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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1977

NO. 2

LSD First Year Confab Helps Students Cope

By ROBIN GARFINKLE
BLS/LSD Representative

"How to Survive — Getting Through Law School" was the theme of the ABA-LSD annual first-year conference held at New York Law School on Saturday, September 24.

Stephen Gillers, a partner in the firm of Warner and Gillers, author and adjunct professor at BLS and NYU, was the keynote speaker at the conference which attracted about 75 students from the various local law schools. Other speakers included Elliot Biskind, columnist for the *New York Law Journal*, and Vera Sullivan, Director of Placement at New York Law School.

Gillers, in an animated and entertaining address, touched on many areas of the law school experience. He discussed the problem faced by the legal profession as a result of the growing number of attorneys and the problems recent graduates have in finding employment. Gillers also discussed the problem of having to justify to clients the increasingly complex dispute-resolving mechanisms.

One of the skills an attorney sells is his ability to relate to clients on a human level, to calm them, and to make them feel at ease. This skill is involved in ninety percent of an attorney's cases, and yet it is not taught in law school. Gillers maintained that success in law school has little to do with success at "lawyering," which he defined as the ability to make a living practicing law. This success is only indirectly related to law school knowledge.

Gillers suggested doing something totally unrelated to law while in law school. Lawyers can be so caught up in seeing things in legal ways that they often become highly one-dimensional people, which accounts for their image as arrogant and abrasive egotists. By pursuing an outside interest, one can gain a better perspective of the law.

This outside interest may prove invaluable to the job hunter, for it gives him an expertise in a specific area which many other applicants lack. Gillers gave examples of his contemporaries — young lawyers who did dare to take risks — who didn't "run with the bunch," and are now successful. Among these persons are Mark Green, one of "Nader's Raiders," City Council President candidate Carol Bellamy, and Tom Goldstein, reporter for the *New York Times*.

Tips given by Professor Gillers on studying, taking exams and course selection will prove invaluable to the students who attended the conference. For those who are interested, Gillers' most recent book, *Looking at Law School*, should also be very helpful.

SBA Election Results

First Year Day		
Section I	Section II	Section III
Jay Cantor	Barbara Bernstein	Miriam Cyrulnik
Rachael Roat	George Taylor	Jim Winslow
Second Year Day		
Teresa Eddy	Ira Miller	
Dave Fleisher	Ralph Sansone	
Michael Heavey	Pat Smillie	
Third Year Day		
Marc Aronson	Rosary Morelli	
Robin Garfinkle	Toby Pilsner	
Laura Held	Allison Weber	
Second Year Evening		
Samuel Hagan		
Third Year Evening		
Deborah Lashly	John Leventhal	

Improve Orientation

By ROCHELLE STRAHL

This year's coordinators of the first-year orientation program have sought to improve on last year's program by trying to do away with the deficiencies which they as first-year students found. The major change is that orientation is now handled as a continuous process between counselor and students, with the counselors acting as guide posts to which students may turn throughout their first year.

Orientation week began Monday night, August 29, with welcoming speeches by Dean Glasser, Prof. Jerome Leitner and SBA President Joe Porcelli. This year's orientation coordinators were Dave Fleischer and Susan Lerner for the day students and Sam Hagen for the evening division. Professor Allan acted as faculty chairperson and liaison with the administration. With the aid of volunteers and thirty-eight counselors, mostly second year students, they tried to make orientation week "as smooth as possible."

This year, each counselor was given a smaller group of first-year students than were last year's counselors. After the four-hour legal method sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of orientation week, freshmen were taken for I.D. pictures, tours of the neighborhood, and also met with their counselors for case analysis and briefing sessions. The counselors felt that these sessions were valuable in that they offered first-year students advice on how to approach a case. Information on housing was posted on the bulletin board outside the SBA office on the fourth floor. In addition, the SBA sponsored a first-year disco party on the Wednesday of orientation week.

However, the orientation program did not end with the last week in August. Tours of the library were postponed until September when students were involved in the legal method/research course in order to prevent the tour from being a blur of book titles and shelves. A tour of the courts with the opportunity for freshmen to witness an on-going trial and obtain feedback from the presiding judge is planned for October. In addition, a student-fac-

ulty tea to be sponsored by Dean Glasser and the administration is planned, for the first week in October.

Although on the whole, orientation ran relatively smoothly one thing did cause confusion among incoming students prior to the orientation week. A two-page letter on how to brief a case with a suggestion that cases be briefed by the first day of class was mailed by a well-meaning faculty member. Counselors received several frantic calls from first-year students who did not know whether the first day of school for them meant the first day of orientation or September 7th, and who were confused as to how to prepare the cases.

