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Page One

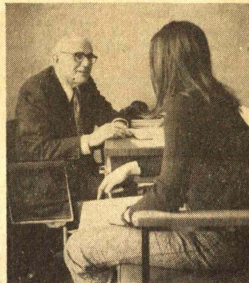
Placement Office Gets Interim Director

By LAURENCE KRAMER

William Holzman has been appointed Interim Director of the Placement Office. Mr. Holzman also serves as the school's Alumni Director.

In the short time that he has taken over, he has managed to cut through much of the red tape that, to this date, has hampered effective operation of the office. Director Holzman has requested lists of available jobs from legal employment agencies and has sent out some 25,000 letters to BLS graduates requesting jobs. He has also initiated a plan whereby students are calling law firms in New York inquiring when and if jobs will be available. Students volunteering for this task have first opportunity at jobs they find. Mr. Holzman, at the beginning of the semester, also sent letters to the second year night class regarding clerking jobs available with city firms.

In recent weeks, a plan has been instituted to match the right student with the right job. When a call comes into the office with a job request,



Bill Holzman interviewing

Mr. Holzman's secretary immediately searches the resume files to find the student who fits the needs of the employer. Next, she phones the student, informing the student of the opportunity and setting up an interview if it is desired. It is therefore imperative that students have their resumes on file with the Placement Office.

Since January 1, nine seniors have been placed. Most of these students are day students. Holzman explained that night students, many of them teachers, are reluctant to take substantial pay cuts. Thus, they have turned down positions that are appealing to day students.

In answering charges made by Dan Savage that the school refused to make a substantial monetary commitment to the Placement Office, Holzman noted that BLS has made substantial outlays to the Placement Office in-

(Continued on Page 4)

Major Curriculum Revision

Elective Hours Increased—Grading System Changed

By MERYL WIENER

Ms. Wiener is student chairman of the Faculty-Student Curriculum Committee.

The Faculty — Student Curriculum Committee's proposed curriculum revision has overwhelmingly been adopted. The new curriculum contains a first year core of courses that will be required: Contracts, Torts, Property, Civil Procedure (new), Criminal Law, Constitutional Law, and Legal Research. It was felt that these courses could be individually defended as necessarily required, as each represents a vital element forming a base of a solid legal education. Subsequent to the first year, there will be four additional required courses which, although not as basic as the first year courses, will nevertheless broaden and buttress the basic legal background. These courses are Equity, Business Organizations, Conflicts of Law and Evidence.

Implementation of the above program will commence for September, 1973 entrants. Students now in attendance will benefit, "Wherever it is practicable." What this statement means is that the current student will partake of the new curriculum unless there is a practical reason why he cannot. For example, students who have not as yet taken "Sales & Secured Transactions," will not be required to do so. However, they will still have to take the present six credit course in "New York Practice,"

as they will not have taken the new course in "Civil Procedure" to be instituted for next year's first year students. Civil Procedure is designed as a four credit course to be taught in successive semesters. It will be based on the Federal rules and will provide an overall introduction to the legal system — its terminology, and its effectuation. Students presently in attendance will have to comport with the guidelines of the new curriculum as well. In other words, "Equity", which has been offered as an elective, will henceforth be a required course and those students who have not yet taken it will have to do so.

In discussing the mechanics of implementing the new curriculum, Dean Lisle pointed out that many of the underlying administrative problems would be encountered for the first time due to the forthcoming discontinuance of block scheduling. A system of registration will have to be worked out whereby courses, hours, and instructors will be listed so that students can select their programs accordingly. If a course is to be one of limited enrollment, graduating students will be given priority as to the course, not to a particular section. The possibility of buying computer time to facilitate the mass programming is a possible solution currently under consideration.

To aid students in selecting programs of study, the new bulletin will denote courses that are rec-

"... a function of free speech under our system of government is to invite dispute. It may indeed best serve its high purpose when it induces a condition of unrest, creates dissatisfaction with conditions as they are, or even stirs people to anger."

Mr. Justice Douglas



Dean Lisle

plated for third year students, as well as newer, broader, and some highly specialized electives.

With the advent of the new curriculum, a concomitant change in the grading system has been approved. The new grading scale will be:

90 — 100%	Excellent
80 — 90	Good
70 — 79	Satisfactory
65 — 69	Unsatisfactory
65 — below	Failure

The unsatisfactory category is subject to change to a 60 — 65 range. The decision will be made this semester.

Under the old scale, the range was far narrower. There were but six points separating the letter grade "A" (90 or above) from the letter grade "C" (80-84).

