

# The Justinian

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# Justinian

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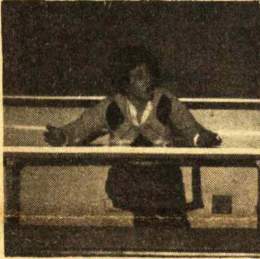
NO. 7

## Urban Law Course Explores Fiscal Crisis

By Rochelle Strahl

Unraveling and analyzing New York City's fiscal crisis of the 70's from a lawyer's point of view are the main objectives of the course in Urban Law taught this term by Prof. Leon E. Wein.

The sophisticated and often complicated "who-dun-it" and the how, when and why of state and local financing within the last decade are the semester's topics for a course which has changed its scope every semester in which it has been offered. In keeping with the original concept of a fluid course, past topics have included



Karen Burstein addressing Urban Law class

housing laws, governmental structure and other subjects with legal implications which are considered timely. Originally structured as a seminar to investigate and analyze legal problems as they arise in an urban context, the course has evolved into a lecture and discussion course due to increased enrollment.

Prof. Wein brings to this course the knowledge of one who is deeply involved in the City's financial crisis. He has several times unsuccessfully brought suit in the New York Court of Appeals against the legality of the MAC bonds and the financing efforts of the city, state and banking institutions on the grounds that they violate the New York State Constitution. "I am a technician," explains the man whose activities have been profiled in the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, *Barron's* and *New York* magazine and who has earned the name of "New York City's gadfly." If the sobriquet of gadfly does not apply to him, then the character which comes to mind is the open-eyed, alert, outspoken boy in the Emperor's New Clothes who has often rattled and ruffled the powers-that-be on the bench in Albany and at the financial institutions in New York City. Both in his suits and in class, he constantly points out the inconsistencies and shortsightedness in the fiscal plans proposed

by such experts as Felix R. Rohatyn and by federal, state and city officials, many of which have been adopted by the Legislature or acceded to by the State and City.

To counterbalance his obvious philosophical bias against the fiscal maneuvers of the lending institutions and government, Prof. Wein has invited several guest speakers. Recently, Karen Burstein, formerly a member of the New York State Senate from Nassau and Queens and presently Commissioner of the Public Service Commission, addressed the Urban Law class. Ms. Burstein sought to fill in several of the pieces of the fiscal puzzle by relating what was going on in the New York Legislature at the time the City was experiencing serious financial difficulties. What emerged from her talk was a picture of a Legislature whose members experienced "feelings of enormous impotence" and even a lack of comprehension of the technical workings of finance when it came to bailing out New York City.

According to Ms. Burstein, when Mayor Abraham Beame came to the Legislature in 1974 to plead for increased taxes in order to get increased revenues for the City, he was confronted with the not-so-surprising political phenomenon that "the Legislature is split along geographical

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## Bomb Hoax Empties School

By Christine Short

At approximately 11:35 a.m.

on March 21 a bomb threat was received by BLS operator Tommie Ceasar. Within minutes alarms were sounded and evacuation of the building begun. The threat proved to be a hoax.

While the administration was "very pleased" with the manner in which the evacuation was carried out, Dean Henry Haverstick III did concede that crowd control outside the building was not adequately managed.

A young male with a Hispanic accent declared that three bombs were set to blow up the law school and the "motherfuckin' dean. (The dean remained in the building throughout the incident.) Ms. Ceasar, "besides passing out," immediately contacted building superintendent Bob Hudson.

Mr. Hudson referred the call to Dean Haverstick who in turn informed Dean I. Leo Glasser. Dean Glasser made the final decision to evacuate the building. Mr. Hudson expressed his belief that a call of this nature should have gone directly to Deans Glasser or Haverstick since only they (as pointed out by Haverstick himself) can make such a decision.

One of the factors taken into consideration by the dean was that this threat was the first received by the law school in seven or eight years. Dean Haverstick cited statistics showing that



Students waiting for all-clear

fewer than one out of 200 threats result in discovery of a foreign object but said that the administration did not wish to take a "reckless gamble" with the well-being of BLS students and personnel.