News Analysis

What's That Strange Smell?

By BRADLEY S. KELLER

With the stroke of a pen, New York became the ninth state to decriminalize possession of small amounts of marijuana. The Marijuana Reform Act of 1977, signed by Gov. Carey in June, took effect on July 29, 1977.

The new law represents a compromise among Albany's conservative and liberal Democrats, liberalizing what were, under the old law, rather stiff sanctions for possession of small amounts (in private places). But at the same time, the new law stiffens penalties for both sale and possession of large quantities. The new clas-

sification scheme (see accompanying box), and penalties, reflect an attempt to combat professional profiteering rather than waste scarce tax revenues on prosecuting minor offenders.

The old laws were viewed as unrealistic by many. Public attitudes and medical knowledge seemed to demand a change. However, the new drug law remains far from turning New York into a smoker's paradise. Despite the fact that one repeatedly encounters marijuana's distinct pungent odor on city streets, in public parks, and at social gatherings, these activities still carry stiff penalties. Recreational use of marijuana

is not sanctioned under the new law. The casual user should have a clear understanding of what decriminalization means and exactly what type of possession has been decriminalized. Ignorance leads to carelessness, and the new law is full of pitfalls for the unwary.

The major change is that possession of up to twenty-five grams has been decriminalized. This is an amount equal to what is sold on the street as a "lid." Possession of up to a "lid" in a private place is, under the Penal Law, technically not a crime. Since possession of small amounts involves a lower degree of criminal culpability, it is classified as a violation.

Several advantages flow from violation status. Enforcement avoids both a criminal record and the social liabilities that attach to a misdemeanor or felony conviction. Enforcement of "violation" possession infractions will be by a police officer issuing an appearance ticket.

While the defendant is not jailed, he can be required to post up to \$100 station house bail. In cases of sale and possession in public places (any place to which the public or a

(Continued on Page 4)

Finance Committee Set To Hear Budget Requests

By ROBERT ROBINSON

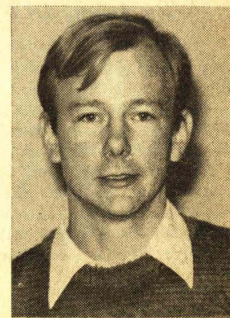
On September 26, the SBA held a meeting to discuss the allocation of the \$16,000 available for funding student organizations during the present year. The budget requests of the eight organizations present amounted to \$22,000. In addition to reviewing the estimated budgetary needs of the various groups, a proposal to simplify the procedure of balancing the budget was discussed.

Last year, the budget went directly to the Delegate Assembly for determination. Thus, the budget was gone over line by line, and was not approved until February, 1977. According to this year's procedure, which was submitted to the Assembly for acceptance on September 29, a Finance Committee will be formed by representatives of the student groups seeking funds and by interested Delegates. This Committee will meet every Monday, beginning October 3, at 4 PM in room 403. It is hoped that the Committee will have agreed upon a balanced budget to present to the Delegate Assembly on November 3rd for approval.

This series of informal meetings, says SBA Treasurer Eric Brown, should provide everyone requesting funds with the opportunity to be heard, while obviating the prolonged discussions experienced last year in

the Assembly. In the meantime, an ad hoc committee of Delegates will consider any requests for funds that are needed immediately.

The sooner the budget is approved, the sooner concrete plans to utilize the money can be made. Of course, if the Dele-



SBA TREASURER
ERIC BROWN

NEW MARIJUANA PENALTIES			
CLASSIFICATION	POSSESSION	SALE	PENALTY
Violation (legally not a crime)	Up to 25 gms. Second offense Third offense	* * *	Up to \$100 fine Up to \$200 fine Up to \$250 fine and/or 15 days jail
Class B Misdemeanor	Over 25 gms. or any public use or display	Gift up to 2 gms. or 1 cigarette	Up to 3 mos. jail or \$500 fine
Class A Misdemeanor	Over 2 oz.	Up to 25 gms.	Up to 1 yr. jail or \$1000 fine
Class E Felony	Over 8 oz.	Over 25 gms.	Up to 4 yrs. prison
Class D Felony	Over 16 oz.	Over 4 oz. or any amount to a minor	Up to 7 yrs. prison
Class C Felony	Over 10 lbs.	Over 16 oz.	Up to 15 yrs. prison

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(Editorials express the opinion of the Editorial Board)

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Why Couldn't It Be Done?

It was very regrettable that in a school where such a large number of the student body is Jewish that BLS allotted only one day for the two-day holiday of Rosh Hashana. The Jewish New Year, one of the most important holidays of the Jewish religion, is celebrated throughout the world as a two-day holiday. BLS has a 15 week semester — a semester longer than most New York City law schools. Somehow the Administration has in the past found it acceptable to allow time off for December 24, one day before a major holiday, yet it could not find time in this year's calendar to give off September 14, the second day of another major holiday. Why?