It was felt that change in this area was imperative. Under the new system, a far more accurate measure of a student's grades and standing will be reflected. There will no longer be a letter grade assigned to a numerical score, thereby unjustly equating, for instance, a grade of 95 with that of 91. Each numerical score will be recorded as is and averaged accordingly, more accurately determining class standing and at the same time obliterating the metaphysical chasm between a grade of 89 and that of 90.

As to the possibility of dropping any sort of numerical grading system and simply reporting the grades as "Excellent," "Good," etc., Dean Lisle pointed out that, at this juncture, it was not feasible, nor would it be beneficial to our "outside" credibility to report grades (particularly to prospective employers) on any basis but a numerical one. Pursuing this point further, he implied that he was open to suggestions on this

Faculty Recruitment At AALS Convention

Members of the Brooklyn Law School faculty attended the annual convention of the Association of American Law Schools over the winter holiday in New York City. The Convention, held at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, brought together law professors and administrators from throughout the country, one of their primary purposes being to screen and select new faculty members.

For BLS, the Convention was significant because the school made formal application to the Association in mid-January, action on the application to come by the 1973 Convention next December. A group appointed by the Accreditation Committee of AALS, will visit Brooklyn Law in the Spring to evaluate the school.

Student members of the newly formed Coalition which is promoting the school's application attended segments of the convention. Among them were Coalition co-chairpersons Phyllis Clements and Jon Miller and S.B.A. Vice President Meryl Wiener.

Activities at the Convention centered around the many suites reserved by schools used to conduct interviews. Typical among them was the BLS suite, a lush, two room complex with a fire-

place, color T.V. and an abundance of Jack Daniels and Dewars. The ten BLS faculty members who attended the Convention interviewed some twenty candidates for the four to five positions which are available for next year.

Dean Lisle explained that the school is committed to expanding the size of the faculty in order to both improve the student-faculty ratio and provide greater diversity among teaching special-

ties. He noted that the AALS has no set requirement for a student-faculty ratio but that our present ratio of 50/1 was rather high. This ratio, he said, will necessarily be substantially improved by next year because of the addition of four or five new faculty members and a reduction in the size of the entering class being instituted next year.

The Dean pointed out that AALS is primarily an organization of law school faculty members

rather than law schools. Because faculty of recognized law schools can more easily move among member schools, BLS, as a non-member, is in the anomalous position of actively seeking to expand its faculty while being unable to offer prospective applicants the benefits of AALS. He noted that AALS membership will solve this problem and greatly benefit present faculty members who seek to publish, teach summer courses at member schools or change schools entirely.

One additional problem which the school must face with regard to expansion of the faculty is space limitations. The AALS requires that every full time faculty member (BLS presently has 26) have an office in the school. The school cannot now accommodate a larger number of full time people. Abraham Lindenbaum, a member of the school's Board of Trustees, has instituted a feasibility study to determine whether expansion of the present facility is possible. If it is, construction work may be done as early as this summer with completion bringing expanded faculty office space as well as new seminar rooms and student activity offices.

(Continued on Page 4)



The plush BLS suite at the Waldorf. Seated are Professor Philip Younge, Jon Miller and Dean Lisle.

(Continued on Page 4)

— editorials —

Comment: In Pursuit Of Justice

Let's All Join In...

For the fourth largest law school in the nation, Brooklyn Law School is probably fourth from the bottom in terms of student participation in legitimate law school activities. This dearth of student interest is no small matter; for the vitality and reputation of a law school is more often than not dependent upon the manifestations it exhibits to the outside legal community: a first rate law review, an active and competitive Moot Court team, a concerned and conscientious Student Bar Association and a relevant and stimulating student newspaper. The roots and causes of this mass student reluctance to participate are complex yet they are assessable.

It must first be understood that there are two student bodies and two faculties at BLS. One group of students and faculty have not committed themselves to the concept of excellence but instead, have wedded themselves to the ideas of the past, to the idea of the status quo, the motivation to just get by and no more. They are students who make paranoid predilections about grades and spiteful faculty members and faculty members who conduct themselves with no regard for students as individuals, who have sheltered themselves within the sterile academic tower of BLS faculty life, refusing to publish, refusing to go beyond the necessities of just getting by.

The other group is the hope and beacon for this school. It is students who are genuinely involved in their academic work, who care about the future of the school and are willing to give something of themselves for its betterment. They are also faculty members who genuinely care about teaching as a profession, who are interested in students and who are trying to get themselves out from under the weight of coursework and class size to publish, making a name not only for themselves but also for the school. It is fortunate that this group is slowly but surely becoming the majority. New faculty members have breathed new life into many areas of academic and school life. Meanwhile, the Dean informs us that the entering class will have Dean's list grades and median LSAT scores which may far exceed 600.

