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Justinian

Vote!

VOL. XXXVIII

222

MONDAY, MAY 1, 1978

NO. 9

Constitutional Changes Set For Student Vote Approval

By ROBERT ROBINSON

At the SBA general elections on May 1 and 2, the Student Bar Association members will vote on the amended SBA Constitution as proposed by the House of Delegates. The House of Delegates on April 6, 1978 voted unanimously to recommend this amended Constitution to the students for approval. According to the procedure for making amendments under the present Constitution, if a majority of the members of the Student Bar Association who vote at the general election vote in favor of the new Constitution, it shall take effect on June 1, 1978.

The substantive changes that have been proposed are as follows:

- The new Constitution provides for six Delegate Representatives from each day section (which is a total of eighteen), and two Representatives from each evening section (which is a total of eight). This is the number of Representatives that the House of Delegates has had for the last year pursuant to a by-law. The present Constitution provides for four Representatives for each section, Day and Evening. The number provided for in the new Constitution is said to be more realistic in light of the scheduling difficulties Evening Representatives have attending Delegate Assembly meetings.

- The Executive, under the present Constitution, has the

power to remove members of committees at his pleasure. Although this power has not been abused, at least not recently, the power will be qualified under the amended Constitution. The Executive will have to show "cause" for removal.

- The Executive will retain the power to designate student chairpersons of SBA and student-faculty committees, but under the new Constitution, this designation must be approved by the House of Delegates to take effect.

- The present Constitution stipulates that the SBA not participate in any student-faculty committee unless the number of students equals the number of faculty members on the committee. Recently, the faculty of various student-faculty committees have refused equal representation. So rather than have no students on these committees, the proposed Constitution is silent on the number of students per committee.

- Presently, under an SBA by-law, a member of the SBA who is also a member of the ABA-LSJ will be elected as LSD Representative for Brooklyn Law School at the May election. This provision is included in the proposed Constitution.

The Constitution as amended will be presented as a whole. Students will not vote on individual amendments.

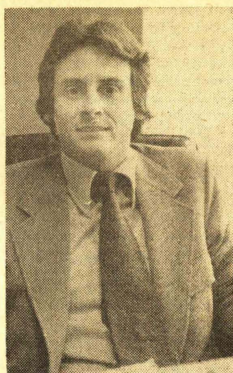
Haverstick Named Assistant Dean For Placement; Holzman Ousted

By HOWARD COHEN and ROBERT ROBINSON

On Thursday, April 6, Dean I. Leo Glasser released a memo to the BLS community announcing that Assistant to the Dean William Holzman was being replaced by Director of Placement Henry Haverstick III, who will now have the title of Assistant Dean. The memo read: "I am pleased to announce the appointment, effective this date, of Mr. Henry W. Haverstick III as Assistant Dean for Placement and Student Services. Mr. Haverstick will continue to supervise the Office of Placement and also will be responsible for non-academic student counseling, liaison with all student organizations, student recruitment and such other duties as he may be called upon to discharge by the Office of the Dean in place of Mr. William Holzman."

The motivation for the personnel change was the upgrading of the BLS Placement Office. In an interview with Dean Haverstick shortly after his appointment, he expressed pleasure over the fact that he would now have the time and the resources to implement his fifteen-point expansion program, recently outlined in a two-part Justinian series.

Specifically, Haverstick announced that there is presently an ongoing search for a new full-time Placement Director. It is hoped that the new director



HENRY HAVERSTICK III

will be hired by the beginning of the summer so that he will be completely familiar with his job in time to set up an expanded on-campus recruitment program in September. Advertisements are presently being run in national educational publications in order to attract a large variety of qualified candidates to choose from.

Under the new system the Director, who will be accountable to Haverstick, will be in charge of the day-to-day operation of the Placement Office. Haverstick will thereby be free to plan the long-range policies of the Placement Office, and to work towards their implementa-

tion. Included in Haverstick's fifteen-point program are a series of placement counseling seminars and lectures with BLS students. This is something Haverstick has long wanted to do but has never had time for.

Until the new Director has been hired, Haverstick will be shuttling between his third and ninth floor offices. He has stated that all counseling appointments will be kept, and new ones will be scheduled. "The students of Brooklyn Law School will not be short-changed."

With the increase in full-time personnel to four (Haverstick, the new Director and two secretaries) BLS will have one of the largest placement offices among the New York area law schools, second only to NYU. BLS will be tied with Columbia and ahead of such nationally oriented schools at Rutgers and Seton Hall.