Get To Work Delegates!

Justinian congratulates all those people who were recently elected as SBA Delegates. They have a lot of hard work ahead of them and we certainly hope they will give their best effort to the important job which they have sought to undertake. In the past one of the big problems in the House of Delegates was failure to muster a quorum. If there is any Delegate who now feels he or she will be unable to devote the long hours required to do a successful job, we ask that Delegate to step aside now and not waste everyone's time.

The first order of business for the House of Delegates should be the swift completion of this year's SBA budget. In previous years the SBA has faced many obstacles in this task, sometimes not even passing a budget until the spring semester. With the adoption of new budgetary procedures, Justinian hopes that SBA can complete this job with a minimum of conflict and delay. Once the budget is passed, the SBA will then have more time to devote to satisfying the substantive needs of the students.

The Docket

Dean Glasser will be awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, by the BLS Board of Trustees and the Alumni Association. The presentation will be made on Wednesday, October 12, at 5 PM in the Moot Courtroom. Refreshments will be served. All are invited to attend.

Blood Drive sponsored by the SBA will be held Wednesday, November 9, from 1-6 PM in the third floor lounge. Help make this worthy project a success by donating.

Book Co-Op. All money must be picked up by October 7. After this date, the SBA will not be responsible for unsold books not used for spring semester courses. All unsold first year books must be picked up.

Intramural football will be

conducted jointly this year by the SBA and the BLS Fraternity, Phi Delta Phi. See the schedule on the basement bulletin board. For more information see Ira Miller in the SBA office.

Delegate Assembly Meeting will be held Thursday, October 13, from 4:30-6 PM. Attendance is mandatory for all Delegates. The meeting is open to all students.

Contest. The Federation of Insurance Counsel Foundation announces its 1978 annual Insurance essay contest. First prize is \$1,000. The essay may cover any insurance related subject, including trial practice of insurance litigation. The contest is open only to second and third year students. Come to the Justinian office for details.

Phi Delta Fun

To The Editor:

This writer was recently the BLS delegate to the 43rd Biennial Convention of Phi Delta Phi. The convention took place August 17-21 at the Bahia Mar Hotel and Yacht Center, Fort Lauderdale. Although at first dubious whether the ancient test of "finding the time" could be met, I went.

And a good thing. This convention was one of the singular events of the summer. The caliber, variety and number of individuals who attended was astounding. Not lawyers from the area, but professionals from every part of North America. The "International Legal Fraternity" is just that, with chapters throughout the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Puerto Rico.

The main business of the convention was taken care of in a series of general conferences and luncheons, where the roll of the approximately 100 chapters was called. The evenings were filled with another form of business: one evening a cocktail party at poolside, another night a riverboat ride up the Inland Waterway, with Dixie band, steak dinner and open bar. Such a gracious existence should always be my lot.

Viewpoint

By HARRY HERTZBERG

Since the day I arrived at Brooklyn Law School, I've heard over and over again what I should be thinking, or what I am thinking, or why I am thinking, all from people who know nothing about my thinking whatsoever. So, while I am not attempting to give the impression that every first-year student is thinking the same thoughts I am, you can bet that a good many of them are, and therefore, this article should be worth reading if (a) you really do want to know what is going on in the minds of many first-year students, or (b) you're a first-year student thinking that you're all alone in your thoughts.

The first thing you realize upon starting classes at BLS is that you've really made it. When the excitement settles down and you take a look around you, you suddenly realize that you're in law school — you're no longer in college, you're no longer just accumulating credits for a degree, but you're in graduate school, actually becoming a professional (something you never thought you'd ever be). And, for those of us who are coming out of other lifestyles, that is, for those of us who have been in the "outside world" before returning to school, we also realize that we've made what could be the most momentous decision of our lives, even though there are those lingering doubts, even now, about whether or not we've really made the right decision.

And, now the work is just beginning. We find, almost too quickly, that what they say about law school is only too true — It's a hell of a lot of work. After the first day of classes, you realize that you're behind almost 400 pages. Wasn't it fun receiving a six-page as-

signed sheet in the mail before classes began, telling you how much is expected of you before you even walk into the classroom? And, what's even more amazing, is that you find that every teacher contradicts every other teacher. If you have six different classes, then you'll be told how to write a brief six different ways. You'll be told that there are six different headings, or that the six different professors are looking for six different things from your briefs. Finally, after trying to remember which professor wants what from you, you decide to do it your way, which is the decision you should have come to in the first place, but were too scared to make. Now out of sheer exhaustion and necessity, (which I still believe is the mother of invention), you decide that you're going to have to take control of matters such as these if you intend to survive the next three years.