Beyond the inherent nature of students and faculty alike, artificial barriers have been created which psychologically make it unduly burdensome for a student to get actively involved. The overbearing curriculum has for years been an unwarranted obstacle to extra-curricular activities. (Just ask any student at Harvard or Yale whether he was required to brief eight to ten cases per two hour class period).

Secondly, this school seems bent on "not" recognizing genuine student achievement and service performed by students who do participate. A letter by the former Managing Editor of the Law Review published in our last issue which openly criticized the administration for its failure to recognize that publication's Editorial Board at graduation exercises is merely the tip of an iceberg. This year, a majority of Law Review editors are not receiving stipends towards tuition payments. Members of the Moot Court must expend tremendous energy typing, correcting and grading problems, problems used in a course "required" in the curriculum. In the past, the school has also forced the Moot Court to bear the expense of printing the problems used in the first year course, an unwarranted invasion of the Student Activity fee. The facilities given to the S.B.A. to conduct its business are absolutely disgraceful given the fact that the organization must conduct sundry activities which affect every student in the school.

To help solve this major problem area at BLS, the Justinian strongly recommends that the following steps be taken immediately by the administration. These steps will be beneficial in creating an atmosphere more conducive and cooperative with regard to student participation:

1. The following students should automatically be given full or partial stipends toward their tuition: all editors of the Law Review, the Chairmen of the Moot Court Society, all elected officers of the S.B.A. and at least two editors of Justinian.
2. More flexible and varied legal writing requirements

EDITOR'S NOTE: This column is reserved for future commentary on current issues relating to the Judicial System.

In the New York Law Journal of August 16, 1972, there appeared an article by Charles F. Kiley entitled, "Powell Expresses Some Regrets Over Appointment to High Court." At a meeting of the American Bar Association, held in San Francisco, Justice Powell is quoted as saying, "The changes in my personal life style have been profound and not altogether welcome. I would still prefer to be a practicing lawyer. I do not enjoy the constraints of being a judge." The article further states that the Judge's long career as a highly successful lawyer was interrupted when he was persuaded by President Nixon to accept an appointment to the Supreme Court of the United States; that this has proved to be an "unwelcomed change" in his life; that he has become *disenchanted*; that his inability to acquire complete satisfaction in his new work has resulted from his discovery that "The caseload of the court is approaching twice its proportions, with the situation certain to worsen *** that this volume *** together with the other work of the court, cannot be considered with requisite care and deliberation." (Underscoring mine)

It would be an understatement to say I was surprised and shocked upon reading this story. I read the article at least five or six times before I could believe it. I can just imagine how pained must have been the reaction of my former distinguished colleague in the House of Representatives, the President of the United States, on learning of Justice Powell's statement. Certainly the President did not twist Justice Powell's arm when proffering the appointment to him. With all due respect to Justice Powell, and without any intention on assuming the unwarranted role of his preceptor, I suggest that if the learned Judge longs to return to the successful practice he abandoned, he should tender his resignation at once. It would not be the first time a judge became disenchanted and returned to the practice of the law. Since his appointment is so recent, Justice Powell should take this step immediately; otherwise, he will be embarrassed when friends congratulate him on his promotion.

How unlike Justice Powell's attitude toward his responsibilities was that of Lord Tenterden, one of England's Chief Justices, whose view of judicial duty was nobly expressed in his comment to a friend who congratulated him on his promotion from the Bar, that "the search after truth is much more pleasant than the search after arguments." Justice Tenterden's heart was in the law.

If I were a practicing attorney, I would feel extremely uncomfortable in arguing a case before a judge who I knew was unhappy and disenchanted with his work. A lawyer is entitled to the best in a judge, and the least to which counsel and his cause are entitled is a judge who can inspire in him confidence that his arguments and briefs will be studied "with requisite care and deliberation." Conversely, a judge is entitled to the best in a lawyer.

As to the complaint about the caseload, Judge Julius M. Mayer, formerly of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, fifty years ago, said:

"There is probably no responsible court, Federal or State, first instance or appellate, which is not working under great pressure. Litigations arising out of or as a result of the war, the increase of statute law, civil and criminal, na-

tional and state, the creation and development of new kinds of industries and businesses, the unceasing complexity of economic problems giving rise to questions of constitutional and commercial law in foreign and domestic commerce have all combined to place a heavy burden on the courts. . .