The elevators were shut off but two were maintained on a manual basis, one for the search teams and another for the removal of handicapped persons.

Cafeteria employees Freddie

and Vinnie said that after turning off the Coke machine, locking the back door and grabbing the money, they left, leaving the food unguarded. Said Vinnie, "Nothing's worth my life."

The police department, upon prompt notification, made its own decision to dispatch two radio patrol cars rather than a bomb squad team. One of the respond-

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## Low 1st Year Grades Cause Faculty Concern

By Tom Vetter

The first year faculty recently met with Dean I. Leo Glasser in an attempt to solve the apparent mystery surrounding the disappointing exam performance by the first year class.

The faculty and administration is concerned about a decline in exam scores in comparison to the scores of previous years' classes. The decline appears to be uniform across all sections and subject areas. In particular, an increase in the number of scores below 75 was cited.

Among the possible causes considered for the decline were a lack of motivation among the students, inadequate preparation for law school study in undergraduate school and the first school-wide use of anonymous grading.

No conclusions were drawn as "it is too early to tell." Professor Gerard Gilbride said that, "the first year class is not any less qualified than previous classes" and he "expects that the class will achieve as much as previous classes." He added, "I've seen

some bad classes and this class is not near them."

None of the reasons considered at the meeting satisfy Professor Jerome Leitner, who stressed that the faltering performance may just be an isolated phenomenon. He admitted that the faculty was concerned because they "couldn't come up with any answers" and could do nothing until answers, if any, are found. "It could be," he said, "just one of those things that will never be solved."

Although answers did not come out of the meeting, it is hoped that a statistical analysis to be performed by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) in Princeton will provide some help. The Administration sent a compilation of LSAT scores and first semester grades to ETS and expects the results sometime this month.

The service has been offered by ETS for a number of years, but this will be the first time that BLS has taken advantage of it. Basically, it will show how accurately law school performance at BLS was predicted by LSAT scores.

## BLS Ahead in Application Race

By Terry Bain

Applications for admission to Brooklyn Law School have increased substantially this year, going against the recent decline in law school applications experienced across the country.

On one recent date applications were up 310 over the same day last year, according to Prof. John J. Meehan, head of the Admissions Committee.

"Something else we've noticed is that there is a better geographical distribution of applications," Prof. Meehan said in a recent interview. "More applications are coming in from around the country than in previous years."

He noted that the increase in applications was contrary to the experience of many other law schools. According to a recent survey of 40 law schools by the *The National Law Journal* applica-

tions are down 14 per cent nationwide.

Prof. Meehan expressed the opinion that both the increase in applications and the geographic distribution reflect "a much broader, more national curriculum" and the fact that more faculty members are from different parts of the country than in previous years.

Another factor may be Assistant Dean Henry Haverstick's participation in a week-long law school recruitment program at midwest colleges last fall, Prof. Meehan said. Previous recruitment had been largely limited to the metropolitan New York area.

He also cited the cost of tuition and the school's unofficial policy, which is subject to change, of keeping a student's tuition at the same level throughout law school.

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# Justinian

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 Telephone (212) 625-2200 Ext. 50

Editor-in-Chief ..... Madelaine Berg  
 Managing Editor ..... Barbara Naidech  
 Managing Editor ..... Ken Shiotani  
 Graphics Editor ..... Paul Dansker  
 News Editor ..... Christine Short  
 Editor Emeritus ..... Howard Cohen

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## Bomb Scare: Lessons Learned

BLS is fortunate in that it has been spared the horrors of fires or the annoyance of bomb threats. This does not excuse the fact, however, that the law school appears to have been totally unprepared to deal with the recent bomb threat. Students and administration both must share the blame.