Haverstick feels that with the creation of an assistant dean-ship, there will be a better attitude throughout the administration regarding placement development. Echoing these sentiments, Dean Glasser has stated that one of his "primary concerns" is placement services, terming it one of the "most crucial offices in the school." According to Haverstick, "Academic year 1978-79 should be the most exciting year in the Placement Office in the history of BLS."

In a discussion with Holzman after his dismissal, he stated that he felt Haverstick was qualified for his new duties and wished him the best of luck. However, he declined to comment further on the circumstances of his dismissal. Holzman, who became Assistant to the Dean in 1975, after the retirement of Assistant Dean William Hambrecht, will remain in his other capacity of Secretary of the Alumni Association, maintaining his third floor office.

Initial student reaction to Holzman's dismissal was negative. Many SBA representatives were upset by Glasser's decision to relieve Holzman of his student liaison duties. "We have a special interest in Holzman," said Ralph Sansone at the April 6 SBA meeting. Paralleling Sansone's sentiments, Delegate Marc Aronson stated "Holzman is a person who has looked out for the interests of the students." "I will be graduating this year so the decision does not really affect me," said Aronson, "but the students who will be returning next will be affected."

Although there was some discussion concerning a petition to protest the administration's action the idea was not approved. It was agreed that it is not the province of the SBA to make employment decisions for the administration. Yet common sentiment was that the administration

(Continued on Page 2)

Attorney General Candidates Speak at BLS

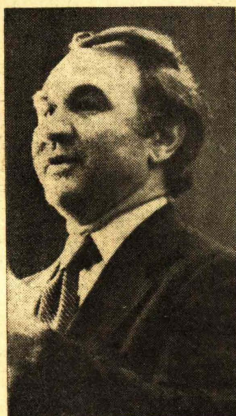
By HARRY HERTZBERG

The announced and unannounced candidates for the Democratic nomination for Attorney General appeared at a forum sponsored jointly by the National Association of Student Bar Associations (NASBA) and Brooklyn Law School (BLS). The forum, which was held on Thursday, April 13, in the Moot Court Room, included the only announced Democratic Attorney General contender, Nicholas Scopetta, along with unannounced hopefuls Robert Abrams and Charles "Joe" Hynes.

The candidates made brief statements, and then fielded questions from the audience. Approximately 100 BLS students showed up for the forum.

Addressing the audience, Nicholas Scopetta stressed his experience in the various administrative posts he has served in for the City of New York. Scopetta has served as Commissioner of Investigations, as well as Deputy Mayor for Criminal Justice.

Noting the positive changes that were brought to his various offices under his jurisdiction, Scopetta claimed that he would use this same administrative talent in revamping the Attorney General's office. Scopetta,

Photo by Ken Shiotani
NICHOLAS SCOPETTA

in a low-key statement, noted that top law students who will be graduating soon should consider the Attorney General's office as a good place to begin a legal career.

Robert Abrams, Borough President of The Bronx, was the Democratic Party's choice for the Attorney General slot in 1974, running on the same slate with then-Congressman Hugh

Carey.

Abrams, by far the most dynamic of the three candidates as far as speaking ability is concerned, centered on the need for the Attorney General to be an "ombudsman" for the people of the state, somewhere the average citizen could go to have justice done. Abrams further pointed out the necessity for the office of Attorney General to be able to pay higher starting salaries to incoming attorneys, in order to be able to compete with private law firms in recruiting young lawyers.

Charles Hynes, or "Joe" as his friends and supporters know him, achieved his reputation in his present position, serving as the Special State Prosecutor for Nursing Homes. Hynes noted that his office was responsible for weeding out corruption in the nursing home industry, and made a point of informing the audience that only two out of over two-hundred motions argued by his office were lost over the past few years.

Hynes also spoke of the need for greater salaries for those initially joining the Attorney General's office, and pointed out that as Special State Prosecutor for Nursing Homes, he was able to successfully argue with the

Bureau of the Budget to pay his staff more than the comparable lines in the Attorney General's office.

The first question from the audience asked the candidates how they could on one hand run for the highest state law enforcement position, and on the other hand hold down a full-time public position, either elected or appointed.

Scopetta commented that he was a two-day per week consultant to the Off-Track Betting Corporation, and therefore had the other time free to campaign for the Attorney General position.