"* * * The courts are dealing with great human affairs, questions of welfare and liberty, questions which reflect the problems of the commerce on land and sea and the relations of men to each other in every conceivable aspect. * * *

In the history of the world, in the development and administration of governments, the lawyer and the judge have played no small part. They have borne their full share and responsibility in safeguarding life and liberty and promoting the pursuit of happiness. That responsibility is, if anything, greater today than before, when new problems are facing the world in every corner."

These words could very well have been written today. All that need be added are the civil rights laws and the lawsuits they have spawned; the legislation relating to auto safety, truth in lending, consumer protection, improvement of the environment, and a host of other controversial laws.

One more word about the caseload and backlog. On September 6, 1972, Eric Sevareid interviewed Mr. Justice Douglas over C.B.S. I now quote from the transcript of that broadcast.

"SEVAREID: And you've got a great big backlog. All this talk of too big a load — overwork. You're out here weeks ahead before the Court even adjourns.

DOUGLAS: Well, we got a bigger backlog in the sense of more filings. When I went on the Court we had 1800 cases a year — a term. And now we're having about 4200.

SEVAREID: That you hear.

DOUGLAS: No, that are filed and we have to screen them. But of those 4200, most of them come from prisons, and 98 or 99% of them are frivolous. We read them all because they produce classic situations like Gideon and Miranda and so on. We're actually hearing and deciding fewer cases now than we were when I went on the Court.

SEVAREID: Why is that? Still got nine men.

DOUGLAS: Still have nine men, but the selective process has changed. The judges have changed, the idea of what is important has changed in the minds of the judges — a highly subjective consideration. Is this case fit to take — should we take it — and so on. And we take fewer and fewer. When I went on the Court we sat six days a week. Under Warren we sat five days a week, a conference on Friday. And now it looks as if our trend will be to three days a week, with a conference on Saturday. The job takes about four days a week."

It has been said that judges keep themselves on the *qui vive* by simple reminders which caution against overspeaking. Perhaps the best remedy is to bear in mind the rule of the carpenter who said, "The best rule for talkin' is the same as for carpenterin': measure twice and then saw once."

By Mr. Justice Louis B. Heller
Supreme Court, Kings County
Second Judicial Department.

should be developed allowing students credit for participation in legitimate "legal education" publications or writing programs, the criteria to be set by the Student-Faculty Committee on Publications and/or the Curriculum Committee.

3. All curricular courses set forth in the school's catalogue should be fully funded by the school and not the S.B.A. through the Student Activity fee.
4. Two full time secretaries should be hired, funding to come either directly from the school or increased student activity fees, to give service to the four activities mentioned in this editorial.
5. New offices for the S.B.A., Moot Court Society and Justinian must be found or built so that these activities may function efficiently.

The challenge at hand is great. We stand at the doorsteps of great change and innovation at Brooklyn Law School if we truly want it and are willing to work for it. Recognition of the school by AALS will come if we at school are committed to putting our own house in order. Curriculum reform is a good start. The rest is long overdue.

Speakers' Program

Tues., February 6

Moot Court Room - 3:15

Justice Edward Thompson, Chief of Civil Court, Justice Thompson will respond to criticism of certain judges made by columnist Jack Newfield recently as well as discuss probono work for lawyers.

Wed., February 14

Moot Court Room - 3:15

Jack Newfield, editor at "The Village Voice", author of a book on Robert Kennedy, co-author of A Populist Manifesto, contributed to Ramparts, The Matide, Commonweal. Wrote "The Ten Worst Judges" in N.Y. Magazine.

Legal Trends

EDITOR'S NOTE: This space will be available for student and faculty articles reviewing recent developments in the law. Articles should be limited to 500 words.

A case decided by the Court of Appeals of the State of New York in July of 1971, *Austin Instrument, Inc. v. Loral Corporation*, 29 N.Y. 2d 124, 324 N.Y.S. 2d 22, represents a significant development in the law of economic duress, an emerging principle in contract law which permits a party to an otherwise valid modification agreement (enlarging or altering the duties of one of the parties to a pre-existing contract without reciprocal change of the obligations of the other party) to attack the modification on the ground that acquiescence to the modification was induced by "economic" duress.