It is incredible that the school had not instructed the switchboard operator whom to notify in case of a phoned bomb threat. The fact that such occurrences are (thankfully) rare is no excuse. They are not outside the realm of possibility. Since only a member of the administration can authorize the evacuation of the building, it was a waste of what could have been valuable time for Bob Hudson to have been the first person notified.

The behavior of a number of students, specifically those who remained in the student lounge and cafeteria during the evacuation is even harder to understand. BLS has such infrequent (too infrequent) fire drills, that, when the alarm finally does sound, it is incomprehensible to us how students can ignore it. While this was a hoax, it was certainly no drill, and attention certainly should have been paid to it.

It is to be hoped that the entire BLS community has learned from the experience.

## First Impressions

We have to admit that BLS makes a good first impression. The student and faculty members of the Orientation Committee have conducted a fine orientation program during the first week of classes which has served to introduce the students to life at BLS. For the past two years, the committee has extended its welcome in the spring to students accepted to BLS who have not yet decided to attend in the fall. Last week, those who were accepted for admission to next year's first year class visited the school, watched demonstration classes and met informally with current students.

Judging from the reactions of the potential students with whom we spoke, last week's program was a resounding success. The Orientation Committee, especially Professor Schenk who organized the program, is to be commended for conducting this highly successful program, which no doubt will encourage many of those who attended to opt for Brooklyn.

## Bomb Hoax at BLS...

Continued from page 1  
 ing officers, Police Officer Ruggiero indicated that a normal search was conducted but sites that were considered "controlled access" areas were not searched. All floors were checked, however, with the help of Bob Hudson's crew. Officer Ruggiero commented on the "nice building" and indicated that the books in the various classrooms looked like "heavy reading."

Haverstick, Hudson, and Ruggiero all indicated that the large number of briefcases left in the classrooms created a problem because each suggested another possible concealed bomb. The administration suggested that in the future, students, when safety permits, take briefcases and books with them.

Once outside the building, students and faculty milled about

the plaza in close proximity building. Not all students left the building immediately, especially those in the student lounge and cafeteria.

Dean Haverstick indicated that should this type of hoax become a repeated occurrence, the administration will reevaluate its response to such calls but that for the present it will continue to take each call seriously.

An interview with Bob Hudson disclosed that the alarm system and fire fighting equipment in the building are up-to-date and kept in prime condition. A check of Mr. Hudson's log, however reveals that the last fire drill was conducted on August 8, 1977. Dean Haverstick stated that drills are scheduled to be held twice annually. Why there has been such a lapse was not explained.

# Letters to the Editor

## Repro Reply

To the Editor:

I am writing you this letter in reply to a "Letter to the Editor" which appeared in today's Justinian, March 8, 1979, concerning the coin-op Xerox photocopiers located in the Brooklyn Law School Library. The writer of this letter questioned why there were not more photocopiers in the Library, why they were flashing "call key operator" an excessive amount of time (the writer's opinion) and why the price was 10¢ as compared to local copy shops' lower prices. He also admitted the machines' high quality but questioned the necessity for it. As President of the company which operates these machines I feel that it is my obligation to reply.

First of all, a fourth Xerox 4000 copier has been ordered and will be installed in the new Xerox room to be opened in the basement of the Library, along with the machine presently located in the smoking lounge, as soon as the basement is completed. Completion of said basement is entirely out of control of my company.

Secondly, the photocopiers are unattended except for routine maintenance which is performed at least three times per day as well as on Saturdays and Sundays. As 99% of the "call key operator" situations result from paper jams, which in turn result from the poor ventilation of

the second floor photocopier room, the only way to cut down on such occurrences is for students to promptly notify the Library Staff of the problem in order for the Staff to correct the situation or notify my company. We will respond immediately, at any time of day or night, seven days a week. Also the students should refrain from turning off the fan in the upstairs Xerox room which results in reduced air circulation and consequent higher humidity and more frequent jams.

Lastly, my company is presently attempting to set up a service to provide discounts to users who need multiple copies of one original. This service is being organized by a first year BLS student and will be advertised shortly.