And yes, you're scared. I doubt that there is one among us who is so secure that he or she can truthfully say that they do not harbor any fears about law school. You have a hell of a lot of company if, at this point, you're wondering what you're doing here. The guy on your left, or the woman on your right, seem to be so much brighter than you are, or at least has it all together so much better than you. You begin to wonder if you're really going to make it, or whether you're going to become a statistic in the column of those who have dropped out of law school.

And then you find that it's not that easy to get to know too many people. Even though those of us in the first-year are with the same group of people for every class, you begin to see small groups of people forming, and some of us can and do feel

to be a member of this organization.

Neil Toomey

President

Brooklyn Law School

Chapter Phi Delta Phi

Night Mooters

To The Editor:

The Moot Court Honor Society — Evening Division would like to add its good wishes to the expressions of welcome to the first year class.

Although you couldn't find us in the Justinian's "Welcome and Good Luck" issue, there is no truth to the rumor that the paper was really planning a special issue on evening Moot Court competition.

We're here. And we are now chugging away at plans for an active First Year Competition for evening students. Sometime in December, members of the Society will materialize in the first year classroom with cheerful assurances that participants will enjoy the challenge of Moot Court.

Until then, on behalf of the Evening Division's executive Board, let me welcome you to BLS.

Sylvia Feinman

Chairperson, Moot Court Honor Society — Evening Division

A First-Year Perspective

left out. You can even begin to think about being friendless for the next three years, and it too becomes a very real fear.

As if those things weren't enough by themselves, you find that there are some professors who make the going as rough as rough can be, and decide to treat you as if you were in kindergarten. Then, there are the professors who talk for two hours, but you don't understand a word they said. And, you're afraid to ask questions, for fear that everyone else will know that you don't understand, and you'll prove beyond a reasonable doubt that you're really a dummy in disguise.

To all of this, all I can say is relax. If you recognized yourself in any part of the above, you're just having normal, healthy fears and trepidation about starting a new facet of your life. It's never easy to enter the unknown, and law school is as unknown as you can get. And, those sitting around you are experiencing the same things you are, maybe even a little worse. The trouble is, if you let it, it can all get to you and drive you out of your mind.

It's not easy finding the right "groove" to get into concerning studying. It's certainly not easy trying to meet new people and form some kind of relationship with virtual strangers. And, it's not easy relating to six new professors who seem to care little, if any, about your personal well-being. But, as they say, this too will pass. As the term wears on, things have to get easier — they can hardly get any worse. You'll begin to feel more comfortable at BLS, and the term "home" and BLS will soon be synonymous. Sure the library is devastatingly impressive, but others, dumber than you, have mastered its use. And, perhaps over

(Continued on Page 4)

Apartment Hunting? Good Luck! Career Alternative:

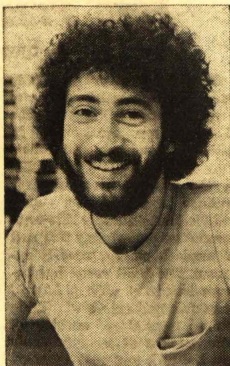
By BARBARA NAIDICH

Finding an apartment near Brooklyn Law School is neither easy, nor cheap. If you don't know of an apartment about to become available, or have a friend who needs a roommate, you're going to need help.

Newspaper advertisements for apartments are often worthless. What's more, most of them have been placed in the paper by rental agencies, which charge fees. The few advertisements that are placed by private landlords — where no fee is required — draw scores of replies. As a result, too often the apartment is rented before you even have a chance to call.

The SBA is trying to help. The SBA bulletin boards, located both outside the SBA office on the fourth floor and in the basement, opposite the elevators, provide listings of available apartments. And people looking for roommates, post notices, and often find one another. SBA Secretary Todd Silverblatt watches over the bulletin boards to assure the listings are current, and the apartments are available. Unfortunately, the people usually looking for apartments use the bulletin boards, while those with apartments don't. Silverblatt summarized the problem stating that "for every apartment we have, there are ten people looking for it."

To help alleviate this problem, Silverblatt introduced the idea of an apartment referral service at the SBA Executive Board meeting this past summer. Although it will not help anyone who needs an apartment now, it is expected to provide listings of approximately 200 available apartments in the



Todd Silverblatt

spring. The service would add a questionnaire to the school mailings sent out to graduating seniors, asking the senior if he or she was leaving an apartment and, if so, requesting a brief description of it. All replies would be compiled by the SBA, which would then inform students needing housing of apartment availabilities.