The common law dealt with the problem of modification in a simplistic but effective way. The "pre-existing duty rule" operated to prevent one-sided modifications of pre-existing contracts by declaring that no consideration was received by the party agreeing to accept a lesser performance in return for his promise, or by the party who agreed to pay more than originally promised for no more than was originally due. While this rule vindicated the enforceability of the initial bargain (the essential function of contract is a bargain giving rise to rights which are secure), it lacked the flexibility to permit good-faith modifications of existing contracts. Statutory intervention (U.C.C. 2-209 and G.O.L. 5-1103) opened the door to valid modifications by dispensing with the need for consideration to support the change in the bargain as long as there was statutory compliance (e.g. a writing signed by the party to be affected adversely under G.O.L. 5-1103). But what if the superficially valid modification was obtained by unscrupulous pressure worked against one party by threats of breach by the other?

The emerging doctrine of "economic duress" declares that pressure which is too extreme, which unfairly takes advantage of the commercial vulnerability of one of the parties, which is in reality a subtle analogy to the "gun at the head" which symbolizes physical duress, may vitiate the bargain.

Although decided by a narrow 4-3 vote, *Austin* represents the most substantial support for the doctrine of economic duress thus far announced the Court of Appeals. Moreover, the dissenters do not dispute the law of economic duress articulated by the majority. The minority's disagreement concerns the question of whether the established facts were sufficient to invoke the doctrine.

In *Austin* the party asserting economic duress was a general contractor under a \$6,000,000 contract with the Navy. Its claim was that the duress was perpetrated by one of its subcontractors, the supplier of critical parts required for the products sold to the Navy. When a prime contract was awarded to the general contractor by the Navy, the subcontractor demanded that it receive the parts sub-contract at prices much higher than those obtaining under the initial sub-contract, and also that it receive such newly increased prices on the first sub-contract. Its alleged threat was to cease all deliveries under the initial contract unless these demands were met. If carried out, this course of action would put the general contractor in default under its contract with the Navy unless it could obtain the parts elsewhere.

After some unsuccessful efforts in this direction, the general contractor yielded and agreed to award the retroactive price increases to its sub-contractor as well as the parts sub-contract.

The Court held that these facts constituted economic duress as a matter of law (the dissenters contending that at best an issue of fact was presented which could have been resolved against the general contractor in the trial court). The pivotal sentences in the majority opinion are these:

"However, a mere threat by one party to breach a contract by not delivering the required items, though wrongful, does not in itself constitute economic duress. It must also appear that the threatened party could not obtain the goods from another source of supply and that the ordinary action for breach of contract would not be adequate." (P. 26 of 324 N.Y.S. 2d, — of 29 N.Y. 2d.)

Phyllis Clements

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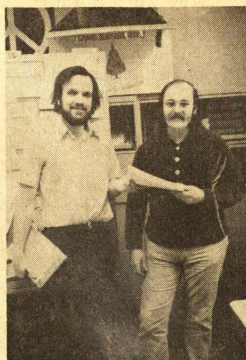
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Book Co-op: A Great Success

By MITCHELL ALTER

The SBA Book Coop went into business at Brooklyn Law School this semester. New books for almost every course were sold at a 20% reduction plus a 25-50¢ service charge that was added to pay for such costs as renting a truck and long distance telephone calls. The Coop also served as a conduit for selling used books by aiding students to buy and sell used books at 50% of the retail price. Calculations made by the Coop show that students saved approximately \$4,200 on new book purchases. On used books the savings were also very high since most book stores sell used books at a 20-25% reduction from retail price while books purchased through the aid of the Coop were sold at a 50% reduction. Students selling their used books likewise benefited since they were able to receive 50% of the retail price from fellow students while stores who purchase used books pay only 25% of the retail price.

Running a book Coop had its many problems. The SBA placed an order for books with the Foundation Press totaling \$10,000.00. Although that publisher previously sold books to Fordham Law School Coop and was paid in full for them, it refused to sell the Coop books unless the SBA gave them a \$5,000 cash advance. Even



Mitch Alter and Gerry Dunbar at Co-op.

more interesting was the fact that the Coop was notified of this cash advance requirement at the beginning of the BLS Christmas Vacation, and was given only 72 hours to raise the money or be denied the books. The publisher also informed the Coop that it could not return more than 25% of the books ordered. Other book sellers, however, are free to return 100% of the books ordered. Thus, the Coop was forced to conservatively estimate the number of books needed and ordered only enough for one-third of the students, assuming that students would be exchanging books, buying used books, and buying no books at all as some are prone to do. After persevering bureaucratic hassle from within the SBA, the Coop was finally able to raise the funds, forward them to Foundation Press, and receive delivery of all books on time with the exception of Cary's Corporation Casebook. The

(Continued on Page 4)

Mitch Alter

From The Desk Of The President

Since writing my last column, there have been some very important occurrences that have happened within the law school, some of which adversely affect the student body and the surrounding community and others somewhat beneficial to the student body.