Hynes said that he was only on his "lunch hour" while appearing at the BLS forum, and Abrams claimed that the job of Bronx Borough President was more than a nine to five job, so if he spends time campaigning for Attorney General in the afternoons, he spends that much more time in the evenings attending meetings in his home borough in his official capacity as Borough President.

Future Attorney General forums have been scheduled at various area law schools, including Columbia, Fordham, New York University, and Hofstra.

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(Editorials express the opinion of the Editorial Board)
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Why Not Both?

We applaud the administration's decision to upgrade and expand the Placement Office. The prospect of unemployment is the number one fear of law students, who shell out several thousand dollars to become attorneys, and do not want to see their efforts go down the drain. Dean Haverstick has always had big plans for the Placement Office. Now that he has the resources, we hope he can deliver, and wish him the best of luck.

At the same time, we are sad to say that William Holzman will no longer be part of the BLS Administration. Holzman has always been regarded as sympathetic to students' problems. We are glad that he will still be serving the BLS alumni, and will still be available with his friendly advice.

Vote Only For The Best

Justinian urges every student to get out and vote for the SBA candidates who are most qualified. This means that besides urging students to vote, we want them to vote for the candidate who they believe will be able to do the best job, and who will be willing to work. Unfortunately, in the past, the Executive Board has been populated by a few persons who were able to flash a smile and get their friends to vote for them. However, when there was work to be done...

We particularly object to any student who runs for office knowing they will only be able to serve out half their term. Although that person may be well qualified, he or she would do better to campaign on behalf of other qualified candidates. An SBA Executive Board position requires a full-time, full-year commitment. For example, it takes almost half a year to pass the budget. It is not usually until the second semester that the bulk of the substantive work is done. Any Executive Board member leaving their position before that point is short-changing the students of BLS.

Jessup Reply

To the Editor:

We are writing to correct grave and misleading factual and editorial errors concerning the Jessup Team in the March 1978 issue of this publication.

There is no doubt that the team was enveloped in controversy on the eve of its departure for the competition. And there is no doubt that the *Justinian* was laboring under an approaching deadline as well. However, these two facts do not justify a failure to investigate the allegations upon which the story was based. The *Justinian*, as the most effective and, supposedly, reliable means by which school news is transmitted, must bear a share of the responsibility for ensuring that its stories are fairly and accurately reported. In failing to discharge this responsibility, the *Justinian* does Brooklyn Law School a great disservice.

While it is true that some facts were within the particular knowledge of the team members who were away, other facts to which the *Justinian's* attention was directed, could have been ascertained without their aid. In addition, upon the team's return, any remaining inaccuracies could have been corrected. However, the *Justinian* staff demanded taped interviews prior to our departure, less than twenty-four hours away, claiming their publication deadline prohibited any delay. That it would have been possible to conduct interviews upon our return is evidenced by the *Justinian's* insertion of an announcement that the team had won the New England Regional Competition.

The last crucial week preceding the competition was punctuated by team concern over one member's failure to attend scheduled practice arguments. Concern was also voiced by faculty members who aided the team in preparing for the orals. Upon being informed that his failure to attend practice rounds might jeopardize his participation in the orals, this individual lodged a complaint with the Regional Administrator, claim-

ing improprieties which allegedly occurred five weeks earlier. The allegations, if true, would have resulted in the team's disqualification. The complaint, withdrawn the day after it was made, was officially and unequivocally repudiated by the Regional Administrator. The remaining team members departed for the competition the following day.

It was against this unexpected background of events that the remaining team members declined a request for public comment. Several last minute practice rounds had been cancelled and preparations had to be made to take the place of the oralist who had resigned. The team decided in good faith that the little time remaining before the competition would best be spent in preparation rather than in perpetuating the tensions generated by the foregoing events. However, the team was available for comment upon its victorious return from Boston; and if the *Justinian* had availed itself of this opportunity, it would have ascertained the above facts and the correct spelling of the undersigned.

Elizabeth Aisenberg
Jean Bernstein
Madeline Eppenstein

SBA Backs Holzman

Editor's Note: The following letter was sent on behalf of the SBA to Dean Glasser, in response to his decision to relieve William Holzman from his duties as Assistant to the Dean. A copy was also sent to the BLS Board of Trustees.

Dear Dean Glasser,
We are writing at this time to express the dismay of the SBA at the dismissal of William Holzman, and his replacement by Henry Haverstick III. At the outset, let us make it clear that in no way is this letter a reflection on Mr. Haverstick. We in SBA are certain that, in due time, we will develop a fine working relationship with a man who has always seemed at once conscientious and accessible.