In addition to the above I would like to add that a Xerox microfiche reader printer is being purchased for Brooklyn Law School by my company which will provide Xerox quality prints of microfiche material far superior to that now provided by the present equipment.

Andrew B. Leider,  
 President,  
 University Service Systems, Inc.

## Credit Where Due

To the Editor:

Has this administration

heard of the self-fulfilling prophecy? If those in power treat something as inconsequential, it indeed becomes so generally.

Moot Court and the Moot Court Honor Society are the "illegitimate children" of this school. Although it is true that first year students are required to argue two rounds, participation in the final rounds in order to qualify for the Honor Society is totally voluntary. Why should anyone expend time and effort to be selected for an organization which is not treated as an equal to the other honor societies in this school? Why don't newly selected members receive congratulatory letters from the Dean? Why don't fully participating members receive credit?

The school is more than happy to accept the benefits of the Honor Society. The achievements of the teams give the school good publicity, as well as decoration for the library. The administration is relieved of the responsibility of organizing and implementing the first year program. It is time for the school to be stopped from denying the implicit obligations. An honor society cannot effectively function if it is treated as anything less than honorable.

B. Tenzer  
 Problem Leader  
 Moot Court Honor Society

## Nader Attends LSD 2nd Circuit Conference

By Barry Rothman  
 LSD Representative

The American Bar Association Law Student Division's annual Second Circuit Spring Conference was held at BLS on March 31-April 1. Originally scheduled to be held at Cornell Law School, the conference was by necessity planned on very short notice and as a result attracted a smaller turnout than expected.

The highlight of the conference was the appearance of Ralph Nader on Saturday morning, March 31, who spoke in the Moot Court Room on "The American Justice System — Why Those Who Need It Can't Afford It." which is the focus of his newest project, the Equal Justice Foundation. He then answered questions which were directed mainly at the recent Three Mile Island nuclear power plant accident. Mr. Nader, a staunch opponent of nuclear power as an energy source, attracted a WCBS-TV camera crew, and was interviewed in the Moot Court Room by newscaster Earl Ubell. Mr. Nader's appearance was a late addition to the conference schedule.

The topic of the Saturday afternoon panel discussion was the case of *Orr v. Orr*, in which the U.S.



Photo by Ken Shiotani  
 Ralph Nader talks with faculty and students.

Supreme Court last month declared unconstitutional an Alabama statute which imposed an obligation to pay alimony upon husbands only. The case has attracted widespread publicity, and is the subject of disagreement among legal scholars as to its implications. The panel consisted of three matrimonial specialists, attorneys Richard Wels, David F. Cohen, and Ron Pepline and was moderated by Professor Fabian Palomino. The panelists discussed the Supreme Court opinion and its effects upon New York's alimony statutes. Messrs. Cohen and Pepline agreed that the decision would not have the widespread effect on New York law that some experts predict, and that it would have no retroactive effect on prior judgments requiring the husband to pay alimony. Mr. Wels predicted rapid

changes in New York's statutory law.  
 The regional level of the National Appellate Advocacy Competition was held on Sunday, April 1, despite insurmountable difficulties in procuring judges for the three rounds of oral argument. Representing BLS were David Aaronson, Tony Annucci, Barry Jacobson, Christine Short and Richard Taffet. The winning school, St. Johns, will represent the LSD Second Circuit in the national finals, to be held in Dallas, Texas in August.

In other ABA/LSD news, Michelle Babbitt of St. Johns Law School was elected the new Second Circuit Governor. She replaces BLS-SBA Pres. Patricia Smillie, who took over the position in March, after Thomas Mattingly of Hofstra Law School resigned.