Currently, the SBA provides freshman students, unfamiliar with the BLS area, with maps and apartment information. The SBA has also tried, however unsuccessfully, to arrange package deals with local real estate agents. One real estate agent attributed this lack of success to hard work, saying, "We work too hard to discount fees," — although approximately 100 BLS students use the agency each year.

A salesman at Cranford Heights, Inc., an agency on Montague Street, thought that students should use an agency to

find an apartment — not a surprising suggestion. He said that most landlords do not want to involve themselves with the time and expense of advertising their available apartments. Instead, they list their apartments with rental agencies. However, although through an agency you can expect to find an apartment within three weeks, you can also expect to pay one month's rent as a fee.

An average Brooklyn Heights studio apartment listed at Cranford costs between \$250.00 and \$300.00 per month; a one bedroom apartment, between \$350.00 and \$400.00 per month; and larger and "special" apartments — usually much harder to come by — start at \$450.00. Apartments located in Park Slope or Carroll Gardens usually cost at least \$25.00 to \$50.00 per month less than their Brooklyn Heights' counterparts.

Unfortunately, many rental agents require parents to co-sign students' leases, and, according to one salesman, "landlords are prejudiced against students." He added that "students, janitors, and illegal aliens" were landlords' least favorite tenants. Further, law students are considered the worst of all. Landlords feel the students are "messy, play music, and paint the walls weird colors," — and law students in particular — change roommates too frequently.

The salesman did point out, however, that certain apartments are "reserved" for students. Unfortunately, he said that "a perfect apartment for a student is a euphemism for the worst apartment." But don't despair — everyone finds a place to live sooner or later.

only negative feature of the w.c. (and this was noted by both Hudson and some members of his staff), is that it handles only liquid wastes. Well, maybe a urinary privy is sufficient, especially if you subscribe to what Isak Dinesen wrote: "What is man, when you come to think upon him, but a minutely set, ingenious machine for turning, with infinite artfulness, the red wine of Shiraz into urine?"

BLS Boasts a Rooftop Commode

By RICHARD GRAYSON

Brooklyn Law School has been known as a pacesetter in many areas, including the study of law at night, and the development of specialized clinics. This past June, BLS added another first — the newest and most up-to-date outhouse in the Big Apple.

This sterling structure, painted in decorator-selected colors, is located on the roof, just paces from Bob Hudson's veritable vegetable vineyard. Hudson, director of Buildings and Grounds, built the water closet for one purpose — the comfort of his men. He explained, "Sometimes a man is up here [on the 10th floor] adjusting the air conditioner, and that can take 1½ or 2 hours. If the man is alone, he must hold his water, since he can't leave the machine. Before the outhouse was built, the nearest toilet for us was on the

7th floor. And it could get uncomfortable."

The Justinian recently was given a personal tour of the commodious commode by Hudson. He pointed out the scientific features that make the BLS comfort station tower over earlier inferior models, such as were used on Abe Lincoln's farm and at the Republican National Headquarters (until recently). "There's running water, so the men can flush it manually. The runoff drains into the main sewer. The water, which comes from our water tower, contains chlorine, which disinfects the runoff, and also a chromate solution, which deodorizes it."

One outstanding feature of the can is the mandatory crescent moon, which adorns the door.

The maintenance staff thinks that the rest room is a fine addition to their equipment. The

NLG Offers First-Year Support

By ROBERT ROBINSON

On Monday, September 12, the Brooklyn Law School chapter of the National Lawyers Guild conducted a one hour program entitled "How To Survive In Law School." The session helped the entering student learn "how to survive" the trauma, personally as well as academically, and introduced students to "radical lawyering" in the Guild.

The emphasis of the program, which was attended by nearly one hundred students, was to allay the fears of first year students. The law school experience, as Guild member Andi Levine suggests, should not only be an academic experience, but a time for social, political, and personal growth as well. It is easy to be overwhelmed by academics. However, the importance of maintaining a healthy perspective cannot be overemphasized. One should not allow the academic demands of law

Law students, once they graduate, usually assume that they are doomed to at least 7 months of writing and filing drudgery in a law firm where even the use of a Xerox machine must be approved by a junior partner. Seniors don't despair! Unlike those who are in the top ten percent and are on Law Review, ones who will probably be exiled to the farthest reaches of Wall Street or end up as a scribe for some judge, we mere mortals have an opportunity for immediate independence and trial work. "Where," may you ask "is this nirvana for the recent graduate?" Why, it's the little known Family Court Division of the New York City Corporation Counsel's office.

