like to find a summer clerkship for this year should not give up. The finishing of our exams in early May makes it possible for juniors to make personal contact with prospective employers nearly a month before other schools finish their semester. Students are encouraged to give firms in their home cities a try. Send them a letter, enclosing a resumé and informing them of your intention to call upon them. Then drop in. While the big city large firms are not likely to prove fruitful at this stage, the smaller firms may offer quick success. Valuable insight into the hiring practices of typical law offices will have been gained, even if a summer job is not forthcoming. Alumni directories and Martindale-Hubbell are just two of the tools which the Placement Office stands ready to place at your disposal. Come up and get acquainted!

- R.V. Wellman

EDITORS WASTEBASKET:

Prof. Conard recently lectured on commercial and corporate law at L'Universite Libre de Bruxelles....Prof. Cooper is the author of an article entitled "Administrative Law" appearing in the Wayne Law Review....Prof. Estep is a member of the new Advisory Committee on Causal Relationship in Radiation Injuries, which met in Washington recently. He also gave a speech last week to the State Bar Space Law Committee. His topic was "Space Communications and the Law."...Prof. Polasky's article "Marital Deduction Formula Clauses in Estate Planning --Estate and Income Tax Considerations" appears in the March issue of the Law Review....Prof. R.A. Smith, with Dallas A. Jones, are the authors of "The Supreme Court and Labor Dispute Arbitration: The Emerging Federal Law," also appearing in the March Law Review....Dr. Watson lectured on "Law Students, Law Teachers, and Their Relationships," to the Ohio League of Law Schools. He also lectured on "The Psychiatrist and Community Problems" to the Grand Rapids Women's City Club.

The library recently reported that two drawers of catalogue cards have been missing for nearly a month. A thorough search has been regrettably unproductive. Estimates for replacing these cards that can be replaced are in the several thousands of dollars. Other cards may not be able to be replaced.

P.A.D. recently installed its new officers for the coming school year. Prof. Elmer Million was installation officer. The new officers are James Westen, justice; Robert Hellenshead, vice justice; Steve Small, secretary; Edwin Hall, treasurer; and Ronald Egnor, marshal. Representative Marvin Esch, of the Michigan House of Representatives, spoke at the April 1 luncheon on the problems of a new legislation in state government.

From the Speakers' Committee of the Board of Directors:

"Project 74" is a major effort to review the entire juvenile court establishment in Washtenaw County. The Assistant County Attorney for Westchester County, New York, Mr. Richard McAtamany, will be in Ann Arbor next week to counsel the Washtenaw officials concerned with the development of "Project 74." Westchester County is considered a model in its structure for handling juvenile problems, and Mr. McAtamany is an expert in the field. He will be the guest of the Lawyers Club at a dinner meeting on Tuesday, April 13. All those interested in his subject who would like the opportunity to meet and talk with Mr. McAtamany may sign up to have dinner with him on either of the two lists which may be found outside Room 100 Hutchins and on the Board of Directors Bulletin Board in the Lawyers Club vestibule.

The Law School Forum will close its program for the year on Wednesday, April 14 with a speech by Mayor Jerome P. Cavanagh of Detroit. Elected Mayor as a dark horse candidate in 1961 at the age of 33, Mr. Cavanagh is now the focus of much national attention. Mayor Cavanagh has been one of the principal architects of pilot projects for urban areas under the President's Poverty Bill and has been responsible for Detroit's obtaining a lion's share of the appropriations for early projects of the Poverty Program. Life Magazine counted him as one of the "Takeover Generation", and he is considered a very articulate public speaker. He will speak in Room 100 Hutchins Hall at 6:30 P.M. on the topic: "Experiments in Urban America: Detroit 1965".

To the Editor:

It has come to my attention that on March 28th the retiring board of directors of the Lawyers Club appropriated \$237.24 out of Law Club funds for a banquet for themselves at the Rubaiyat Restaurant. It is my belief that this was an inappropriate use of public money. I firmly believe that the students should be aware of this action, so that they may express to the present board either their sanction or disapproval of this practice.

Members of the retiring board have stated to me that their justification of this practice is twofold. First, that this is a board tradition. My talk with a prior board member, and an examination of past board financial records indicates that in other years the board has used Club funds for board parties and in one case a dinner.

However, the records show that there was no such expenditure for 1961-1962, that \$54.83 was so spent in 1962-1963, and \$58.98 in 1963-1964. This year's total was \$277.24. I personally feel this was excessive, and sets a bad precedent for the future. Second, retiring board members contend that they are entitled to some compensation for the time and energy they have expended in service on the board. While this may be true, the fact remains that they were elected to serve without compensation, and it seems improper to me for them to vote themselves compensation at a later date.

I personally would approve of the board holding a limited function for themselves with Club money. I do not, however, believe that they should continue to spend over \$250 of public funds for this purpose.

I suggest that the members of the club make their opinions on this matter known to the present board members in the hopes that they may have guidelines for the formulation of future policy.

- Griffith Garwood.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Distributions of the 1965 "Quad" is scheduled to take place early next week. It is being handled by Ron Gilbert and Steve Petix. For those students who failed to pre-order a copy by who wish one now, approximately 150 are available at \$3.50 per copy, first come-first serve. For additional information, you can call Ron Gilbert, 761-0426....The Law Club's Annual Spring Musicales will be presented this coming Sunday, April 11, at 2:45, in the Club Lounge. Featured on the program will be the Stanley String Quartet, the University Madrigal Singers, and a classical pianist to be announced. A free buffet supper will follow--for those who attend the Musicales. All are invited....The Monday night meetings of the Board of Directors are open to the public. In the future, the agenda for each meeting will be posted by Monday noon, on the Law Club and Hutchins Hall bulletin boards.... The deadline for room changes is April 15. Later changes will be by written request only, subject to official approval.

AT THE FLICKS:

Campus: "The Man From Rio"
Michigan: "Strange Bedfellows"
State: "Dear Heart"
Cinema Guild: Fri. - "Il Grido"
Sat. - "Sunrise"

QUADSVILLE QUOTES

All the historical books which contain no lies are extremely tedious.

- Anatole France

If parties in a republic are necessary to secure a degree of vigilance sufficient to keep the public functionaries within the bounds of law and duty, at that point their usefulness ends.

- William Henry Harrison