## Clinic Close-up

### Women's Rights Practicum

By Rachel Roat

The Women's Rights Practicum was started three years ago by several women in the Women's Action Group at BLS who envisioned a student-run clinic. They wrote proposals and negotiated with the Administration to set up the clinic and, in order to make it as much of a group effort as possible, students also interviewed and hired BLS graduate Carol Lefcourt, Esq., as Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor of Law. In keeping with the student effort that characterizes the clinic, Ms. Lefcourt views her role as an advisor and administrator for the clinic.

The structure of the clinic is flexible. Students may propose their own assignments or continue in placements established by previous students. This semester's placements include: the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the Law Center for Constitutional Rights, the Office of Contract Compliance, the City Commission on Human Rights, the National Organization for Women and the Unemployment Action Center.

One student is working with the Reproductive Freedom Project of the ACLU which she described as an exciting atmosphere where students are treated with respect for their intelligence. Her

assignments involve research for briefs and memoranda of law as well as other trial preparation materials dealing with the Constitutional right of women to choose to have an abortion. In addition, she has contributed to papers published by the ACLU on the convention to amend the U.S. Constitution, "Akron ordinances" (local laws which require that doctors secure the "informed consent" of their abortion patients.), and the *mens rea* and criminal sanctions raised by such ordinances. This student feels that her research and writing experience at the ACLU has been invaluable and that she has also learned to work under the pressure of a court deadline.

Another placement is the Unemployment Action Center which was organized two years ago in the Park Slope area of Brooklyn by several BLS student, National Lawyers Guild members and concerned community people. Their efforts have caused the Center to grow to approximately 15 law students from NYU Law School and BLS as well as two supervising attorneys and two supervising law students.

The Unemployment Action Center concentrates on three types of unemployment counsel-

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Top: Finale of Second Circus Revue, April 5-7. Bottom: l. to r. Kenny George, Bernice Rosenthal, Julian Kaplan and Steve Gursky.

## Exploring Fiscal Crisis...

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lines." "Upstaters had no sense of what would happen if New York City went bust," Ms. Burstein continued. It was a great concession on their part to vote for the 1974 tax package."

In 1975 came the collapse of the Urban Development Corporation, and the answer for New York City financing appeared to be the Municipal Assistance Corporation (MAC). Again, a picture of a Legislature which either through a lack of understanding, ignorance, fear or a combination of these factors abdicated its role as the chief financial and budgetary arbiter of the state and protector of the electorate. "There was no participation in drafting the fiscal bills and no legal opinion except that of Judge Rifkind," Ms. Burstein recalled. "Option-thinkers had no power in the Legislature. And besides MAC didn't seem such a bad idea at the time." Ms. Burstein said that Felix Rohatyn, who addressed the members in Albany, was impressive in his expertise and persuasive in his rendition of pictures of doom which bankruptcy would bring if his suggestions were not approved by the Legislature.

In 1975, too, the Legislature passed the Financial Emergency

Act which created an Emergency Financial Control Board (EFCB) to disperse revenues purportedly for the City's benefit. In Prof. Wein's opinion, these activities raised grave constitutional questions and effectively destroyed the fiscal and political autonomy of New York City. Ms. Burstein remembered that she "always had the suspicion that we were doing something unconstitutional, but the survival of New York City was more important than an abstract idea of unconstitutionality." She, however, conceded that at the time she felt that the EFCB did raise legal concerns, but concerns primarily associated with home rule rather than constitutional issues.

"The option was disaster," stated the former legislator. "Our choice was MAC and EFCB or bankruptcy. In the end, we all voted because we couldn't see any other way out. We represented people who need to get their paychecks and depend on institutions which would not be able to function if the City went under."

Ms. Burstein laid some of the blame as to why the members of the Legislature acted the way they did on the confines within which a legislator finds he or she must function, for example a two-year term of office. "During the

first year, you're learning what's happening. During the second year, you're running for reelection." Ms. Burstein stated that she would be in favor of longer terms.

When asked whether New York City has avoided bankruptcy or just postponed it, Ms. Burstein's answer was less certain than that of Prof. Wein who feels that the Legislature and the state and city officials have succeeded only in postponing bankruptcy. Ms. Burstein feels that "there are so many factors that is unclear to say which has been done."