First of all, it is a setback for all students and all student groups to lose a fine man like Mr. Holzman. His office was one place any group, or any student, could go, and be sure of a sympathetic hearing. If you didn't get what you asked for, you knew that all the alternatives had been considered, and that the students' point of view had been taken into account. We will miss Mr. Holzman, also, as we would miss any man of integrity and honesty: in today's world, this is a difficult void to fill.

Our dismay over last Thursday's announcement stems from another, less personal perspective. The voice of Mr. Haverstick has long been heard, emanating from the Placement Office, complaining about the paucity of staff in that office. Considering the problems students are having getting jobs in a glutted market, we find it absurd that Haverstick's duties have been, in fact, doubled. It is our hope that some decision will be made replacing the lost manpower resulting from the discharge of Mr. Holzman.

We would like to close by saying that, despite the objections outlined above, the SBA will be glad to help Mr. Haverstick in any way possible.

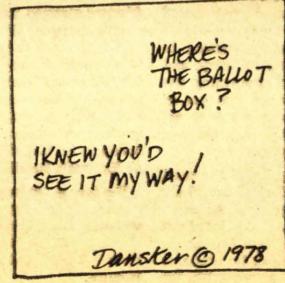
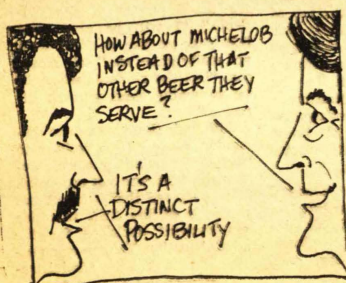
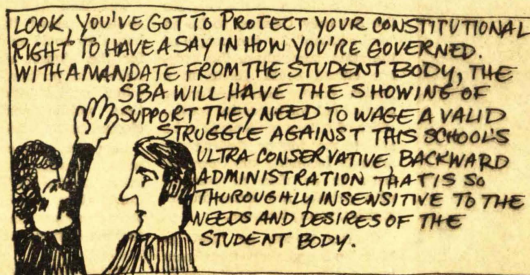
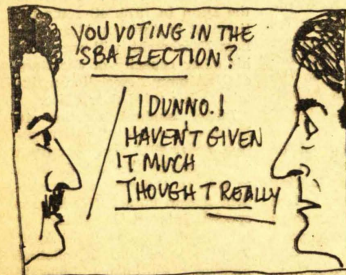
Yours truly,
The Student Bar Association
by: Joe Porcelli, President
Marc Aronson, Third Year
Delegate

Name Haverstick

(Continued from Page 1)

tion should make some formal explanation as to why the change was made. The SBA believes that students care about who is hired to educate them, especially when the position deals directly with the students.

In response to these questions, Dean Glasser reiterated his confidence in Haverstick's ability to handle his new duties. The Dean believes that "the head of any institution has a right to create his own team; appropriate to do the job." He feels that Haverstick fits more suitably in future plans for improving BLS than does Holzman.



V O T E

Docket

On May 1, at 1:00 P.M. the Brooklyn Journal of International Law will hold a meeting in the Journal Office for all those interested in participating in **OPEN NOTE COMPETITION**. All students are welcome. The meeting is mandatory for anyone wishing to write. If for any reason you cannot attend, immediately contact either Jeffrey Cohen or Gene Kleinhandler in the Journal Office.

With finals approaching it's

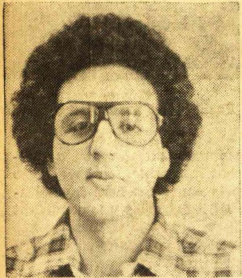
hard to think of the lighter side of law school. Yet some students are doing just that. Rehearsals are in progress for the **Annual Second Circus Revue** to take place on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights May 4, 5 and 6. The revue is composed of skits, songs and a slide show written by the students lampooning faculty, students and various aspects of law school life.

Advance sale tickets costing \$1.50 can be purchased in the main lobby. Tickets will also be available the night of the performance, at the door for \$2.00.

SBA Candidates On The Issues

Editor's Note: SBA elections will be held on May 1 and 2. In order to enable BLS students to cast an informed vote Justinian reporters Harry Hertzberg and Madeline Berg conducted the following interviews with the candidates.