The Corporation Counsel, the city's attorneys, have offices in each of the 5 Family Courts within New York City, one for each borough. Its major job in the Family Court is to prosecute all juvenile delinquents, which are those persons older than 7 but less than 16 who commit an act which if committed by an adult would constitute a crime. Recently, their jurisdiction has been curtailed. Now, those juveniles who are 14 or 15 years old and who commit one of the serious crimes listed under the Family Court Act §712(h), called designated felonies, are prosecuted in the Family Court by the District Attorney's Office.

However, unlike the D.A.'s Office, the Corporation Counsel is not just restricted to criminal proceedings. They also present support and paternity petitions where the petitioner is on welfare and the respondent is represented by private counsel, and they represent the petitioner in all Uniform Support of Dependents Law (USDL) cases. In rare situations, they are also called upon by Family Court Judges to represent petitioners in family offense and person-in-need-of-supervision actions. The Family Court Division is one of the few government positions where a person can receive experience in both civil and criminal proceedings.

A unique feature of working in this office is that it is probably the only place where a recent law school graduate is allowed to do everything that an admitted attorney can do. This is pursuant to a plan approved by the Appellate Divisions of both the 1st and 2nd Departments. And since that office is understaffed, as are most city agencies, one will get trial experience almost sooner than he wants.

From my experience with the Bronx and Manhattan Family Court Divisions, it appears that they are run in a relaxed atmosphere with each attorney and recent law graduate given much independence. Each borough office is run by an attorney-in-charge but otherwise has no hierarchy. Because each office has a relatively small staff, it is easy to know and interrelate with one's co-workers.

Usually the sole way a senior may be hired by the Corporation Counsel's Office is through an honors program civil service test given each year. Those who do well on this oral exam will be invited to join but are not given a choice of division (the C. C. Office has numerous sections).

However, if one has had prior experience in a particular division during law school, such as in a clinic program, his chances of being selected by the department of his choice is increased.

I have found my experience as an Assistant Corporation Counsel at the Bronx Family Court to have been very exciting. Because there are no juries, I am getting experience in trial work in a less pressured atmosphere and thereby improving my self confidence. Since my office does more than just juvenile prosecutions, I am forced to expand my interests beyond criminal law issues which will be very helpful if I decide to go into private practice.

Ed. Note: Mr. Juhase, a recent BLS graduate, is a member of the Corporation Counsels office.

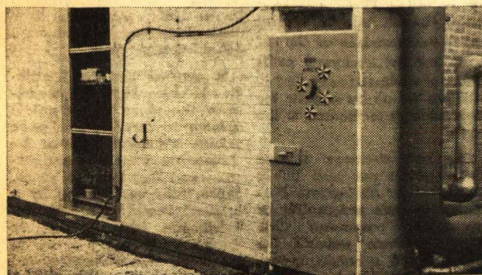


Photo by Ken Shiotani

Latest addition to BLS "facilities" located on tenth floor.

Prof. Hahl Takes Leave of Absence

By SANDY K. FELDMAN

Professor Robert H. Hahl has announced that he will be leaving Brooklyn Law School at the end of the current semester to assume a visiting professorship of one semester's duration at the University of South Carolina Law School in Columbia, South Carolina. When asked if his current plans for returning to BLS at the end of his visiting professorship might not be subject to change, he replied: "If you're asking me whether a married man can be seduced, the answer is, definitely, yes."

In a wide-ranging discussion held in his office last week, the 1961 graduate of the New York University School of Law looked forward to his position at South Carolina as an opportunity to experience the Southern pace of life, to teach on a university campus and to work with minority students.

Hahl, who is known to his current and former students as a demanding but compelling professor of contracts, sales, insurance, future interests, and property doesn't anticipate finding a different quality of students or faculty at South Carolina. Instead, he expects to find the same "good faculty, sound students" with whom he is accustomed to working at Brooklyn.

Prof. Hahl began to reflect on his years at Brooklyn Law School and the changes he has seen during that time by remarking that, in many ways, the beginning of those changes coincided with his arrival at BLS in 1963.

When he came to Brooklyn Law School, he had heard that BLS was a bar-oriented school, an assessment which had been offered to him "more often than not in a disparaging way." But, he had also heard about Dean Prince, and he had heard, "that they had at BLS a very strong teaching faculty. BLS was a teaching law school. And, of course, the prestige of the Dean made the situation more attractive. I was quite impressed with Dean Prince and remain impressed with him to this day. He is an extraordinarily competent scholar, teacher, and administrator."

By the time that Hahl arrived at BLS in the latter years of Dean Prince's administration, "Brooklyn Law School had taken about as much abuse as it wanted to take." It began to move away from being a local law school providing attorneys for the local bar, bench, and government and began to take on a "national" outlook.