### State Bar to Tend to Alcoholics

The New York State Bar Association has formed a special committee to formulate policies and programs which will assist attorneys and judges suffering from alcoholism.

Known as the Special Committee on Lawyer Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, the panel is chaired by Raymond P. O'Keefe of White Plains.

Mr. O'Keefe said that by forming the committee, the State Bar Association is formally recognizing the fact that alcoholism is a disease which also affects lawyers and judges in their everyday

## More Federal Judges Sought For BLS Judicial Clinic

By Stephen Ganis

The number of Federal judges participating in BLS' prestigious judicial clerkship program should increase next year, if newly-named administrator Prof. Richard Allan has his way.

Prof. Allan told *Justinian* that he is now seeking to enlist "as many judges as possible" from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. He added that the number of students admitted to the program will increase commensurately with the number of new judges.

Currently, there are 41 Federal judges participating in the

judicial clerkship program, as well as a pro se clerk in the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

"I would be happy with one or two more Federal judges next term," Prof. Allan related, "which would at least get our foot in the door in the Second Circuit."

In addition to the Federal judges, there are 15 New York State judges also participating in the clinic, including Court of Appeals Judge Jacob Fuchsberg.

The task of selecting the 90 students for the program as well as administering it is a formidable one, and was the prime reason why Prof. Henry Holzer, the founder of the program, elected to step down after this term. To compensate for the extra burden, Prof. Allan will have his course-load next year reduced slightly; he will no longer teach Civil Procedure. He will, however, continue to teach Federal Jurisdiction as well as the first year Legal Method course.

"I started the Legal Method program at BLS five years ago," Prof. Allan said. "I don't want to give it up."

There will be no appreciable difference in the criteria used to select students in the clinic. Prof. Allan indicated that as in the past, law review and class standing will not be the overriding criteria.

# The Tom and Jerry Show Gives Papa Dan the Blues

By Jack Hollander

While the country was enjoying the Larry Bird and Earvin Johnson shows in the N.C.A.A. playoffs, the BLS community had the pleasure of witnessing the Tom and Jerry show. Tom Sinnickson and Jerry Chapman led the Blues Bros. intramural basketball team to the league title. The Blues Bros. posted a 91-90 overtime victory over Papa Dan and the Boys.

The showdown featured two teams composed solely of first year students. Both teams finished the season in second place in their respective divisions. Papa Dan and the Boys knocked off Not Ready for Law Review in a must-win situation in order to make the playoffs. Papa Dan himself, Dan Corey, led his team to a solid performance and helped Steve Saltzman lead all scorers with a 32 point performance.

The Blues Bros. had a tougher time making the playoffs as they finished the season in a tie for the post-season position with Hollywoods and Who's Kidding

Who II. A playoff was required among these three teams to determine who was to face Hoops, winner of Division I. In the first match-up the Blues Bros. faced Hollywoods. Hollywoods was no contest as they fell 28-18. They were hindered by the hot shooting hand of Jeff Nable of the Blues Bros. The next game posted Blues Bros. against Who's Kidding Who II. Again Jeff Nable carried his team, as Who's Kidding Who II fell short by one point, losing 29-28.

At last the playoff picture was developed and the stage set for the Tom and Jerry show to begin. In the game between Blues Bros. and Hoops, the fine performances of Ian Zimmerman and Jim Fitzgerald of Hoops were outshined by the play of Tom Sinnickson.

Tom was a shooting machine as he tallied a season high 40 points and helped his team to a 68-59 win and a spot in the final game against the victor of Papa Dan and the Boys and Take Five, winner of Division II.

This game was a rematch of an earlier contest in which Take Five won on foul shots taken at the end of the game. This time, however, Papa Dan's center, Steve Manket, played his finest game of the season, scoring 25 points, and with the aid of Kevin O'Reagan's and Marc Seedorf's strong rebounding Papa Dan and the Boys stopped the quickness and fine shooting of Rich Feldman, Gary Krienik, and Jeff Bader to post a 68-64 win.