SBA PRESIDENT



DAVID FLEISHER

David Fleisher is a second year student who has been involved with the SBA since coming to BLS. Fleisher has served the past two years as an SBA delegate, and has worked on the annual freshman orientation as co-chairperson of the Fall, 1977 Orientation Committee. Fleisher would like to see more delegation of duties and responsibilities for running the school given to the SBA delegates and the entire student body. He feels that maximum student involvement must be strived for as far as the SBA is concerned, and that better communication is an absolute necessity between the SBA, faculty, and BLS administration. Fleisher sets his major goals, if elected, as trying to work out an equitable and fair academic examination schedule, and wants to settle the controversy concerning the student-faculty committees. Fleisher further would like the SBA to deal with the issues of "anonymous grading," and feels strongly that all students should be able to see their exams.



SUSAN KALMAN

Susan Kalman will be graduating in January, 1979, which means that she won't be able to complete the full term of office. However, rather than being a detriment, Kalman asserts that this is a positive aspect, as it will give another person besides herself a chance to be SBA President and get involved at the top levels of BLS affairs. Susan feels that BLS desperately needs a facelift, and says that BLS should be one of the top law schools in the nation — especially in view of the school's unique position being located in the heart of an existing legal community. Kalman points out that many members of the local surrounding legal community are BLS graduates, and they should be called upon

to help bolster the reputation of BLS. She also believes that student apathy and student inertia contribute to the overall BLS problem, as students are noticeably afraid of the administration. She points out that neither the student body or administration should be satisfied with the current "status quo" situation that BLS finds itself in. Rather, according to Kalman, the faculty, administration, and student body should be seeking ways to improve the overall BLS standing within the legal community. Kalman also thinks that students should be involved in courses and perhaps even the hiring of BLS professors. With respect to courses, she notes that difficult courses such as Civil Procedure should not be taught in the first year, but rather, courses such as Ethics should be first-year courses as it is in the first year, Kalman asserts, that students are first confronted with the ethics involved in joining the legal community.



PAT SMILLIE

Pat Smillie, a second year day student, has been involved in a variety of SBA activities this year and as a result, she is aware of a number of ways that as president, she can work to improve the student's life at BLS.

Smillie has been a member of the Student-Faculty Committee for Moot Court and Legal Research, as well as a second year rep and a member of the Finance Committee.

Smillie feels that the faculty does not believe that SBA represents students. She says this is evidenced by the attempt of faculty to eliminate student input from faculty-student committees. Smillie would like to get the various organizations in the school to work together to show that the students are a unified body. She will ask the organizations to send representatives to SBA meetings to let the reps know what the organizations are doing so that all can work together for common student interests.

"It is important that we give the Dean a sense that SBA is more than a group of students who sponsor parties. I definitely get the impression from the Dean that he does not take SBA seriously," she said. "We have to make our position known to him through persistent and serious statements and meetings."

Another priority of Smillie's is to improve the standing of BLS in the educational community. She cites a lack of public relations efforts on the part of the school as a problem and would like to establish working relations with local newspapers in an effort to publicize the school. She feels that it is

very important for students to be proud of the school and see it as more than preparation for the Bar.

The involvement of evening students in the life of the school is another goal of Smillie's. She would like to see more attention paid to the evening session, and, as president, would establish evening office hours when she would be available so that the evening students would not have to rely completely on the evening vice president for representation.

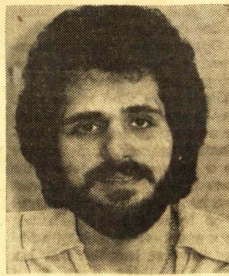


HAL RUZAL

Hal Ruzal, a second year night student, feels the SBA is powerless against the administration in terms of curriculum and grades. So he feels that the SBA should concentrate on making life in law school more livable. He says that the law school is too much like a hospital and he would try to eliminate the plasticity at BLS.

Ruzal's specific plans include changing the disco parties to have live entertainment, having more varied activities at the law school like live music, cabarets, dramatic shows and SBA sponsored picnics. His platform also includes having BLS paint its classrooms different colors so students don't fall asleep and having the school provide expanded bicycle parking facilities in a more secure area. Ruzal says that if you vote for him he won't be boring.