I
The first curriculum proposal that was passed by the Student-Faculty Curriculum Committee would have eliminated all required courses for the 2nd and 3rd year day students and approximately 2½ years for night students. Unfortunately, the proposal was defeated by the faculty. Not to be undaunted, the committee passed a modified proposal which eliminated most of the commercial law courses that almost every student disdains and replaced them with electives. The faculty finally adopted this proposal along with grading reform, details of which are stated in SBA Night Vice-President Meryl Wiener's article in this issue of the *Justinian*. Although there have been significant changes towards a direction giving students a measure of control over their lives in this institution, they do not go far enough. The first proposal passed by the committee was a fair one and most law schools have adopted it. It would have given students significant control over their lives and their careers. By failing to adopt the first proposal and having adopted a very limited proposal, the faculty has failed to give students that necessary measure of control over their lives and careers. Concerning the alleged grading reform, the faculty has failed to give students the right to have an impartial review of the exam papers and the right to even see them, has failed to publish standards relating to the manner in which grades are given, and still ranks students in the same way that the U.S. Department of Agriculture ranks meat, i.e. prime, choice, etc.

I can only urge students to lobby for further changes along these lines. Even within the guidelines of the faculty's limited expansion of electives, meaningful electives must be adopted, such as expansion of the clinical programs, the women's rights law program, prisoners' rights programs, etc. The electives should be given along the lines of community legal services programs with specialized instruction in particular areas of the law.

II
An event has occurred in the law school which could have serious consequences. A student group, the National Lawyers' Guild, desired to use the facilities of the law school for its regional conference. Student participation in this affair was actively solicited. Dean Lisle told the student group that they must pay \$120.00 and execute a one-million dollar liability insurance indemnification agreement costing approximately \$80 in addition to the \$120. This seems hardly fair since the Dean has let another student group, BALSA, use the schools facilities for free. Ostensibly, the BALSA meeting was for the purpose of minority group recruitment. Although that was one of BALSA's purposes, the conference was much more. It was politically as well as educationally oriented. For the Dean now to draw a distinction seems unreasonable. This reasoning seems to create distinction without a difference. The overtones of such action run counter to the basic objectives of a legal institution. This matter will be investigated and the findings brought before the delegate assembly.

If a bona fide student group wishes to run any activity that can reasonably be run within the school's plant, the school should lend its facilities without fail. Precedent at most schools strongly favors this policy. For the Dean to draw such arbitrary distinctions definitely seems extremely unfair.

III
Lastly, as SBA President, I was gratified by the Book Coop's success. I strongly hope that the Coop will continue and be a great benefit to every student. Again, I would like to thank every student mentioned in my article in this issue of the *Justinian* for their assistance in making the Coop the success it was, along with the students at BLS who supported the Coop by making their purchases there.

Freshmen Participate In Moot Court Competition

By CRAIG PURCELL

Mr. Purcell is Co-chairman of the Moot Court Society.

As Second Semester moves into full swing, Freshmen beware; for a reminder of the past is still with you — the Moot Court part of the Legal Research Course begins next week.

During the second or third week of this semester problems will be distributed which shall serve as the basis for appellate briefs to be written by the middle of March. Each brief shall be written by two people — choices for teams should be left with the faculty secretary no later than Monday, February 12. The briefs will be graded "outstanding" — "pass," or "fail". While no credit is given, a satisfactory brief is a requirement

for graduation. Those students receiving "outstanding" grades will be eligible for membership in the Moot Court Honor Society. In addition, the Freshmen will have an opportunity to argue their briefs in the Moot Court competition beginning in March and continuing through the end of April. Students reaching the semi-final round will also be eligible for the Moot Court Honor Society.

The appellate briefs should be polemic in nature (as opposed to the objective style of the memoranda of law written first semester) and should be limited to 42 pages — or less, we hope! As there are no formal classroom lectures during the semester, several sample briefs have been put

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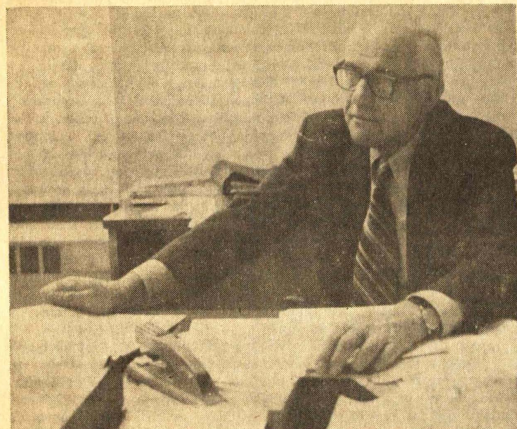
Placement

(Continued on Page 4)

cluding salaries, equipment and expenses. For example, a \$10,000 data processing machine was purchased at the beginning of the year at Mr. Savage's request and has never been effectively used. The data cards for graduating seniors have never been punched or processed. However, Savage's charge that the school has not supplied adequate interviewing facilities

seems more well founded. While the Trustee's room is available for interviews, it does not adequately fill the needs of the placement program.