The championship could not have been a better match-up: two quick teams, both with good outside shooters and solid board strength. The game was nip and tuck all the way. Papa Dan and the Boys managed to grasp a 29-25 halftime lead. The first ten minutes of the second half had Papa Dan and the Boys holding onto their narrow lead, but then Steve Saltzman hit on four consecutive jump shots. That was all Tom Sinnickson and Jerry Chapman could fathom as they lead the Blues Bros. to chip away at the lead. With about three minutes re-

maining the teams were dead even and the lead from that point on seasawed back and forth. With seconds remaining, Blues Bros. had a two point lead but Dan Corey sank a clutch outside shot and the game went into overtime.

The overtime showed the fatalities of the battle as Dan Corey, Steve Manket, Steve Saltzman and Pete Zahakos all fouled out for Papa Dan and the Boys. But Papa Dan had depth on its bench. John Petito and Mike Macco came in and picked up where the others had left off. The battle continued right to the last second. The Blues Bros. came out the victors by a final score of 91-90. Tom Sinnickson, MVP of the playoff, finished this contest with 30 points, Jerry Chapman, MVP of the game, finished with 33 points and Jeff Nable added 16. Steve Saltzman tallied 27, Steve Manket added 20 and Dan Corey chipped in 19 points in the losing effort.

Other players in the league must be given mention for displaying some fine basketball

talent. The following represents the Wire Service's selection as the best 15 players in league season games:

## First Team

Walt Wagner-Hollywoods  
Gary Krienik-Take Five  
Ian Zimmerman-Hoops  
Steve Rotfeld-Who's

Kidding Who II

Tom Sinnickson-Blues Bros.

## Second Team

Steve Manket-Papa Dan  
Jerry Chapman-Blues Bros.  
Bob Harrison-Hollywoods  
Rich Feldman-Take Five  
Jim Fitzgerald-Hoops

## Third Team

Phil Brown-Not Ready for Law Review  
Phil Conaty-LYPKGO  
Sam Rosenberg-BigDK  
Steve Saltzman-Papa Dan  
Jeff Bader-Take Five

Such thanks must go to all who assisted during the year in refereeing, keeping score and working the clock. To Howard Greenwald, again thanks for everything.

## Financial Aid: Money Talks

By Tom Vetter

FREE MONEY. But — you must qualify (ah, the catch!).

According to the BLS 1978-1979 *Bulletin*, "only those students who have been unable to obtain sufficient state or federal loans or grants will be eligible for financial assistance." The Faculty Committee on Financial Assistance has awarded \$180,000 of such aid to BLS students for the 1978-1979 academic year.

All students must first rely upon other sources of financing such as National Direct Student Loans (NDSL), N.Y.S. Higher Education Services Corp. (NYSHESC) loans, and N.Y. Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) grants. The closing date for NDSL loans and BLS grants was February 28, 1979.

Each spring, the Committee meets and apportions the available funds for the next academic year. They rely upon the analysis of need prepared by the Graduate and Professional School Financial Aid Service (GAPSFAS) in determining awards.

As for the sources of the scholarship fund, the largest portion is allocated from the School's general funds through the School budget. The balance is supplied by alumni, by area law firms, and through the special scholarship funds listed in the *Bulletin*.

The overall fund has been increasing at the rate of \$5-10,000 per year which only partially offsets yearly school and living cost increases.

For next year, however, the fund will be increased by \$20,000 to a \$200,000 total.

Of special note here in regard to costs is the BLS policy of not increasing students' tuition charges above that of their first

year. While this special feature at BLS is not openly applauded by students, it is appreciated, and provides for one less worry from year to year. This practice is an exception to the policy at most, if not all, other law schools in the country.