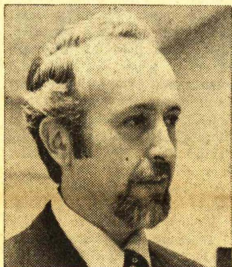
To begin with, BLS began to depart from its policy of filling its faculty positions exclusively with its own alumni. Hahl claims that the administration had previously followed this practice in order to "save itself some pain" by choosing faculty who were a known quantity — BLS alumni who were offered teaching positions were the "cream of their crop." But, although competent teachers were chosen in this way, the effect was to restrict BLS's movement away from "provincialism."

This practice began to change in 1963, when Professor Hahl, an "outsider," was offered a faculty post. Since that time, there have been other "outsiders" added to the BLS faculty, and there are indications that this practice will not only be continued, but, in fact, accelerated.

Hahl claims that it was with the beginning of Dean Raymond E. Lisle's administration that BLS really "turned the corner." Not so much because of Dean Lisle personally, but because the faculty could be more assertive with a new Dean to whom they did not owe the sort of allegiance owed Dean Price.

When asked if the appointment as Dean of Judge I. Leo Glasser, a prominent member of the Brooklyn legal community, might not herald a return to provincialism at BLS Hahl said: "It's a fair question which certainly crossed everyone's mind. But I don't think that that will be the case. Since he is the man he is, we are going to benefit from his prior experience and association with the school and Brooklyn. He knows the weaknesses and has suffered under them. And from them. We don't have to break this Dean in. He knows. And I have enough faith in his honesty and sincerity to believe that he will, in fact, do everything he can."

Hahl believes that BLS's major problem is no longer its provincialism. "That's passe, we've broken with that." Rather, Hahl thinks that BLS's major problem now is "how BLS views it-



PROF. ROBERT HAHL

self. If we think of ourselves as provincial, as built for the local bar, as a second-rate law school, there is no way we can rationally expect to mount an effort at selling ourselves to the community of law schools as being anything else." It is the correction of this self-image that Hahl sees as the major task facing the new Dean.

In this regard, the professor was asked to comment on the frustration felt by many BLS students in their belief that, while they work harder than most law students elsewhere, they are handicapped by the outside world's perception of the quality of their legal education. While conceding that BLS students may work harder by virtue of the fifteen week teaching semester, the professor did not think that the course work itself was more difficult at BLS than elsewhere. But, he did concede that BLS's reputation among "prestigious" employers was a handicap and one which will not correct itself. "We must continue to turn BLS around to make their thoughts less clearly square with reality." He thinks that, substantively, most of this has been accomplished.

Professor Hahl also thinks that Dean Glasser will reverse past law school policy which has been, in many instances, "penny wise and dollar foolish. BLS has been oftentimes niggardly in the expenditure of a few dollars here and there which would have given real 'pizzaz,' if you will, to a particular function, such as a graduation, faculty function, etc." In many in-

stances, Brooklyn Law School has been devoid of "the trappings of a prestige operation. I think Leo Glasser will change that."

On the question of affiliation with a university, the professor commented that this would not be a good idea, even if it were practicable. He quoted Dean Price as once having said on the subject that, "A bad marriage is worse than no marriage at all," and that, traditionally, law schools make money which the university then proceeds to take away and spend elsewhere. As to the rumor circulating a while back that Princeton University had approached BLS with an offer of affiliation, Hahl found, after making inquiries, that this rumor had no basis in fact.

Professor Hahl was asked to comment on a subject of interest to most of those students who had had him for first semester contracts last year. Those students' grades were somewhat lower on the whole than the grades received by their colleagues who had taken the same course with different professors. This led to a great deal of dissatisfaction and charges that Professor Hahl's students were put at an unfair disadvantage in their efforts to excel and make law review, efforts which could have a profound effect on their careers.

In response, Professor Hahl said that, having observed the posted grades of the other sections he had noticed the aberration immediately, even before the first angry students approached him on the subject. He insisted that he had his own standards and that, having graded "more papers in fifteen years than anyone else will in a lifetime," he had a feel for what he considered an examination to be worth.

Hahl was born and raised in New York City, where he received his undergraduate education at St. John's University, Brooklyn campus. Before joining the Brooklyn Law School faculty, he worked for an insurance firm; engaged in general practice; and was House Counsel to a large corporation. He also did six months' active duty in the armed forces. He lives with his wife and three children in suburban New York.

First-Year

(Continued from Page 2)

lunch or in an after-class talk, you'll get to know three or four of your classmates who may be able to help you get through this term in the same way you may be able to help them.