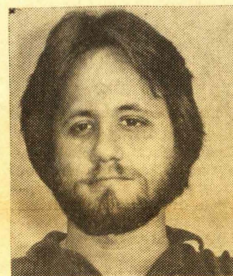
SBA VICE-PRESIDENT



RALPH SANSONE

Ralph Sansone is currently a second-year student, and has served as an SBA delegate for one year. Sansone has also worked for BLS on the speaker and film committee, and was the founder of the Italian-American Law Students Association in which he is still quite active. Ralph feels that the current SBA administration has brought credibility back to the organization, and he would work to continue this and enhance the SBA's credibility and stature. He feels the SBA has done an excellent job as far as social functions are concerned, but thinks that the SBA has failed, in many respects, as a spokesman for the student body. Citing an example of this failure, San-

sone noted that the issue of the \$5 late fee for attendance certificates should have been one in which the SBA's voice was heard loud and clear in effectuating a change on behalf of the students. Basically, Sansone feels that the SBA could be a much stronger student advocate. He also notes that the SBA does not enjoy the respect of the BLS administration, and claims that the SBA must take stands on all BLS issues, and pressure the administration into listening to the SBA as the collective voice of the students. Sansone commented that the student body pays for the school, and therefore should have a greater voice in running it, and that the administration must learn to respect the students. And, with a little initiative, Ralph Sansone feels that more things could happen at BLS, such as having nationally-known speakers and lecturers, which would enhance the BLS reputation, and as Vice-President, he would work for the enhancement of the BLS reputation, as well as being a spokesman for the students.



JAY CANTOR

Jay Cantor is a first-year student who has been an SBA delegate since entering BLS. Cantor noted the lack of communication between the student body and the administration as the chief problem facing BLS. Jay feels that the administration fails to take student opinions into account when making important decisions that will ultimately have a great effect upon the students. In view of this, Cantor would expand the SBA Vice-President's role to one of a "liaison" between the student body and the administration. He also thinks that the student body must become more involved in the BLS affairs so that the administration will take notice of all the students who are concerned with the vital issues affecting the school. Cantor wants to expand the SBA, as he feels that the SBA is the most important vehicle at BLS for providing services and representation to the students. He would also look beyond the school, into the neighborhood, attempting to get discounts for BLS students from various neighborhood merchants who want BLS students as customers. He also believes that a "library co-op" system could be worked out between the various law schools in the New York City area, so that students who live in different parts of the city and Long Island would be able to use the library closest to them over weekends, at night, etc. Jay feels that students should have the right to look at all of their exams, and he is also concerned about the policy regarding

make-up exams, and says that it must be more liberalized. Cantor would like the grading to really be anonymous, and would work toward a system achieving that end.



TERESA EDDY

Editor's Note: Due to time limitations Teresa Eddy was not interviewed by the Justinian staff. We were able to get a statement from her before deadline, which follows:

My name is Teresa Eddy and I'm a 2nd year day student. I'm running for Day Vice President because I have the necessary dedication and experience to do a good job. In the past the SBA Vice Presidency has been a generally inactive position. If I am elected I will continue my present involvement in the committee system, which is the underlying strength of the SBA. I will also continue to work for student representation in the administration of BLS so that we will have a voice in planning our own educations. Most importantly I will remain receptive to your suggestions to help make BLS a better law school.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT



CHARLES FOX

Charles Fox, a second year evening student is primarily interested in three areas of interest to evening students. He is concerned about the lack of opportunity for evening students to participate in clinical programs and would like to see at least a one-credit clinical program organized for evening students which would allow them to work on weeknights or weekends.

Fox would also like to see credit extended for participation in the Moot Court Honor Society in the same manner as it is for Law Review and the Journal of International Law.

The limitations in the curriculum offered to evening students is another issue Fox would like to confront. He would like to see the range of courses offered to evening students expanded so that courses generally only given during the day, would be available to evening students.

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Candidates Speak



BERNARD OSTER

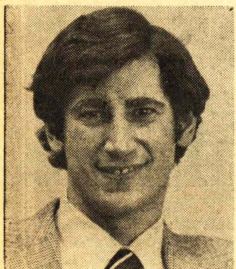
Bernard Oster is a second year evening student who wants to see evening students put on an equal basis with the day students.

Many things are inequitable, according to Oster. The limited number of courses offered in the evening is a particular disadvantage to the evening student. "The evening students do not have the options of day students, who can take a course in the day or evening. The working evening student has to take only what is offered at night," Oster explained.

Oster would also like to see the hours of operation of the Cafeteria extended for the convenience of the evening students. "It's a minor hardship," he said, "but one that could be remedied without much difficulty."

The status of tentative exam schedules was criticized by Oster, because students who rely on the tentative schedules to select courses without conflicting exams, later find that the tentative schedules have no relation to the final exam schedule. "If the students do as the administration asks, and plan schedules according to the final exam schedule, the administration should uphold its part of the bargain," Oster said.