Bill Holzman feels that his primary function is to take care of the student *today* and get he or she started towards their first legal position. Mr. Holzman said that he is required to fulfill both of his jobs simultaneously. If and when a new Director is appointed, we hope he will continue in the same spirit.



New Interim Director William Holzman

Squib Notes

Ed's Note: This article is reprinted from the January issue of the *Student Lawyer*.

BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL NO-FAULT SEMINAR

Brooklyn Law School has instituted an elective research seminar in no-fault insurance.

Composed of 40 students under the joint direction of associate professors David H. Schwartz and Jerome M. Leitner, the seminar is undertaking a variety of research projects.

These projects, consisting of analyses and evaluations of the present system and of numerous proposed and enacted no-fault laws, include studies in the following areas: appraisals of the basic premises for no-fault legislation; constitutionality of various forms of such legislation; experience under existing state no-fault laws with particular reference to cost-benefit ratio, premium reduction and relief of court congestion; feasibility of several proposals for amelioration of defects in the present system; effect of no-fault proposals on various groups such as women, children, the poor, retired persons, workers, etc.

Upon request, the seminar will make its findings available to officials, legislators and other interested persons or organizations. It invites the submission of any relevant material or inquiries.

GRADUATE APPOINTED DEAN

Pedro M. Velez, Jr. (LL.B., Brooklyn, 1949) has had a distinguished career in criminal justice administration and rates recognition by his alma mater. He has just been appointed Dean of the School of Law and Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Law and Social Justice at Inter-American University, Hato Rey, Puerto Rico. Prior to this appointment his career includes such responsible posts as: Executive Director, Crime Commission of Puerto Rico (the LEAA planning agency for the Commonwealth); Director, Division of Criminal Justice, Office of the Attorney General of Puerto Rico; Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Enforcement; Chief of the Office of Special Investigations (narcotics and gambling); and chief of counter-intelligence services for the U.S. Army in the Caribbean.

Among his many awards are included: the Presidential citation of the American Society of Criminology; a distinguished service award from the American Society for Public Administration; and designation as 'First Citizen of Puerto Rico.' He holds the M.P.A. from New York University and the J.S.D. from Northwestern University Law School.

Curriculum Changes

(Continued from Page 1)

topic. Whereas certain avenues of recourse were precluded at this particular time, the future would augur more reform.

The ten point range will allow a greater degree of flexibility. Professors will not feel quite as constrained in grading final exams (notably the essay portion). Formerly, to award a grade of 'C' to a paper, a professor had only a five point margin within which to score the paper to warrant the 'C', thus fostering a very contrived effect. The Dean pointed out that this change "should not be construed as a lowering of our standards". Academic excellence will continue to be demanded of all students. Both professors and students will be aware of the new grading standard, and should gauge themselves accordingly.

A weighted average of 70 will have to be maintained to remain in good standing, and as before, two or more failures in a semester will be grounds for dismissal. In addition, there will be a limitation on the number of "Unsatisfactory" grades a student can receive throughout his law school career. A tentative solution, the possibilities of which are presently being explored, is to deny course hour credit to a student who has received more than a set amount of "Unsatisfactory" grades.

A further reformation is in the

area of dismissal from school for academic reasons. Up until this past year, the Committee on Academic Standing was charged with the duty of reviewing the records of those students who had been dismissed. This body met after the fall semester was underway, i.e. in October. The net effect was that even if the committee granted an appealing former student the right to continue, he had to wait a year to reapply, since the new semester was already in progress.

Realizing the need to change this undesirable procedure, the Committee will now meet prior to commencement of the Fall semester, i.e. in August, and decide the plight of students appearing before it at that time. In this way, a student eligible for readmission will not be forced to sit out a year. Furthermore, Dean Lisle emphasized that every effort will be made not to drop students after the fall semester because students do not receive their grades until the spring semester is well underway. To drop a student at such time is unduly harsh.