Above all, there's no shame in being scared; we've all made it to law school, and we're all in the same boat (even if it may be the Titanic). We had to do something right to be able to make law school, so we can't be complete idiots. And, if our abilities have gotten us this far, then rest assured, we do have what it takes to get through the next three years. No one promised us that it would be easy — quite the contrary. But, so few people get the chance to go to any law school, that the work and studying that it takes is well worth the price of admission.

And remember, that person who seems to be so far ahead of you in your Contracts class probably hasn't even finished the first assignment for Torts.

Record Review

Pure Prairie League

By GINO SINGER

One of the current trends in American rock music seems to be a phenomenon known as the "L.A. cowboy syndrome," in which various rock and rollers from the big city sing about life in the country, peaceful, easy feelings and assorted other dribble. Unfortunately, the commercialism underlying this sort of music is all too readily apparent. The West coast has become inundated with a host of singer/songwriters and bands whose repertoires consist of trite parodies of country music and the rock and roll offshoots of this genre.

All of which brings us to the raison d'être of this review — one of the more refreshing country/rock and roll bands of the mid-seventies, Pure Prairie League and their latest record, *Live! Takin' the Stage*. Though they've been around in various incarnations since 1971, the band has never really developed more than what can best be described as a cult following on the East coast. If any of their songs strike a chord in the minds of rock fans, they are liable to be "Amie" and "Two Lane Highway," both long-time jukebox favorites of the small town-rowdy-bar-circuit of the Northeast.

Pure Prairie League are a blend of bluegrass, Nashville country, and straight-ahead rock and roll, combining the best attributes of these different forms into a distinctive sound of their own. Three and four-part harmonies are an integral part of this sound, as is the use of pedal steel guitar, used here not only for fills but — in many cases — to provide some intricate double leads with the lead guitar work of Larry Goshorn. Both John David Call (on pedal steel) and Goshorn perform

some brilliant solos on their respective instruments, improvising on country scales in a way reminiscent of some of the better guitar harmonies of the early Allman Brothers Band. The rest of the musicians in the band are no slouches either: George Ed Powell, rhythm guitarist and vocals; Mike Reilly, bass and vocals; Michael Connor, keyboards; and Billy Frank Hinds on drums. Both Goshorn and Call sing, too.

The album is a showcase for band's country/bluegrass style, as well as their soft ballads. Still, underneath it all, Pure Prairie League rocks. Even in a slow ballad, there is a constant pulse driving the music forward, pumping the blood through your body as you sway to the beat. When you get down to it, that is what rock and roll is supposed to do.

If any criticisms can be made of this recording, they are small ones. The versions of some of the tunes selected for the album are fairly abbreviated versions of the songs, as Pure Prairie League performs them live for an appreciative audience ("Two Lane Highway" usually contains an extended guitar obligato in concert which is left out in the record, for example), though this was obviously done so more selections could be put on the album. My other criticism (and it is a personal one) is that in a band filled with such prolific songwriters, only four new songs are included in this two record set.

In general, though, the sound quality is crisp and clean, and the mix is excellent for a live album. This is one rock and roll band you should hear for yourself. They'll wake you with a smile!

Marijuana Law

(Continued from Page 1)

substantial group of persons has access, i.e., schools, highways, places of amusement) an appearance ticket may be used but is not mandatory. For felony infraction the defendant may not be released on an appearance ticket.

Possession of any quantity in a public place, over a "lid" in private, or sale are still categorized as either a misdemeanor or a felony depending on the quantity involved. These offenses still carry penalties of up to fifteen years imprisonment. Hashish is still banned under the provisions of the old drug law and backyard cultivators of marijuana may be imprisoned for up to a year for their attempts to "return to the earth."

The new statutory scheme makes public use and public display a key distinction. Possession in one's automobile or presumably possession just about anywhere outside the home is still a misdemeanor. Sale, which includes a gift, is also punishable by imprisonment. When the new law is

closely examined, one realizes that really very little has been decriminalized and casual users could face severe penalties if the law is harshly applied.

However, it appears that imposition of harsh sentences is unlikely in light of the rising tide of decriminalization that has swept the country in the past five years. Survey's indicate that decriminalization now enjoys the support of 53 percent of the nation's adults, while one in four Americans occasionally "turns on." One of the objectives of the new law is to "put the real criminals behind bars." Processing minor violations through the criminal justice system was costing New York taxpayers an estimated \$50 million per year.

It appears that the Legislature is beginning to weigh seriously the rising tide of public opinion in favor of marijuana reform. It's unfortunate that the democratic process is cumbersome and that last year alone, 29,000 lives were scarred by a criminal record as Albany debated the issue. Fortunately there are presently proposals to make the law retroactive and Gov. Carey has indicated a willingness to consider pardons. In the meantime, be careful!