Oster feels that evening students need a "clear and rational voice" to represent them in all SBA matters.



SAM HAGAN

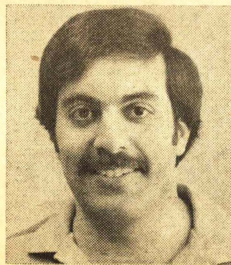
Sam Hagan, a second year evening student, is especially concerned with getting full representation for evening students in SBA. At the present time, he says, evening students do not have as many delegates as they are entitled to which weakens their position in the assembly considerably. An evening vice president, he would personally coordinate the election of evening delegates, working to involve interested students, to assure that the students have full representation.

Hagan has been an evening delegate for two years and is on the Library and Cultural Affairs Committees and served as Chairman of the First Year Evening Orientation Committee. He feels it is important for evening students to serve on SBA committees.

Hagan places a high priority on the importance of SBA to the evening student. He feels that participation in SBA offers the evening student an opportunity to work with other BLS students to improve the school. As vice president, Hagan would be actively involved in the orientation of first year evening students. He says that it is important for the evening students who will be at BLS for four years, to become thoroughly acquainted with the school.

Hagan would like to see the creation of an evening student caucus composed of evening delegates and students which would formulate programs and present them to the SBA. He would also like to expand services in the cafeteria by improving the food and providing longer hours to serve the needs of the evening students.

SECRETARY

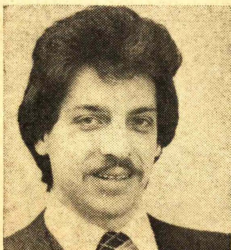


TOM DE MARIA

Tom DeMaria, a second year day student, sees the office of Secretary as a means of keeping the student body informed of the happenings in the Delegate Assembly.

DeMaria is concerned with keeping the students informed and sees a need for more than the handwritten minutes posted on the bulletin board after Assembly meetings. He is considering the possibility of publishing a newsletter for distribution to the students, which would include upcoming agendas so that the students would have an opportunity to inform the representatives of their point of view. He wants to give the students an avenue whereby they can be informed of what is happening so they can get more involved in SBA.

TREASURER



STEVE TAPLITS

Steve Taplits feels that it is important for students to take an active part in fabricating official policy. He sees the SBA as the best link with the administration.

Particular problems of concern to Taplits include inadequate exam scheduling, a poor variety of courses, and a lack of uniformity in scheduling make-up classes.

As treasurer, Taplits says he will work toward improving the quality and quantity of student representation.

Cops: Bad System Hurts Morale

By ROBERT ROBINSON

They are the last people we want to see when we are weaving home from the bar on a Friday night, but they are always a welcome sight on a deserted subway platform at three in the morning. Saviors to some, oppressors to others, Police Officers find themselves caught between two forces. "Lock 'em up," say some, "leave us alone," say others. But any way we look at it, the Police Department is an integral part of the Criminal Justice System. It is the Police Officer making an arrest on the street which introduces a person into a chain of bureaucracies known as the criminal justice system.

The *Justinian* went to speak to some of the Police Officers who work at the 32nd Precinct, located on W. 135 Street in Manhattan. Despite the dismal interior of the precinct house, which is in the midst of a renovation project, the office buzzed with the activity one might expect from such a high crime precinct. The *Justinian* managed to gain some insights as to how cops look at themselves and how they view the system in which they work.

"I love being a cop," says Officer Arthur Kearney. "It's exciting, not just a 9 to 5 routine. There is something different happening every day." Most cops find their work to be personally rewarding and they look at it as being more than just a job. "Perhaps I see it differently as a supervisor," says Sergeant Philip Mandzik, "but I like being a cop. It's a rare opportunity to help people, to save lives, where ordinary people are just not equipped to help."

Of course, New York City Police Officers are not wholly content with their jobs. Their biggest complaint is inadequate salaries. As Officer Harold Robinson explains, "Top pay for a city cop is \$17,458 as compared to Nassau and Suffolk police who are paid \$20,000 to \$21,000 a year. We do more work under tougher conditions, and get paid less money than neighboring police departments."

Opportunities for advancement and promotions are poor. Officer Kearney points out that, "There was a time when a cop would come on the job, work six or seven years in a busy (precinct) house, and then transfer to a quieter house where the pace is less strenuous. At least you had a chance to be assigned to a better detail, like riding in a patrol car instead of walking the beat. But the City has not been hiring cops, so it doesn't work like that anymore."