Looking to the future, the School's existing award criteria may soon change. Last year, a "Special Faculty Ad Hoc Committee on Scholarship" was formed. Headed by Professor David G. Trager, the Committee has studied alternatives to the need-based award scheme. Contemplated is a dual set of award

criteria: the existing set based upon need plus another that would consider academic promise and accomplishment without regard to financial need.

The second approach would help the School to achieve greater student diversity in both ethnic and regional backgrounds by allowing for special incentives not available under the present system.

The Ad Hoc Committee's findings were presented to the administration and to the Board of Trustees who have decided not to implement the plan at this time. The program could be instituted for the 1980-81 academic year.



Attorney Fritz Weinschenk spoke about the proposed extension of the German statute of limitations for Nazi war crimes recently at a meeting sponsored by the BLS International Law Society. Mr. Weinschenk, a member of the New York law firm of Hamburger, Weinschenk, Molnar & Busch, has been designated by the West German authorities to take testimony from witnesses in the New York area in cases involving Nazi war crimes.

In Mr. Weinschenk's opinion, the West German lawmakers will abolish the statute of limitations, thus allowing the institution of new suits against Nazi war criminals past the present deadline of December 31, 1979. Mr. Weinschenk warned, however, that it is extremely difficult to make a case against Nazis at this time because witnesses' "memories fail, memories are superimposed by later impressions." Speaking about previous sentencing of war criminals, Mr. Weinschenk acknowledged that the sentences in some cases have been "too light." He pointed out, however, that a judge, faced with controversial, 30-year-old evidence, may be hesitant to order the maximum punishment.

Mr. Weinschenk's appearance at BLS was arranged by second-year student Mark Meirowitz.

## Women's Rights

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ing. A practical guide entitled, "Know Your Rights" is distributed by students at local Brooklyn unemployment offices and individuals are counseled while waiting for appointments. There has been a good response within the community to this handbook and the advice provided by the Center's members. Where claimants need additional help, appointments are scheduled for counseling by students at the community Center on Thursday afternoons. This counseling is aimed at the unemployed person who is facing a hearing and needs more than information about his or her rights. The third area of the Center's work is research and representation of unemployed men and women at administrative hearings as well as administrative appeals for claimants who receive unfavorable hearing determinations. Students profit from this experience by improving their advocacy skills since anyone may represent a claimant at the administrative level.

Students in the Women's Rights Practicum feel this placement is appropriate for the clinic because many of their clients are women office workers. In one case, several women were discharged for so called "insubordination" in the form of organizing a complaints committee. In another case, several women secretaries who were fired for signing a letter of public protest won their appeal with the help of the Center.

In addition to the 12 hours of office time, students attend weekly seminars where practical problems and ethical issues faced by women in the law are discussed. One of the most frequently raised issues is identification of the feminist point of view — which is not always as obvi-

ous as many students might think. In addition, speakers are occasionally invited to the seminars, including Judge Margaret Taylor who discussed her controversial decision in *In re Dora P.*, a dismissal of prostitution charges against a 14 year old girl.

Although the emphasis in this clinic is clearly on issues that affect women, men have been accepted and are encouraged to apply. Last year three men applied and were accepted but later decided not to participate. This year interviews will be conducted by Ms. Lefcourt after spring break. In her own words, however, the interviews are really an "exchange of ideas" to ensure that students understand the goals and purposes of the clinic and are sincere in their commitment.

Many of the students feel that the work load in the Women's Rights Practicum is out of proportion to the three credits earned. Nevertheless, many students become so involved in their projects that they give much more of their time than is actually required.

## APPLICATIONS

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The school continues to receive a large number of applications from women. The class entering in September, 1978 was composed of 47.5 percent women, he said.

It is Prof. Meehan's impression that applications from minority students have increased, although definitive figures are not available.

He believes that average LSAT scores and grade point averages of all applicants are "certainly as high as ever."

Last year BLS received a total of 2,697 applications. So far this year, nearly 3,000 have been received and the final projection is about 3,100, Prof. Meehan said.