QUALITY OF RECENT GRADUATES: A SURVEY

There are many factors in the make-up of what senior partners feel is a good associate in a law firm. This was the finding substantiated by at least a part of a survey taken recently by Dean Joiner.

Questionnaires were sent to 100 law firms that had hired a Michigan law graduate since 1957. Half of these graduates were in the upper half of the class, the other half in the lower, the purpose being a comparison of these groups.

The substance of the survey will be released in mid-May, but we offer a sneak preview, the general comments of what the answering firms considered to be the young graduate’s weakest characteristics and his strongest attributes. 63 per cent of the firms answered.

In the first group, those in the upper half, intelligence was more often noted, but not as often as one might think. Some of the "strongest attributes" mentioned:

- Willingness to work hard/industrious, pleasant, anxious to learn and do well/intelligence, industry and professional academic curiosity/a very bright fellow with a great deal of aptitude for law/legal research/ he is not afraid to tackle difficult problems and deal with clients in doing so and is a conscientious worker, where he has had any experience in the field/ creative thinking; perfection, accuracy and pride in workmanship; orderly, analytical mind; ability to see and state issues involved in a complicated situation; loyalty/ his high ethical standard, his sense of professional responsibility and his ability to marshal facts of law./ good common sense./ novel approaches to problems.

The negative comments in the first group:

- Immaturity/everything that he does must be done in the greatest detail and as a result it is difficult to bill his time out; cannot separate the important problems from the unimportant and each is given equal treatment; is not forceful enough/ not yet as thorough as I would wish; timidity in accepting responsibility for simple matters where the general field is new to him./
- Has a touch of the GI habit of avoiding overtime work, but does a fine job during usual business hours./ perhaps impatience with certain boring aspects of job that are necessary prerequisites to advancement/ anti-conventional attitude, highly neurotic/inability to use the English language properly in writing letters, briefs, pleadings, etc. tendency to procrastinate./
- The person in question lacks self-confidence and is slow and does not have the drive or ability of most of our other recruits of the same vintage.

In the second group, those in the bottom half of their class, the positive comments of interest commonly found:

- A good legal education/belief in the causes of clients/aggressiveness/thoroughness in determining facts and research of law; strong conviction of his conclusions; industry, loyalty and devotion to his clients; good advocate/ pleasant personality, meets people easily, gives you impression of knowing/professional integrity, absence of false standards and false sense of his own importance, well-educated in fundamentals, willing to work, pleasant tho' not out-going personality/ he is well prepared and is willing to learn seriou" and conscientious application to law, good training, natural intelligence/excellent personality and ingenuity

And the "weakest characteristics" of the second group:

- Superiority attitude/ inability to handle volume sufficient to pay his total cost including overhead/ an excess of aggression/writes very poorly, somewhat lazy and fails to follow through on his work detail/lack of determination to find authorities if they are available, gives up and therefore his research is not reliable, tendency to provide an opinion by guesswork, as to diligence insofar as carrying his share of load is concerned he has tendency to be a 'clock
Let us reinstate the Monroe Doctrine: Let the world know we would forcibly oppose the establishment of this hemisphere in any future regimes dominated by the Soviet Union.

This is the opinion of Alwyn V. Freeman, lawyer, a long-time diplomat who is serving as visiting professor of international law. Brazil is becoming increasing vulnerable to the communist threat, he warns. In British Guiana, soon to receive its independence, the prime minister is Cheddi Jagan, "another potential Castro," Prof. Freeman states. "At what point do we draw the line?" he asks. "Do we wait until we are backed into a corner?"

For the past five years Prof. Freeman has served as deputy representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) at United Nations headquarters. In 1961 he was IAEA representative at the ninth session of the Economic Commission of Latin America meeting in Santiago, Chile. "In Santiago that year I heard criticism from Latin American delegates because the Bay of Pigs invasion was a failure, not because it was attempted," he reports. Prof. Freeman recalls that an Organization of American States resolution of October 23, 1961 authorized all measures necessary to eliminate the threat of communism from the western hemisphere. "We tossed away the opportunity to move against Castro at that time with full backing of Latin America," he says.

Last fall's agreement with Russia for the removal of Soviet missiles from Cuba Freeman terms as "no victory at all." "Nothing we do from now on will be without the threat of war. We have not removed the Russian menace. We have only made it more difficult to move against Castro," Prof. Freeman sees little hope for the success of the Alliance for Progress in stemming the rising tide of communism in Latin America with the U.S. acting alone."

"The problem," he says, "is not just the infusion of money by the United States. Unless some way can be found for the governments of Latin America to persuade their own moneied classes to invest in their own countries, the Alliance for Progress is doomed."

As much money has come out of Latin America for investment in the U.S. and Europe as the U.S. government has poured in, he says. Poverty and misery cannot be eliminated in South and Central America as long as these countries are reluctant to invest in their own future. Freeman points to Puerto Rico as an example of what can be done in just 12 years with native leadership taking full advantage of U.S. economic and technical assistance. It could be done in other countries, he maintains, but it must be a partnership.

With the social ferment in Latin America today, the problem would be bad enough without Castro, Freeman reports. He adds that from his own experience in Mexico, where he served for over a year with the Agrarian Claims Commission, he is keenly aware that many Mexicans must equate the Castro revolution with their own revolution earlier in the century which also had communist leaders. "But in those days the Soviet was not in a position to support a revolution by force as it is today in Cuba," he adds.

Although Freeman declares that he personally had favored an invasion of Cuba, he underscores that "we have fine brains in Washington. The administration is striving to apply every pressure short of forceful means. My feeling is that eventually we will have to use these forceful means to drive the communist threat from our hemisphere."

Faculty-Senior Blast a Success-- Wednesday night at the V.F.W. the ears of the senior class were blessed with ribald songs from selected members of the faculty. Professors Wellman, Wright, Estep and Gray were joined by Dean Smith in what will be remembered as one of the finest musical comedies ever to grace a Law School function, including the farewell function last year for Professors James and Blume.

Nor will anyone forget the free beer and pizza. Then there was the fellowship, and John Twomey's skilled handiwork, and the post-party at Flick's. The Gestae staff suggest making such a party a weekly event from now through finals....

MEETING OF ALL SENIORS: Friday, May 3 at 2:35, right after the make-up conflicts class. Attendance is required. The meeting has been called by Dean Joiner. It will be of interest to every senior.
NATIONAL HOOT COURT TEAM:

Any Campbell Competitor who wishes to be considered for election to the National Hoot Court Team must contact Tony Benton or Gil Hiller by Tuesday, April 30. Campbell Competitors may pick up their Campbell Competition certificates on the table in 360 Legal Research Building.

CREASE BALL EXTENDED:

Overwhelming demand has caused the Barristers to extend the Crease Ball an hour. Instead of from 9:30 to 12:30, it will now be from 9:00 until 1:00. Gosh.

CASE CLUB JUDGES:

All retiring Senior Judges and all newly-elected Senior Judges are asked to attend a very important meeting next Thursday evening, May 2, at 10 P.M. at the Schuaben Inn.

THE RES GESTAE is looking for a new editor for next year. Anyone interested in this gratifying job, which is easier than you think, see Roger Wolf, D-11.

THE CREASE BALL IS THIS WEEK-END