These factors in part account for a problem that has plagued the New York City Police Department for years: low morale. Low morale is also attributed to internal departmental problems, cynicism, and disappointment in the workings of the criminal justice system as a whole.

Police Officers are often aggravated by what one Officer termed the "double standard" attitudes of upper level bosses. It is the "I can do whatever I want, but you can't!" type of outlook.

An Officer might be sitting in Court at ten in the morning after a night shift, and get criticized by an Inspector for not having his tie on. An hour or so



Photo by Robert Robinson
Police officers Garry Rossano and Harold Robinson of the 32nd Precinct.

later, the Officer sees the same Inspector finishing his third cup of coffee at Chock Full 'O Nuts. "It's that kind of petty bullshit that gets me aggravated," said one cop.

The Officers find many of the bosses to be understanding, but they all play the statistics game, especially if they are up for a promotion. "One day we are told we are giving too many tickets, the next day we are told that we are not making enough arrests. There is no recognition given to the cop who prevents crime, while the guy who makes a lot of arrests is told to slack off," says Sergeant Mandzik. Making arrests often means making overtime, and that is discouraged.

Cynicism is another morale factor. The Police Officer sees the bad side of life much of the time: the abused child, the fourteen year old alcoholic, the victims of crimes and their families. The worst part though, is working in the same neighborhood for a number of years and seeing the same recurrent pattern. The neglected child of today is the abusive parent of tomorrow.

These sobering realities tend to frustrate Police Officers. "But something inside just keeps telling me to try, hoping that perhaps things will change someday," says Sergeant Mandzik. And as another Officer illustrated, "My partner and I were helping a pregnant woman down to the ambulance. The elevator got stuck and we delivered the baby ourselves. It was frightening — I couldn't help but think that maybe fourteen years from now this kid might be throwing bricks at me."

Both cynicism and poor morale are also attributed to a lack of confidence in the system itself. The Courts are considered to be far too lenient in handing down sentences. "I can see giving a guy a break the first or second time around, but a predicate felon should not be allowed to roam the streets," says Officer Kearney. Most cops agree that multiple offenders should be put away, and most believe in the death penalty. "Especially for a multiple offender who has demonstrated time and again a blatant disregard for human life. The death penalty may not deter others, but we won't have to worry about that guy anymore."

"So what does a cop do?" asks Officer Robinson. "He risks his neck to arrest a guy in possession of a loaded gun, he does his best to present a good case to the District Attorney's Office, and the guy walks out on probation. It's impossible not to get skeptical about the system. If

you make an arrest on a midnight to 8 shift, you have to go to court the next day without getting sleep, the defendant cops a plea and is home before the cop who has to stay to fill out forms."

"The system is not working," says Sergeant Mandzik, "or if it is, just barely. Most people who try to live good lives, and others prey on them. Recidivism is the biggest problem; there are people who just cannot be changed. I'm afraid the public is going to start taking things into their own hands. They are losing faith in a system which is too lenient and not sympathetic towards victims. They're more liable to punch it out instead of going to court."

The common complaint about the District Attorney's Office is that they are too statistics-oriented. They are not interested in justice. The D.A. wants to dispose of cases on pleas and often times the cop has no input.

What goes through a Police Officer's mind when he hears of a cop getting killed? "It could be me," says Officer Bailey. "Tears come to my eyes whenever I see a cop's funeral," says Officer Kearney. "It's like one of your family died, even if I didn't know the guy." Sergeant Mandzik pointed out that "it is something that would drive a cop crazy if he thought of it all the time. The initial reaction is to think that everyone is out to get you, but they're not. It's like holding open a door for someone — you don't know whether you will get thanked, until the person is through the door, and if not, do you go around slamming doors? Of course not. In the same way, just because a few people are out to get cops, you cannot point your gun at someone every time you make a routine investigation."

Each Officer was asked if he had any kind of message to relay to our prospective lawyers and Judges at Brooklyn Law School. "Get out into the street and see what's going on," said one. "Take advantage of the various programs which allow citizens to ride in patrol cars. Come and see things from our viewpoint."

"Lawyers are not always interested in justice," said another Officer. "My message is to not prostitute yourself for a dollar bill. Be more attentive to the needs of victims of crimes, and the system will be a better one to work with." Referring to the theme song of Barbra Streisand, Officer Bailey suggested to "keep your eye on the sparrows, but don't get involved unless you are prepared to carry the responsibility. There's lots of it."