This new framework takes cognizance of the principle that BLS is responsible for encouraging the students it admits to complete their legal education. In accord with this new policy, the size of the 1973 entering class will be about 25% less than this year's Freshman class in an effort to further limit the drop-out rate by increasing the initial degree of selectivity.

Adaptation of the new system of grading will have to be made for those students currently in attendance. What is presently contemplated is the institution of a conversion table whereby the student's raw grade, which had been sequestered throughout his law school career, will be transposed into an equivalent position on the new scale. The latter grade received will be deleted from his record. Thus, a grade of 85 under the old scale (lowest possible "B") will be converted into an 80 on the new scale (again, the lowest "B"). The result will maintain the student's relative standing in his class, while at the same time more accurately reflecting his grades.

In upgrading our standards, institution of a "Dean's List" whereby those who excel will be recognized seems justified. Accordingly, a study is presently underway to determine how to award this accolade. The question pending is whether to restrict the award to a set percentage of the class, e.g. top 10%, or simply award it to those students who attain a particular average, e.g. 90%, or a system combining both.

Long an anachronism in legal education, the air of change pervades the very soul of Brooklyn Law School. BLS's entrance into the late twentieth century has been long overdue. Its arrival was marked by consensus of the urgency of the matter recognized by a great majority of the faculty in general and Dean Lisle in particular. Abrogation of the Dean Richardson policy negated so vehemently by John Donne in his poem "No Man is an Island" has in fact come to pass at BLS.

AALS APPROVES HOFSTRA

Hofstra University's School of Law, in existence only three years, has recently received accreditation by both the American Bar Association and the Association of American Law Schools. A recent article in the *New York Times* noted that Hofstra received accreditation sooner than any other law school previously had. The school, located near Hempstead, Long Island, has its own building on the Hofstra campus and has recruited its administration and faculty from law schools throughout the country. Congratulations are in order.

SBA MOVIES

February 15 - 16

COOL HAND LUKE
with Paul Newman, George Kennedy.

March 1 - 2

March 15 - 16
ON THE WATERFRONT
with Marlon Brando, Rod Steiger, Eva Marie Saint.
THE WILD ONE
with Marlon Brando, Lee Marvin.

March 29 - 30

BONNIE & CLYDE
with Warren Beatty, Faye Dunaway.

April 12 - 13

NEVER GIVE A SUCKER
AN EVEN BREAK
with W.C. Fields.
DUCK SOUP
with the Marx Bros.

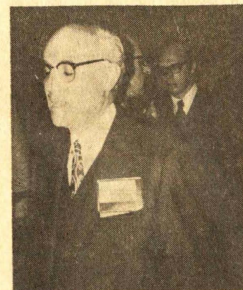
April 26 - 27

BULLITT
with Steve McQueen.

AALS

(Continued from Page 1)

Other activities which took place at the Convention were panel discussions about topics of



Michael Cordozo, son of former Supreme Court Justice Benjamin Cordozo attended the Convention. He is Executive Director of AALS.

interest to legal educators and lawyers, cocktail parties and meetings of the entire Convention held to conduct the Association's business.

Co-op

(Continued from Page 3)

publisher sent the Coop the unbridged version rather than the abridged and it was unacceptable to the instructors teaching that course at BLS.

With all of these problems to overcome, which were for the most part overcome, the Coop was very successful. The Coop will expand its operations in the future to be even a greater benefit to the BLS community. Even during this semester any students desiring a

hornbook, etc. on almost every subject can place an order with the Coop, receive the book within seven to ten days, and get the benefit of a 20% reduction.

Students who helped to make the Coop such a great success were: Gerry Dunbar, Shelly Barasch, Don Wolfson, Barbara Friend, Meryl Wiener, Judy Teitelbaum, Mike Stone, Burt Grayman, George Donahue, Bruce Wesserman, Al Schuchman, Gerry Angowitz, Arnold Bartfeld, Todd Barnett, Dave Aronson, Mike Weinstein, and Craig Purcell. Thanks also goes to Joe Kaestner of Fordham Law School who coordinated the operations for all four law schools and to Dean Lisle.

Moot Court

(Continued from Page 3)

on reserve which may be used as models.

The Moot Court Competition allows each team approximately 25 minutes to argue the major points in its brief. Judges are selected from the judiciary, practicing bar, faculty, and Moot Court Honor Society. Those students who win the competition in their particular problems will be invited to compete for the 3-person team which will represent BLS at the National Moot Court Competition next November. The final round in that competition will be judged in early May by distinguished members of our highest appellate courts.

Any questions relating to the program can be asked at meetings to be conducted during the course of the semester.